European Parliament votes for better chemical protection in toys

The European Parliament has voted today on the last step in the revision of the Toy Safety Regulation, which introduces stronger protections for children against the most harmful chemicals in toys. This is great news for families across Europe.

The revised Regulation introduces new restrictions on the use of known and suspected endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) once they have been classified under the Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation (CLP). It also introduces restrictions on the use of PFAS and 10 bisphenols identified by the European Chemicals Agency as having concerning properties.

These changes were much needed, as an evaluation of the existing law found that it did not adequately protect children. Testing has found the use of very harmful chemicals in toys, such as many types of bisphenols in baby teethers.

Civil society has raised concerns about toxic chemicals in toys for several years, calling on policymakers to act. Earlier this year, 36 NGOs sent a letter to Executive Vice-President Séjourné calling for the revised legislation to close protection gaps.

Ioana Bere, EU Policy Advocate at CHEM Trust, comments:

“Toxic chemicals do not belong in children’s toys, and today’s final vote shows that the EU is taking action to ensure this.

Every child deserves to grow up without being exposed to harmful chemicals. We welcome this important step in making this a reality, but we also need to see the protection of health put front and centre in the upcoming REACH Revision."

After the Regulation is published in the European Union Official Journal, there is a transition period of 4.5 years.

Read more in the press release from the European Parliament.

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