

# LightingEurope Comments on the Commission Proposal for a Regulation on Mercury (COM (2016) 39 final)

## Introduction

In the past decades, the lighting industry has continuously invested in the development of processes and dosing technologies to reduce the quantity of mercury included in lamps. As part of these efforts to improve the environmental and health safety performance of the sector, LightingEurope strongly supported the signature of the International Convention on Mercury (“Minamata Convention”).

A significant part of the issues addressed by the Convention are already covered by existing EU legislation, however LightingEurope acknowledges that a new EU Regulation is needed to fill existing regulatory gaps.

## LightingEurope Position on the Proposal

The Commission’s recent proposal for a Regulation (COM (2016) 39 final) will effectively ensure that Member States can ratify the Convention and implement all the related requirements. LightingEurope supports this proposal for a Regulation as its provisions are technically feasible and will achieve the desired environmental and health policy objectives.

Consequently, the European lighting industry warns against introducing further requirements which may impact negatively the industry and its customers in the EU. In relation to issues currently discussed by the European Parliament, LightingEurope considers as important to stress the following points:

### **1. Lighting companies must be able to export lamps meeting Minamata requirements outside the EU**

Today several European lighting factories are producing lamps to export them outside the EU. These products meet Minamata requirements and respond to the existing demand for safe and affordable lamps in many markets. In line with the European Commission’s proposal, the European Lighting industry would like to continue these activities. In case an EU ban on the export of all mercury added products is introduced, it will result in job losses in Europe and at the same time have a negative impact on the environment. These lamps will be produced in non-EU countries by third parties, potentially with inadequate environmental practices and standards not in line with the International Convention on Mercury (Minamata).

## **2. No need for additional registration and approval process for all mercury added products**

The RoHS Directive already set in place a procedure, an approval process and a list for electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) exempted products. The forthcoming Regulation must avoid the duplication of these procedures to limit contradictive legislation and unnecessary administrative burden and complexities for regulators, industry and market surveillance authorities.

*LightingEurope is an industry association of 33 European lighting manufacturers, national associations, and companies producing materials. LightingEurope members represent over 1,000 European companies, a majority of which are SMEs; a total workforce of over 100,000 people in Europe; and an annual turnover estimated to exceed 20 billion euros. LightingEurope is dedicated to promoting efficient lighting practices for the benefit of the global environment, human comfort, and the health and safety of consumers.*

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