

EN
E-007833/2014
Answer given by Ms Bieńkowska
on behalf of the Commission
(19.12.2014)

The Directive 1999/77/EC, to which the Honourable Member refers, was repealed by the REACH Regulation with effect from 1 June 2009.

Following the request of the Commission of January 2013¹, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) prepared a report which addresses the risks to human health and the environment associated with the specific use of chrysotile in diaphragms, as well as the risk from imported chrysotile fibres used to maintain or produce diaphragms on site. The report also contains information on the availability of the alternatives and the socio-economic impact in view of a prohibition.

The two ECHA Committees, the Risk Assessment Committee and the Socio-Economic Assessment Committee, are expected to deliver their opinion on the report in 2015.

On the basis of the two opinions the Commission shall decide whether to prohibit the placing on the market and use of chrysotile in diaphragms or whether the extension of the existing derogation for these cases still remains justified for a limited period of time or not. This decision will be subject to a vote in the REACH Committee and afterwards to scrutiny by the European Parliament and the Council.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals