

# Celebrating 10 years of ECHA - perspectives for a sustainable chemical industry

European Sectoral Partners'  
plenary meeting 2017

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# Our mission

ECHA is the driving force among regulatory authorities in implementing the EU's groundbreaking chemicals legislation for the benefit of human health and the environment as well as for innovation and competitiveness.

Help companies to  
comply with the  
chemicals legislation



Advance the safe use  
of chemicals



Provide information  
on chemicals



Address chemicals  
of concern



## Chemicals legislations managed by ECHA

### **REACH**

Registration  
Evaluation  
Authorisation  
Restriction

All substances  
>1 tonne  
per annum

### **CLP**

Classification  
Labelling  
Packaging

All substances  
and mixtures

UN-wide  
standards

### **BPR**

Biocides

Active substances  
and biocidal  
products

### **PIC**

Prior Informed  
Consent

Import/export of  
certain hazardous  
chemicals

UN Rotterdam  
Convention



English (en) ECHA  
Search the EUON website

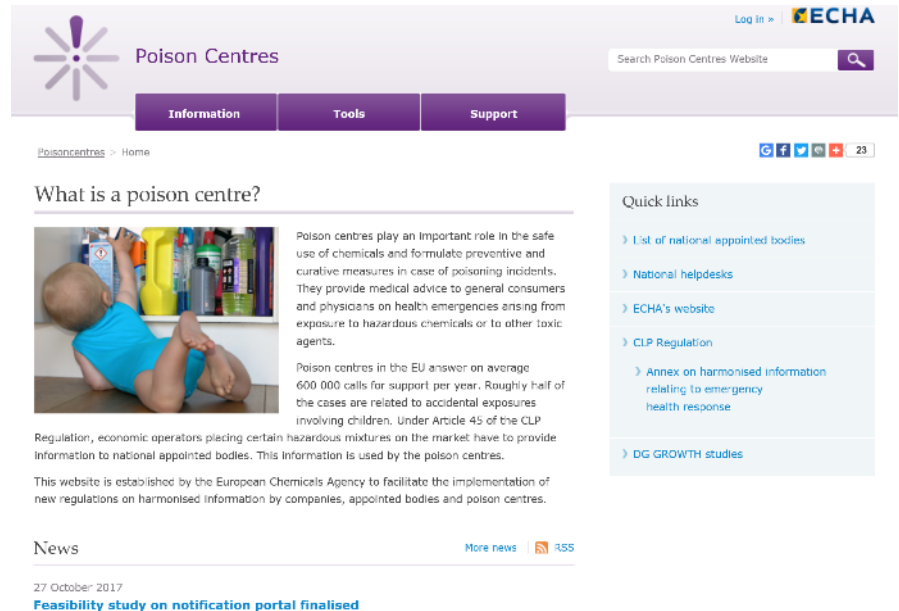
General information Users Safety Regulation International activities Research & Innovation

Welcome to the European Union Observatory for Nanomaterials

Here you can find information about existing nanomaterials on the EU market. Whether you are developing policies in the area, a consumer or representing industry or a green NGO, the information on European Union Observatory for Nanomaterials (EUON) offers interesting reading about the safety, innovation, research and uses of nanomaterials.

What are nanomaterials? They are particles that are so small that we can only see them using a microscope. And nanomaterials are everywhere. They are in nature itself, easily carried away by the wind as for example pollen and sand. But they are also increasingly present in our daily lives through consumer products. Being small sometimes means that they also behave differently compared to the

Contact us



Log in > ECHA  
Search Poison Centres Website

Poison Centres

Information Tools Support

What is a poison centre?

Poison centres play an important role in the safe use of chemicals and formulate preventive and curative measures in case of poisoning incidents. They provide medical advice to general consumers and physicians on health emergencies arising from exposure to hazardous chemicals or to other toxic agents.

Poison centres in the EU answer on average 600 000 calls for support per year. Roughly half of the cases are related to accidental exposures involving children. Under Article 45 of the CLP Regulation, economic operators placing certain hazardous mixtures on the market have to provide information to national appointed bodies. This information is used by the poison centres.

This website is established by the European Chemicals Agency to facilitate the implementation of new regulations on harmonised information by companies, appointed bodies and poison centres.

Quick links

- List of national appointed bodies
- National helpdesks
- ECHA's website
- CLP Regulation
- Annex on harmonised information relating to emergency health response
- DG GROWTH studies

News

27 October 2017  
**Feasibility study on notification portal finalised**

- **EU Chemicals Legislation finder**  
*in development*
- **Scientific opinions to support OELs under OSH legislation**  
*first opinions delivered*
- **Tracking SVHCs / circular economy [...]**



# Transparency and independence – two of ECHA's core values

- Our work is science-based and independent
- We have solid procedures for managing potential conflicts of interest (staff and experts in Committees)
- We ensure transparency by:
  - publishing non-confidential documents / data
  - public consultations for most processes
  - Allowing stakeholder observers in to be present in ECHA Committees



## We champion in stakeholder consultation

- We organise public consultations during most regulatory processes / scientific opinion forming
    - Replies to all comments are published
  - We listen to stakeholders through various channels
    - We have 108 accredited stakeholder organisations
    - Stakeholder observers and other experts in Committees
    - Trialogues in authorisation application process
    - Structured platforms (industry and NGOs) for regular exchange
    - Partner expert groups for guidance development
- In ECHA we are interested in the reality of the case
- We do not work in an ivory tower in Helsinki

## Collaboration with national authorities

- We operate **shared processes** with national level
- With inclusive procedures
  - Clear division of responsibility between national and EU level
  - MSCA and ECHA deliver the reports / opinions
  - Peer review of each others work
  - Systematic information exchange / IT tools allow full overview
- Experts in the committees are mostly staff from national competent authorities
  - Co-option or invited experts for specific expertise
  - For COM requests on OSH opinions we are considering how to involve additional experts

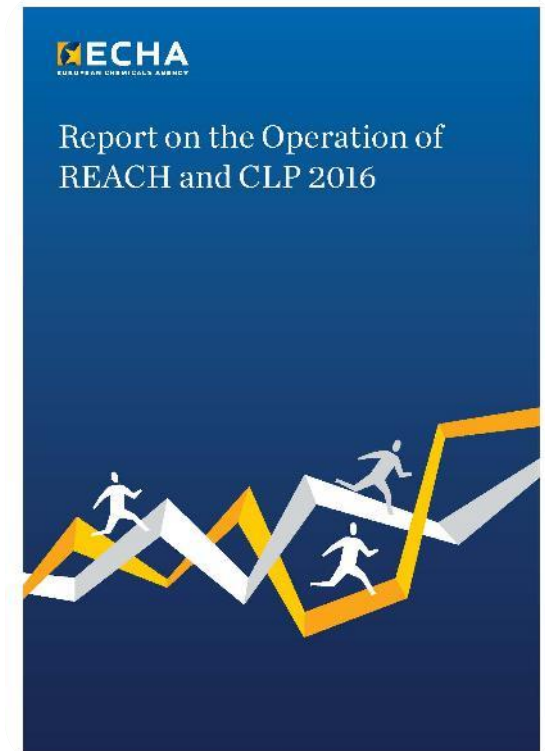
# Progress to date



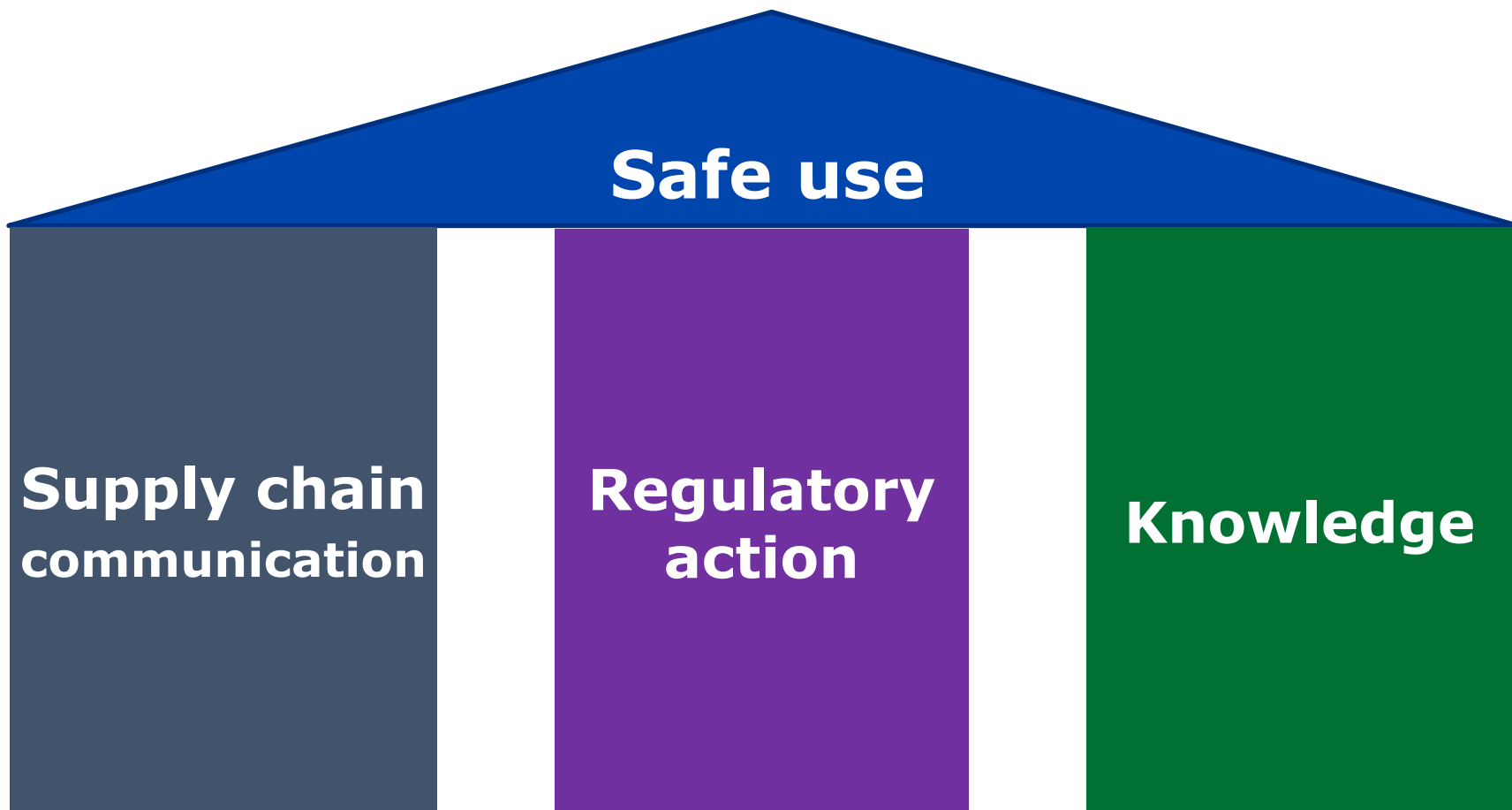


## Journey so far

- In 2016 ECHA published 2<sup>nd</sup> report on the operations of **REACH** and **CLP**
- Overall: REACH and CLP are working and we are making good progress
- But there's still a lot of work to do!
- 2<sup>nd</sup> REACH Review by the European Commission expected in Q1 2018
- ECHA currently defining its future strategy (public consultation Q2/2018)



# Basic pillars of chemicals legislation





## Do we know more on chemicals?

- Classification information on **130 000** substances
- **65 389** registration dossiers for **17 143** substances from **12 242** companies (28/11/2017)
- **> 2** million study summaries on properties and effects of chemicals
- **Over 500** substances under data generation or assessment
- **174** substances of very high concern identified
- **43** substances of concern on authorisation list
- **21** new restrictions on use of dangerous substances
- **257** opinions on harmonised classification and labelling



## Sound regulatory processes

- Strong competences in chemicals management built-up
- REACH operates effectively and efficiently
  - It provides an effective internal market for chemicals
  - It drives substitution by safer alternatives and reduces risks for workers through controlled use (authorisation process)
- Highest standards are applied in terms of customer service, transparency and independence
- Cooperation with other EU agencies and third countries
- Still room for improvement in the coming years
  - Quality of registration dossiers requires particular attention
  - Commission REACH Review will provide important elements



## Benefits to everyone

- ✓ Chemicals are being used more safely and there is much more safety information freely available to everyone on ECHA's website
- ✓ EU Member States can use the information to propose EU-wide risk management actions and enforce chemical legislation
- ✓ Industry understands and communicates the risks of its chemicals better through supply chain and has an improved worldwide reputation

## After 2018.....

- All substances above 1 tonne on the EU market registered, but the market is in continuous development!
- Including high number of low volume chemicals that were never on the radar screen of regulators
- Hazard and risk information for these substances is limited
  - challenge is to pick the right substances for further scrutiny and assessment of risks



## Interface REACH and OSH

- REACH/CLP benefit worker safety, e.g.:
  - Improved Safety Data Sheets including DNELs and exposure scenarios per use
  - Controlled use (authorisation, restrictions and harmonised C&L)
  - Coordination between national authorities through ECHA Forum for enforcement (level playing field)
- REACH reinforces OSH legislation
  - In particular the authorisation process promotes substitution of CMRs and leads to significant reduction of workers exposure
- **But:** Links with OELs should be clear & overlaps avoided
  - We need coherent safety limits at EU level
  - ECHA ready to provide competences and processes and working regimes with broad stakeholder involvement

# **Towards sustainable use of chemicals**





# Sustainability as a driver for innovation and growth

- Important element of corporate agendas as a driver for innovation and growth
- Increasing demand from retailers and consumers who value the benefits of a sustainable economy
- Some investors include chemical safety into risk assessments – compliance becomes a business and market asset
- Knowledge of chemicals portfolio helps companies to define safer processes and substitute
- By staying at the forefront, companies safeguard their competitiveness



# New strategic priorities (draft)

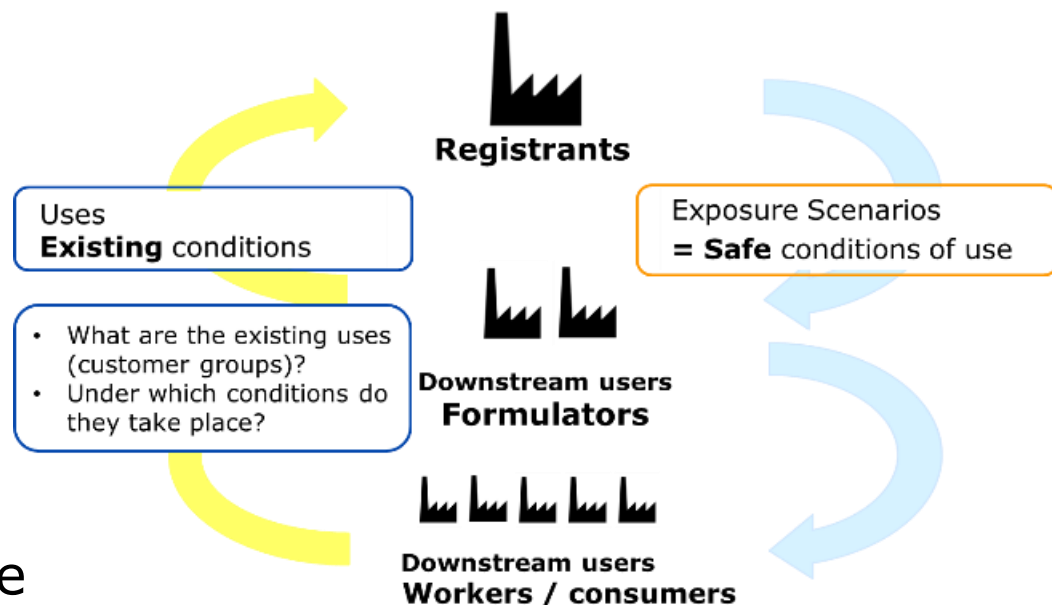


1. Intensifying the identification and risk management of substances of concern
- 2. Making a difference in the safe and sustainable use of chemicals by industry**
3. Maximising the use of data and competences for the **sustainable management of chemicals** through the implementation of EU legislation

→ *Public consultation in 2018*

# Effective supply chain communication

- ✓ Involves manufacturers, formulators, users (workers), retailers and consumers
- ✓ Promotes non-toxic environment and circular economy
- ✓ Service-life of articles and waste stages to be included into scenarios



## What can ECHA do?

- Continue with full speed the REACH / CLP implementation, with focus on regulatory compliance to make sure that conditions for safe use are available
- Support companies to improve safety advice to protect their workers and consumers, to increase the skill base in sustainable portfolio management
- Highlight the business potential of sustainability to make best use of the efforts invested in regulatory compliance
- Collaborate with multipliers in industry/trade unions/NGOs to promote the value chemical safety in our lives

# Thank you!

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