

EBFRIP comment on first exchange of views in European Parliament on RoHS Proposal

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On 4 November, the European Parliament's Environment Committee held a first exchange of views on the European Commission's proposal to recast the RoHS Directive. EBFRIP welcomes the Commission's statement that there is no basis for restricting TBBPA following a comprehensive EU Risk Assessment and official Risk Management conclusions published last year¹. EBFRIP is concerned that green MEP and rapporteur Jill Evans, in proposing a ban on halogenated flame retardants such as TBBPA, is seeking to ignore conclusions to EU risk assessments and bypass REACH.

Ms Evans' proposal is identical to the position of environmental NGO ChemSec, and to that proposed previously by the Oko Institute, which was discarded by the Commission due to the lack of a scientific basis. During the exchange of views, Ms Evans was challenged by fellow Environment Committee MEP Julie Girling to provide detailed scientific evidence for any proposal to restrict additional substances under the RoHS.

EBFRIP takes the view that the EU's own process for assessing and managing risk, as now encapsulated by the REACH Regulation, should be used to provide the scientific basis for decisions under RoHS, as clearly explained by the Commission representative in yesterday's exchange of views in the Parliament.

TBBPA is used to increase the resistance to fire of printed circuit boards for an estimated 70% of electronic equipment.

¹ <http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:152:0011:0020:EN:PDF;>
<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:158:0062:0064:EN:PDF>