



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
IMPACT ASSESSMENT BOARD

Brussels, 19 March 2008

D(2008) 2471

Opinion

Title **Impact Assessment on: a Commission Decision on organostannic compounds (comitology)**

(draft version of 28 February 2008)

Lead DG **ENTR**

1) Impact Assessment Board Opinion

(A) Context

Due to concerns over potential risks from organostannic compounds, the European Commission commissioned a series of studies which confirmed that there are risks to the health of consumers stemming from excessive daily intakes of those chemicals when used in certain products, and that these risks need to be reduced. To this end, this proposal, in line with the precautionary principle, would amend the Council Directive 76/769/EEC relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations by adding to the existing framework further restrictions on marketing and use of organostannic compounds in a range of consumer products. As from 1 June 2009, the restrictions imposed under this Directive will be incorporated into Annex XVII of Regulation 1907/2006 concerning Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH).

(B) Positive aspects

The report is written in clear language, and in general is accessible even for a non-specialist reader. It identifies and analyses a broad range of policy options.

(C) Main recommendations for improvements

The recommendations below are listed in order of descending importance. Some more technical comments have been transmitted directly to the author DG and are expected to be incorporated in the final version of the impact assessment report.

General recommendation: The IA report should explain the scope of this initiative by putting it in the broader context of other relevant policies. The content of the options should be complemented by listing products to which the options refer, and a clear explanation provided of how the preferred options were identified. The

Commission européenne, B-1049 Bruxelles / Europese Commissie, B-1049 Brussel - Belgium. Telephone: (32-2) 299 11 11. Office: BERL 6/29. Telephone: direct line (32-2) 2981898. Fax: (32-2) 2965960.

E-mail: impact-assessment-board@ec.europa.eu

Website: http://www.cc.cec/iab/i/index_en.cfm

impacts on industry, environment and trade partners should be given more attention. The methodology of calculating consumer exposures should be explained. During its meeting with the Board, DG ENTR agreed to make improvements in all of these areas.

(1) The scope and context of the initiative should be clarified from the beginning.

The report should give an overview of the complete policy context, for instance by adding a table that explains which products are dealt with by this initiative, which are dealt with by other (existing or proposed) measures, and which are not (yet) dealt with at all. It should also clarify why certain issues such as exposure via the environment or via food, or workers' exposure are not addressed by this initiative. It should place the initiative in the context of REACH and explain the merits of action now rather than waiting for further information on organotins that will be generated by the REACH obligations.

(2) Clarify the options Each option should make clear which of the products listed in annex 1 it covers. The IA report should furthermore explain more clearly how the preferred options were selected.

(3) Explain the impacts on the industry, workers, trade partners, and the environment. The IA reports should provide further information on the following potential impacts: impacts on industry (especially orders of magnitude regarding the companies concerned), impacts on environment, and impacts on imports from third countries.

(4) Explain the methodology. The report should explain how to interpret the consumer exposure to individual products expressed in % of group TDI (see table in Appendix 1), and how the percentages of adults and children who exceed the TDI were arrived at. The related figures in section 7 of the report which give the overall reduction in exposure for adults and children should also be clearly explained, and an indication given of the reliability of these estimates.

(D) Procedure and presentation

The report should be accompanied by an executive summary. Expressions inaccessible to a non-specialist reader should be explained. In spite of the technical nature of the subject, an inter-service steering group could have produced useful input on social, environmental and trade issues that may now only come up in the inter-service consultation. The report should be more precise about how other services were involved in the preparation.

2) IAB scrutiny process

Reference number	2008/ENTR/026
Author DG	ENTR
External expertise used	No
Date of Board Meeting	17 March 2008
Date of adoption of Opinion	19 March 2008