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EBFRIP Statement on the 2 June vote of the European Parliament Environment Committee on the RoHS Directive

A majority of the European Parliament's Environment Committee has today opposed any restriction of brominated flame retardants under the RoHS Directive.

"Today's vote in Committee is, however, regrettable as regards the potential to list organobrominated substances, amongst many other substances, for priority assessment under RoHS", stated Willem Hofland, EBFRIP Chairman. "While such a listing has no regulatory impact, it nevertheless discriminates against those substances listed and contradicts the EU's own scientific assessments and the principle of individual chemicals assessment under REACH. Moreover, amendments adopted by the Committee on the criteria for future additions to the RoHS lack sufficient science-based criteria and could contradict future decisions under REACH".

The vote is one step in the EU process and does not represent in any way an agreed EU position. Indeed, EBFRIP is encouraged to learn that the European Commission and a majority of Member States in Council do not support adding families of substances to Annex III and are supporting the definition of a science-based methodology for RoHS consistent with REACH so that any addition of substances to the RoHS is based on that methodology.

EBFRIP urges the EU institutions to ensure that an approach based on scientific assessment is reflected in the final recast RoHS Directive.

A First Reading vote in the Parliament on the draft Directive is scheduled for July. It is expected that the Commission, Council and Parliament will review their contrasting positions in the coming weeks.

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