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European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: Declaration by European Ministers on the Regulation and Harmonization of Pyrotechnic Articles in the Single Market
- Information from the delegations of Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg

Delegations will find attached a note from the delegations of Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg with a view to the AOB item at the meeting of the Competitiveness Council on 24 May 2024.

**AOB by Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg
For the COMPET Council of 24 May**

**Declaration by European Ministers on the Regulation and Harmonization of Pyrotechnic
Articles in the Single Market**

Evaluation of Directive 2013/29

On 8 April 2024, the European Commission officially launched the evaluation procedure for Directive 2013/29. The public consultation will end on 1 July 2024. Technopolis Consulting Group Belgium has been appointed to carry out this evaluation. The evaluation report, drawn up by Technopolis, is due to be sent to the Commission in August 2024. Adoption of the evaluation report by the Commission is planned for the last quarter of 2024 and will indicate whether or not Directive 2013/29 needs to be revised.

Objective of the declaration

On the basis of the two BENELUX initiatives on pyrotechnic articles already in force, including the Pyro-Pass, this declaration intends to make this "best practice" a contribution to the evaluation of the directive on pyrotechnic articles.

This includes a declaration of commitment to ensure better protection for European citizens, to strengthen cooperation and to prepare our common future, already signed by the competent BENELUX ministers and proposed for signature by the EU ministers present. The declaration can be found in annex.



Declaration by European Ministers on the Regulation and Harmonization of Pyrotechnic Articles in the Single Market

We, the undersigned Member States of the European Union, recognizing the importance of ensuring the safety and harmonization of pyrotechnic articles within the single market, hereby declare our intent to collaborate closely in this endeavor. Building upon the principles of solidarity and cooperation inherent in the European Union, we aim to enhance regulatory frameworks and promote best practices for the benefit of all citizens.

At the behest of Mrs. Dilan Yeşilgöz-Zegerius, Minister of Justice and Security in the Netherlands, Mr. Lex Delles, Minister of the Economy, SME, Energy and Tourism in Luxembourg, and Mr. Pierre-Yves Dermagne, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Economy and Employment in Belgium, and in alignment with the collaborative efforts within the Benelux framework, the undersigned European Ministers recognize the imperative to regulate and harmonize pyrotechnic articles within the single market to ensure enhanced protection for citizens and bolster cooperation.

Drawing inspiration from successful initiatives such as the BENELUX Pyro-pass, wherein the Benelux countries have demonstrated innovative approaches to pyrotechnic regulation, designed to intensify efforts against the misuse and illicit trade of fireworks, mitigate physical and material damages, and streamline and fortify regulatory oversight, we are committed to leveraging these experiences to inform and guide our collective efforts at the European level.

In light of the conference 'Artifices and public security in Europe, Pyro-pass: an innovative Benelux initiative,' convened under the auspices of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in Rochefort on 16 May 2024, the European Ministers hereby:

1. underscore the imperative for European regulations concerning a safer policy governing the availability and usage of pyrotechnic articles; and
2. advocate for the technical harmonization of pyrotechnic articles at the European level.

Acknowledging the role of the European Commission in regulatory harmonization and safeguarding consumer safety, we call upon the Commission to prioritize this issue and work closely with the signatory Member States to develop comprehensive and effective measures.

Through this declaration, we signal our shared commitment to fostering a safer and more harmonized environment for pyrotechnic articles in the single market, thereby contributing to the well-being and security of our citizens.

Mr. Lex Delles
Minister of the Economy, SME, Energy and Tourism
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg



Mrs. Dilan Yeşilgöz-Zegerius
Minister of Justice and Security
Kingdom of the Netherlands



Mr. Pierre-Yves Dermagne
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Economy and Employment
Kingdom of Belgium

