

**Question for written answer E-001550/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Including lead in Annex XIV to the REACH Regulation

The European Chemicals Agency has published a draft recommendation to include lead on the list of substances subject to authorisation set out in Annex XIV to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH). The REACH Regulation seeks to take into account the potential impact of its provisions on small and medium-sized enterprises.

However, officially adding lead to Annex XIV would entail a high level of risk for certain heritage sectors, such as the stained glass industry. Such a measure could result in the closure of many craft enterprises in the stained glass industry, which, since the beginning of the Middle Ages, has used 40%-lead came to assemble the small pieces of stained glass. Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union stipulates that the EU must ensure that Europe's cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced.

1. How does the Commission intend to reconcile the required level of protection for human health and the environment with the preservation of European heritage?
2. Is the Commission considering exempting the use of lead for cultural heritage purposes from the authorisation requirement, as permitted under Article 58 of the REACH Regulation?