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Answer given by Mr Breton
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.7.2022)

The Commission notes that the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), an independent EU Agency, handles its requests for access to documents autonomously, in accordance with its founding Regulation and EU law on access to documents.

The Commission is therefore not in a position to reply to why EFSA’s disclosure of documents was delayed. However, the Commission notes that, in the course of the administrative inquiry carried out by the European Ombudsman, EFSA has presented arguments to explain why the handling of the request took considerable time.

No decision has yet been taken on a possible ban of lead in ammunition under the Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), as the restriction process is still at the scientific opinion-making phase. The Commission acknowledges the European Federation for Hunting and Conservation’s difficulties in obtaining timely access to part of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) data on game meat used by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in its risk assessment. The Commission understands this may have prevented them from substantiating part of their reply to the public consultation on ECHA’s Annex 15 restriction report. Recognising the importance of a fair opportunity for stakeholders to comment, the Commission has asked ECHA to open a targeted consultation specifically on the EFSA data in question, to which all stakeholders can contribute. The Commission has also asked ECHA’s Committee for Risks Assessment to re-assess the EFSA data in light of the information to be submitted in the targeted consultation and provide a supplementary opinion on the matter.