

# FACE PRESS RELEASE

European Federation for Hunting and Conservation



## Ban on lead in ammunition proposed

**Brussels, 3 February 2021** – Today, the **European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)** has published its proposal for further restrictions on the use of lead in ammunition for hunting, outdoor sports shooting and fishing. Its [report](#) and [annex](#) conclude that restrictions would be justified based on risks to environment and human health. The **European Commission (EC)** [requested](#) ECHA to prepare these proposals back in July 2019.

With respect to lead sold and used in hunting, sports shooting and other outdoor shooting, ECHA proposed the following:

- A ban on the sale and use of lead shot for hunting with a five-year transition period and the option for Member States to derogate for sports shooting when releases into the environment are minimised.
- A ban on the use of lead in rifle bullets with transitional periods:
  - 18 months for any centre-fire calibre equal to and above 5.6mm
  - 5 years for calibres less than 5.6mm centrefire (and rimfire in general). Derogations for continued use, if releases to the environment are minimised, i.e. when sports shooting ranges are equipped with bullet traps.

Military and other non-civilian uses of lead ammunition – such as by police, security and customs forces – are not included in the scope of the investigation. Indoor uses of lead ammunition are also excluded.

Today's proposals arrive just one week after the publishing of the lead shot over wetlands' restriction under REACH, having only received support from 52% of Members of the European Parliament, with some opposition at Council level.

The European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE) is assessing these new proposals carefully and will be following the decision-making process actively.

For more information including on the next steps, please see:

<https://echa.europa.eu/-/towards-sustainable-outdoor-shooting-and-fishing-echa-proposes-restrictions-on-lead-use>

For more information on FACE's work on ammunition, please see:

<https://www.face.eu/firearms-ammunition/ammunition/>

**#ENDS#**

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** FACE is the European Federation for Hunting and Conservation. Established in 1977, FACE represents the interests of Europe's 7 million hunters as an international non-profit-making nongovernmental organisation. FACE is made up of national hunters' associations from 37 European countries including the EU-27. FACE is supported by 7 associate members and is based in Brussels. FACE upholds the principle of sustainable use and has been a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 1987. Visit [www.face.eu](http://www.face.eu)

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