

29 March 2010

EBFRIP Statement on RoHS EP amendments

EBFRIP welcomes the proposed amendments by several MEPs to introduce a science-based methodology for the evaluation of substances used in electrical and electronic equipment. The amendments strengthen the proposal of the European Commission by clearly outlining evaluation criteria, which would ensure that decisions will be taken on the basis of scientific evidence.

MEPs in the Environment Committee of the European Parliament have submitted their amendments to the Commission's proposal for the RoHS Directive recast (Restriction of Hazardous Substances in electrical and electronic equipment). A number of amendments aim to ensure alignment between the RoHS Directive and REACH – the harmonized framework for evaluation of chemical substances in the EU. These amendments seem to indicate that a majority of the Environment Committee would like to base decisions on sound science by using defined procedures and with the involvement of scientific expert committees, rather than restricting substances without a clear justification.

EBFRIP looks forward to a constructive debate on the amendments in the Environment Committee on 6 April, followed by the Environment committee vote in May and the European Parliament Plenary vote in June.