

EN

P-004548/2019

Answer given by Mr Thierry Breton  
on behalf of the Commission  
(20.2.2020)

Based on Directive 2013/29/EU<sup>1</sup>, Member States are already allowed to prohibit or restrict the possession, use and/or sale to the general public of certain types of fireworks, if justified on grounds of public order, security, health and safety, or environmental protection.

For example bangers, jumping crackers or roman candles of categories F2 or F3 can be restricted by Member States. Furthermore, fireworks presenting a high hazard (category F4; e.g. flash bangers or shells) are prohibited for sale to the general public throughout the EU and are allowed to be made available to persons with specialist knowledge only.

The remaining category, thus F1 (e.g. bengal sticks and sparklers), presents a very low hazard and a negligible noise level and a restriction option has not been considered necessary.

For these reasons, the Commission considers that the restrictions which Member States are allowed to impose at national level, or which are applicable at EU level, already ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment, and has currently no plans to amend the Directive.

Concerning instructions or guideline on reducing the use of pyrotechnic articles, the Commission considers that this issue is best addressed by Member States at central, regional or local level taking into account the divergent cultural customs and traditions.

While some Member States, including Slovenia, report their data on accidents related to pyrotechnic articles to the Commission, the Commission regrets that it does not have complete data of accidents related to pyrotechnic articles for the entire EU at its disposal.

---

<sup>1</sup> Directive 2013/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of pyrotechnic articles (recast), *OJ L 178*, 28.6.2013, p. 27–65