



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council

to: Council

Subject: EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
(EPSCO) COUNCIL MEETING ON 7 AND 8 JUNE 2010

Greater protection for children with regard to toys

- Information from the German delegation
(Other business item)
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Delegations will find annexed an information note from the German delegation on the abovementioned subject.

Greater child safety
Need for further development of the new Toys Directive

Toy safety requirements have been given a thorough overhaul in the new Directive of 18 June 2009, 2009/48/EC. Improvements have been made in many areas. The German delegation welcomes these developments and also acknowledges the European Commission's efforts to achieve further improvements as part of an ongoing process, for example through its plans for lowering limit values for cadmium.

A high level of child protection has to be a common concern for us all. Children are more sensitive than adults and need special protection. Child health is precious, and has to be protected in the interests of Europe's future viability.

Germany has therefore worked intensively on the problem of carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and has compiled an extensive dossier on the restriction of carcinogenic PAHs in consumer products, including toys.

The Commission has also put moves in hand to make progress on child protection. It has agreed to ask the Scientific Committee for opinions on chemicals classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction (CMRs) and on heavy metals.

All these activities are designed to improve child protection. However, further measures are needed. For example, toys should be covered by paragraph 27 of Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (REACH Regulation) on nickel, which is known to be an allergen and is often found in toys. Further improvements are also desirable for allergenic fragrances.

Germany therefore calls on the other Member States and the European Commission for their active support and for joint efforts to make further improvements to the Toys Directive and achieve a high level of protection for children.
