



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 19.3.2020
C(2020) 1236 final*

Dear President,

Thank you for your letter of 15 November 2019 informing President von der Leyen of the Resolution No. 1190 of the Poslanecká sněmovna on the restriction of the use of lead in ammunition (gunshot and bullets) and of lead in fishing tackle. The Commission regards this resolution as part of our regular political dialogue.

The Commission notes that the results of the investigation report published in November 2018 by the European Chemicals Agency are not questioned by the Poslanecká sněmovna. We are pleased to have this opportunity to provide some clarifications regarding this matter.

Following the findings of the abovementioned European Chemicals Agencies investigation report that there is sufficient evidence to justify taking additional protective measures in the context of the European Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH Regulation), the Commission asked the European Chemicals Agency in July 2019 to prepare a restriction dossier for lead in gunshot in terrains other than wetlands, in other ammunition across all terrains and in fishing tackle. For the purposes of preparing the dossier, the European Chemicals Agency launched a call for evidence on 3 October 2019, which ran until 16 December 2019. The European Chemicals Agency is expected to deliver the restriction dossier in October 2020, after which the Agencies' Committees for Risk Assessment and for Socio-economic Analysis will have 12 months to assess the dossier and develop their position. The opinion-making process will entail stakeholder consultations and we would welcome it if you would encourage Czech hunters, shooters, or the associations representing them, and other interested parties, to participate in those consultations. This will help ensure that all relevant elements are taken into due consideration.

*Mr Radek VONDRÁČEK
President of the Poslanecká sněmovna
Sněmovní 4
CZ – 118 26 PRAGUE 1*

Provided that the restriction dossier confirms that there is a risk that needs to be addressed on a Union-wide basis, a restriction proposal on lead in gunshot in terrains other than wetlands, in other ammunition across all terrains and in fishing tackle could be tabled by the Commission at the earliest in 2021-2022.

As regards the concerns expressed in the Resolution, the Commission would like to reassure the Poslanecká sněmovna that it pays at all times close attention to the principles of proportionality and non-discrimination of EU Member States and only adopts implementing legislation in strict compliance with EU law, including the Treaties and the REACH Regulation itself. The close involvement of the Member States, through the REACH Committee, and of the European Parliament and the Council, through their three-month right of scrutiny of any restriction supported by the REACH Committee, are part and parcel of the adoption process.

Finally, the Commission would like to reassure the Poslanecká sněmovna that this project does neither affect the system of control, registration, acquisition and possession of weapons and ammunition, nor will it be related to the Firearms Directive that was revised in 2017.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Poslanecká sněmovna and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Thierry Breton
Member of the Commission*