



ORGALIME

The Secretary General

MEP Karl-Heinz Florenz
Chairman Committee of the
Environment, Public Health and Food
Safety
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz
B- 1000 Brussels

Brussels, 11 April 2005

Motion for a resolution on the draft Commission decision amending for the purposes of adapting to the technical progress the annex to directive 2002/95/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS)

Dear Chairman,
dear Mr Florenz,

In its meeting of 15 March 2005 the environment, public health and food safety committee has adopted the above-mentioned motion for a resolution on which we understand the European Parliament plenary will vote in its session this week.

Fully committed to the environmental objectives of the above-mentioned directive, our industry has launched internal RoHS compliance programs to meet the rapidly approaching implementation deadline of 1 July 2006 in cooperation with our suppliers in an extremely complex supply chain.

Since the final adoption of the directive on 27 January 2003, however, we have been continuously seeking guidance on key implementation issues from regulators at European level, in order to comply with the requirements of directive 2002/95/EC, including its adaptation to scientific and technical progress as foreseen in article 5 of this directive.

We support the Commission's draft decision amending for the purpose of adapting to the technical progress the annex to directive 2002/95/EC and we believe that any adaptation of directive 2002/95/EC to scientific and technical progress must fully and duly respect the rights of the European institutions.

However, the continuous push back of deadlines for providing clear guidelines and decisions on fundamental building blocs of the directive, which our industry urgently needs for its future design and production, makes it impossible for companies to act, plan and invest with certainty.



We regret that, with the latest developments, our industry, only months away from the ambitious RoHS compliance deadline, is put in a situation which is a serious impediment to the thousands of companies that have been asking for timely and clear guidance in order to fulfil and comply with the requirements of the RoHS directive. A decision is long overdue and ongoing discussions will have a significant knock on effect on other decisions of importance to the implementation of the same directive.

In our opinion, this is not only slowing down the process of the transposition of the directive and its long-term sustainability; it is also inevitably jeopardising the electrical and electronics industry's timely preparations for the implementation of the legislation.

We kindly ask you to take our concerns into consideration in your further proceedings. We would be happy to discuss this matter further with you and remain available for any further information that you might require.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Harris

Cc: Members of the Committee of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Orgalime speaks for 33 trade federations representing some 130,000 companies in the mechanical, electrical, electronic and metalworking industries of 23 European countries. These industries employ some 7 million people and account for 1175 billion euros of annual output, which is a quarter of the EU's output of manufactured products and a third of the manufactured exports of the European Union.