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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: AOB for the Council (Environment) meeting on 16 December 2025
Call for timely Revision of the Directive on Pyrotechnic Articles
(2013/29/EU)
- Information from the Netherlands, France and Spain

Originally meant for entertainment, the use of pyrotechnics is subject to growing (public) concern, as it is associated to safety issues, environmental hazards, and implications for the internal market.

From a safety perspective, pyrotechnics, particularly F4 fireworks, have been misused in a number of ways over the last few years. In the Netherlands alone, the use of explosives derived from the flash powder of fireworks has increased significantly. These explosives are frequently employed in criminal activities linked to criminal groups and organized crime. Given the functioning of the internal market, this issue transcends national borders.

Regarding the environment, these fireworks pose a threat to environmental health, impacting both ecological and human health. Fireworks cause pollution, releasing sulfur dioxide, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and suspended particles. Although the contribution of fireworks to, e.g., air pollution is mainly temporary, this impact doesn't align with the Zero-pollution ambition for 2050, and the objectives of the Eight Environmental Action Agenda for 2030.

Moreover, the safety and quality of articles entering the European single market is paramount. This particularly counts for pyrotechnic articles, as they have inherently dangerous properties, for the health of humans and the environment. For the internal market, the current procedures lack adequate safeguards to appropriate product requirements. The existing EU Directive on Pyrotechnic Articles (2013/29, ‘Pyro Directive’) provides for a number of conformity assessment procedures. However, the current organization and functioning of the CE marking system (including some of the modules therein) is inadequate, as was previously indicated by the Dutch Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate in 2021¹. As a product that is newly-brought into the European market, fireworks are insufficiently tested by manufacturers and importers.

Consequently, for the Netherlands, France and Spain, it is evident that these matters should be addressed. Therefore, we call for a timely revision of the Directive on Pyrotechnic Articles, which should ensure protection for human health and the environment, as well as tackling current safety issues, and improve the functioning of the EU internal market.

¹ [CE marking of consumer fireworks is not functioning | Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate \(ILT\)](#)