

**Question for written answer E-005321/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Cornelia Ernst (GUE/NGL), Peter Jahr (PPE), Constanze Krehl (S&D) and Hermann Winkler (PPE)**

Subject: Revision of the Ceramics Directive

The Commission is planning a revision of the Ceramics Directive, which regulates the composition of ceramic articles coming into contact with food. Inter alia the directive lays down limit values for heavy metals such as lead and cadmium. A public consultation exercise on the issue was conducted in 2012.

As there was insufficient information on the migration of those metals from ceramic materials into food, the Commission's Joint Research Centre was asked to carry out a study. On the basis of the findings, which have been available since 2016, the Commission is planning to take steps to lay down lower limit values.

That could affect manufacturers of traditional overglaze-painted porcelain, since, in some cases, the colours used might exceed stricter limit values. In Germany that could also affect makers whose porcelain painting was awarded intangible cultural heritage status in 2016: Staatliche Porzellan-Manufaktur Meissen, Königliche Porzellan Manufaktur Nymphenburg, and Königliche Porzellan-Manufaktur Berlin.

What changes does the Commission intend making to the Ceramics Directive, in particular as regards the limit values for lead and cadmium?

Should limit values result in restrictions on the use of colours by traditional porcelain makers, what alternative solutions, such as warnings or derogations, would the Commission regard as conceivable?

If the current limit values are maintained, how intensively does hand-painted porcelain tableware have to be used to cause harmful health effects, and what are those harmful health effects?