ASSESSMENT OF THE CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AUTHORISING OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 2016

In assessing the Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2016, the Management Board made the following observations[1]:

1. The Report provides a detailed account of the activities carried out by ECHA in 2016, a comprehensive overview of activities, financial information, the risks related to organisational activities and the measures taken to address them.
2. In the view of the Management Board, the overall performance and quality of the outputs was high. The Management Board notes with satisfaction that ECHA could increase the output in spite of staff reductions.
3. The Management Board welcomes that ECHA implemented the nine recommendations of last year's Management Board assessment, noting that some of these recommendations are of ongoing nature.

The Management Board notes/welcomes in particular the following achievements:

1. Out of the 27 performance targets set in the Work Programme 2016, ECHA achieved 18 performance targets, exceeded 8 and missed only one by a small margin. Stakeholder satisfaction was high in all of the 14 areas measured.
2. Compared to the year 2015, the number of opinions or agreements was significantly increased from 260 to 351. The Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) adopted 99 opinions, the Committee for Socio-economic Analysis (SEAC) 65 opinions, the Member State Committee (MSC) adopted 6 opinions and reached 128 agreements and the Biocidal Products Committee adopted 53 opinions.
3. Enhanced support was provided to small and medium sized enterprises (SME), including SME targeted guidance and more user-friendly versions of IT tools used to prepare the registration dossiers. Furthermore, the development of cloud service for the registration of dossiers has been launched.
4. The dissemination portal was tailored to various audiences' needs and structured in three layers (Infocard, Brief Profile and Source Data), thus making the information of up to 120 000 chemicals publicly available in a user-friendly format.
5. The examination of completeness of REACH registration dossiers was enhanced focusing on the description of the substance identity and on data waivers for hazard data that had not been substantiated by justifications.
6. Read-across has been extensively used by registrants to avoid animal testing under REACH. The framework for the assessment of the applicability of read-across was further developed to include environmental endpoints.
7. The further progress made in implementing task under the newer EU Regulations (BPR, PIC), the successful start of the new task on poison centers and the delegation agreement signed with the Commission on the EU Observatory for nanomaterials and the EU Chemicals Legislation Finder.
8. The high degree of budget execution and low degree of vacancies, the collection of higher than estimated volumes of fees and charges under the different regulations and the adequate follow up of audit recommendations.
9. The adequate management of risks, the progress made on transparency, prevention of conflict of interest, data protection, security and business continuity, higher compliance with the integrated management standards and the efforts undertaken to improve

[1] Assessment pursuant to Article 47 of the Agency's Financial Regulation

economy and efficiency in all activities.

The Management Board recommends for 2017 to:

1. Continue implementing the Agency's Integrated Regulatory Strategy for achieving the commitments made at the World Sustainable Development Summit 2002 for 2020, and further focus on grouping when addressing substances for further regulatory action, including through a collaborative approach between European and national authorities. Evaluate options for increasing the efficiency of the evaluation process, e.g. by aiming at avoiding multiple evaluations for the same substance.
2. Provide adequate follow-up to relevant findings and recommendations of the European Commission's REACH Refit Evaluation whilst involving transparently and inclusively ECHA's stakeholders.
3. Continue to provide dedicated SME services for substance suppliers and downstream users, based on relevant tools, guidance and multilingual communication.
4. Further follow-up on the concerns expressed by the European Parliament in its resolution of 25 November 2015 as regards the process for authorisation applications under REACH, and further focus on simplification and harmonisation of the authorisation and restriction processes. Continued particular attention should be given to gathering information on alternatives to chemicals subject to the authorisation requirement.
5. Further improve the forecasting of the income from fees and charges, while acknowledging the constraints and the efforts deployed by ECHA. Further efforts are still necessary to reduce the gap between the balancing subsidy requested and the amount consumed at the end of the year. The Management Board should revise the subsidy estimate in its June meeting to allow the redeployment of unused appropriation by the Commission.
6. Support Member States and encourage them to take up their roles under the legislations and provide adequate resources and expertise.
7. Continue with the preparation for the new tasks on endocrine disruptors, in particular the establishment of guidance on the hazard identification.
8. Encourage and support Member States to carry out their roles and tasks under the review programme on existing biocidal active substances in order the timelines in the programme will be respected.
9. Continue the implementation of the efficiency programme and explore further synergies between the different pieces of legislation entrusted to ECHA. Report on the synergies in the next consolidated annual activity report and on the tools and mechanisms that ensure the segregation of expenditure incurred for the various pieces of legislation.

For the Management Board

signed

The Chair
Sharon McGuinness