



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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## **The Council and the European Parliament reach informal agreement on the revision of the directive on batteries and accumulators**

The Permanent Representatives Committee of the Council today endorsed the outcome of the informal discussions with the European Parliament on 5 June on the directive amending [directive 2006/66/EC](#) on batteries and accumulators in order to gradually reduce the amount of cadmium and mercury released into the environment as substitutes become available on the market.

The text was negotiated in two trilogue meetings between the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission. It still needs to be formally approved by the Parliament, whose vote in plenary is expected to take place in September 2013, and by the Council, which is due to take its decision after the vote in Parliament.

The new directive extends the ban on the placing on the market of portable batteries and accumulators containing more than 0,002% of cadmium to portable batteries and accumulators containing cadmium intended for use in cordless power tools. In order to enable the recycling industry and consumers to adapt to the relevant substitute technologies, this ban will apply from 31 December 2016.

The new directive also prohibits the marketing of button cells with a mercury content of less than 2% by weight. This ban will apply 21 months after the entry into force of the directive and the Commission will report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the availability of alternatives to button cells for hearing aids.

# **P R E S S**

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Batteries and accumulators lawfully placed on the market prior to the respective bans can still be marketed until stocks run out.

The directive will enter into force on the twentieth day following its publication in the Official Journal of the EU. The member states will have 18 months to incorporate it into national legislation.

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