

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6369/08
by Thomas Wise (NI)
to the Commission

Subject: RoHS Directive

The RoHS Directive (2002/95/EC¹) stands for 'the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment'. This Directive bans the placing on the EU market of new electrical and electronic equipment containing more than agreed levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyl (PBB) and polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE) flame retardants. A recent ECJ ruling determined that Deca-BDE will be banned from electrical and electronic equipment from 1 July 2008. The scope of this Directive is currently being reviewed, and it will be published towards the end of the year for consideration by Member States and the European Parliament.

In light of the recent ruling and growing international opinion, what consideration is the Commission currently giving to extending the scope of the RoHS Directive to include class one (non complex) medical devices and textiles, so that the ban on Deca-BDE would be extended to these products?

¹ OJ L 37, 13.2.2003, p. 19.