

Lead and compounds - PLEASE SUPPORT the objection (resolution [B9-0089/2020](#))

11 February 2020

Dear Member of the Parliament,

The [European Environmental Bureau](#) (EEB), the [Health and Environment Alliance](#) (HEAL), [Clientearth](#), [Rethink Plastic](#) and [Break-Free From Plastic](#) are jointly contacting you in relation to an objection pursuant to Rule 112 (resolution [B9-0089/2020](#)) on lead in PVC plastic products that will be subject to a plenary vote this Wednesday 12th February. This resolution refers to a proposed European regulation on lead in PVC, which, if adopted, would allow lead in higher concentrations in recycled than primary PVC products. **As it stands, the European Commission proposal not only endangers consumers' health, but also puts in jeopardy the European commitments to a circular economy under the European Green Deal.**

Hereby we urge you to **support this objection** in order to prevent the Commission from allowing the contamination of recycled materials with lead in Europe.

Lead is a [known](#) toxic substance. Under the REACH regulation, lead is listed as a substance of [very high concern](#) for its harmful effects on human reproduction. There is no safe level of exposure for lead, which means that even small doses can have serious health impacts on current and future generations.

The European Commission has proposed a restriction of lead in PVC that is highly problematic because it will allow the following:

- Reintroducing lead in the European market through recycled PVC for at least the next 15 years;
- Diluting a known toxic chemical in recycled (PVC) materials;
- Lead contamination in great amounts: approximately 2 500 to 10 000 tonnes of lead per year to be brought back on the EU market via recovered PVC;
- Unfair competition with EU companies that have already phased-out lead for this application;
- Leaving to future generations the task to carry out the environmentally sound management of PVC waste containing lead instead of taking care of it today;
- Inaccurate and inadequate labelling 'Contains recovered PVC' that will mislead consumers instead of informing them about the presence of a toxic substance in their products.

You will find further arguments to support our position in [this briefing](#).

Your support to the proposed objection [B9-0089/2020](#) is essential to put pressure on the European Commission to keep its promises to deliver a Zero Pollution Ambition and promote a high-quality circular economy.

MEPs can and should demand that recycled materials meet the same quality requirements as virgin materials in order to guarantee the same levels of health and environment protection under European's chemicals regulations. It is also consistent with the recent European Parliament joint "Green Deal [Resolution](#)", which promotes the uptake of good quality secondary materials and non-toxic material cycles.

Please **SUPPORT** the objection pursuant to Rule 112: Lead and its compounds ([B9-0089/2020](#)).

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by email or by phone.

On behalf of:

EEB, HEAL, Clientearth, Rethink Plastic and Break-free From Plastic

