



# NEWS RELEASE

## GRAHAM WATSON MEP

Liberal Democrat MEP for the South West and Gibraltar  
Leader of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats  
for Europe in the European Parliament

Telephone 01458 252265

Fax 01458 253430

Email [euro\\_office@cix.co.uk](mailto:euro_office@cix.co.uk)

Contact: Jackie Frost/James Sully - 01458 252265 / 078240313224 / 07920146397 / [euro\\_office@cix.co.uk](mailto:euro_office@cix.co.uk)

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### MEP welcomes toxic paint stripper ban

After many years of campaigning Graham Watson MEP for the South West of England and Gibraltar has welcomed recent European Commission proposals for a partial ban on paint strippers containing dichloromethane, to the general public.

Graham Watson said,

**“I welcome these plans to protect consumers across Europe from this dangerous chemical. It is toxic to the central nervous system and that has been linked to a number of accidents and fatalities. I have been campaigning for this for many years and the Commission’s proposals are a sensible move to safeguard people’s health. Alternatives are available, as developed by local company Eco Solutions, so we do not need to use dichloromethane”.**

Dichloromethane is a suspected carcinogen, and toxic chemical found in many industrial products including paint strippers. The European Commission examined the risk in paint strippers in several studies and concluded that the partial ban is necessary to reduce risks to consumers across the EU. Member states will continue to be able to permit the use of paint stripper containing the chemical by licensed professionals who have received appropriate training.

**ENDS**