

## Public consultation on ECHA's draft Strategic Plan 2019-2023

49<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Management Board 22-23 March 2018

### Proposal

The Management Board is invited to approve the submission of ECHA's draft Strategic Plan 2019-2023 for public consultation in April/May 2018.

### Background

The Secretariat drafted the Strategic Plan 2019-2023 outlining the priorities for this five-year period as the multi-annual part of the Programming Document for 2019-2021. The plan lists three strategic priorities that are to be achieved with a set of enabling components.

The current document is the result of a series of events that took place over two years. Following the Management Board workshop in June 2017, the Secretariat discussed the draft with the directors of Member State Competent Authorities, ECHA's Accredited Stakeholders, ECHA's staff committee and staff.

The Management Board adopted an interim version of the text as multi-annual part of the draft Programming Document 2019-2021 in the December 2017 meeting. In line with the recommendations from the Management Board, the Working Group Planning and Reporting continued working on the text in January 2018 and reviewed a revised text in its meeting of 28 February 2018.

The current version is to be seen as a 'version 1' before a public consultation after the Management Board meeting. The final adoption ('version 2') is foreseen in December 2018.

### Rationale

#### 1) Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan –once adopted– is designed to remain stable in the multi-annual programming of the Agency, providing guidance to the organisation in general and operational activities in particular. Staff, industry, Member States, Commission and other stakeholders benefit from the predictability and transparency of the intended main deliverables of the plan. The annual work plans will transfer the Strategic Plan into concrete operational actions of ECHA.

Reading the Strategic Plan necessitates a certain level of knowledge in the regulatory field for chemicals. The Secretariat plans as well the publication of an easily accessible overview of the Strategic Plan that is meant for the wider public.

Since the last discussion at Management Board level, the Secretariat worked together with the Working Group Planning and Reporting on the draft plan in particular with a view to being explicit on the following aspects:

- Emphasising ECHA's core tasks entrusted to the Agency by legislation;
- Link the current and upcoming challenges for the Agency to its role and how it will approach them; and
- Establishing the relationship between the strategic priorities and their resource needs with strategic priority 1 being the core of the strategy complemented by strategic priorities 2 and 3.

The resource outlook does not form part of the Strategic Plan as such and should be discussed further during the review process towards adoption of the Programming Document.

The Working Group now recommends the approval of the revised text.

## 2) Timeline for adoption

The Working Group supported also a proposal from the Secretariat for improving the overall timelines in ECHA's planning cycle as follows:

<b>March 2018</b>	<b>MB endorsement of the draft Strategic Plan for public consultation</b>
<b>April/May 2018</b>	Public consultation of draft Strategic Plan (Version 1)(only in 2018, not for future years)
<b>June 2018</b>	MB Workshop on input from public consultation on draft Strategic Plan (Version 1), REACH review and EU multi-annual financial framework (No written consultation on documents by the MB over the summer)
<b>September 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Technical adoption of the Programming Document 2019-2021 -including the draft Strategic Plan as part of the multi-annual programming- by MB as a legal requirement<sup>1</sup></li> <li>- Orientation debate on the overall direction of the priorities for the years 2020-2022 giving guidance for developing the Programming Document.</li> <li>- Management Board Working Group on Planning and Reporting meeting in advance of the Management Board (back-to-back) to prepare the orientation debate on priorities for the next Programming Document</li> </ul> <p><u>Future years:</u> Management Board orientation debate prepared by Management Board Working Group on Planning Reporting meeting (back-to-back) on Programming Document direction for year n+2 in the September Management Board meeting and technical adoption of the Programming Document for year n+1 already in the December meeting with an update one year later.</p>
<b>October 2018</b>	- Written consultation of MB on (i) the Programming Document 2019-2021, including the updated Strategic Plan (Version 2) and (iii) the first draft of the Programming Document 2020-2022
<b>November 2018</b>	- Management Board Working Group on Planning and Reporting meeting after MB consultation in preparation of adoption for Programming Documents 2019-2021 and 2020-2022 (draft 1)
<b>December 2018</b>	- Adoption of Programming Documents 2019-2021 (final including resources) and 2020-2022 (as input to the EU budgetary process – to be updated one year later following the same cycle)

From next year, this approach could be used to combine the planning documents of two years into one file as they contain during the validity of the multi-annual programming part a large part of similar content.

## Alternative options

While the current planning cycle may be maintained as an alternative, it appears that the above proposal has benefits outweighing the drawbacks: The Secretariat would consult the MB at a later stage but on the Programming Documents of two years simultaneously. The Working Group could use the September meeting to give input to the upcoming Programming Document instead of a single discussion at the December meeting. The Secretariat would obtain feedback and the Management Board could provide steer at a more relevant point in time of the cycle. Furthermore,

<sup>1</sup> Cf. REACH Article 78(b) requires the adoption of the work programme for year X by 31 October of the year X-1. However, because the EU budget for year X is only confirmed after this date, there is a need to update the work programme/Programming Document in December to align resource figures to the ultimate budget. The work programme/Programming Document is the financing decision of the Agency for year X pursuant to Article 68(3) of ECHA's Financial Regulation.

the MB would discuss the next Programming Document (in 2018 for 2020-2022) at two occasions, not just at one.

## **Drawbacks**

The Agency has to analyse further internally how this revised planning cycle would affect the organisational needs and limitations.

## **Attachment:**

- Revised draft Strategic Plan 2019-2023

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