

PRESS RELEASE

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APEAL IS DISAPPOINTED BY VOTE AGAINST EUROPEAN COMMISSION APPROVAL FOR CONTINUED USE OF CHROMIUM TRIOXIDE IN TINPLATE AND TIN-FREE STEEL

APEAL, the Association of European Producers of Steel for Packaging, is disappointed by the resolution, voted 21st March by the Environment Committee of the European Parliament (ENVI), calling on the European Commission (EC) to refuse to grant authorisation for continued uses of chromium trioxide.

This resolution, tabled by the ENVI committee and brought forward by Bas Eickhout MEP and Martin Häusling MEP, has been opposed by major political groups within the European Parliament (EP). Nevertheless, it was adopted by the ENVI committee with 20 votes to 16 and 3 abstentions. It will now move forward for a vote at the EP Plenary meeting which is scheduled for next week.

Last 15th February, the EC's REACH committee had agreed to the authorisation for continued uses of chromium trioxide in many industries, including the automotive, aerospace, defence, as well as for the passivation of tinplated steel (ETP) and Tin-Free Steel / Electrolytic Chromium Coated Steel (ECCS).

During this vote, 24 of the 28 Member States had supported the EC conclusion that granting authorisation is justified for these applications. This conclusion is based on scientific advice from the European Chemicals Agency's and Member States' delegated experts in the Risk Assessment (RAC) and Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC) Committees, and is also following many years of analysis by the EC itself.

APEAL members are conforming to all their regulatory obligations, including REACH. Our sector is planning to phase out these uses in the coming years once the alternatives that APEAL members themselves are developing have been qualified by the supply chain to ensure continued product and consumer safety.

In the preparation of the vote in the EP plenary, APEAL calls upon MEP's to consider the consequences. If APEAL members are no longer in a position to use hexavalent chrome substances like chromium trioxide in their processes before the qualification of these alternatives can be completed, it is estimated that between 4,000 and 7,500 jobs in Europe would be directly threatened within APEAL member companies, in addition to wider economic impacts of the supply chains not being able to source steel for packaging in Europe.

As such, APEAL urges MEP's to vote for supporting the EC in moving forward and granting authorisation for continued uses of chromium trioxide.

ENDS

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About APEAL

APEAL - the Association of European Producers of Steel for Packaging is a federation of four multi-national producers of steel for packaging (ArcelorMittal, Tata Steel Packaging, thyssenkrupp Rasselstein, U.S. Steel Košice). In total these four companies employ over 200,000 workers in Europe. Founded in 1986, APEAL represents today about 95% of the total European production of steel for packaging.

About Steel for Packaging

Steel is a unique packaging material, combining exceptional performance capabilities with unrivalled environmental credentials. Strong, formable and long-lasting, steel offers numerous benefits for the safe packaging of a wide variety of products.