

**Question for written answer E-001922/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Elżbieta Rafalska (ECR)**

Subject: Limit values for lead and its inorganic compounds and diisocyanates

The European Commission recently published a proposal for a directive amending Directive 98/24/EC and Directive 2004/37/EC on the limit values for lead and its inorganic compounds and diisocyanates. Among its suggestions, the proposal that has been tabled specifies a reduction in the biological limit value for lead and its inorganic compounds (BLV), from the current 70 µg/100 ml blood to 15 µg/100 ml blood, without providing for a transitional period. The proposal makes no reference to the situation of workers who are above the newly proposed biological limit value of 15 µg/100 ml blood and who, because the body releases lead slowly, will be forced to wait a long time – sometimes years – until they can return to work.

In this connection, I would like to ask the following questions:

1. Does the Commission have any data concerning the number of workers affected by what is known as 'historical exposure'? If not, does it intend and is it in a position to collect such data as a basis for assessing the effects of the proposed new biological value on the situation of workers in the European Union?
2. What solutions are available to workers who will not be able to return to their jobs as a result of the amended BLV?
3. Has the Commission assessed, or is it able to assess, the opportunities available to European industry to tackle the potential loss or retraining of existing staff?

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