

**Question for written answer E-002772/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Gianna Gancia (ID)**

**Subject:** EU legislation on use of hazardous substances in electrical equipment: consequences for animal welfare and biodiversity conservation

Current EU legislation (Regulation (EU) 2019/2020, Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2015 and Directive 2011/65/EU) restricting the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment does not, unlike the previous Regulation (EU) No 1194/2012, grant exemptions for 'special use products', such as basking spot lights, which emit UV-A/B radiation and contain mercury and are essential for breeding and keeping exotic animals in Europe.

This omission has serious repercussions for the welfare of amphibians, reptiles, birds and small mammals in human care, and also undermines biodiversity protection initiatives in zoos and private facilities in the European Union, as highlighted in the scientific report attached to the open letter on this subject by various European animal and veterinary associations and organisations.<sup>1</sup>.

Is the European Commission aware of the problems caused by this omission and is it considering reviewing existing legislation to prevent significant harm to these animals and ensure their long-term welfare?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.bna-ev.de/downloads/sonstiges/2023\\_09\\_20\\_Letter\\_EU\\_COM\\_Exception\\_Lighting\\_Products\\_Animal\\_Welfare\\_Species\\_Conservation.pdf](https://www.bna-ev.de/downloads/sonstiges/2023_09_20_Letter_EU_COM_Exception_Lighting_Products_Animal_Welfare_Species_Conservation.pdf)