

Brussels, 17th November 2020

Subject: Please vote to ban lead gunshot in and around wetlands, and oppose the objection to the Commission proposal

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

We are writing to you to urge you to reject the objection at Plenary to the Commission proposal to ban lead shot in and around wetlands, under REACH. The REACH Committee was within their legal authority and responsibility in adopting the lead ban and the Commission proposal is workable. It is urgent to put to an end to the poisoning of wildlife, people and the environment across the European Union (EU).

The Commission proposal must be adopted to prevent the pollution from thousands of tonnes of lead deposited in wetlands, the deaths of one million birds per year, and the risk of poisoning of consumers of game meat. In the era of the Green Deal where zero pollution resonates as the main ambition and mission of the EU, lead shot should be banned from wetlands once and for all.

There is no safe level of exposure to lead. It is particularly harmful for young children and pregnant women who get exposed from ingesting game meat from animals shot with lead ammunition. After banning it from petrol, pipes and paint, it seems clear that tonnes of lead being deposited in the environment needs to be curtailed. Your vote against the objection to the Commission proposal will be crucial to stop the madness. The proposal is proportionate and workable.

Twenty years have passed since [AEWA's resolution](#) phasing out lead shots for hunting in wetlands. The EU must respect its commitment and finally comply with its international obligations to end this unnecessary and avoidable pollution.

Meanwhile [birds and wildlife in the EU are continuously declining](#). It is your duty to follow science and preserve our environment by banning a well-known toxin from being dumped into the environment in such quantities.

Your vote against this objection is essential to ensure a future free of poison for all. We count on you.

Yours sincerely,

Ariel Brunner



Ariel Brunner, Senior Head of Policy - BirdLife Europe on behalf of the Green 10 Directors

Andrea Lichtenecker, Executive Director - Naturefriends International

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Genon K. Jensen, Executive Director - Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)

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Jeremy Wates, Secretary General - European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

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Wendel Trio, Director - Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe

William Todts, Executive Director - European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E)