

Question for written answer E-004067/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Marc Joulaud (PPE)

Subject: Substance authorisation under the REACH Regulation

The Sarrel Group is a European leader in the electroplating of plastic parts, employing 390 people in the French Département of Sarthe. The two main stages in its production process involve the use of chromium trioxide (EC215-607-8).

In April 2013, this substance was listed in Annex XIV to the REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) Regulation, making its use subject to authorisation. Sarrel therefore joined the CTAC Submission Consortium to make an application for authorisation, and this was submitted in May 2015.

In September 2016, the Committee for Risk Evaluation (RAC) and the Committee for Socio-economic Analysis (SEAC) of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) recommended that the Commission grant the authorisation for a period of four years.

The decision to that effect, however, is not expected until March 2019. Moreover, granting the authorisation for four years would have the effect of distorting competition in the sector because, in response to a similar application from another European consortium, the RAC and SEAC committees have recommended authorisation for 12 years.

Given that the situation places the Sarrel Group and its employees at risk, can the Commission specify:

- (1) when it intends to issue the authorisation decision?
- (2) whether it intends to treat similar applications in an even-handed way so as to avoid distorting competition?