AMENDMENTS
7 - 31

Draft opinion
Gilles Lebreton
(PE663.184v02-00)

Amending Directive 2004/37/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work.

Proposal for a directive
Amendment 7
Emmanuel Maurel

Proposal for a directive
Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) Directive 2004/37/EC of the European Parliament and the Council aims to protect workers against risks to their health and safety from exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at the workplace. A consistent level of protection from the risks related to the occupational exposure to carcinogens and mutagens is provided for in that Directive by a framework of general principles to enable Member States to ensure the consistent application of minimum requirements. The aim of these minimum requirements is to protect workers at Union level. More stringent provisions can be set by Member States.

Amendment

(1) Directive 2004/37/EC of the European Parliament and the Council aims to protect workers against risks to their health and safety from exposure to carcinogens, mutagens or reprotoxic substances at the workplace. A consistent level of protection from the risks related to the occupational exposure to carcinogens, mutagens or reprotoxic substances is provided for in that Directive by a framework of general principles to enable Member States to ensure the consistent application of minimum requirements. The aim of these minimum requirements is to protect workers at Union level. More stringent provisions can be set by Member States. These minimum requirements should be established in consultation with the economic and social stakeholders concerned and be based on proportionate and technically feasible values and procedures, in the best interest of the health and safety of workers.


Or. fr

Amendment 8
Daniel Buda
Proposal for a directive

Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) Directive 2004/37/EC of the European Parliament and the Council aims to protect workers against risks to their health and safety from exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at the workplace. A consistent level of protection from the risks related to the occupational exposure to carcinogens and mutagens is provided for in that Directive by a framework of general principles to enable Member States to ensure the consistent application of minimum requirements. The aim of these minimum requirements is to protect workers at Union level. More stringent provisions can be set by Member States.

Amendment

(1) Directive 2004/37/EC of the European Parliament and the Council aims to protect workers against risks to their health and safety from exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at the workplace. A consistent level of protection from the risks related to the occupational exposure to carcinogens and mutagens is provided for in that Directive by a framework of general principles to enable Member States to ensure the consistent application of minimum requirements. The aim of these minimum requirements is to protect workers at Union level. More stringent provisions can be set by Member States that are compatible with the Treaties, taking into account also their possible impact on the competitiveness of undertakings.

Andrzej Halicki

Proposal for a directive

Recital 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(1 a) The employers’ obligations laid down in this Directive should take into account the fact that microenterprises and

Amendment

(1 a) The employers’ obligations laid down in this Directive should take into account the fact that microenterprises and
SMEs, which represent a large majority of enterprises in the Union, have limited financial, technical and human resources. Member States are therefore invited to assess the impact of the implementation of this Directive on such enterprises in order to ensure that they are not disproportionately affected, with specific focus on microenterprises and the administrative burdens, and to publish the results of such assessments, while maintaining equal protection for all workers and facilitating compliance of microenterprises and SMEs. Against that background, specific measures such as incentives and digital tools could help SMEs and microenterprises further to comply with the obligations laid down in Directive 2004/37/EC and progress towards the elimination of risks relating to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at the workplace.

Amendment 10
Daniel Buda
Proposal for a directive
Recital 2

**Text proposed by the Commission**

(2) Principle 10 of the European Pillar of Social Rights, jointly proclaimed by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission at the Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth on 17 November 2017, provides workers’ right to a high level of protection of their health and safety at work, which includes the protection from the exposure to carcinogens and mutagens at the workplace.

**Amendment**

(2) Principle 10 of the European Pillar of Social Rights, jointly proclaimed by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission at the Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth on 17 November 2017, provides workers’ right to a **safe, healthy and properly adapted working environment, meaning a** high level of protection of their health and safety at work, which includes the protection from the exposure to carcinogens and mutagens at the workplace.

---

46 European Pillar of Social Rights,
Amendment 11
Daniel Buda

Proposal for a directive
Recital 3

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(3) Binding occupational exposure limit values are important component of the general arrangements for the protection of workers established by Directive 2004/37/EC and must not be exceeded. Limit values and other directly related provisions should be established for all those carcinogens or mutagens for which the available information, including scientific and technical data, make this possible.

*Amendment*

(3) Binding occupational exposure limit values are important component of the general arrangements for the protection of workers established by Directive 2004/37/EC and must not be exceeded. In view of social, economic and technological developments, limit values and other provisions directly relating to mandatory occupational exposure limit values should be established for all those carcinogens or mutagens for which the available information, including scientific and technical data, make this possible, with a view to stepping up efforts to protect workers and societies from all possible occupational risks.

Amendment 12
Andrzej Halicki

Proposal for a directive
Recital 4

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(4) Compliance with binding occupational exposure limit values is without prejudice to other employers’ obligations pursuant to Directive

*Amendment*

(4) Compliance with binding occupational exposure limit values is without prejudice to other employers’ obligations pursuant to Directive
2004/37/EC, such as the reduction of the use of carcinogens and mutagens at the workplace, the prevention or reduction of workers’ exposure to carcinogens or mutagens and the measures which should be implemented to that effect. Those measures should include, as far as it is technically possible, the replacement of the carcinogen or mutagen by a substance, mixture or process which is not dangerous or is less dangerous to workers’ health, the use of a closed system or other measures aiming to reduce the level of workers’ exposure.
use of a closed system or other measures aiming to reduce the level of workers’ exposure. Research programmes in this area, notably on the risks to workers’ health, could be funded under future national and European recovery plans.

Amendment 14
Andrzej Halicki

Proposal for a directive
Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) This Directive strengthens the protection of workers’ health and safety at their workplace. New limit values should be set out in Directive 2004/37/EC in the light of available information, including new scientific and technical data and should also be based on a thorough assessment of the socioeconomic impact and availability of exposure measurement protocols and techniques at the workplace. That information should, if possible, include data on residual risks to the health of workers, opinions of the Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), as well as opinions of the Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work (ACSH). Information related to residual risk, made publicly available at Union level, is valuable for any future work to limit risks from occupational exposure to carcinogens and mutagens.

Amendment

(5) This Directive strengthens the protection of workers’ health and safety at their workplace. Update limit values should be set out in Directive 2004/37/EC based on the currently available relevant information, including new scientific and technical data and should also respect thorough assessments of the socioeconomic impact, proportionality and availability of exposure measurement protocols and techniques at the workplace. That information should, if possible, include data on residual risks to the health of workers, opinions of the Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), as well as opinions of the Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work (ACSH). Information related to residual risk, made publicly available at Union level, is valuable for any future work to limit risks from occupational exposure to carcinogens and mutagens.

Amendment 15
Daniel Buda
Proposal for a directive
Recital 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(5a) This Directive provides greater clarity for workers, employers and enforcement authorities and helps to create a level playing field for economic operators, impacting positively on employment figures and the economy.

Or. ro

Amendment 16
Emmanuel Maurel

Proposal for a directive
Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) It is also necessary to consider other absorption pathways than inhalation of all carcinogens and mutagens, including the possibility of uptake through the skin, in order to ensure the best possible level of protection.

Amendment

(7) It is also necessary to consider other absorption pathways than inhalation of all carcinogens and mutagens, including the possibility of uptake through the skin, transdermally or through the mucous membranes, in order to ensure the best possible level of protection.

Or. fr

Amendment 17
Andrzej Halicki

Proposal for a directive
Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) It is also necessary to consider other absorption pathways than inhalation of all carcinogens and mutagens, including the possibility of uptake through the skin, in order to ensure the best possible level of protection.

Amendment

(7) It is also necessary to consider other relevant absorption pathways than inhalation of all carcinogens and mutagens, including the possibility of uptake through the skin, in order to ensure the best possible level of protection.
Amendment 18
Emmanuel Maurel

Proposal for a directive
Recital 7 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(7a) Workers may be exposed to a cocktail of dangerous substances, which can increase the risks to their health. In the event of combined exposure to dangerous substances, the rules would need to be adapted and the limit values lowered in order to take account of the combined effects.

Or. fr

Amendment 19
Andrzej Halicki

Proposal for a directive
Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(9) Acrylonitrile meets the criteria for classification as carcinogenic (category 1B) in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and the Council and is therefore carcinogen within the meaning of Directive 2004/37/EC. It is possible, on the basis of the available information, including scientific and technical data, to set a long- and short-term limit value for that carcinogen. Acrylonitrile can also be absorbed through the skin. It is therefore appropriate to establish a limit value for acrylonitrile under the scope of Directive 2004/37/EC and to assign a skin notation to it. The ACSH, based on the RAC opinion, agreed on the usefulness of the
biomonitoring for acrylonitrile. This should be considered when developing guidance on the practical use of biomonitoring.


 Amendment 20
Andrzej Halicki

Proposal for a directive
Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) With regard to acrylonitrile, a limit value of 1 mg/m³ (0.45 ppm) and a short-term limit value of 4 mg/m³ (1.8 ppm) may be difficult to be complied with in the short term. A transitional period of four years after entry into force of this Directive should be introduced from which these Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL) values shall apply.

Amendment

(10) With regard to the newly added acrylonitrile, a limit value of 1 mg/m³ (0.45 ppm) and a short-term limit value of 4 mg/m³ (1.8 ppm) may be difficult to be complied with in the short term. A transitional period of four years after entry into force of this Directive should be introduced from which these Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL) values should apply.

Amendment 21
Andrzej Halicki

Proposal for a directive
Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) Nickel compounds meet the criteria for classification as carcinogenic (category

Amendment

(11) Nickel compounds meet the criteria for classification as carcinogenic (category
1A) in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 and are therefore carcinogens within the meaning of Directive 2004/37/EC. It is possible, on the basis of the available information, including scientific and technical data, to set limit values for that group of carcinogens. Exposure to nickel compounds at workplaces may also result in dermal sensitisation and sensitisation of the respiratory tract. It is therefore appropriate to establish two limit values for both the inhalable and respirable fractions of the nickel compounds under the scope of Directive 2004/37/EC and to assign a notation for dermal and respiratory sensitisation.

Amendment 22
Andrzej Halicki
Proposal for a directive
Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) With regard to nickel compounds, limit values of 0.01 mg/m³ for the respirable fraction and 0.05 mg/m³ for the inhalable fraction may be difficult to be complied with in a number of sectors or processes, including specifically smelting, refineries and welding. Furthermore, since identical risk management measures can be used both for chromium (VI) and nickel compounds, the transitional measures aiming to reduce the exposure to these two groups of carcinogens should be aligned. Therefore, a transitional period until 17 January 2025 inclusive should be introduced during which a limit value of 0.1 mg/m³ for the inhalable fraction of the nickel compounds should apply. This transitional period would ensure alignment with the date of application of the OEL for Chromium (VI) compounds adopted in

Amendment

(12) With regard to the newly added nickel compounds, limit values of 0.01 mg/m³ for the respirable fraction and 0.05 mg/m³ for the inhalable fraction may be difficult to be complied with in a number of sectors or processes, including specifically smelting, refineries and welding. Furthermore, since identical risk management measures can be used both for chromium (VI) and nickel compounds, the transitional measures aiming to reduce the exposure to these two groups of carcinogens should be aligned. Therefore, a transitional period until 17 January 2025 inclusive should be introduced during which a limit value of 0.1 mg/m³ for the inhalable fraction of the nickel compounds should apply. This transitional period would ensure alignment with the date of application of the OEL for Chromium (VI) compounds.
Available at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32017L2398.

Amendment 23
Emmanuel Maurel

Proposal for a directive
Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) Benzene meets the criteria for classification as carcinogenic (category 1A) in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 and is therefore carcinogen within the meaning of Directive 2004/37/EC. Benzene can also be absorbed through the skin. The limit value set out in Annex III to Directive 2004/37/EC for benzene should be revised in the light of more recent scientific data and it is appropriate to keep the skin notation. The ACSH, based on the RAC opinion, agreed on the usefulness of the biomonitoring for benzene. This should be considered when developing guidance on the practical use of biomonitoring.

Amendment

(13) Benzene meets the criteria for classification as carcinogenic (category 1A) in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 and is therefore carcinogen within the meaning of Directive 2004/37/EC. Benzene can also be absorbed through the skin. The limit value set out in Annex III to Directive 2004/37/EC for benzene should be revised in the light of more recent scientific data by 1 January 2030 at the latest, in accordance with the opinion of the ACSH, and it is appropriate to keep the skin notation. The ACSH, based on the RAC opinion, agreed on the usefulness of the biomonitoring for benzene. This should be considered when developing guidance on the practical use of biomonitoring.
Amendment 24
Andrzej Halicki

Proposal for a directive
Recital 13

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(13) Benzene meets the criteria for classification as carcinogenic (category 1A) in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 and is therefore carcinogen within the meaning of Directive 2004/37/EC. Benzene can also be absorbed through the skin. The limit value set out in Annex III to Directive 2004/37/EC for benzene should be revised in the light of more recent scientific data and it is appropriate to keep the skin notation. The ACSH, based on the RAC opinion, agreed on the usefulness of the biomonitoring for benzene. This should be considered when developing guidance on the practical use of biomonitoring.

*Amendment*

(13) Benzene meets the criteria for classification as carcinogenic (category 1A) in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 and is therefore carcinogen within the meaning of Directive 2004/37/EC. Benzene can also be absorbed through the skin. The limit value set out in Annex III to Directive 2004/37/EC for benzene should be carefully revised in the light of currently available relevant scientific data and it is appropriate to keep the skin notation. The ACSH, based on the RAC opinion, agreed on the usefulness of the biomonitoring for benzene. This should be considered when developing guidance on the practical use of biomonitoring.

Or. en

Amendment 25
Andrzej Halicki

Proposal for a directive
Recital 14

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(14) With regard to benzene, a revised limit value of 0.2 ppm (0.66 mg/m³) may be difficult to be complied with in some sectors in the short term. A transitional period of 4 years after entry into force of this Directive should be introduced. From two years up to four years after entry into force, a transitional limit value of 0.5 ppm (1.65 mg/m³) should apply.

*Amendment*

(14) With regard to benzene, a revised limit value of 0.2 ppm (0.66 mg/m³) from previously 1 ppm (3.25 mg/m³) may be difficult to be complied with in some sectors and by some undertakings, in particular microentreprise and SMEs, in the short term. A transitional period of 4 years after entry into force of this Directive should therefore be introduced. From two years up to four years after entry into force, a transitional limit value of 0.5 ppm (1.65 mg/m³) should apply.
Amendment 26
Emmanuel Maurel

Proposal for a directive
Recital 14 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(14a) Cobalt and cobalt compounds meet the criteria for classification as carcinogenic (category 1B) in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 and are therefore carcinogens within the meaning of Directive 2004/37/EC. It is possible, on the basis of the available information, including scientific and technical data, to set limit values. Exposure to cobalt and cobalt compounds at workplaces may result in dermal sensitisation and sensitisation of the respiratory tract. It would therefore be worth setting two limit values for the inhalable and respirable fractions of cobalt and its compounds in the context of Directive 2004/37/EC.

Or. fr

Amendment 27
Emmanuel Maurel

Proposal for a directive
Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) The limit values established in this Directive are to be kept under regular scrutiny and review to ensure consistency with Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006.

Amendment

(16) The limit values established in this Directive are to be kept under regular scrutiny and strictly reviewed every five years at least and on the basis of advances in knowledge and technologies to ensure consistency with Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006.

Amendment 28
Daniel Buda

Proposal for a directive
Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) The limit values established in this Directive are to be kept under regular scrutiny and review to ensure consistency with Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006⁴⁹.

Amendment

(16) The limit values established in this Directive are to be kept under regular scrutiny and review to ensure consistency with Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006⁴⁹ and with social, economic and technological developments.


Or. fr

Amendment 29
Andrzej Halicki

Proposal for a directive
Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

PE680.867v01-00  16/18  AM\1223789EN.docx
(16) The limit values established in this Directive are to be kept under regular scrutiny and review to ensure consistency with Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006\(^49\).


Or. en

**Amendment 30**
Emmanuel Maurel

Proposal for a directive
Recital 16 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(16a) Compliance with the transitional periods provided for in this Directive will guarantee the possibility of taking appropriate measures to anticipate the changes and investment planning required, averting negative repercussions for companies and workers. In the case of SMEs and microenterprises, for example, transitional periods for certain substances will help them address specific technical challenges and plan investments sufficiently well in advance.

Or. fr

**Amendment 31**
Emmanuel Maurel

Proposal for a directive
Recital 17 a (new)
(17a) As the measures provided for in this Directive are, in any case, minimum requirements, this Directive does not deprive Member States of the right to introduce more protective provisions.