ASSESSMENT OF THE CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AUTHORISING OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 2017

In assessing the Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2017, the Management Board made the following observations[1]:

1. The Report provides a detailed account of the activities carried out by ECHA in 2017, 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 noted with satisfaction that ECHA's output in spite of staff reductions increased.

3. The Management Board welcomes the steps that ECHA has taken to implement the nine recommendations of last year's Management Board assessment, noting that some of these recommendations are of ongoing nature and still relevant.

The Management Board welcomes in particular the following achievements:

1. Out of the 79 performance targets set in the Work Programme 2017, ECHA achieved 43 performance targets, exceeded 27 and did not meet 9. Stakeholder satisfaction was high in all of the 14 areas measured.

2. The Agency adopted a significant number of opinions or agreements of which some were of a highly technically and scientifically complex nature. The Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) adopted 99 opinions, the Committee for Socio-economic Analysis (SEAC) 60 opinions, the Member State Committee (MSC) adopted 2 opinions and reached 126 agreements and the Biocidal Products Committee (BPC) adopted 46 opinions.

3. In view of the preparations with regard to the 2018 REACH registration deadline, enhanced support was provided to small and medium sized enterprises (SME), including SME targeted guidance, more user-friendly and multilingual IT tools, as well as initiating direct contacts in view of providing tailor-made support. Furthermore, the development of a cloud service has been launched guiding SMEs through the dossier preparation steps.

4. The REACH authorization application process was further improved and streamlined with a result for ECHA to conclude on 58 opinions on applications for authorisation, sent to the European Commission.

5. Under REACH, substances were addressed in groups, rather than one-by-one, thus implementing the Agency's Integrated Regulatory Strategy for achieving the 2020 commitments made at the World Sustainable Development Summit 2002.

6. Together with the Member States, ECHA set up a common screening process to identify substances of potential concern and guide them to the appropriate REACH and CLP processes. The advances in the common screening approach, driven by the maturing Integrated Regulatory Strategy, allows ECHA and Member States to focus on potentially harmful substances to workers, consumers or the environment.

7. The further progress made in implementing tasks under other EU Regulations (BPR, PIC), including the adoption of two opinions on Union authorisation of biocidal products.

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

8. Achieving two important milestones in the area of nanomaterials (launching the European Union Observatory for Nanomaterials and updating four existing ECHA guidance documents for nanomaterials), performing a feasibility analysis on building an EU Chemicals Legislation Finder and providing opinions on two substances for the purpose of establishing Occupational Exposure Limits under the Occupational Safety and Health legislation.

9. The high degree of budget execution and low degree of vacancies, and notes the collection of higher than estimated volumes of fees and charges under the different regulations.

10. That ECHA received approval by the Budgetary Authority for the lease contract of the future building of ECHA.

11. The adequate follow up of audit and ex-post evaluations recommendations.

12. The adequate management of risks, the progress made on transparency, prevention of conflict of interest, and in this context specifically welcomes the opinion making process in the case of glyphosate.

13. The data protection, security and business continuity, good compliance with ECHA integrated management standards and the efforts undertaken to improve economy and efficiency in all activities.

The Management Board recommends for 2018 to:

1. Continue to manage risks in relation to the 2018 REACH registration deadline including increase awareness raising of the Cloud Service for SME's, and continue to work on improvement of conformity and compliance of registrations, building on experiences from both formal and supplementary measures.

2. Provide adequate follow-up to relevant findings and recommendations of the European Commission's REACH Evaluation and involve ECHA's stakeholders transparently and inclusively in this process.

3. Prepare in a timely manner for new tasks arising from the Circular Economy package and other Commission initiatives.

4. Where necessary adapt the working methods and structures of the Agency to improve the support to Member States in execution of their tasks and to ensure under BPR, CLP and REACH the high quality and consistency of the opinions and the respect of legal deadlines set for the opinion process.

5. Analyse possible obstacles to the fulfilment of the targets of the biocides review programme and take necessary measures in collaboration with Member States and the Commission, as appropriate, to mitigate such obstacles including additional delays that may arise from the application of the scientific criteria for Endocrine Disruptors. In this context the technical guidance document of ECHA and EFSA on the implementation of the ED criteria should be finalised before 1 June 2018.

6. Audit the external communication of ECHA and take steps, as appropriate, to ensure that ECHA provides consistent and clear communication on risks and hazards, irrespective of the communication channels used.

7. Continue work on efficiencies and ensure in collaboration with the Commission and the Management Board that baseline targets are set and met as shown by an agreed set of indicators.

8. Continue to focus on meeting targets on budget execution and report on a 4-monthly basis to the Working Group on Planning and Reporting including on fees and charges income and the state of play of SME status verification.

9. To allow the Agency to carry over appropriations without breaching the budget annuality principle, the budget of the Agency shall contain differentiated appropriations where justified by operational needs (appropriations of multiannual nature). These appropriations shall consist of commitment appropriations and payment appropriations.

10. Build on experiences on grouping of substances and products in evaluation and other regulatory processes and further advance grouping approaches in REACH, BPR and CLP in order to achieve better consistency, efficiency and effectiveness and avoid regrettable substitution.

11. Continue integration of regulatory processes in the Agency's Integrated Regulatory Strategy and mapping the universe of chemicals in order to identify substances that need further regulatory intervention and expand work with Member States and the Commission to ensure that these are followed up.

12. Reassure that adequate structures and measures are in place to avoid conflicts of interests and if conflicts of interests arise, manage these in a transparent manner.

13. Prepare for the United Kingdom´s withdrawal from the Union in order to manage and minimise disruption to ECHA's activities.

For the Management Board

signed

The Chair

Sharon McGuinness