

2 Now complete the article with the sentences below.



PLANS to regulate the chemicals industry in Europe approved by the European Commission on October 29th are a minor victory for industrial lobbyists over environmental campaigners. "I

can live with it," was the less than enthusiastic comment by Margot Wallström, the Environment Commissioner, who had wanted something far more ambitious. 1 _____ d _____ He claimed that the right balance had now been struck between growth and employment on the one hand and health and the environment on the other.

Behind the Commission's proposal is the fear that the world is full of unknown chemicals doing damage to health and happiness. It proposes that any business making or importing more than one tonne per year of a chemical must register safety information on a central database. Those chemicals seen as riskiest to health or the environment, or produced in the greatest quantity, will be subject to evaluation by the authorities. 2 _____.

But the Commission has given in too easily to industry,

say the greens. 3 _____. These three politicians jointly wrote to Romano Prodi, the Commission President, giving warning of the dangers of excessive regulation. So how far have the Commission's original proposals changed? A requirement to provide safety information has been softened for some 20,000 chemicals produced in quantities of less than ten tonnes per year. Also, a requirement to switch to alternative chemicals is now less binding. 4 _____. And there will be fewer limits on what can be imported into the EU.

Yet still the chemicals industry continues to complain that European producers will be put at a competitive disadvantage. This is because restrictions are not as strict elsewhere, particularly on chemicals that have long been in widespread use.

The lobbying battle will now move into international arenas like the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers. 5 _____. While it goes on, the Commission should think about what it is doing. Increasingly, it justifies its actions by saying that it is trying to protect consumers. 6 _____. For Europe's three biggest economies, the price proposed was much too high.

- a The process could easily take another few years.
- b Very dangerous chemicals, such as carcinogens, will need authorisation before use.
- c Firms will have the right to keep some information about products confidential.
- d Her colleague, Erkki Liikanen, the Commissioner for Enterprise, was happier.
- e But the fight over chemicals has shown that consumer protection comes at a price.
- f Pro-industry lobbyists include Gerhard Schröder, Jacques Chirac and Tony Blair.

3 Look at the article again. Find the adjective of the following nouns.

industry ^{industrial} environment enthusiasm ambition risk
excess origin alternative competition