



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs  
Consumer, Environmental and Health Technologies

Directorate-General for Environment  
Circular Economy and Green Growth

**Directors**

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### **NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF MR G. DANCET, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ECHA**

**Subject: Request to the European Chemicals Agency to prepare a restriction proposal for the use of formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers conforming to the requirements of Annex XV to REACH**

In accordance with Article 69 (1) of the REACH Regulation, we would like to request ECHA to prepare an Annex XV dossier in view of a possible restriction of formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers in mixtures and articles for consumer uses.

In parallel with the preparation of this Annex XV dossier, ECHA is asked to gather existing information to assess the potential exposure from formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers at the workplace including industrial and professional uses.

#### *Background and justification*

Following a request by the Commission, ECHA has carried out a preliminary assessment regarding the use of formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers in mixtures and consumer articles. The results were published in a report on 15 March 2017.

The assessment highlighted that to confirm the risk for consumers, more detailed information on consumer uses including releases and tonnages are needed to develop exposure scenarios.

In the framework of the Substance Evaluation, The Netherlands requested registrants to update their registration dossiers on formaldehyde by providing additional information on consumer uses and exposure. Several registration dossiers have been updated since the deadline of the substance evaluation passed (13 October 2017).

In addition, France prepared the risk management option analysis (RMOA) targeting the risks to workers during manufacturing and use of formaldehyde in industrial and by professional uses and found risk to workers. Today the substance does not even have a binding limit value under the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) legislation.

Finally, some Member States have notified to the Commission national measures related to the presence or emission of formaldehyde in some products for consumers.

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ECHA should keep in contact with the Netherlands and France to analyse the information provided by industry.

*Timing*

ECHA shall enter the relevant intention for restriction of formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers in mixtures and articles for consumer uses into the Registry of Intentions (RoI). We would expect this as well as the start of the working on the gathering of information and assessment of the potential exposure from formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers at the workplace to be done no later than 1 month following the receipt of this letter.

Within 12 months after the entry into the RoI, ECHA should finalise the Annex XV dossier demonstrating whether and what action on formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers is necessary on a Union-wide basis and the assessment of the workers exposure.

Yours sincerely,

*(e-signed)*

Carlo Pettinelli  
DG Internal Market, Industry,  
Entrepreneurship and SMEs

*(e-signed)*

Kestutis Sadauskas  
DG Environment