

## **RoHS II Directive - Study for impacts from RoHS2 on windows and doors with electric functions**

EuroWindoor appreciates the decision of European Commission to analyse in depth the impact of RoHS II directive (Directive 2011/65/EU) on windows and doors with electrical functions.

During the process we have provided input for the study, something that has only confirmed our concern as to how an industry mainly consisting of SME's in all parts of the supply chain and at manufacturer level would be able to meet the obligations put to them through RoHS Directive. We have done our utmost to pass facts on to the authors of the reports but even the big manufacturers who have helped with this have had many difficulties in gathering sufficient data from even their main suppliers.

We cannot agree with the conclusion in the recommendation of the report that as the industry still have 4 years before coming into scope of RoHS directive there will be sufficient time to locate more precisely where substitutes are not available. The conclusion is mainly based on the assumption that the substances regulated by RoHS anyhow would disappear from the products due to other relevant legislation like e.g. REACH and national schemes like the Swedish BASTA and German DGNB, and by that it would be easier to locate the few (if any) cases where this is not the case. First of all it is important to remember that e.g. BASTA is a voluntary scheme used only in one Member State. And regarding DGNB then e.g. lead is not banned to use you just get less points if the substance is present – and again this is a voluntary scheme. Regarding REACH it is important to remember that REACH regulate on article level which not necessarily is the same as homogeneous material level as regulated by RoHS. Besides of this there are other fundamental differences between the two pieces of legislation which by the end of the day makes it difficult for a manufacturer to draw the conclusion: *“as I know my window or door fulfil the requirements of REACH then I can also be sure it fulfil RoHS and I can therefore CE mark my product accordingly.”* This is not necessarily true!

We do not find it has been taken enough into consideration when making the final recommendation that not only window and door manufacturers to a wide extend are SME's but also the majority of the suppliers in the complex and long supply chain are SME's. We do believe that many of these would not have resources to document in a reliable and trustworthy way that the components they sell to the manufacturers really are in compliance with RoHS requirements – at least not within the limits of what is neither proportionate nor appropriate.

We also have to point out very clear that we have never argued that the electrical device itself should be excluded from the scope of RoHS, but we do still believe that the nature and the complexity of both our products and our supply chain justify to exclude the window/door itself and limit the scope to the electrical part only.

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**About EuroWindoor AISBL** – EuroWindoor AISBL was recently founded as an international non-profit Association, in order to represent the interests of the European window, door and facade (curtain walling) sector. Our 12 national associations speak for European window, door and facade manufacturers that are in direct contact with consumers, and thereby having large insights on consumers' demands and expectations. We are at the fore front interacting with dealers, installers and consumers buying windows and doors, and the companies behind the associations cover selling all over Europe.



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