

## Orientation debate in preparation of the Programming Document(s) 2019-22

51<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Management Board 20-21 September 2018

### Key messages

The Management Board is invited to have an orientation debate on planned actions and outputs of the Agency in 2020 for preparing the Programming Document(s) 2019-2022.

- The focus of the discussion should be on the implementation of ECHA's strategic priorities together with cross-linking elements such as the relation between new and existing tasks and their resources.
- The actions planned for 2020 will become part of a single document covering the time period from 2019 to 2022.
- The Secretariat will take into account the input from the orientation debate and consult the Board on a new version of the Programming Document in October.
- The Management Board will be invited to adopt the draft work programme 2020 as part of the Programming Document(s) 2019-2022 in the December meeting as input to the EU budgetary cycle.

### Background

The Secretariat suggested to the Management Board to streamline the adoption process for the Programming Documents.<sup>1</sup> This proposal was reviewed and supported by the Working Group on Planning & Reporting earlier this year.

Currently, there are always two distinct planning cycles ongoing in parallel:

- (1) The updating of the Programming Document for the next year for which the draft has been adopted in the December of the previous year (presently, this is the Programming Document 2019-2021 which was adopted as draft 1 in the December 2017 meeting of the Management Board).
- (2) The drafting of the first version of a Programming Document for year following the next year (presently, this is the Programming Document 2020-2022 which should be adopted in the December meeting 2018 as input to the budgetary cycle of the EU).

In contrast to previous years an orientation debate is foreseen on the planned action and outputs for the work programme 2020, allowing to prepare a more advanced draft for adoption. Together with the work programme 2019, the Management Board oversees the actions planned for two consecutive years. As part of the strategic plan the priorities shall become ECHA's multi-annual work programme and form as such part of the Programming Document(s).

The enclosed background document include the December 2017 draft of the Programming Document, the Commission opinion thereon<sup>2</sup> and an overview of actions and outputs planned for the 2020 work programme. The actions and outputs per each activity indicate whether they are planned for 2020 or for 2019 and 2020.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda point B.1 of Management Board meeting 49, 22-23 March 2018.

<sup>2</sup> The Commission opinion also takes into account the March 2018 version of the draft Strategic Plan

The adoption of the work programme 2020 as part of the Programming Document(s) 2019-2022 in the December meeting will comply with the REACH legal requirements. In 2019, the Management Board will not need to adopt the 2020 work programme in the September meeting but can discuss it together with budget and resources in the December 2018 meeting, and hence concentrate in the September Board meeting on the orientation of actions planned for 2021<sup>3</sup>.

## Rationale

### Benefits of an early orientation debate

The input of the Management Board to the development of the work programme of the Agency for the year following next year (2020) will bring benefits to the planning cycles and improve the common understanding of planned actions. More explicitly,

- the Management Board benefits from a novel and earlier possibility for feedback and steer in the orientation debate;
- the Secretariat is more flexible in considering the input received in the orientation debate for the new draft work programme before the adoption;
- the merging of the parallel planning cycles of the Programming Documents is expected to enhance the understanding of the planning cycle, provides a more comprehensive view of tasks planned for subsequent years, reduces the number of documents submitted the Board and streamlines the adoption process with reduced number of interactions and updates.

### Questions to be discussed with the Management Board

- REACH activities after the 2018 deadline – what to reduce?
- How will the new strategic priorities be reflected in resource allocation for 2019-2020?
- New tasks and their resources allocations – how to implement work on Occupational Exposure Limits, Waste Framework Directive, Poison Centres and EU Chemicals Legislation Finder without (full) resource allocation?
- Generally, how to balance the tasks, in particular with more detail on the new MFF becoming available?

## Alternative options

Maintaining the existing planning cycle for ECHA's Programming Documents and the individual documents as separate items.

## Drawbacks

Despite the current attempts to streamline the planning cycle, it seems that a step-wise approach is inevitable. The Secretariat intends to keep on simplifying and optimising the process so that the Management Board can contribute in the best possible manner (i.e. in time and quality) to the development of the Programming Document.

### Attachments:

- Annex 1: Draft Programming Document 2019-2022 ([link to S-CIRCABC](#), please double-click (MB/47/2017 Annex 1) – same document as for agenda item A.1)
- Annex 2: Overview of actions and outputs planned for the 2020 work programme
- Annex 3: Commission opinion on the Draft Programming Document 2019-2021

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<sup>3</sup> see Agenda point A.1