








Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Directive 2023/0033(COD)	Awaiting Parliament's position in 1st reading
Limit values for lead and its inorganic compounds and diisocyanates Amending Directive 1998/24 1993/0459(SYN) Amending Directive 2004/37 1999/0085(COD)	
Subject 4.15.15 Health and safety at work, occupational medicine	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	Rapporteur  VILLUMSEN Nikolaj Shadow rapporteur  FRANSSEN Cindy  DE BASSO Ilan  AMALRIC Catherine  MATTHIEU Sara  ZAMBELLI Stefania  RAFALSKA Elzbieta	Appointed 10/03/2023	
	Committee for opinion ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	Rapporteur for opinion The committee decided not to give an opinion.	Appointed	
Council of the European Union European Commission European Economic and Social Committee European Committee of the Regions	Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	Commissioner SCHMIT Nicolas		

Key events

13/02/2023	Legislative proposal published	COM(2023)0071	
13/03/2023	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
07/09/2023	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
07/09/2023	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee		
08/09/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A9-0263/2023	Summary
11/09/2023	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 71)		
13/09/2023	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 71)		

Forecasts

26/02/2024	Indicative plenary sitting date
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Technical information

Procedure reference	2023/0033(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Directive
	Amending Directive 1998/24 1993/0459(SYN) Amending Directive 2004/37 1999/0085(COD)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 153-p1; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 153-p2
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee European Committee of the Regions
Stage reached in procedure	Awaiting Parliament's position in 1st reading
Committee dossier	EMPL/9/11381

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(2023)0071	13/02/2023	EC
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2023)0067	13/02/2023	EC
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2023)0034	13/02/2023	EC
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2023)0035	13/02/2023	EC
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2023)0036	13/02/2023	EC
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1367/2023	22/03/2023	ESC
Committee draft report	PE746.964	08/05/2023	EP
Amendments tabled in committee	PE749.282	08/06/2023	EP

Limit values for lead and its inorganic compounds and diisocyanates

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs adopted the report by Nikolaj VILLUMSEN (GUE/NGL, DK) on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 98/24/EC and Directive 2004/37/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards limit values for lead, its inorganic compounds and diisocyanates.

The proposal aims to revise the existing limit values for lead and to introduce limit values for diisocyanates for the first time, thereby helping to achieve a high level of protection for the health and safety of workers.

The committee responsible recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the Commission's proposal.

Regarding the limit values for lead, the report supports the Commission's proposal to lower the exposure limit value (ELV) from 0.15 milligrams per cubic metre (0.15 mg/m³) to 0.03 mg/m³ and to lower the biological limit value (BLV) from 70 micrograms per 100 millilitres of blood (70µg/100ml) to 15µg/100ml.

With regard to diisocyanates, it is proposed to establish an occupational exposure limit value of 6 µg NCO/m³ and a short-term exposure limit value of 12 µg NCO/m³ for this group of chemical agents.

The report introduces a review mechanism guaranteeing regular revisions in the future to ensure that these limit values are regularly updated, taking into account the latest scientific data.

In particular, the Commission should:

- no later than 31 December 2029, launch a process to review the occupational exposure limit and short-term occupational exposure limit values for diisocyanates;
- draw up Union guidelines on how to adapt the implementation of limit values in the event of exposure to a combination of substances acting by the same mode of action or on the same target cell or tissue;
- no later than 31 December 2023, present a legislative proposal to introduce a limit value for cobalt and inorganic cobalt compounds;
- no later than 12 months after the date of entry into force of the amending Directive, review the implementation of the Directive and, as part of this review, determine whether any further amendments to the Directive are necessary, assess the possibility of including endocrine disruptors within the scope of the Directive and, if appropriate, submit a legislative proposal to the European Parliament and the Council;
- no later than five years after the date of entry into force of the amending Directive and every five years thereafter, review the Occupational Exposure Limit Value and the Biological Limit Values including the limit value for historical exposure and the guidance value for female workers of childbearing age, taking into account the negative impacts on the reproductive capacity of female workers of childbearing age as well as on foetal development in order to ensure equal protection for all workers regardless of their gender as well as taking into account up-to-date scientific data and the classification of lead as a non-threshold reprotoxic;
- twelve months after the date of entry into force of the amending Directive, develop a definition of carcinogenic occupations and assess the appropriateness to include such occupations in the scope of this Directive;
- no later than twelve months after the date of entry into force of the amending Directive, develop guidelines as regards historical occupational exposure to lead with a view to increasing the protection and reduction of the exposure of workers whose blood-lead levels are above the biological limit value as well as to further protect female workers of childbearing age;
- no later than one year after the directive comes into force, update its action plan aimed at defining occupational exposure limits for at least 5 substances or groups of substances or substances produced by additional processes. These include lithium and its compounds, methylhydrazine, 1,3-propanesultone, welding fumes and leather dust;
- no later than twelve months after the date of entry into force of the amending directive, to consider, in consultation with the social partners, consider targeted and limited exemptions for cultural and heritage-related work activities to existing Occupational Exposure Limit Values and Biological Limit Values, and take appropriate action;
- no later than 1 January 2028, assess the feasibility of further reducing the limit value for benzene and present, if appropriate, the necessary legislative amendments to this Directive no later than 1 January 2030.

Transparency

FRANSSEN Cindy	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	13/11/2023	Permanente Vertegenwoordiging België bij de Europese Unie
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj	Rapporteur	EMPL	16/10/2023	EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION
FRANSSEN Cindy	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	21/09/2023	Aurubis
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj	Rapporteur	EMPL	19/09/2023	ETUC

TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	04/07/2023	EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION
DE BASSO Ilan	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	20/06/2023	EPSU
FRANSSEN Cindy	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	12/06/2023	AGORIA
DE BASSO Ilan	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	05/06/2023	European Tech & Industry Employers (Ceemet)
DE BASSO Ilan	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	01/06/2023	Europafacket
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj	Rapporteur	EMPL	30/05/2023	International Lead Association
ARIMONT Pascal	Member	01/09/2023	Orgelbau Schumacher	
DE BASSO Ilan	Member	17/07/2023	Teknikföretagen Boliden Zinkgruvan Industriarbetsgivarna	