

Annual exchange of views with the Forum Chair

| Action requested of the Management Board | |
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| Discuss | The annual update on the actions of the Forum |

This document outlines the main messages that the new Forum Chair, Henrik Hedlund (SE), will bring for discussion with the Management Board (MB). The Chair's presentation will brief MB members on the Forum's key outputs and developments of the past year and outline main upcoming items. The exchange of views will inform the Forum's further reflections on how to best ensure its continued successful work under its current mandate and prepare itself for potential changes resulting from the announced REACH revision under the ongoing implementation of the Commission's Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS).

Highlights of items to be brought forward by the Forum Chair

The Chair welcomed opportunities for the Forum to support the Commission in its work on implementation of the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS), in particular, the review of the REACH regulation and ECHA founding Regulation. In December 2022, following the request from the Commission, the Forum held an ad hoc plenary meeting to discuss REACH Revision proposals to strengthen the control of imports. The proposals included automated controls of registrations and authorisations for substances and several potential solutions for improving control of restrictions. The Forum developed a common position on many questions raised by the Commission. It supported the move towards automated controls and offered suggestions on the most effective means of control of REACH restrictions in cooperation between enforcement authorities and customs. In early 2023 the Forum provided feedback on its own functioning to a Commission survey intended as input for the ECHA Founding Regulation. The results indicate good expertise levels, general effectiveness and gradually increasing efficiency, but highlight challenges with capacity and resources.

The Chair's briefing will also provide an update the realisation of the current enforcement priorities including results of the Forum's recent projects and upcoming initiatives. The project on integrated controls of REACH and POP restrictions shows that on average around 18% of products are non-compliant with REACH Restrictions indicating that overall compliance levels have not improved in recent years. The project on control of biocidal products and approved substances shows that around 18% of biocides have major compliance deficiencies. These include lack of authorisation or presence of non-allowed active substances. These results show further compliance efforts by industry are needed. The briefing will also address new developments related to Forum's advice on enforceability of restriction proposals.

The Chair will also brief the members about new enforcement priorities and a corresponding Forum work programme for the years 2024-2025, which is currently in preparation.

Attachments

- N/A