

**Question for written answer E-002302/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Jutta Paulus** (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Restriction of brominated flame retardants

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) recently published the Regulatory strategy for flame retardants<sup>1</sup>, identifying aromatic brominated flame retardants for restriction under REACH<sup>2</sup>.

ECHA stated that it needs more time to investigate other flame retardants before initiating regulatory action, in spite of extensive literature<sup>3</sup> and hazard data, including from Horizon projects (HBM4EU<sup>4</sup>, ENFIRO<sup>5</sup>).

Flame retardants are widely used in consumer and industrial products, and their global consumption is predicted to grow by 8 % annually in the coming years<sup>6</sup>. A major application of flame retardants is in plastic foam insulation material. A recent report from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) raised the issue of toxic smoke created during a fire owing to the use of brominated flame retardants<sup>7</sup>.

Toxic flame retardants have been found in recycled plastics and in food contact materials<sup>8</sup>, undermining the circular economy.

1. When will the Commission propose restrictions on brominated flame retardants?
2. Will the Commission also propose a ban on flame retardants in plastic foam insulation?
3. Will the Commission act to prevent exposure to harmful flame retardants from recycled materials?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/2082415/flame\\_retardants\\_strategy\\_en.pdf/9dd56b7e-4b62-e31b-712f-16cc51d0e724?t=1679045593845](https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/2082415/flame_retardants_strategy_en.pdf/9dd56b7e-4b62-e31b-712f-16cc51d0e724?t=1679045593845).

<sup>2</sup> 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), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EEC and 2000/21/EEC, OJ L 396, 30.12.2006, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.env-health.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/HEAL-CPES-comment-ECHA-Flame-Retardants.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.hbm4eu.eu/>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.enfiro.eu/>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/flame-retardant-market>.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/chemicals-plastics-technical-report>.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/BBDE514AAFE9F1ABB3D677927B343342/S2755094X2300007Xa.pdf/hazardous-chemicals-in-recycled-and-reusable-plastic-food-packaging.pdf>.