



## EU Institutions - News

### 1 - 17 January 2019

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## COUNCIL

### General

- **Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

Source: Romanian Presidency Website

*The Council of the EU is the institution representing the member states' governments. It is where national ministers from each EU country meet to adopt laws and coordinate policies. The Council of the EU negotiates and adopts legislative acts in most cases together with the European Parliament through the ordinary legislative procedure, also known as 'codecision'.*

*The presidency of the Council rotates among the EU member states every 6 months. The presidency is held by a national government. During this 6-month period, the presidency chairs meetings at every level in the Council, determine its agendas, set a work programme and facilitate dialogue both at Council meetings and with other EU institutions.*

Between 1st of January and 30st of June 2019, Romania will exercise its first mandate at the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Romania published the programme of the presidency on January 15<sup>th</sup>:

### Water

The Romanian Presidency will focus on advancing the negotiations on the legislative files concerning the re-use of water and the quality of drinking water.

### Chemicals

The presidency does not plan to advance on legislative files. It only states that *“Alongside the other Member States, the Romanian Presidency will have the opportunity to promote EU’s vision on this matter, as well as on the chemicals / waste interface at the triple COP meeting of relevant Conventions (Basel / Rotterdam / Stockholm) that will take place in Geneva on 29 April – 10 May 2019.”*

On **Energy** and **Waste**, Romania does not plan any relevant development for your sector.

### Access the full programme:

[https://www.romania2019.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/en\\_rogramme\\_ropres2019.pdf](https://www.romania2019.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/en_rogramme_ropres2019.pdf)

- **Ten green tests for Romania's EU presidency**

*Source: EEB*

As Romania takes the helm of the EU's rotating presidency for the next six months, EEB, the European Environmental Bureau (NGO), assessed the challenges and opportunities ahead according to them.

This document is a position paper, adopted by an NGO, but gives a good vision of the files that could be discussed at EU level in the coming months.

## **Energy**

"With the publication of the "Clean Energy for all Europeans" package, the European Commission has started a comprehensive revision of EU energy legislation. Under the past Estonian, Bulgarian and Austrian Presidencies, political agreements have been found for all elements of the package including the revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive, the recast of the Renewable Energy Directive and the new Governance Regulation.

Ecodesign and Energy Labelling measures are essential elements of the Energy legislation and need to be reinforced to allow the policy to deliver in a timely way on its full potential. The so called 'package' approach adopted by the Commission has not proven effective and deserves being improved. EEB calls upon the Romanian Presidency to support the recommendations of the European Parliament in their own initiative report on Ecodesign implementation (May 2018)."

## **Chemicals**

"REACH Regulation of industrial chemicals was subject to a REFIT evaluation. REACH was found worthwhile in terms of benefits to health and the environment. However, the evaluation also highlighted the urgency to improve REACH's implementation, enforcement and compliance, including its most basic principles. One of the pillars of REACH is the registration procedure consisting into generating information on the chemicals to be placed on the EU market. Although the registration procedure is associated with the "no data, no market" principle, the REACH REFIT evaluation concluded that the very high levels of noncompliance of the information submitted by companies is actually one of REACH's biggest shortcomings of the Regulation, hampering the authorities' capacity to sufficiently protect health and the environment.

A Fitness Check of all chemicals-related legislations (excluding REACH, except its annex XIII) should be published by the first quarter of 2019. This may have significant consequences on a wide number of chemicals regulations being evaluated.

In the 2013 Inter-Institutional 7th Environment Action Programme to 2020, the Council, the Commission and the Parliament had committed to have a new Strategy to deliver a non-toxic environment by 2018 as one priority objective.

Although this commitment will not be met in time, as 7th EAP is set to 2020, it must become a first concern to the Romanian Presidency in order to set an overarching horizontal framework that sets priorities supporting innovation to safer substitutes, including non-chemical solutions; minimising exposure to hazardous chemicals in the environment and in products; addressing combination effects of chemicals and promoting non-toxic material cycles.”

### **Circular economy and plastic**

“Plastic pollution and overuse of plastic materials, too frequently disposable and/or associated with toxic substances or other additives, are the clear symbols and legacy of a linear, unsustainable economy. It is time to re-orient plastic consumption around absolute usage reduction of virgin materials. Instruments such as essential requirements for packaging, modulation of extended producer responsibility fees (EPR) can be pro-actively considered for restricting not reusable and recyclable plastics and reward toxic-free, recycled materials. As a major part of microplastics pollution is linked to micro-fibres, it should also be given a new drive to textiles sector to promote durable and detoxified textile materials and defining measures to stop leakages of micro fibres.

A renewed EU Ecolabel strategy on an extended range of products and services is needed to untap the full potential of the scheme to support the transition to a circular economy. However, the future strategy should go beyond the mere selection of candidates’ sectors for the label. We need to optimise synergies with other policies, notably by increasing its role in public procurement and as a benchmark for environmental excellence inspiring other policies such as Ecodesign.”

### **Access the document prepared by EEB:**

<https://eeb.org/publications/183/eu-governance/96666/eeb-memorandum-to-the-romanian-presidency.pdf>

- **Assessment of the environmental performance of the Austrian presidency of the EU**

*Source: EEB*

The Austrian Presidency achieved important goals during its six-month term (July-December 2018), managing to complete negotiations on a range of important legislative files. The EEB, the European Environmental Bureau (NGO), assessed their performance. You can find more information per theme below:

### **Chemicals**

“On chemicals, the Austrian Presidency organised conferences on that aimed to make our society fit for sustainable living with chemicals in a less toxic world and “International Chemical Policy from a European Perspective” that tackled the issues of REACH Review and substitution among others. Nevertheless, the Presidency did not adopt expected Council conclusions on the REACH Review.

The Austrian Presidency organised a very successful Green Chemistry Conference as a final event of the programme “Smart and Sustainable Europe”. These conferences indirectly tackled the NonToxic Environment Strategy that the European Commission was required to issue under the 7EAP but failed to deliver by the 2018 deadline.”

## Water

“The Austrian Presidency has not prioritised getting agreement on the pending legislative proposals to review and complete the EU’s water policy framework, namely on the recast of the Drinking Water Directive and proposal for Water Reuse Regulation, during its six months at the helm of the EU Council. This makes the timeline for their adoption before the European Parliament elections as urged by the Commission’s President in the Letter of Intent very challenging. The incoming Romanian Presidency will need to conclude the negotiations on these important files in record time.”

## Circular Economy

“The Austrian Presidency worked hard to reach a compromise within the Council on the Single Use Plastics (SUP) file, managing to finalise the discussion with the Parliament before the end of the year and maintaining some essential provisions regarding cost coverage, bans and separate collection.

As regards the adoption of an ambitious Ecodesign and Energy Labelling package, we have not noted any prominent references to it by the Austrian Presidency despite its importance to progress the Circular and Low Carbon Economy, and Austria was not particularly vocal as a Member State to defend the most ambitious formulations with regard to energy and resource conservation in the proposed measures.”

## Access the full EEB assessment:

[https://eeb.org/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php?juwpfisadmin=false&action=wpfd&task=file.download&wpfd\\_category\\_id=107&wpfd\\_file\\_id=96982&token=aba404dc69b31ee0092248f8d67c4d9f&previ  
ew=1](https://eeb.org/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php?juwpfisadmin=false&action=wpfd&task=file.download&wpfd_category_id=107&wpfd_file_id=96982&token=aba404dc69b31ee0092248f8d67c4d9f&previ<br/>ew=1)

## Chemicals

- **Meeting agenda of the Council's Working Party on International Environment Issues**

*Source: Council of the European Union*

*The Council of the European Union is supported by more than 150 highly specialised working parties and committees, known as the 'Council preparatory bodies'.*

*The Working Party on International Environment Issues prepares EU positions for international negotiations related to environmental and climate change issues. It works in subgroups, which cover various issues such as climate, biodiversity, chemicals, global sustainable development and waste.*

Here is the agenda of the next Working Party on International Environment Issues of the Council:

1. Roadmap for the work under the Romanian Presidency - Presentation by the Presidency

### International Chemicals:

2. Minamata Convention - Second meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 2) (Geneva, 19-23 November 2018) - Follow-up and designation of experts for participation in expert groups (releases, mercury waste and effectiveness evaluation) = Information from the Presidency

### Synergies:

3. Preparations for the third meeting of the SAICM Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (OEWG-3) (Montevideo, Uruguay, 2-4 April 2019) - Information from Bureau members and exchange of views
4. UNEA-4 - draft resolution on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste - Information by the Presidency

### **Access the information:**

[https://www.consilium.europa.eu/register/en/content/out?&typ=ENTRY&i=AGND TXCM&DOC\\_ID=CM-1065-2019-INIT](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/register/en/content/out?&typ=ENTRY&i=AGND TXCM&DOC_ID=CM-1065-2019-INIT)

## Consumers

- **Meeting agenda of the next Council's Working Party on Consumer Protection and Information**

*Source: Comitology*

*The Working Party on Consumer Protection and Information examines draft legislation in the area of consumer policy and consumer protection in the EU, including product safety law.*

Here is the agenda of the next Working Party on Consumer Protection and Information of the Council:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 93/13/EEC of 5 April 1993, Directive 98/6/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Directive 2005/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Directive 2011/83/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards better enforcement and modernisation of EU consumer protection rules Doc. 7876/2018

*Continuation of the examination of the Presidency compromise proposal*

3. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on representative actions for the protection of collective interests of consumers and repealing Directive 2009/22/EC Doc. 7877/2018 + ADD 1 - Examination of the Presidency compromise proposal

## Access the information:

<https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/CM-1108-2019-INIT/en/pdf>

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

### General

- **Agenda of the next meeting of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety**

*Source: European Parliament*

**21 January 2019**

15.00 – 17.30



- Presentation of the Council Presidency's programme: Exchange of views with Ms Grațiela Leocadia Gavrilescu, Romanian Vice Prime Minister, Minister of the Environment

## 22 January 2019

10.00 – 11.15

- Vote on the adoption of the report on "Minimum requirements for water reuse"

14.30 – 18.30

- Presentation of the Council Presidency's programme: Exchange of views with Ms Sorina Pintea, Romanian Minister of Health
- Exchange of views with the Commission on endocrine disruptors
- Exchange of views with Mr Arnaud Schwartz, rapporteur for the EESC exploratory opinion on the Implementation of EU environmental legislation in the areas of air quality, water and waste

*We will follow the exchanges and inform you of any relevant information.*

### Access the agenda:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+COMPARL+ENVI-OJ-20190121-1+01+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

- **Agenda of the next meeting of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy**

*Source: European Parliament*

## 23 January 2019

14.30 – 17.15

- Presentation of the Council Presidency's programme:
  - Visit of Mr Anton Anton, Minister of Energy
  - Visit of Mr Nicolae Hurduc, Minister for Research and Innovation, and Mr Niculae Bădăläu, Minister of Economy

*We will follow the exchanges and inform you of any relevant information.*

**Access the agenda:**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+COMPARL+ITRE-OJ-20190123-1+02+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=FR>

**Chemicals**

- **Commissioner Bieńkowska answers a written question by MEP Răzvan Popa (S&D) on Toxic products**

*Source: European Parliament*

*Parliamentary written questions are questions addressed by Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to other European Union Institutions and bodies, with request for a written answer. They are a direct form of parliamentary scrutiny of other EU institutions and bodies.*

**Question:**

A recent study shows a significant amount of toxic, irritating or allergenic components in most commonly used cleaning products, which are readily available on supermarket shelves, without any regard for public health. These products are used for washing, cleaning windows, dusting and other housework, but consumers are unaware that the household cleaning products they keep in their homes are toxic. In fact, there are very few checks on household products and the warnings on packaging are not easy to read or are unclear. We use many disinfectants and antibacterial products, some of which contain significant amounts of benzalkonium chloride, a known allergen which is bad for health.

What action will the Commission consider, in collaboration with Member States and product manufacturers, to provide better information to European citizens about the danger of long-term use of these products, as well as preventing disease and the increasing number of people who are allergic to these products?

**Answer:**

Communication of hazard information to consumers about chemical substances in products is one of the key measures to promote their safe use. Various communication measures exist across the legislative framework. Their effectiveness has a direct impact on the correct functioning of the EU chemicals framework and on achieving its objectives. The Commission started the Fitness Check of chemicals legislation other than the Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)<sup>1</sup> ('the Fitness Check') in 2015, which is currently being finalised. Existing hazard communication mechanisms are assessed in this Fitness Check.

The findings of the Fitness Check together with those of the evaluation of the Detergents Regulation – which is currently being finalised – will help find the best way forward to address the challenges in this area. Annex VII, section A of the Detergents Regulation<sup>2</sup> sets out strict rules on the labelling of disinfectants, which must be listed on the label irrespective of their concentration. With regards to labelling allergenic fragrances in detergents, the Detergents Regulation follows the Cosmetics Regulation<sup>3</sup>. The Commission is considering whether the number of allergens to be labelled in detergents should be increased. The labelling of disinfectants is also addressed under the Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR)<sup>4</sup>. For benzalkonium chloride, labelling requirements under the Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP)<sup>5</sup> Regulation are in place for any product containing more than 1% in its formulation. Furthermore, the BPR and CLP Regulations provide for the regular update of labelling while under REACH, restrictions on the manufacturing, placing on the market and use of hazardous chemicals posing an unacceptable risk to human health can be adopted.

**Access the information:**

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-8-2018-005263\\_EN.html](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-8-2018-005263_EN.html)

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

### Chemicals and plastic

- **Statement on emerging health and environmental issues from the European Commission**

*Source: European Commission*

On 14 January, the European Commission's Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER) published a statement and a position paper on emerging health and environmental issues. Among them:

- Chemicals in recycled materials, an issue in a circular economy
- Substance Mobility: a new criterion in chemicals regulation
- Micro and nano-plastic in the environment
- Nanoparticles released from Building Materials and construction
- waste to the Environment

**Access the information:**

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/scientific\\_committees/scheer/docs/scheer\\_s\\_002.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/scientific_committees/scheer/docs/scheer_s_002.pdf)

## Energy

- **Public Consultation on the Evaluation of the Low Voltage Directive 2014/35/EU**

*Source: European Commission*

The purpose of the evaluation exercise is to assess if the Low Voltage Directive (LVD) 2014/35/EU is fit for purpose in terms of effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added value. The LVD is applicable, subject to specific exemptions, to electrical equipment with a rated voltage between 50 V and 1,000 V (alternating current) or between 75 V and 1,500 V (direct current) that is placed in the European market. On the basis of the conclusions on the performance of the Directive, the Commission will assess which next steps may be necessary to improve the performance of the Directive.

With that purpose, the public consultation is intended to collect general information from the public (consumers, sellers and other economic operators, public authorities, etc.) if and where issues arise with the LVD and what improvements could be envisaged. As such, the public consultation is a tool to identify potential difficulties in the implementation that may require regulatory or/and non-regulatory corrective measures.

The public consultation is open until 4 April 2019.

### **Access the public consultation:**

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2017-5291384/public-consultation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2017-5291384/public-consultation_en)

- **New Renewables, Energy Efficiency and Governance legislation comes into force in December 2018**

*Source: European Commission*

Three key pieces of legislation in the Clean Energy for All Europeans package have been published in the EU Official Journal (L328) and will enter into force as of 24 December 2018.

### **Access the information:**

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/new-renewables-energy-efficiency-and-governance-legislation-comes-force-24-december-2018-2018-dec-21\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/new-renewables-energy-efficiency-and-governance-legislation-comes-force-24-december-2018-2018-dec-21_en)

- **Assessment of the implementation status and effectiveness of Article 17 of the Energy Efficiency Directive**

*Source: European Commission*

The EU Commission published a report that provides an assessment of the implementation status of Article 17 of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) across the EU-28. It includes an overview of measures introduced by Member States to ensure wide dissemination of available energy efficiency mechanisms, financial and legal frameworks to all relevant market actors. In addition, a more focused assessment of the effectiveness of the information and training measures is made for a selection of ten representative Member States.

#### **Access the information:**

<https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/studies/assessment-implementation-status-and-effectiveness-article-17-energy-efficiency-directive>

#### **Biocides**

- **Adoption of a delegated act amending Annex II to Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1062/2014 on the work programme for the systematic examination of all existing active substances contained in biocidal products referred to in Regulation (EU) No 528/2012**

*Source: Comitology*

The EU Commission amended Annex II to Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1062/2014 on the work programme for the systematic examination of all existing active substances contained in biocidal products referred to in Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 with this new annex:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/regdel/web/delegatedActs/723/documents/1162?lang=en>

You can access the full delegated act here:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/regdel/web/delegatedActs/723/documents/1161?lang=en>

#### **Context:**

According to Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of 2012 concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products, a work programme shall be carried out to review all active substances used in biocidal products which were already on the market on 14 May 2000. This on-going work programme for the systematic examination of all existing active substances used in biocidal products is foreseen to run until 2024.

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1062/2014, the so-called "Review Regulation", amended by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/698, lays down the detailed rules for the examination of these existing active substances. It also sets out in its Annex II the substance/product-type combinations.

Since the adoption of the Review Regulation the identities of certain active substance/product-type combinations in Annex II which can be generated in situ have been redefined.

At the same time, following the declarations received, an invitation was published where persons with an interest could notify active substances in product-type 19 that had benefitted from the derogation for food and feed. The substance/product-type combinations for which notifications have been found compliant with Article 17(2) of the Review Regulation should be included in Annex II of this Regulation. In addition, some of the substance/product-type combinations originally included in this work programme are no longer supported and the Commission also adopted a number of approval and non-approval decisions with a view to approve or not approve certain active substances for use in biocidal products. Hence, these substance/product-type combinations should no longer be included in the work programme. Consequently, Annex II of the Review Regulation was updated.

## EUROPEAN CHEMICAL AGENCY (ECHA)

### General

- **ECHA Forum Work Programme 2019-2023: enforcement priorities**

*Source: The European Chemical Agency (ECHA)*

What are the priorities for enforcing chemicals legislation in for the next four years? The Forum will focus on, among other things, registration, risk management, internet sales and imports. It will work on enforcing duties that ensure safe use of chemicals by consumers and prepare for controls of notifications to poison centres. The five-year programme also covers duties related to the Biocidal Products, PIC and POPs regulations.

Access the Work programme [here](#)

- **ECHA reorganises to help take on new tasks and face future challenges**

*Source: The European Chemical Agency (ECHA)*

Together with the revision of ECHA's strategy, the Agency has re-aligned its organisation to help it meet future challenges. The new organisational structure entered into force on 1 January 2019.

The new structure reflects ECHA's broad capacity to implement chemicals legislation, including information submission; dissemination, data mining, grouping and prioritising chemicals; assessing chemical hazards and exposure; risk management and socio-economic analysis.

One new director and a number of new heads of unit will be appointed in the new organisation. The recruitment process is currently ongoing.

**Access to the information:**

<https://echa.europa.eu/-/echa-reorganises-to-help-take-on-new-tasks-and-face-future-challenges>

- **Indicators for enforcement 2018**

*Source: The European Chemical Agency (ECHA)*

The indicator report tracks the Forum's key activities over the last few years. It contains information on the inspector trainings held, participation in enforcement projects, number of enforcement issues addressed, tools that inspectors use and stakeholder satisfaction.

Access the report [here](#)

### **Workers' exposure**

- **Enforcement project calls for improved safety information to protect workers from chemical hazards**

*Source: The European Chemical Agency (ECHA)*

Companies have systems in place to communicate safe use information down the supply chain. However, according to the findings of an EU-wide enforcement project, the quality of this information needs to be improved to protect workers from hazardous chemicals.

**Access the information:**

<https://echa.europa.eu/-/enforcement-project-calls-for-improved-safety-information-to-protect-workers-from-chemical-hazards>

### **REACH**

- **Six new substances added to the Candidate List**

*Source: The European Chemical Agency (ECHA)*



ECHA has added five new substances to the Candidate List due to the carcinogenic, toxic to reproduction, persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) and very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB) properties of the substances.

Furthermore, one dossier submitter (the German competent authority) decided to withdraw its proposal to identify undecafluorohexanoic acid and its ammonium salt (PFHxA) as an SVHC during the MSC agreement-seeking process.

### Background

The Candidate List is a list of substances that may have serious effects on human health or the environment. Substances on the Candidate List are also known as substances of very high concern and are candidates for eventual inclusion in the Authorisation List. Once they are on the Authorisation List, industry will need to apply for permission to continue using the substance after the sunset date.

Companies may have legal obligations resulting from the inclusion of the substance in the Candidate List. These obligations may apply to the listed substance on its own, in mixtures or in articles. In particular, any supplier of articles containing a Candidate List substance above a concentration of 0.1 % (weight by weight) has communication obligations towards customers down the supply chain and consumers. In addition, importers and producers of articles containing the substance have six months from the date of its inclusion in the Candidate List (15 January 2019) to notify ECHA. Information on these obligations and related tools are available on ECHA's website.

### **Access the information:**

<https://echa.europa.eu/-/six-new-substances-added-to-the-candidate-list>

- **Restriction proposals submitted**

*Source: The European Chemical Agency (ECHA)*

On 11 January 2019, ECHA submitted proposals to restrict:

- **microplastics** (EC -) [details](#);

[Registry of restriction intentions](#)

- **Restriction dossier submission postponed**

*Source: The European Chemical Agency (ECHA)*

The restriction proposal on **calcium cyanamide** (EC 205-861-8) will be submitted on **12 April 2019**.

[Registry of restriction intentions](#)



- **Substance identity adaptation webform amended**

*Source: The European Chemical Agency (ECHA)*

The substance identity adaptation webform has been modified to remind co-registrants of their obligation to keep their dossiers up to date when submitting their joint submission plan and documentary evidence.

Access the memo [How to change your substance identifier](#) and the [Webform](#)

- **Upcoming inspections to check compliance with REACH registration obligations**

*Source: The European Chemical Agency (ECHA)*

The inspections are part of Forum's seventh coordinated REACH enforcement project (REF-7) involving all 31 EU and EEA countries during which cooperation with customs authorities to check imports of substances is expected.

The project aims to ensure EU-wide enforcement of the obligations of importers and manufacturers to register their substances, given that the last registration deadline passed in 2018. Checks will cover imported and manufactured substances in all tonnage bands, the main focus being on substances imported or manufactured in quantities of 1-100 tonnes per year. The inspections will also include a check of parts of the registration dossier and of other duties related to registration, for example, whether the registrant is compliant with the duty to update a registration dossier.

Inspectors in Member States will verify whether substances registered as intermediates meet the definition of intermediates and are manufactured and used under strictly controlled conditions. In addition, substances registered as monomers in polymers will be checked.

A report on the results of the inspections will be available in the fourth quarter of 2020.

**Access to the information:**

<https://echa.europa.eu/-/upcoming-inspections-to-check-compliance-with-reach-registration-obligations>

### **Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Regulation**

- **EU exported almost 830 000 tonnes of PIC chemicals in 2017**

*Source: The European Chemical Agency (ECHA)*

ECHA's report on the exports and imports that took place in 2017 under the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Regulation shows ethylene dichloride as the most exported and benzene as the most imported PIC chemicals.

Three most exported PIC chemicals:

Substance	Quantity in 2017 (tonnes)
Ethylene dichloride (1,2-dichloroethane)	346 197
Benzene	139 918
Chlorate	120 171

Three most imported PIC chemicals:

Substance	Quantity in 2017 (tonnes)
Benzene	231 799
Benzene and ethylene dichloride (1,2-dichloroethane)	38 158
Creosote and creosote-related substances	12 304

#### Access the information:

<https://echa.europa.eu/-/eu-exported-almost-830-000-tonnes-of-pic-chemicals-in-2017>

#### Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation

- **ECHA's committees adopt 19 harmonised classification and labelling opinions and one restriction**

*Source: The European Chemical Agency (ECHA)*

The Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) has adopted 19 opinions for harmonised classification and labelling, including opinions on the environmental hazards of lead, other industrial chemicals as well as 12 pesticides and biocides.

The Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC) adopts its final opinion, supporting the proposal to restrict the manufacturing, use, placing on the market and import of C9-C14 perfluorinated carboxylic acids (PFCAs), their salts and precursors.

Furthermore, the committees discussed and adopted one opinion on an application for authorisation for the use of chromium trioxide to modify properties of surfaces made of plastic, and two opinions on review reports for the use of PVC recyclate containing DEHP.

#### Access the information:

<https://echa.europa.eu/-/echa-s-committees-adopt-19-harmonised-classification-and-labelling-opinions-and-one-restriction>

- **New proposals to harmonise classification and labelling**

*Source: The European Chemical Agency (ECHA)*

Four proposals have been received for the harmonised classification and labelling, including

- **6-[C12-18-alkyl-(branched, unsaturated)-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl]hexanoic acid, sodium and tris(2-hydroxyethyl)ammonium salts** (EC -, CAS -);

[Registry of CLH intentions](#)

- **Introductory Guidance on the CLP Regulation updated**

*Source: The European Chemical Agency (ECHA)*

ECHA has published an updated version of its Introductory Guidance on the CLP Regulation (version 3.0).

The update takes into account the changes to the regulation brought by the latest Adaptations to Technical and Scientific Progress (ATPs), including the 12th ATP.

Outdated information has also been deleted.

[Introductory Guidance on the CLP Regulation](#)

## **Biocides**

- **Biocidal Products Committee concludes on a Union authorisation for disinfectants**

*Source: The European Chemical Agency (ECHA)*

The committee also supported the approval of seven active substances for use in disinfectants, preservatives and insect repellents.

The Biocidal Products Committee (BPC) adopted an opinion supporting an application for Union authorisation for a biocidal product family based on iodine used in veterinary hygiene (product-type 3).

The BPC also supported the approval of the following active substances:

- silver zinc zeolite for use in disinfectants and preservatives (product-types 2, 7 and 9);
- silver zeolite for use in preservatives (product-type 9);
- silver copper zeolite for use in preservatives (product-type 9);
- silver sodium hydrogen zirconium phosphate for use in preservatives (product-type 9);

- ADBAC/BKC for use in disinfectants (product-types 3 and 4);
- DDAC for use in disinfectants (product-types 3 and 4);
- icaridin for use in insect repellents (product-type 19).

The evaluating Member States will need to assess the active substances against the new criteria for endocrine-disrupting properties before the Committee adopts its final opinions.

The European Commission together with the EU Member States will take the final decision on the approval of the active substances and on the Union authorisation of biocidal products.

The next meeting will be held in February 2019.

### **Access the article:**

<https://echa.europa.eu/-/biocidal-products-committee-concludes-on-a-union-authorisation-for-disinfectan-1>

- **Easier access to information on biocides**

*Source: The European Chemical Agency (ECHA)*

There is now more information available for biocidal products and active substances in ECHA's public database. You can search with a product's trade name to find out where in the EU or EEA it is authorised, what its main ingredients are and how to use it safely. You can also compare products to find more environmentally friendly options.

The information on biocidal active substances has improved. You can trace more easily where a substance is in the EU approval system, whether it is approved, under evaluation by a Member State, or waiting for an opinion by the Biocidal Products Committee. The database currently includes over 300 active substances used in different product-types.

For biocidal products, the following information is available:

- A map of the countries where the product is authorised;
- Non-confidential assessment reports by national authorities;
- Authorisation history for each product;
- Summaries of product characteristics, containing key product information, including:
  - active substances in the product and their concentrations;
  - hazard and precautionary statements;
  - the organisms the product is targeted at;
  - application methods;

- type of packaging;
- instructions for use.

There are more options to search for information, as you can now search with the:

- product trade name (name on the package);
- products containing active substances known to be candidates for substitution;
- organism targeted by the product (e.g. mosquito);
- countries where the product can be sold;
- authorisation type (national, simplified or Union);
- authorisation holder (name of a company).

#### **Access the information:**

<https://echa.europa.eu/-/easier-access-to-information-on-biocides>

## **EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

*The EEA is an EU agency tasked with providing sound, independent information on the environment. It operates as major information source for those involved in developing, adopting, implementing and evaluating environmental policy, and also the general public.*

### **Chemicals**

- **More action needed to tackle mixtures of chemicals in Europe's waters**

*Source: European Environment Agency*

Europe-wide action to prevent and reduce some of the most hazardous chemicals from making their way into Europe's many fresh water bodies has been successful over past decades, thanks in most part to EU rules, according to the European Environment Agency (EEA) report 'Chemicals in European waters.'

However, challenges remain in effectively dealing with mercury and brominated flame retardants, and with many harmful chemicals which have not been prioritised for monitoring under the EU Water Framework Directive.

The EEA report aims to improve understanding of which chemicals continue to pose significant risks to the environment, especially when they are present in

water. It also looks at how better knowledge and understanding can help to improve controls to minimise harm. The report gives an overview of information about pollutants used in the assessment of water quality under the Water Framework Directive and describes some of the newer techniques available for assessing of water quality.

#### **Access the information:**

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/more-action-needed-to-tackle>

## **COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

*The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) is an EU advisory body composed of locally and regionally elected representatives coming from all 28 Member States.*

### **Endocrine disruptors**

- **Next meeting of the Commission for Natural Resources of the European Committee of the Regions**

*Source: European Committee of the Regions*

*The European Committee of the Regions is composed by 6 Commissions, among which is the Commission for Natural Resources (NAT).*

*Among the policy areas covered by the Commission for Natural Resources there are Public Health and Consumer Protection.*

The next meeting of the Commission for Natural Resources of the European Committee of the Regions will be held on 29 January 2019 in Brussels.

One of the working documents that will be discussed is entitled “Towards a comprehensive European Union framework on endocrine disruptors”.

Endocrine disruptors are increasingly recognised to be the cause of a number of serious conditions for human health yet, these chemicals are not treated as dangerous under the EU law.

Reacting to the recent communication from the Commission, the Commission for Natural Resources will draw on its broad expertise in health, consumer protection, agriculture and fisheries to discuss the weakness of the current system and come

forward with proposals to align the legislation in a way it offers the highest possible protection to Europeans.

**Access the information:**

<https://cor.europa.eu/en/events/Pages/NAT---22nd-commission-meeting.aspx>