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## **Updated Norwegian action plan on brominated flame retardants: EBFRIP believes Norway should not preempt any EU decision**

Today, the Norwegian Pollution Control Authority (SFT) released a small update to its action plan to reduce emissions from brominated flame retardants.

The most important update compared to the 2002 action plan introduces an additional timeline for eliminating emissions from brominated flame retardants in Norway by 2020<sup>1</sup>.

As previously, the plan suggests actions to regulate the use at national, EU and international level, to responsibly handle waste as well as to gather data on new brominated flame retardants which would be the natural substitutes for currently used substances.

Norway already has an existing national legislation restricting DecaBDE. SFT in 2007 also presented a proposal to restrict HBCD in consumer goods, which is still under consideration by the Government. For TBBPA, a substance widely used in electrical and electronic equipment, there is no existing or planned regulation on the Norwegian market and the Government will follow any EU decision made in the framework of the REACH legislation.

Willem Hofland, Chairman of EBFRIP, commenting on the updated action plan said: "We welcome Norway's increased engagement with the existing EU regulatory procedures. We also note that TBBPA, a substance for which an EU risk reduction study has concluded no need for restrictions, is not subject to any regulatory action, proposed or otherwise, by the Norwegian government. At the same time, EBFRIP firmly believes that Norwegian legislation should not preempt the EU's chemicals legislation REACH in the evaluation of chemical substances in general".

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<sup>1</sup> The 2002 action plan includes a timeline to reduce emissions of brominated flame retardants by 2010. This timeline remains in the updated plan and is complemented by the one above mentioned.