

**Question for written answer E-001292/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Laura Huhtasaari (ID)

Subject: Eliminating mercury light bulbs (completing the enactment of the RoHS Directive)

The Restriction of Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (RoHS) Directive was approved in 2003. The directive provides an exemption for mercury-containing light bulbs, since the lighting industry claimed that no alternative existed.

It is my understanding that the Öko-Institut has since been commissioned to study the industry's claim, and that in 2016, it was concluded that the exemption should be removed. A second Öko-Institut study was commissioned, which lasted for three years, on socio-economic factors. The study also recommended that this exemption be lifted.

In the light of these recommendations, and given the extra time the objecting industry has had to adjust, the Commission should take immediate action under the Delegated Act to cancel the exemption and complete the enactment of the RoHS Directive. This process, which begins with Inter-Service Consultation, followed by Public Consultation, Parliamentary Scrutiny, interaction with the World Trade Organization, and finally publication in the European Journal, can take up to eight months.

1. Why did the Commission not take action in 2019, following completion of the second study?
2. Can it confirm when the process will start and, given the additional years of delay, that the transition period for eliminating these mercury light bulbs will be set to a minimum of 12 months?