**Citizens’ access to clear and transparent information is improving in accordance with the Digital Single Market Strategy**

On 22 March 2018 the European Commission published a Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on persistent organic pollutants (POPs). The proposal aims to adapt the present Regulation (EC) 850/2004 to the comitology procedures after the adoption of the treaty of Lisbon.

In its entirety the proposal contributes to the better protection of EU citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being, which is also one of the objectives of the 7th Environment Action Programme to 2020. In particular, the new regulation updates reporting requirements, simplifies reporting and monitoring processes by relying on bigger automation, lower reporting frequency and relevance of data, in line with the EU’s Better Regulation agenda. Citizens’ access to clear and transparent information is improved in line with the Digital Single Market Strategy.

Until now five meetings of the working parties of the Council of the EU have been conducted on the dossier, three of which during the Bulgarian presidency. The Bulgarian presidency has also developed a compromise text of the proposal for a regulation which received broad support from delegations.

The work on the dossier continues during the Austrian presidency, with an emphasis on the new provisions regarding production control, release, use and monitoring of POPs. The aim which the Austria sets for itself as a rotating president is the final adoption of the proposal until the end of the year.