

**Question for written answer E-011464/2011
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Anja Weisgerber (PPE)

Subject: Scope of the RoHS Directive (Directive 2011/65/EU) - Organ pipes made of tin and lead alloys

The RoHS Directive (Directive 2011/65/EU) lays down rules on the restriction of use of hazardous substances in electric and electronic equipment with a view to contributing to the protection of human health and the environment, including the environmentally sound recovery and disposal of waste electrical and electronic equipment.

Organ pipes have been made for centuries in Europe from tin and lead alloys because of the beautiful sound they produce. Organ builders know the specific properties and problems of these materials and are given appropriate training. Organ pipes no longer in use are melted down and the metal is re-used.

The recast of the RoHS Directive of 8 June 2011 now gives rise to the question of whether and to what extent organ pipes made of tin and lead alloys, which are found in virtually every church organ, fall within the scope of the RoHS Directive and what consequences this will have for organ building in Europe.

I would therefore like to ask the Commission the following questions:

1. Do organs containing organ pipes made of tin and lead alloys fall within the scope of Directive 2011/65/EU in accordance with Annex I of the Directive?
2. When does the Commission intend to carry out the general review of the Directive provided for in Article 24(2)?
3. If the answer to the first question is yes, could an exemption be granted under Article 5 in combination with Annex V for all organ pipes or at least for organ pipes made of tin and lead alloys?