ECHA
EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY

In brief

ECHA-17-B-01-EN

Work Programme 2017 – Highlights

ECHA works to protect human health and the environment from the toxic effects of chemicals. At the same time, it promotes innovation and the competitiveness of the EU chemicals sector. It does this by requiring companies to provide extensive data on the chemicals they make or import – and promotes the use of tests on chemicals that do not involve animals.

ECHA implements four pieces of EU law on chemicals: REACH; Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP); Biocidal Products (BPR); and Prior Informed Consent (PIC). The Agency helps companies to comply with this legislation, thereby advancing the safe use of chemicals.

In partnership with its stakeholders, ECHA will continue to contribute to meeting the World Summit on Sustainable Development goal: that by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimisation of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.

In 2017, ECHA will continue to pursue its four strategic objectives.

1 Maximising the availability of high quality information to enable the safe manufacture and use of chemicals

2017 will be a crucial year as companies prepare for the final REACH registration deadline in 2018. By 31 May 2018, companies manufacturing or importing chemicals in amounts of one or more tonnes per year need to have registered them. Many of these companies will be first-time registrants that are

SMEs. The Agency will continue to make SMEs a priority – recognising the additional challenges that they face in complying with the law.

Support is available
To help companies preparing to register, there is a new generation of IT tools rolled out in 2016, and the latest guidelines on ECHA's REACH 2018 web pages. ECHA's main challenge in 2017 is to publicise the availability of this support as widely as possible. Reaching companies who are not aware of their obligations, is essential.

Communication of chemical safety information in supply chains
The Agency will help registrants and downstream users to improve the communication of risk management advice throughout the supply chain.

Manufacturers and importers of chemicals have to pass information to their customers on how to use them safely in a consistent and useable form. In return, their customers (downstream users) must give information on how they use the chemicals back to their suppliers. This information is then used in the registration dossier.

More attention will also be paid to ensuring that importers notify the Agency when their mixtures and articles contain substances of very high concern (SVHCs).

In 2016, use maps were developed for some sectors and published on ECHA's website to help registrants. In 2017, new web pages will be tailored to the various actors in the supply chain to help them to fulfil their duties. ECHA will continue to promote the use of these tools to stimulate a demand for good quality information on safe use in the market.

Improving information on chemicals
Access to ECHA's unique database on chemicals will continue to be improved and promoted with industry, consumers, workers and researchers.

To improve safety information and identify substances for further risk management measures, compliance checks will be done on the highest priority substances. The focus is on higher tier human health and environmental endpoints for tonnage bands over 100 tonnes.

Targeted letter campaigns to registrants whose dossiers show defects will also contribute to improving the quality of registration data. At the same time, ECHA will continue to examine proposals to test substances on animals, making sure that testing fulfils the most important information gaps and that testing on animals takes place only as a last resort.

2 Mobilising authorities to use information intelligently to identify and address chemicals of concern

Identifying and reducing the risk of substances of concern
ECHA and the Member State authorities screen ECHA's databases to identify chemicals of potential concern. They decide which evaluation instrument (compliance check, or substance evaluation) should be used to explore their concerns further.

When concerns have been confirmed, the most appropriate option to manage the risks of the substance is identified (restriction, authorisation or harmonised classification and labelling). That option will then be initiated by one of the Member States or the European Commission. An increase in this area of work is expected in 2017, with the number of substances put forward for the Candidate List, or proposals for harmonised classification or restrictions expected to grow.

Reducing the burden on companies
In 2016, the European Commission's Implementing Regulation introducing simplified rules for special authorisation application cases as well as possible changes to the related fees, which should help reduce the burden and lower costs for companies. Further efforts will be made to promote the participation of providers of alternative substances and techniques to stimulate substitution and innovation.

ECHA AT A GLANCE

- Around **600 staff** from most EU countries
- **4 scientific committees** with experts from 28 EU Member States and 2 EEA States
- **Forum** of national enforcement authorities
- **EUR 109.8 million** budget for 2017

3 Addressing the scientific challenges by serving as a hub for building scientific and regulatory capacity of Member States, European institutions and other actors

Promoting alternative methods
ECHA will continue its systematic approach to developing scientific capacity in 2017. The Agency will continue to draw registrants' attention to the read-across assessment framework (RAAF). ECHA will also publish a report on the regulatory applicability of alternative methods and approaches to promote an up-to-date assessment on the opportunities and limitations of alternatives to animal testing.

Updated guidance on nanomaterials will be finalised in 2017. This should help improve the quality of information on nanomaterials in registrations. ECHA guidance will also be developed to support the use of the criteria for endocrine disruptors once finalised by the Commission.

4 Embracing current and new legislative tasks efficiently and effectively, while adapting to upcoming resource constraints

More investment needed
In 2017, the Agency will re-examine the architecture of its IT systems to further improve integration, serve industry and Member States better, but also reduce manual work in its internal processes. In the meantime, the current IT tools and systems still need more investment so that regulatory processes receive adequate support. New Cloud Services for the benefit of SMEs will also be rolled-out.

Meeting a heavy biocides workload
For biocides, ECHA will support the preparation of decisions related to the review programme or new applications for active substances to be used in biocidal products. ECHA will also endeavour to support Member State authorities to deliver their tasks under the review programme.

Finally, ECHA will actively support the Commission in the review of the REACH and CLP regulations and the development of instruments that stimulate the circular economy.

PROVIDING SPECIFIC SUPPORT TO SMEs

While ECHA's communication and advice are relevant to all duty holders, the delivery of its services will continue to have SMEs in mind throughout 2017:

- The REACH Registration Roadmap 2018 provides particular support for SMEs.
- Deliverables under the CSR/ES Roadmap will particularly support SMEs further down the supply chain.
- Improvements to the chemicals database and dissemination web section will help SMEs find information on the properties and status of their chemicals.
- Specific attention to help SMEs planning to submit applications for authorisation so that SMEs know what information is required.
- Communication activities will have SMEs and downstream users in mind – both in terms of content and format.
- Continued efforts will be made to provide guidance and other SME-relevant information in 23 official EU languages.

SOME KEY WORKLOAD DRIVERS FOR 2017

Maximising the availability of high quality data	
Registration dossiers submitted (including updates)	13 000
Inquiries (related to registration)	1 700
Notifications for PPORD received	300
Compliance check final decisions	180
Testing proposal final decisions	150

Mobilising authorities to identify and address chemicals of concern	
Final decisions on substance evaluation	30
Restriction proposals	12
Proposals for identifying SVHCs	15
Proposals for harmonised classification and labelling	70
Authorisation applications	5

SOME KEY WORKLOAD DRIVERS FOR 2017

Biocides

Applications for new active substance approval	8
Applications for renewal or review of active substances	2
Applications for Union authorisation	37
Opinions on active substances in the review programme	50
Applications for technical equivalence and chemical similarity	37

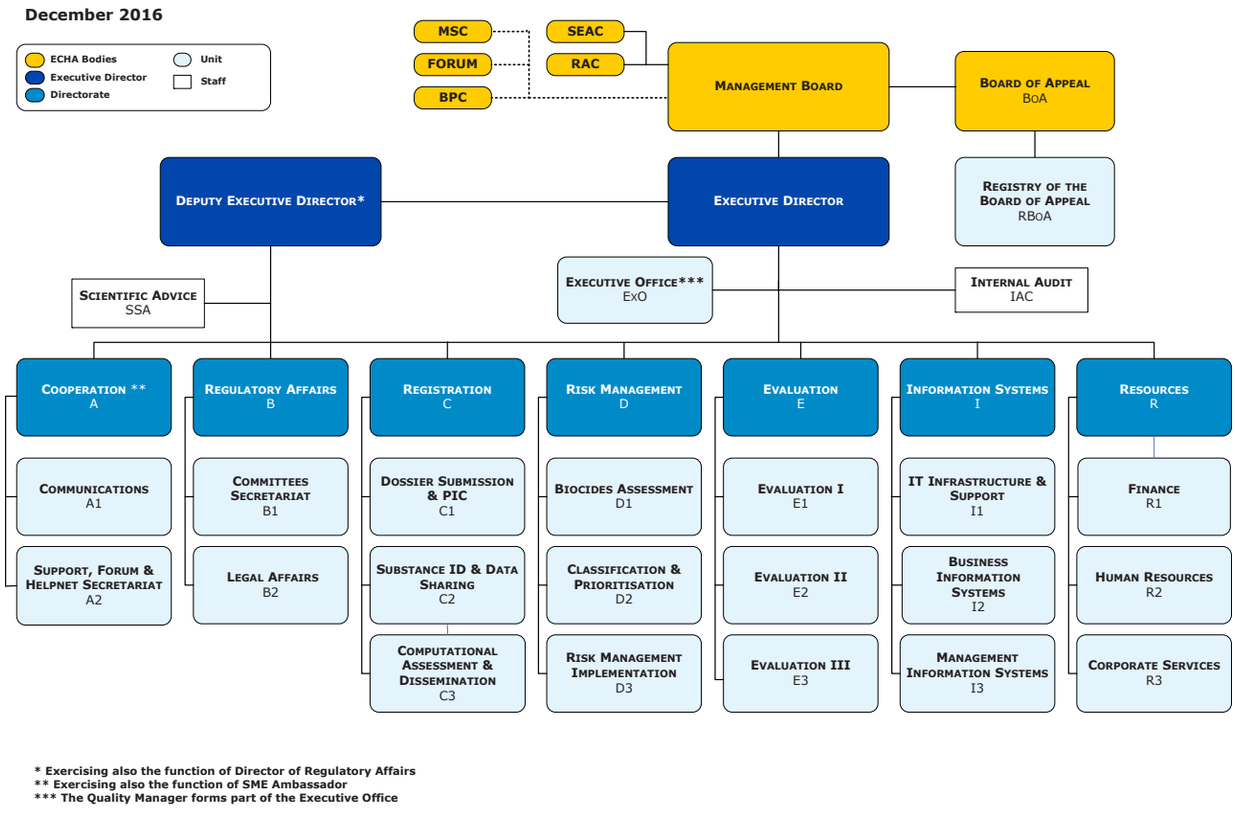
PIC

Export notifications	8 900

Other

Helpdesk enquiries	11 650
SME status checks	330
Confidentiality requests from registrants	540
Appeals submitted to BoA	27
Cases closed by BoA	25

ORGANISATION CHART



* Exercising also the function of Director of Regulatory Affairs
** Exercising also the function of SME Ambassador
*** The Quality Manager forms part of the Executive Office

Plans and Reports

https://echa.europa.eu/about-us/the-way-we-work/plans-and-reports

ED-AT-17-001-EN-N - ISBN:978-92-9495-773-3 - DoI:10.2823/88075
© European Chemicals Agency - April 2017