ECHA
EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY

Annual Report 2020

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European Chemicals Agency

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Management Board analysis and assessment

The Programming Document 2020-2023[1] sets out the objectives for the work of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in line with and implementing its Strategic Plan for this four-year period, accompanied by the resource planning until 2023, and the Work Programme 2020.

This report complies with the reporting requirements of the REACH Regulation (General Report)[2] as well as the ECHA Financial Regulation (Consolidated Annual Activity Report)[3].

Analysis of the Management Board

The Management Board welcomes the Annual Report 2020, which provides a comprehensive account of the activities carried out by ECHA in 2020, the performance of the Agency in 2020 against the expected inputs, outputs, outcomes and impact defined in the Work Programme 2020, of budget, staffing, management, and its internal management system strategy and framework.

To provide guidance, steer and recommendations, we analysed all parts of the report, including the activities carried out, the achievements, financial information, results of audits, ex-post evaluations and assessment of the internal control system, and the risks related to ECHA's activities together with corresponding mitigating measures.

Achievements of the year

Overall, ECHA implemented the actions planned, and by that made progress towards achieving the three strategic priorities of the Agency – while dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw mostly remote working conditions for staff, Member State representatives and stakeholders.

In our view, the present report addresses the key deliverables of the Agency in 2020 and demonstrates that the objectives set, in particular for the three strategic priorities were met. We consider that the overall performance and quality of the outputs were high.

Despite the risks, constraints, unprecedented working conditions and unexpected developments in certain areas, ECHA achieved 194 out of the 210 actions and outputs set in the Work Programme 2020. The 16 actions and outputs not met relate mainly to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, prioritisation decisions taken in 2020 and external factors. It is noted that input indicators relate to the intentions of industry and are difficult for ECHA to predict. Many of the output indicators are dependent on respective external input.

In assessing the Consolidated Annual Activity Report of the Authorising Officer for 2020, we make the following observations[4]:

- The Agency provided valuable support to Member States, the Commission and industry to address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic by contributing to ensuring that disinfectants can quickly enter the EU market.
- The work by the Agency on the Integrated Regulatory Strategy and grouping of substances progressed further. This allowed the mapping of the chemical universe to speed up, to conclude on all lower tonnage substances that are structurally similar to the screened high tonnage ones, and to accelerate the assessment of substances of concern and propose risk management where needed.
- The number of compliance checks conducted was lower than the estimated 300, mostly due to slower than anticipated recruitments for this activity. However, overall 271 substances were checked for compliance, which is broadly in line with ECHA's prior commitments.
- ECHA contributed to the harmonisation of chemicals data and to EU-level efficiency gains by making IUCLID available for use by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

1 https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13609/programming_document_2020-2023_en.pdf
2 Article 78(a) of the REACH Regulation.
3 Article 48 of ECHA's Financial Regulation.
4 Assessment under Article 48(1) of ECHA's Financial Regulation

- The progress made in 2020 to implement the work programme was only possible with the remarkable commitment and dedication under remote working conditions by all actors involved.

Management

We welcome the steps that the Secretariat has taken to implement the 17 recommendations from last year, noting that some of these recommendations are of an ongoing nature and still relevant. The Board makes the following observations[5]:

- Transitioning smoothly to large scale remote working for staff, continuing collaboration with external stakeholders and moving the operation of all ECHA bodies online following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic constitute outstanding achievements. These achievements are attributable to the dedication, resilience and skills of ECHA staff and stakeholders, as well as the value of past investments in IT infrastructure.
- The preparation for resourcing constraints under the EU Multi-annual Financial Framework 2021-2027 and for the corresponding priority setting in the context of the adoption of Programming Document 2021-2024 provide a sustainable ground for ECHA to support the EU's relevant policy initiatives in the future.
- On the UK's withdrawal from the EU, ECHA helped UK-based companies to prepare for the end of the transition period and provided guidance to obtain the required registration within the EU with a view to avoiding disruptions to the EU market.

Budgetary and financial management

The Board appreciates the Secretariat for its efforts and success in managing the decreasing and fluctuating fee income for REACH/CLP and balancing the expenditure side following the changes required by the COVID-19.

We note that the Agency's initial budget for 2020 amounted to c. EUR 114 million and was reduced during the year by c. EUR 8 million to c. EUR 106 million, with a final implementation rate of 98.5 %.

At the same time, we note that ECHA exceptionally closed the year with a negative budget outturn under the Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR), reflecting the inherent challenges of ECHA's financing model, and difficulties in predicting fee income and adjusting the EU balancing subsidy in due course.

The Board also notes the improvement in reducing the total carry-over of appropriations, c. EUR 12 million from 2020 to 2021, corresponding to an execution rate of 87.5 % of payment appropriations. At the same time, the cancellation of carry-overs from 2019 to 2020 remained at a low-level amounting to EUR 400 000, representing 3 % of the total amount carried over.

Human resources management

The Board highly appreciates the efforts by the Agency and its staff in implementing the work programme under the challenging circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; welcoming that the health and wellbeing of staff was addressed as a matter of priority throughout the year.

The Board encourages the Agency to continue implementing the HR strategy, promoting a culture of high performance, continuous improvement and agility.

We also note that the Agency has again achieved a high occupancy rate of 98 % for temporary agents and contract agents, securing the availability of competent staff to fulfil its mandate.

Audit results and follow-up on recommendations

The Board is satisfied with the level and frequency of information and assurance provided by the Internal Audit Capability (IAC). We further take note of the external evaluation of the IAC and its conformity with the standards, code of ethics and the provisions included in the ECHA Financial Regulation.

We take note of the positive opinion from the European Court of Auditors (ECA) regarding the 2019 annual accounts.

5 Assessment under Article 48(1) of ECHA's Financial Regulation

We are pleased with the decision of the European Parliament, as the Discharge Authority, to grant the discharge in respect to ECHA's 2018 budget, including the decision on the closure of the accounts related to 2018.

The Board is satisfied with the assurance provided by the Internal Audit Service of the Commission on the independence of the internal audit activity.

Risk management

The Board notes that appropriate measures are in place to identify, monitor and manage risks. The Board notes also risks related to the volatility of the fee income. We also note the risk related to the availability of resources in Member States to contribute to ECHA's activities, which is essential for the Agency to deliver on its mandate in a number of areas.

We appreciate the Secretariat's regular signalling of significant risks and control issues, including the risks stemming from the outbreak of COVID-19.

Management Assurance

The Board takes note of the systems in place to support the Executive Director's declaration of assurance and takes note of the declaration of assurance of the Agency's Executive Director.

The Board takes note of the fact that no reservations were made.

Recommendations for the Secretariat for 2021

1. Provide appropriate support to the Board in the review of the Strategic Plan 2019-2023, which is necessary in light of policy and resource developments and will aim to make sure that ECHA's strategic priorities are the right ones to pursue and are achievable.

2. Develop further the current set of result-based indicators with a view to measuring effectiveness, efficiency and impact of ECHA's priorities and activities, including for the Integrated Regulatory Strategy.

3. Engage with the Board to follow-up on the implementation of the Work Programme 2021 to meet ECHA's Strategic Plan, on the implementation of new regulatory tasks, on requests by the Commission to support the implementation of its Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability and the priority setting established in 2020, allowing adequate and timely steer by the Board.

4. Support the Commission in a transparent manner in the implementation of its Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability in those areas where ECHA has expertise, and, in close collaboration with the Board, analyse and address the impacts of this work.

5. Continue engaging with and supporting the Commission in its efforts to strengthen the governance of ECHA and create a more predictable and stable financial environment for the Agency, as foreseen in the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability. Bring any issues arising to the Board's attention in a timely manner.

6. Prepare the 5-year report on the operation of REACH and CLP under Article 117.2 of REACH and provide scientific-technical support to the Commission, as needed, in the preparation of the review of the legislation.

7. Initiate reflections and engage with the Board on the Agency's future ways of working both in the 'new normal' after and during the COVID-19 pandemic, considering ECHA's pledge to become climate-neutral by 2030. This should include analysing the possible need for investments in infrastructure and staff development to establish sustainable working and learning methods as well as meeting arrangements in and between all bodies of the Agency and its regulatory partners, in particular Member States.

8. Review ECHA's HR strategy, with due consideration for the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on staff health and well-being and the adjustments necessary to account for the 'new normal' of working, in particular an increased reliance on remote working arrangements.

9. Continue to implement the Joint Evaluation Action Plan in 2021 and beyond, as an essential element to achieve compliance of all registration dossiers by 2027 and to identify substances of concern under the

Integrated Regulatory Strategy.

10. Continue its efforts, on the basis of the Active Substances Action Plan (ASAP), to accelerate the implementation of Review Programme for the examination of existing biocidal active substances contained in biocidal products.

11. Report to the Board on the development of the ECHA scientific committees' opinions for authorisation applications and bring any issues arising to the Board's attention. The Board recalls the committees' essential role in the effective and efficient functioning of the authorisation system, as well as the recommendations of the Board ad hoc working group on authorisation from 2019 and the final ruling of the Court on lead chromates.

12. Review the Agency's Integrated Management System Strategy and Framework, as efficiency strategy, particularly in view of establishing methodologies and targets for efficiency gains and economies of scale. Report to the Board on the progress by September 2021.

13. Address the recommendations and weaknesses in the IAS audit report on the Integrated Regulatory Strategy, in particular those related to clarifying workflows and defining performance indicators.

14. Continue cooperating with other EU agencies and aim for synergies where possible.

15. Further support the transition to a circular economy by, amongst other things, continuing the work of the substances of concern in products (SCIP) database.

Conclusion

In assessing the Annual Report 2020, the Management Board concludes that the overall performance of ECHA is in line with the objectives included in the Agency's Programming Document 2020-2023.

Acknowledgments

The members of the Management Board thank ECHA staff for all their extraordinary efforts over the course of this exceptional and challenging year. The Management Board considers that it constitutes an outstanding achievement that ECHA delivered on its work programme, which was possible thanks to the resilience, flexibility and commitment of its staff. In this respect, the Management board is equally grateful to the members of all ECHA bodies, as well as ECHA's partners, in particular Member States, for assisting ECHA in the delivery of its work programme.

Foreword

What a year we all faced in 2020. One full of uncertainties – with the UK's withdrawal, doubts over resources for the coming years and, of course, a global pandemic to contend with. But also, one in which we achieved a lot and showed great levels of agility to adapt our activities to cope with the new reality.

We started the year on a positive note as we moved to our new home in the heart of Helsinki's historic shipyard area – only to find ourselves teleworking for most of the rest of the year.

While we had prepared contingencies for some increases in teleworking during the removal period, no one could have foreseen what was to come. Thankfully, once the realities of the pandemic hit, the professionality of our staff along with the investments we have made in robust IT systems put us in a position where we could transition to full-scale teleworking in a matter of days. We were also ready to facilitate remote meetings so that collaboration with stakeholders and Member States could continue moderately unfazed.

As a positive effect, it also enabled us to save costs and to become more sustainable by reducing travel, creating less waste and lowering carbon emissions at our premises.

We have become more flexible and inventive in our working approaches – and the giant digital stride forward that we took will help us continue to do so also in the future.

I am proud to say that despite the difficult circumstances we faced, we were able to achieve almost everything that we had planned to do in our Work Programme.

We had set an ambitious target of increasing the number of compliance checks on information companies submit in their registrations – and we were very close to achieving those goals. Throughout the year, our committees formed opinions on ambitious restrictions on microplastics and skin sensitisers, as well as others, which will contribute to safeguarding the environment and people's health.

We managed the peak workloads on applications for authorisation. And, as we looked at the authorisations that companies would need to reapply for, we saw a significant drop in the volumes of substances of very high concern for those authorised uses. We believe that this is a sign that the substances have been extensively replaced.

On biocides, we took action to boost the review programme and speed up the assessment of active substances. We also put in place all the necessary preparations to ensure that notifications for poison centres and for substances of concern in products to the SCIP database could be handled smoothly as the new obligations for companies kicked in at the start of 2021.

To me, these stand out as particularly remarkable achievements alongside the continuous, efficient implementation of our other tasks. Together with our Management Board, we reflected on ECHA's future under the new multi-annual financial framework of the EU and the Commission's Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, and what this will mean in terms of setting priorities for the Agency.

This report is a testament to all we have achieved. I want to pay tribute and thank our stakeholders; partners; committee members; Management Board; senior, middle and lower management and, in particular, our staff for their continued dedication without whom we would not have been able to achieve these goals.

I hope you enjoy reading it.

Bjorn HANSEN

Executive Director

Executive summary

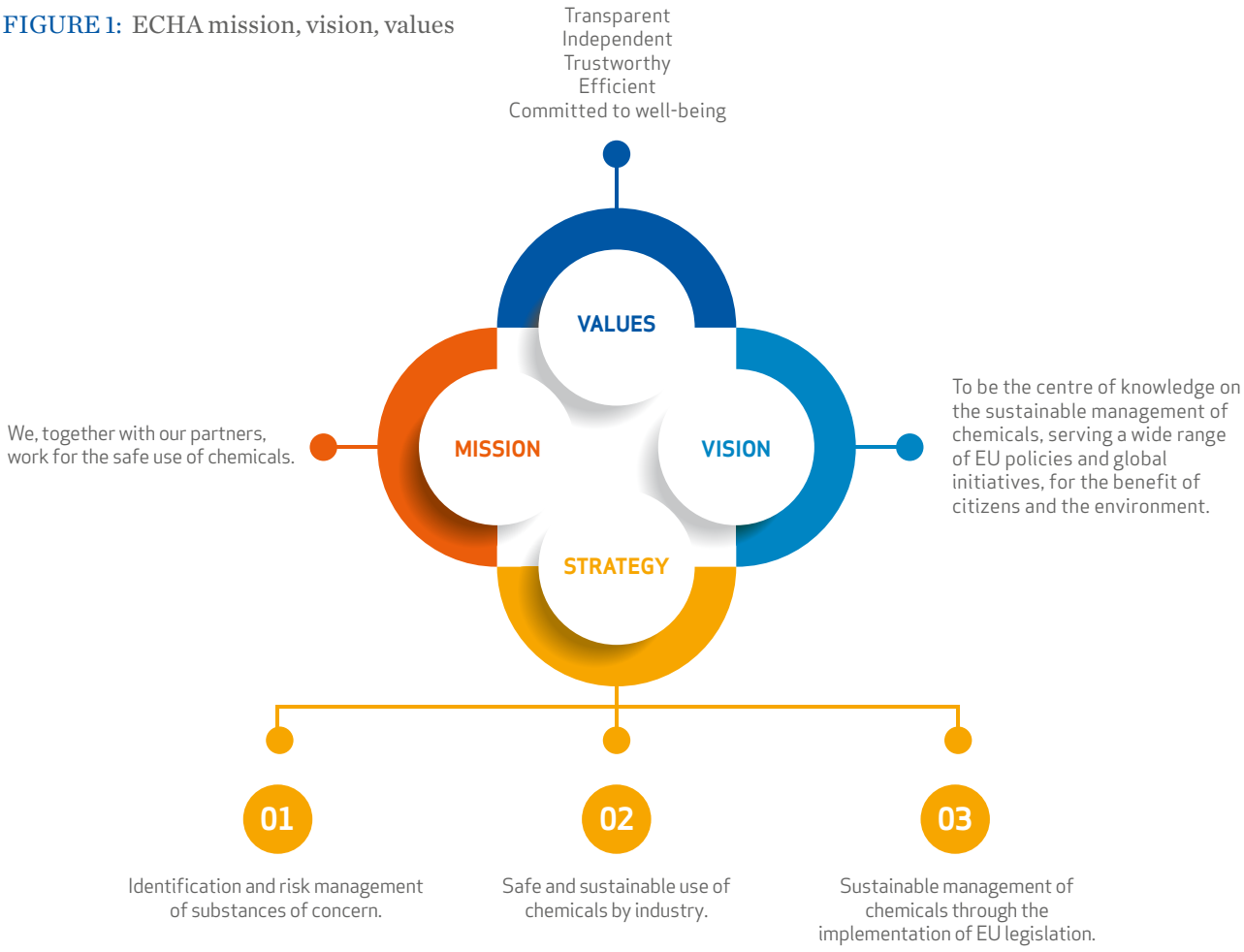
The year 2020 will go down in history as one in which a global pandemic swept over the world, changing people's lives and the way they engage and work. At ECHA, we took a giant stride forward technologically to manage in this climate – quickly moving to full scale teleworking and arranging meetings remotely. This made it possible for us to continue to achieve the goals of our work programme and collaborate with our partners for the safe use of chemicals.

While adapting to this way of working, significant steps were taken in the EU to make our lifestyles more sustainable and to protect health and the environment. The European Commission's Green Deal, was followed by the publication of its Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, supporting the delivery of a toxic-free environment, a zero-pollution ambition and the eighth Environmental Action Programme. Progress was also made on protecting health with the publication of the Commission's cancer action plan. There are actions with all these policy initiatives to which ECHA can offer expertise and knowhow.

The Agency reflected in 2020 on its capabilities, role and mandate – carrying out a detailed priority setting exercise in preparation of the EU Multi-annual Financial Framework 2021-2027. The outcome of this is that we have focused on prioritising areas where we can have the maximum impact on protecting human health and the environment. For example, assessing chemicals in groups became a norm, and sustainability and circularity entered the spotlight as we launched the SCIP database of safer chemicals in products. As outlined in our Communications Strategy[6], we also continued to increase visibility on the impact of our work as a centre of knowledge on chemicals safety.

The competence of ECHA's staff and the vast amount of data held by the Agency, has allowed us to make significant progress in line with our three strategic priorities, and support progress towards the United Nations' sustainable development goals[7].

FIGURE 1: ECHA mission, vision, values



6 https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13609/echa_comms_strategy_2019-2023_en.pdf
7 https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals

Identification and risk management of substances of concern

Under the first priority, ECHA aims to check all registered substances to identify substances of concern and decide whether regulatory actions are needed, and the most appropriate ways to manage their risks. In total there are more than 21 000 substances to be checked and prioritised, out of which around 4 600 are manufactured or imported above 100 tonnes per year in the EU.

ECHA continued to assess if the information on chemicals received from companies meets the legal requirements, and significant progress was recorded in generating needed hazard information. In total, 271 full compliance checks covering 258 unique substances and 76 targeted checks on 44 unique substances were carried out in 2020[8]. The full checks targeted long-term effects of chemicals that may cause genetic mutation and cancer, harm fertility or the unborn child, or are harmful to the environment.

There is tangible progress within the EU to reduce exposure to hazardous chemicals. Firstly, six more substances have been added to the Candidate List of substances of very high concern – five that are reprotoxic and one with endocrine-disrupting properties. As of December 2020, 211 entries containing 393 substances of very high concern were on the Candidate List, out of which 54 need authorisations.

Secondly, there are reasons to believe that authorisation requirements have led to substitution, as no applications for authorisation were received for 24 of the substances of very high concern.

And thirdly, restrictions are providing protection for workers, consumers and the environment as they effectively reduce exposure to harmful substances. In 2020, seven opinions on restriction proposals were adopted by ECHA's scientific committees[9].

Classification and labelling are important instruments in ensuring the safe use of chemicals. The number of substances addressed by harmonised classification and labelling has been increasing, bringing the total number of substances classified under harmonised classification in all hazard groups to 379, as of December 2020.

ECHA's Integrated Regulatory Strategy continues to identify substances for which – based on the data received following an evaluation decision – harmonised classification is considered the most suitable option for risk management.

Main achievements under strategic priority 1

- Information is more transparent in our **chemicals database**[10] – users can now see when substances were registered, when registrations have been updated, and when companies cease manufacture or have their registrations revoked. Nano data and related studies were also made available, as well as key lists for persistent organic pollutants. The database makes chemicals data easy to access for its 40 000 daily users.
- Our **completeness checks** for registration dossiers now also cover nanomaterials and have been improved for key hazard endpoints such as genotoxicity and reproductive toxicity. This provides a better starting point for authorities to prioritise substances for regulatory action. Assessors can also now evaluate possible hazards and risks of 190 registrations for 68 substances covering nanoforms received by the end of 2020.
- ECHA's **Integrated Regulatory Strategy** has accelerated the **grouping** approach and the assignment of registered substances into pools based on their regulatory status. This has formed a more complete picture of the universe of registered substances and how to efficiently address those that require action. In 2020, ECHA and Member States checked around 1 900

8 In a full compliance check, ECHA performs a systematic evaluation of all information requirements in the registration dossier, including the corresponding elements and conclusions provided in the chemical safety report. In a targeted compliance check, ECHA evaluates only a specific part of the registration dossier based on specified concerns.

9 The committee opinions were adopted in 2020 and sent to the Commission at a later date.

10 ECHA maintains the world's largest regulatory database on chemicals, providing transparent information on the chemicals used in Europe today in three layers: a simple Infocard for consumers, a more detailed Brief Profile for professionals, and the non-confidential source data submitted by industry.

substances to identify a need for further assessment, of which around 38 % had been registered above 100 tonnes per year

- Work continued intensively to tackle **non-compliant information** on chemicals and significant progress was recorded in generating needed hazard information, with 271 full checks covering 258 unique substances and 76 targeted checks on 44 unique substances.
- RAC[11] processed 50 **harmonised classification and labelling** dossiers – covering 33 industrial chemicals, 40 proposals for carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic substances (CMRs) and 17 dossiers for active substances used in biocides and plant protection products. The Commission harmonised the classification and labelling of 22 new substances and revised existing harmonisations for 31 substances.
- RAC and SEAC[12] made 96 opinions on **applications for authorisation**. With the conditions proposed by ECHA's committees, the environmental emissions of two endocrine-disrupting substances were projected to reduce by more than 90 %. As ECHA did not receive review reports from two-thirds of authorisation holders, there is growing evidence that authorisation accelerates substitution. The annual benefits of the authorisation system were estimated to be about EUR 15 billion.
- RAC and SEAC adopted seven opinions on **restriction** proposals – for microplastics, cobalt salts, the siloxanes D4, D5 and D6, formaldehyde, skin-sensitisers, PFHxS, and calcium cyanamide. The Agency also worked on four new restriction proposals, including one concerning substances used in single-use nappies. In addition to preventing 100 000 tonnes of chemicals from polluting the environment each year, the annual health benefits from restrictions were estimated to be at least EUR 708 million.
- Member States and ECHA agreed on the **active substance action plan** to speed up the implementation of the review programme for biocidal active substances at EU level. The aim is to increase the number of dossiers submitted for peer review by the Member States.
- ECHA joined forces with the Commission to help Member States and companies get more **disinfectants** on the market as part of the fight against COVID-19. ECHA helped specifically by providing compositional recommendations to combat disinfectant shortages.
- ECHA's support and tools for companies were adapted to take the regulatory amendments to CLP into account, and to help industry prepare **poison centre** notifications in the harmonised format ahead of the first applicability date on 1 January 2021. By the end of 2020, almost 350 000 notifications were successfully submitted.
- Efforts in harmonising **enforcement** with two finalised harmonised enforcement projects and a pilot project on REACH and CLP obligations across the EU focused on ensuring that companies provide missing information following evaluation decisions and imported products which often do not comply with EU law.
- Three major studies under the European Union Observatory for Nanomaterials (**EUON**) were conducted on the effect of nanomaterials on female fertility and reproduction, skin absorption from consumer products and the public's perception of nanomaterials provide insights on the safety, innovation, research and uses of nanomaterials.
- ECHA's report concerning progress on the **use of alternatives to testing on animals** was published, looking for the first time at low-tonnage registrations after the 2018 deadline. The report shows that adaptations continue to be used more than experimental studies, in particular, read-across.

11 ECHA's Committee for Risk Assessment.
12 ECHA's Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis.

Safe and sustainable use of chemicals by industry

Effective communication up and down the supply chain is critical for the safe use of chemicals. In 2020, ECHA worked with key stakeholders to identify necessary improvements to the current system for providing fit-for-purpose safety information on hazardous substances and mixtures.

A joint analysis, under the umbrella of REACH Review Action 3[13], was carried out by ECHA, the Commission and the stakeholder Exchange Network for Exposure Scenarios (ENES), concluding that further efforts are needed particularly from industry. Both industry and Member States acknowledge that improving the workability of (extended) safety data sheets needs to be accompanied with improved content in chemical safety reports, as this is the source of information expected to travel through the supply chain.

To derive meaningful risk management advice, it is crucial for chemical safety assessments (CSAs) to be based on representative conditions of use and for dossiers to be updated with information that is increasingly available from the supply chain.

As an outcome of our discussions on prioritising tasks, it was agreed to pause our work to support supply chain communication after 2020.

Main achievements under strategic priority 2

- REACH requirements for compiling safety data sheets were amended with the addition of mandatory specifications for nanoforms and endocrine-disrupting properties, and the assignment of unique formula identifiers to the labels of hazardous mixtures.
- Updated guidance for safety data sheets was published giving consumers and industry the most current information on how to use chemicals safely.
- Use map information was updated and published for three important sectors of the European economy: agriculture, solvents and the petroleum industry.
- ECHA continued to collaborate with the Joint Research Centre of the Commission on developing best available technology reference documents for ceramics, textiles, ferrous metals processing, and smitheries and foundries under the Industrial Emissions Directive.
- ECHA worked with Member States, Commission and industry to establish a development plan for REACH Review Action 3. The plan is intended to clarify which further work is needed to establish a more effective system and where further investment is needed. As part of the priority setting for 2021, ECHA's support to communication in the supply chain, including REACH Review Action 3, was paused.

Sustainable management of chemicals through the implementation of EU legislation

The knowledge and competence that ECHA possesses has made it possible for the Agency to integrate further tasks. The implementation of REACH, CLP, BPR, PIC and POPs remains the backbone, but leveraging on the experience gained has also allowed ECHA to progress with the SCIP database and facilitating the use of IUCLID by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) – an important step towards further harmonising data on chemicals.

ECHA also supports the protection of workers in the EU with its opinions on occupational exposure limits and by proposing conditions for the use of substances that need authorisation. Furthermore, environmental emissions of substances are projected to be reduced thanks to the authorisation requirement.

To improve knowledge and transparency on chemicals, ECHA launched the first version of the EU Chemicals Legislation Finder (EUCLEF), allowing users to see how their substances are regulated across 40 pieces of EU legislation. The EU Observatory on Nanomaterials (EUON) further increased the information available about nanomaterials on the EU market, by commissioning three major studies on topics related to human health and general awareness of the nanomaterials in 2020.

13 https://echa.europa.eu/reach-review-action-3

Main achievements under strategic priority 3

- The SCIP database used to track substances of very high concern in products was launched, facilitating moves towards a more sustainable circular economy.
- To protect workers with limit values from exposure to lead and diisocyanates, RAC recommended occupational exposure levels (OELs) and initiated evaluations of asbestos and cadmium.
- Chemical safety in importing countries was promoted as evidenced by the processing of a record number of 11 971 PIC export notifications.
- The EU Chemicals Legislation Finder (EUCLEF) was unveiled, giving instant access information on chemicals across 40 pieces of legislation to companies, citizens and regulators.
- Substances subject to the POPs Regulation or those proposed as POPs are now flagged accordingly in ECHA's chemicals database. Users can search to find POPs, with different depths of information available in the substance Infocards and Brief Profiles.
- Preparations were started for new tasks including assessing substances used in materials that may come into contact with drinking water under the revised Drinking Water Directive. First discussions were also held on whether and how to integrate the task of managing the risks of dangerous substances in batteries under the draft Batteries Regulation. Despite facing resource constraints, ECHA prepared to integrate the new tasks efficiently and explored how to create economies of scale by re-using existing IT platforms (such as the Cloud Services platform).
- We partnered with global authorities to maximise the use of existing data and promote IUCLID as the go-to platform for maintaining and exchanging data on chemical properties at an international level.

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THE AGENCY'S CONTRIBUTION ON THE COMMISSION'S NEW CHEMICALS STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The Commission issued its Chemical Strategy for Sustainability on 14 October 2020[14], containing a wealth of initiatives to which the Agency can contribute and as a a blueprint for the future policy direction on chemicals. ECHA started the analysis of the 14 actions directly associated with its mandate and capabilities under the strategy and engaged in a dialogue with the Commission on how best to contribute. Besides a dedicated task under the 8th Environmental Action Programme together with the EU, specific work areas are to be determined in the course of 2021 and may form part of the (amended) work programming.

Main achievements on governance and enablers

- The move to ECHA's new premises in 2020 presented an opportunity to scale-up the environmentally conscious actions updating the three-year environmental work programme to reflect the ambition to become net carbon-neutral by 2030.
- We put the necessary steps in place to continue implementing our Work Programme in a fully remote setting with extended teleworking arrangements for all staff members due to COVID-19.
- ECHA's outreach activities support sustainable chemicals management on a global level. Through capacity building in third countries, ECHA helps them to develop chemical management systems that can benefit from European chemicals management and risk assessment approaches.

14 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0667

- ECHA's advice on how to transfer registrations and assets to the EU before the end of the transition period avoided disruptions to the EU market by helping UK-based companies prepare in the lead up to Brexit.
- ECHA's re-certification against the ISO standards 9001:2015 and 14001:2015 for its quality and environmental management systems are proof of a high-quality work and continuous improvement of how to achieve set objectives.
- The Management Board successfully concluded a critical priority setting exercise, providing steer for the Executive Director and the Secretariat and elected Mr Paul Krajnik as its new Chair.
- ECHA has been chairing the European Union Agencies' Network (EUAN), including most of its subnetworks. While the year was challenging for everyone with the coronavirus pandemic to contend with, the network and its members adapted rapidly and efficiently under exceptional circumstances. Despite not being able to meet physically, in addition to the regular plenaries and sub-network meetings, several extraordinary meetings of the Heads of Agencies and Heads of Resources were organised to deal, among other things, with COVID-19 and Brexit. The EUAN also set up an Executive Directors Group on Administrative Excellence and an Advisory Group on new ways of working as well as adopting the EUAN Multiannual Strategy 2021-2027, in line with the new EU priorities of digitalisation, greening resilience and recovery.

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This annual report consists of two parts:

- Part 1 'Achievements of the year' is ECHA's General Report under the REACH Regulation for **adoption** by the Management Board;
- Parts 2, 3 and 4 are the report of the Executive Director for **assessment** by the Management Board.

Achievements of the year

Advancing knowledge and transparency on chemicals

Our work brings clarity to companies and empowers them to track their registrations and make sure the information in their dossiers is up to date."

Annika MÄLKIÄ

Acting Head of Data Availability Unit

Clarifying when companies should update their registrations

Companies received more clarity on when to update their registration information, with the Commission developing an implementing act – with ECHA's support – that clarifies the meaning of "without undue delay".

The act, published in October 2020, outlines different scenarios for deadlines by when companies need to update their dossiers, and is expected to increase the number of updates by companies. Up-to-date registration data is a vital source of information that authorities use to prioritise chemicals for regulatory action and consider appropriate measures to manage the risks of harmful chemicals.

With the 'one substance, one registration' principle core to REACH, updates to REACH-IT gave registrants who jointly submit dossiers greater means to monitor and track the information they need to keep their dossiers up to date. These modifications in spring brought more transparency by ensuring that all registrants are notified whenever tonnage bands change.

As a follow up to collaboration with industry sector organisations through the plastic additives initiative, ECHA published a practical guide in March to help registrants characterise the use of additives for plastic materials. An estimated 20 % of registered substances become articles during their lifecycle, and half of these are being reported as hazardous by industry. Since plastics are prominently used to produce articles, companies can use the guide as a resource to understand the extent to which additives are released from plastic articles and to assess exposure.

Completeness checks on whether all required elements are included in registration dossiers were extended to cover nanomaterials and improved with respect to key hazard endpoints such as genotoxicity and reproductive toxicity, providing a better starting point for authorities to prioritise substances for regulatory action. The coverage of chemical safety reports was, however, postponed due to the challenging COVID-19 situation.

As the Brexit negotiations reached their conclusion in 2020, ECHA worked closely with industry and our institutional partners to ensure minimal disruption to the European chemicals market, while adapting our IT infrastructure to support our counterparts in Northern Ireland"

Jukka MALM

Director of Submissions and Interaction

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USEFUL INFORMATION FOR COMPANIES IN THE LEAD UP TO BREXIT

The UK withdrew from the EU on 31 January 2020, with a transition period in place where EU law continued to apply to the United Kingdom until 31 December 2020. Throughout 2020, ECHA continued to advise companies to transfer their registrations and assets to the EU before the end of the transition period to avoid disruptions to the EU market.

By the end of the transition period, 80 % of UK-based companies had successfully transferred their registrations to EU companies with the support of ECHA. At that cut off, 2 900 registrations from UK-based companies (aside from those in Northern Ireland) had still not been transferred and the registration decisions for these were revoked. This number could increase as there are still transfers awaiting acceptance from the EU successor companies[16].

ECHA adapted its IT tools and advice to companies to take into account the Protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland. The protocol began to apply from 1 January 2021 and means that EU chemicals legislation including REACH, CLP, the BPR, PIC and POPs continues to apply in Northern Ireland, but no longer applies to the rest of the UK. To help companies prepare for this, online instructions were made available in November 2020.

Registration of nanoforms under REACH

Assessors can now evaluate the possible hazards and risks of 190 registrations for 68 substances covering nanoforms that ECHA received by the end of 2020. While completeness checks initially showed a high rate of failure, the vast majority of submitted registrations are now complete. However, despite concerted efforts to raise awareness, the number of registrations received has remained below expectation.

Around 300 substances with nanoforms are estimated to be on the EU market above the one-tonne threshold[16]. Despite the new information requirements under REACH having entered into force in January 2020, the low number of substances for which registrations of nanoforms were received suggests that there is still a lack of nano-specific information on hazard, exposure and risk for some substances.

ECHA provided advice to companies on the new information requirements for nanoforms to help them successfully complete their registrations. This included a webinar in February 2020, bilateral discussions with nanoform registrants, and a new registration manual specifically dedicated to registrants of nanoforms. In

15 EU successor companies needed to finalise the transfers by 31 March 2021.
16 This estimate is based on the impact assessment conducted by the European Commission together with information from national inventories on nanomaterials under the EU Observatory for Nanomaterials (EUON).

addition, our experts were able to give direct advice to companies manufacturing or importing nanoforms at industry-organised events.

The guidance update on information requirements related to human health for nanoform substances was launched. The guidance provides specific recommendations for testing materials in nanoform. To benefit from the expertise of Member State authorities, accredited stakeholders and the Commission, the guidance was made available for consultation in June 2020.

infobox

HARMONISED HELPDESK SUPPORT FOR COMPANIES ACROSS THE EU

With the UK becoming a third country in February 2020, they no longer participate in decision making in EU institutions, including the work of the network of national REACH, CLP and Biocidal Products Regulation helpdesks – HelpNet.

The network is a key multiplier of ECHA's messages and provides multilingual advice to companies, many of which are SMEs. The yearly meetings of the network are an opportunity for the national helpdesks to collaborate to ensure they share the same advice to all concerned companies regardless of the Member State they are from.

The HelpNet replied to more than 78 000 enquiries on REACH, CLP and biocides from companies across the EU during 2020. While the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic made it impossible for the network to meet in person, information exchange was still fruitful with virtual meetings being organised.

Steps were also taken by the ECHA Helpdesk in this regard during 2020. A new process was put in place for managing the Q&As published on ECHA's website[18] – an essential instrument to make sure the advice given to companies is consistent and harmonised, and to raise their awareness on topics that impact them. The ECHA Helpdesk responded to 10 000 enquiries in 2020, half on regulatory questions and half providing help to companies troubleshooting problems they face when using our IT tools through the iTEX service. The hottest topics that companies asked about in 2020 included biocides (many COVID-19 related), risk communication, and SCIP and substances in articles.

Following the HelpNet meeting, workshops on the Biocidal Products Regulation, CLP and REACH ran back-to-back with updates given on, among other things:

- the active substance action plan and enforcement activities on biocides;
- support for poison centre notifications, classification and labelling of titanium dioxide and overlapping legislation on electronic lighters under CLP; and
- nanomaterial registration, the impact of restriction and authorisation on substitution activities and borderline cases between substances, mixtures and articles under REACH.

Making data more accessible to all users

In 2020, ECHA continued to make more data available and improve the transparency of information in its chemicals database. To maximise the use of existing data, ECHA has partnered with global authorities to make IUCLID the go-to platform for maintaining and exchanging data on chemical properties at an international level.

Improvements to the transparency of information in ECHA's chemicals database include the possibility for users to see the year in which substances were first registered and updated, and the year in which companies stopped manufacture or their registrations were revoked.

Among the steps towards making more data available, nano data and nano-related studies are now available in relevant REACH registered substance factsheets, and key lists for persistent organic pollutants (POPs) have been added. Users can now easily find information on substances including those listed under the POPs Regulation and those being proposed as POPs.

To support the Agency's strategic priorities and improve transparency and integration, ECHA's approach to communicating chemicals information was revised and enhanced. Actions on this started in late 2019 and continued throughout 2020, including asking for stakeholder input on the re-design of the C&L Inventory, integration of Prior Informed Consent (PIC) information into the database, and development of the SCIP database under the Waste Framework Directive (WFD).

The public activities coordination tool (PACT) provides transparency by giving an overview of substance-specific activities that ECHA and Member State competent authorities are working on under REACH and CLP. It brings together eight REACH and CLP processes within data generation and assessment (dossier and substance evaluation, and PBT and ED assessment), regulatory management option analysis and regulatory risk management (harmonised classification and labelling, SVHC identification and restriction).

A collection of non-confidential substance data from REACH study results, for around 23 000 substances, has also been made available for download[17]. The downloadable format makes it easier for users to read the data in bulk and process it only for the substances they have an interest in.

ECHA has also taken steps to promote IUCLID as an international format to collect and exchange data. Europe has been a forerunner in collecting chemicals data for regulatory purposes in IUCLID format, and interest from Europe as well as other parts of the world has increased. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) will use IUCLID to support their work on plant protection products, active substance dossiers and maximum residue limits. Furthermore, authorities in Switzerland and the US have started to accept data in IUCLID format, and Australia and New Zealand have also begun to do so as the tool has been configured to their regulatory contexts.

Improving emergency health response through harmonised poison centre notifications

By providing IT tools and support to appointed bodies and poison centres in relation to the notifications of emergency health response, ECHA helps companies and Member States fulfil their obligations and reduce costs, while increasing the quality and consistency of information about hazardous mixtures in Europe.

In 2020, the Commission introduced two amendments to the CLP Regulation regarding the information companies need to provide on hazardous mixtures. The first amendment gave importers and downstream users more time to report on mixtures intended for consumer use. The second addressed workability issues raised by industry and clarified how to report on the composition of mixtures, such as fuels and petroleum products, and certain construction products.

Support and tools for companies were adapted to take the regulatory amendments into account, and to help industry prepare poison centre notifications in the harmonised format ahead of the first applicability date on 1 January 2021.

By the end of 2020, almost 350 000 notifications were successfully submitted. This number is expected to increase as new mixtures are placed on the market and old mixtures transition to the new system. These submissions were aided by improvements to the Submission Portal, including a simplified way of showing classification information, a customised view for users to only see relevant fields, more transparency on the current status of notifications and more intuitive navigation and search features. The IUCLID Validation Assistant was also updated allowing companies to check and fix inconsistencies in their notifications before submitting them.

In May, ECHA updated its guidance, clarifying the labelling requirements for poison centre notifications and reflecting the changes introduced by the first of the two amendments. The guidance helps companies submit relevant information and supports authorities and appointed bodies to handle the submitted data. The aim is for information to be as relevant and accurate as possible to help poison centres provide a faster and more accurate emergency health response.

17 https://iuclid6.echa.europa.eu/reach-study-results
18 https://echa.europa.eu/support/qas-support/qas

Tools and step-by-step support are now in place to help companies notify their mixtures in the new harmonised format. This ensures that poison centres have quick access to accurate information so they can respond to questions from healthcare professionals and give direct advice to concerned citizens."

Tiago PEDROSA

Head of Submission and Processing Unit

In December 2020, the Poison Centre Notification database was made available to national authorities. The database makes it possible to search based on criteria such as the unique formula identifier (UFI) and access information relating to emergency health response submitted in notifications through ECHA's Submission portal.

Supporting non-EU countries to make better use of information on chemicals in global commerce

Through the effective implementation of the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Regulation as the EU's contribution to the UN Rotterdam Convention, ECHA allows concerned countries to take informed safety decisions about the transboundary movement of severely hazardous chemicals. This contributes to reducing emissions of and exposure to hazardous chemicals in third countries.

In July 2020, 22 hazardous chemicals were added to the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Regulation. Since 1 September 2020, exporters of these substances must notify their designated national authorities before they can export them. In addition, exports of a series of mercury-containing articles, such as fluorescent lamps, have also been banned.

A record number of 11 971 PIC export notifications were processed in 2020 – the increase mostly due to the addition of the 22 hazardous chemicals. This mirrors the 35 % increase in processed notifications between 2016 and 2019 conveyed in the three-year report on the operations of PIC[19] in August 2020. Acknowledgments of receipt from importing countries has also increased by 5 % compared to 2019, with the response rate now at 73 %.

The UK's withdrawal from the EU and the Protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland also resulted in adaptations to ePIC[20] already in autumn. With these adaptations companies based in the EU and Northern Ireland were able to submit export notifications in ePIC for non-EU countries, including the rest of the United Kingdom, in due time – helping to avoid potential disruptions to the market when the transition period ended.

In December, ECHA published its report on the exchange of information under PIC in 2018-2019[21]. Apart from the increase in export notifications transmitted to non-EU countries, the EU has also submitted three notifications of final regulatory action to the Rotterdam Convention for PIC chemicals that are banned as pesticides in the EU.

ECHA's report on the amount of PIC chemicals exported and imported in 2019[22], also released in December, shows a drop in the total amounts exported and imported compared to 2018.

19 https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/21728206/report_pic_art_22_2020_en.pdf
20 ePIC is the IT tool established and maintained by ECHA to fulfil requirements under the PIC Regulation. It allows information to be securely exchanged between industry users, authority users and customs users.
21 https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/21728206/pic_article_20_report_2018-2019_en.pdf
22 https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/21728206/pic_article_10-2019_en.pdf

Chemicals regulation must be underpinned by a well-developed enforcement infrastructure. This year, we continued to collaborate closely with national authorities to ensure that legislation is implemented in a harmonised way across all EU Member States, with a focus on enforcement on e-commerce."

Katja VOM HOFE

Chair of the Forum

Ethylene dichloride – a substance predominantly used to produce polyvinyl chloride and as a solvent – was the most exported PIC chemical from the EU and benzene – a substance used to make plastics, resins, synthetic fibres, rubber lubricants, dyes, detergents, drugs and pesticides – remained the most imported PIC chemical into the EU, although amounts significantly decreased compared to 2018 levels.

Strengthening enforcement together with Member States

ECHA continued to urge authorities to prioritise the enforcement of evaluation decisions to ensure that companies are addressing insufficient information in their registrations. Based on information from the Enforcement Forum, the ECHA secretariat also analysed the effectiveness of enforcement measures used in the Member States and made this available to the Commission in June 2020.

Since January 2019, all co-registrants of the same substance that have non-compliant registrations have received ECHA's evaluation decisions individually. The Enforcement Forum has continued to urge authorities to prioritise evaluation decisions in their activities, to push companies to fill the information gaps in their registrations.

National enforcement and customs authorities cooperated to check imported products at strategic entry points to the EU during a pilot project. In September, the results were published showing that 1 in 4 inspected imports were non-compliant with REACH and CLP obligations. Some contained illegal amounts of harmful substances such as cadmium, lead and nickel that are restricted in the EU. Others had deficient labelling – lacking a national language or having incorrect pictograms or signal words on the hazard label. If these imports were not being blocked at the border, they would compromise the health of Europeans.

The Forum's seventh major REACH enforcement project checked how well companies comply with their registration obligations. The results were published in December and showed that from almost 1 200 inspected chemicals subject to registration, 15 % did not comply with registration-related duties and 6.5 % completely lacked the required registration. The project also found that less than half of companies inspected had a system in place to track tonnage band changes and less than 40 % tracked changes in use.

The results of the first biocides enforcement project were published in December and showed that more than one-third of inspected products treated with biocides had insufficient labelling. Basic information such as the name of the biocidal active substance used for treatment were missing. Several Member States also reported articles that were marketed with biocidal claims but were not treated with biocides at all. Measures were taken against those companies that were found to be in breach of labelling requirements – most frequently through verbal and written advice to correct the labelling information.

infobox

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH AND CAPACITY BUILDING

ECHA has been leading the way in changing how accession countries are supported under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA). Starting with the frontrunners, Montenegro and Serbia which are scheduled for accession in 2025, ECHA contracted a study to assess the needs and gaps in their readiness for accession and harmonisation with the EU chemicals legislation.

Based on the outcome, ECHA will be able to tailor its support and help in building the necessary capacity to allow the EU chemicals legislation to be implemented and enforced effectively upon accession. A second study was also launched in October covering Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Albania, North Macedonia and Turkey.

Both studies will guide ECHA's work under current and future IPA contribution agreements and enhance the collaboration between ECHA, the beneficiaries and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR). In addition, the experience gained may also be utilised to support EU activities in capacity building in other third countries.

During the year, ECHA exchanged views with the Indian Ministry for Chemicals and Fertilisers and with a delegation from Japan to informing about the Agency's experiences in implementing REACH and CLP, and discuss topics like microplastics and IUCLID. Following a visit by a Ukrainian delegation, ECHA explored future collaboration possibilities under the European Neighbourhood Instrument.

Increased transparency with the EU's nano observatory

The European Union Observatory for Nanomaterials (EUON) gathers information about existing nanomaterials on the EU market and generates new data through market studies and surveys. The information benefits a variety of stakeholders from policy makers, consumers and workers, to industry representative and green NGOs, by providing useful information about the safety, innovation, research and uses of nanomaterials. The development of the EUON is financed by a separate contribution agreement with the European Commission.

In 2020, three major studies were commissioned. The first found a lack of data on how nanomaterials affect female fertility and reproduction. This can cause uncertainties on potential toxic effects of nanomaterials over generations and the study calls for more coordinated tests to be done to fill the information gaps.

The second study looked at whether nanomaterials used in consumer products are absorbed through the skin. Many products that we use in our daily lives use nanotechnology and come into contact with our skin, such as sunscreens and clothing. While the study found that nanomaterials are rarely absorbed through intact skin, more comparable and better-quality data needs to be gathered.

Towards the end of 2020, the results of the third study a surveying the public in five EU countries how they perceive nanomaterials were made available. The results showed that while nanomaterials are a common part of our lives, the public's general awareness about their nature, characteristics, properties and safety is low. They also show that citizens are demanding better labelling of everyday products containing nanomaterials as they seek to increase their awareness of their risks and benefits.

Throughout the year, levels of traffic to the EUON websites and engagement from its stakeholders grew. The EUON received a number of contributions from its stakeholders to the EUON's Nanopinion guest column, including the first contributions from NGOs.

By dealing with substances in groups, ECHA has set the ground to accelerate assessments of chemicals, while reducing the likelihood that substances of concern are replaced by equally harmful ones."

Elina KARHU

Head of Prioritisation Unit

40 pieces of legislation at your fingertips through the EU chemicals legislation finder

The EU Chemicals Legislation Finder (EUCLEF) is an easy-to-use search engine for regulatory information on chemicals. It was launched in March 2020, giving companies an overview of 40 pieces of legislation that are relevant to their substances. EUCLEF is a specific task carried out based on a contribution agreement with the European Commission.

Integrated into ECHA's chemical database, the finder covers legislation under ECHA's remit as well as 35 additional pieces of legislation that control areas such as pesticides, food contact materials, cosmetics and toy safety.

During 2020, the legislation profiles on chemical, physical and biological agents at work, the cosmetic products and the inland transport of dangerous goods were the most visited. The majority of visits to EUCLEF have come from users in Italy, Germany, Spain and France – countries where most of the European chemicals industry is based, including many small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)[23].

In addition to the search engine, a dedicated Helpdesk support service was set up to support companies with responses to their questions across the different pieces of legislation covered under EUCLEF.

Following its launch, ECHA continued to work in 2020 to expand the scope of this search tool, with 16 further pieces of EU legislation planned to be incorporated in 2021.

Making safe and sustainable use a reality

Substantial progress in addressing substances of concern

To accelerate regulatory action on substances of concern and increase transparency, predictability, and efficiency on how risks can be managed, ECHA has continued to refine its grouping approach in 2020 – substance groups now being the default way of working.

Grouping speeds up the mapping of the chemical universe – with the aim of enabling authorities to make full use of available hazard data and identify groups of substances for data generation, regulatory action, or being currently of low priority for further regulatory action.

This approach enabled ECHA to speed up its screening work, analysing around 1 900 substances in 2020 to identify which ones require further risk management measures or data to be generated. For example, 143 substances representing 33 groups were selected for compliance check in 2020.

Comparing the total amount of 1 065 substances checked by Member States and ECHA during 2014-2018 to the 2 835 substances analysed as groups during 2019-2020, we can see the substantial, positive impact that grouping has had on the number of substances assessed.

23 The finder is especially targeted to SMEs and funded through the COSME fund, Europe's programme for small and medium-sized enterprises.

The interim target of checking all substances registered above 100 tonnes per year to identify needs for further assessment by the end of 2020 was not achieved. While around 1 750 substances registered above 100 tonnes per year have not yet been looked at, the grouping approach enabled us to analyse an increasing amount of chemically similar lower tonnage substances, alongside the higher tonnage substances, and also to focus on certain groups of particular concern, such as petroleum and coal substances, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), phthalates and bisphenols.

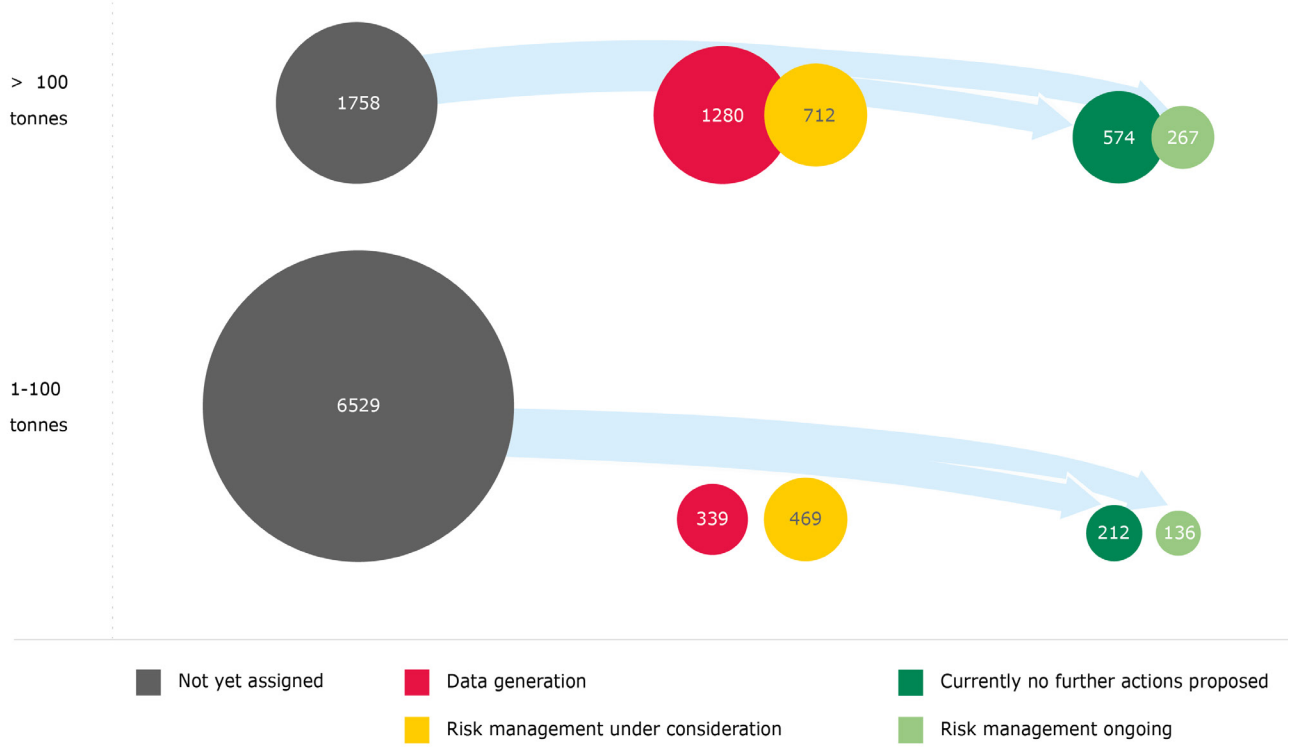
At the current pace, ECHA expects to have mapped more than 80 % of the higher tonnage substances by the end of 2021. However, the goal of concluding for all registered substances on their need for EU level regulatory action or data generation by 2027 is still achievable.

Grouping also supports informed substitution by ensuring that substances that are currently of low priority for further regulatory action (for example, those currently not registered, or registered only for intermediate uses), but which could be potential substitutes for known substances of concern, are considered.

ECHA continued to work with industry, Member States, NGOs and other key stakeholders in 2020 to build capacity for analysing alternatives and for informed substitution, and to develop related networks. This will ultimately help to protect workers and consumers from the risks caused by harmful chemicals, as well as safeguarding the environment.

The grouping and prioritisation approaches have also been used in 2020 to support EFSA in identifying plasticisers which are used in different food contact materials or which could potentially replace current substances in this use.

FIGURE: REACH chemical universe at the end of 2020: substances with active registrations above 1 tonne per year.



Our advice on safe use of chemicals along the supply chain

The scope of information available on the safe use of chemicals widened in 2020, bringing this work into closer alignment with Member States and international partners. Downstream users can rely on our updated guidance for safety data sheets so that consumers and industry have the most current information on how to use chemicals safely.

In July, the REACH requirements for compiling safety data sheets – which provide valuable information about how to use chemicals and mixtures safely – were amended. Mandatory specification of nanoforms and endocrine-disrupting properties, as well assigning unique formula identifiers to the labels of hazardous products were added.

These changes make more safety information on hazards and precautions available than ever before, enabling employers to have up-to-date information when considering measures to protect their workers. However, we also found also that there is room for improvement in the provision of meaningful safe use advice as the information does not always correspond to the advice. The update for the unique formula identifier – a 16-digit code that provides a direct link between the information provided and the product placed on the market – is particularly critical as it will enable poison centres to provide a quicker emergency health response and potentially save lives.

Throughout the year, use map information was updated and published for three important sectors of the European economy: agriculture (submitted by the European Crop Protection Association), solvents (submitted by the European Solvents Industry Group) and the petroleum industry (submitted by Concawe). The use maps benefit companies as they have direct access to realistic information on uses of their chemical in the supply chain and can use that to help them more accurately assess the safety of their chemicals.

Further to this, ECHA continued apace with its collaboration with the Joint Research Centre Seville on developing best available technology reference documents for ceramics, textiles, ferrous metals processing, and smitheries and foundries under the Industrial Emissions Directive. This action aims to make it clear to EU businesses how they can use the chemicals data gathered under REACH to help protect human health and the environment, as well as preventing and controlling emissions.

Throughout 2020, ECHA worked with Member States, Commission and industry to establish a development plan for REACH Review Action 3[24]. The plan is intended to clarify which further work is needed to establish a more effective system and identifying where further investment is needed by industry and authorities for improvements to be workable. These should help in delivering safe use advice to end users of chemicals, and facilitate compliance with occupational safety and health (OSH) and environment legislation. Considering the lead time for the actions to have an impact, as part of the priority setting for 2021, it was decided to pause ECHA's support to communication in the supply chain, including REACH Review Action 3.

24 https://echa.europa.eu/reach-review-action-3

The newly-launched SCIP database had already received over 5 million notifications by the entry into force of the legal duty on 5 January 2021. Such a positive response strengthens ECHA's believe that more knowledge about the presence of substances of very high concern in products brings us one step closer to a European circular economy."

Bo BALDUYCK

Legal Advisor

Paving the way for sustainability and circularity with safer chemicals in products

With the October launch of the SCIP[25] database, ECHA is shining a light on substances of very high concern contained in products and making steps towards a circular economy. The database is an essential contribution to the goals of the European Green Deal, and will help to protect citizens, workers, and the environment, make recycling safer and accelerate the replacement of dangerous chemicals with safer alternatives .

At the start of the year, a prototype of the database was made available, giving companies early access to the tool, to test and familiarise themselves on how to submit their notifications. Users were able to submit test data and provide feedback to the Agency to help further improve the full version. All submitted test data was deleted before the full launch.

Throughout 2020, refinements were made closely tied to updates of ECHA's Submission Portal, and distributors were able to more easily link their SCIP notifications to those of their suppliers. The submission process was further streamlined with notifiers able to submit by referring to information already submitted to the database. This reduces the administrative burden on European businesses (particularly for SMEs), but still guarantees that the safety of the public and the environment is maintained.

The full version of the database was launched in October 2020 – ahead of 5 January 2021 when companies have to start submitting data on the chemicals of concern in their products to ECHA. By the time this duty kicked in, more than five million notifications had been received with our IT systems handling the higher than expected volumes.

The main goal of SCIP is not to gather large volumes of notifications but rather to improve transparency on substances of very high concern present in articles in the EU. To this end, companies were reminded that notifications should only cover articles with confirmed substances of very high concern from the Candidate List. The more we know about which dangerous chemicals are contained in products, the easier it is to recycle them into different waste streams safely and the better protected workers, citizens and the environment can be.

Consumers and waste operators will be given access to use the data during spring 2021 and this will help them to make safer and informed choices, and will be an incentive for companies to replace dangerous chemicals and, in particular, substitute Candidate List substances in their products with safer alternatives.

Replacing, refining and reducing animal testing

ECHA continued to support EU efforts to replace and reduce animal testing with the release of new tools and widening access to information, which contribute to move towards using non-animal alternatives, where viable.

In February, in partnership with the OECD, ECHA launched the latest

25 SCIP is a database of information on substances of concern in articles as such or in complex objects (products) established under the Waste Framework Directive.

Making use of novel methodologies and open-source information, ECHA, together with the OECD, has contributed to developing innovative research techniques which will help in the future to reduce the need for unnecessary animal testing."

Jack DE BRUIJN

Director of Prioritisation and Integration

version of the QSAR Toolbox – embracing open-source logic and allowing third parties to donate new testing models for developing alternatives to the Toolbox Repository. This draws on the expertise of the wider scientific community to create the largest possible scope for non-animal testing methodologies.

This open data approach was also extended to the availability of study results[26], that are updated more frequently, and can easily be extracted and operationalised by third parties as of 2020. This creates an ample opportunity for industry, researchers and regulators to draw on each other's results and avoid the need for further animal testing.

ECHA's move towards a grouping approach to assessing molecularly similar substances also includes an animal welfare element as it allows more substances to be assessed using the same research data and reduces the amount of animal testing necessary to come to a regulatory decision.

ECHA published a new report on the status of the use of non-animal test methods and strategies in 2020[27], looking for the first time at the low tonnage registrations after the 2018 deadline. The report shows that adaptations continue to be used more than experimental studies (with read-across being the most popular option), while in vitro non-animal test methods were also used much more widely, largely due to the adaptation of the information requirements in REACH published in 2016.

All these actions contribute to a European regulatory environment, which is less and less dependent on animal testing.

infobox

MAKING DRINKING WATER SAFER

Throughout 2020, ECHA continued to support the Commission in preparing for the implementation of the recast Drinking Water Directive, which entered into force in January 2021.

The directive aims to improve the quality of drinking water throughout the EU, improve access to it and ensure uniform safety standards for companies. With the recast, ECHA has been given a task to compile and manage positive lists of chemicals that can be safely used in materials that come into contact with drinking water. This will improve consumer protection and clarify the regulatory requirements for companies.

In 2020, a notification tool was developed to help Member States in their first task related to contact materials, namely notifying existing national lists. The tool aims to simplify the notification tasks and reduce the workload of Member States.

26 https://iuclid6.echa.europa.eu/reach-study-results
27 https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/0/alternatives_test_animals_2020_en.pdf

Assessing chemicals that matter most

Robust information underpins all our efforts in promoting the safe and sustainable use of chemicals. 2020 saw ECHA continue its work in reducing information gaps, while ensuring that industry upholds its duties regarding consumer and environmental protection"

Christel MUSSET

Director of Hazard Assessment

More substances with concluded compliance checks

Reducing information gaps is integral to the functioning of REACH and must be a priority for industry. ECHA has a responsibility towards Europe's citizens to make sure that the chemicals data that companies submit complies with REACH information requirements.

Compliance checks continue to be a priority for the Agency with a focus on long-term effects on human health and the environment. In line with our work under the Integrated Regulatory Strategy and Action 4 of the REACH evaluation joint action plan[28], we carried out 271 full compliance checks covering 258 unique substances in 2020,

The full checks[29] focused on addressing relevant higher-tier hazard endpoints for substances or groups of substances of potential concern mainly in the higher tonnage bands. In addition, we conducted 76 targeted compliance checks[30], which in total resulted in 347 checks covering more than 2 500 registrations and addressing 302 unique substances.

Updating dossiers with relevant information remains the responsibility of companies and ensuring that knowledge and data gaps are filled needs to be industry's priority.

In line with Action 15 of the above-mentioned REACH evaluation joint action plan, we continued to offer support to initiatives from industry associations to help companies review their chemical safety data. One example of this is ECHA's support for Cefic's Action Plan, which builds a framework for companies to systematically evaluate the safety data they have submitted and update their registrations when needed.

Cooperative pilot projects under the plan ran from December 2019 until October 2020, with ECHA and a small set of companies working together to pinpoint improvements for several prioritised groups of substances. The aim for this work is to develop practical steps for companies to consider when updating their registrations. The lessons taken from this will be used to guide the 189 companies that have committed to Cefic's plan in updating their registrations. On 7 October 2020, CEFIC and ECHA co-organised a dedicated workshop for companies that have signed up to the Cefic's plan, aiming to communicate on the lessons learned from the pilot projects.

Support has also been given to the non-ferrous industry with the Metals and Inorganics Sectoral Approach (MISA) – a collaborative programme that aims to resolve several outstanding technical and scientific issues that the metal and inorganics sector is facing. The aim

28 https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/21877836/final_echa_com_reach_evaluation_action_plan_en

29 In a full compliance check, ECHA performs a systematic evaluation of all information requirements in the registration dossier, including the corresponding elements and conclusions provided in the chemical safety report.

30 In a targeted compliance check, ECHA evaluates only a specific part of the registration dossier based on specified concerns.

is for gradual and planned improvement of the compliance, quality and understanding of the metals and inorganics large volume registration dossiers. Key lessons and good practice have been shared, and the work has resulted in a higher number of dossier updates for human health and environmental endpoints. To continue the progress made under the approach, ECHA and Eurometaux[31] agreed to extend the programme until the end of 2021.

In 2020, in line with Action 5 of the REACH evaluation joint action plan, ECHA also supported the Commission in efforts to clarify and simplify the REACH annexes, giving companies a better understanding on how to conduct their testing to meet information requirements. A number of these changes are currently under REACH Committee agreement.

More efficient evaluation of dossiers and substances

ECHA's evaluation activity primarily generates hazard data on chemicals, which increases knowledge on these chemicals and the broader chemical groups they belong to. Improved hazard knowledge increases the level of protection of human health and the environment.

In 2020, ECHA took further steps to prioritise and simplify decision making and speed up dossier evaluation. The generation of draft decisions sent to companies has been further standardised and automated and the views of Member States and ECHA have been further aligned leading to quicker decision making – an indication that the Agency's earlier discussions with and visits to the Member States are starting to prove fruitful.

ECHA continued to implement measures agreed with the Member States and the Commission to significantly improve the efficiency of evaluation, including, but not limited to, resolving differences of view on more generic issues through discussions during the meetings of the Member State Committee, the Endocrine Disruptor (ED) expert group and the Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic (PBT) expert group.

During 2020, the PBT and ED expert groups gave 30 opinions[32] on PBT properties and 20 opinions on ED properties of substances[33]. Expert group consultation has proven particularly useful in discussing appropriate ways to move forward with assessment and testing strategies, evaluation of study results, and justifying conclusions on substance properties or information needs. All of this has contributed to improving the quality of assessments and documentation, which in turn has reduced challenges later in the formal steps of the processes, for example, evaluation or identifications of SVHCs.

Protecting the environment by identifying persistent organic pollutants (POPs)

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)[34] is a global treaty that aims to protect human health and the environment from "forever" chemicals that resist biodegrading in the environment. Exposure to POPs may lead to severe adverse health effects such as cancers and birth defects.

ECHA's work in supporting the Commission and Member States on POPs contributes to identifying and limiting emissions of harmful chemicals to the environment. In 2020, the focus has been on integrating POPs work into ECHA's portfolio, building on the Agency's core activities under REACH and CLP.

Substances subject to the POPs Regulation or those proposed as POPs are now flagged accordingly in ECHA's chemicals database. Users can now search to find POPs, with different depths of information available in the substance Infocards and Brief Profiles.

Furthermore, ECHA supported the identification of methoxychlor as a POP under the Stockholm Convention and has undertaken screening for new potential candidates to be proposed to the Convention. The draft risk profiles of methoxychlor and Dechlorane Plus™ were opened for consultation in April 2020.

31 The European non-ferrous metals association.
32 Expert group opinions are informal advice given to Member States that are assessing substances and generally consist of advice on ED/PBT properties, testing strategies or information needs.
33 These numbers also include some substances discussed in the context of the Biocidal Products Regulation and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Regulation.
34 Organic substances that persist in the environment, accumulate in living organisms, and pose a risk to our health and the environment.

Exposure to hazardous chemicals is a risk faced in many European workplaces. This year, ECHA and RAC's expertise continued to support the Commission in setting new occupational exposure limits, working to protect the long-term health of workers."

Stella JONES

Head of Hazard I Unit

Safeguarding worker health with occupational exposure limits

ECHA provides scientific opinions on toxicological profiles of selected priority substances when requested based on a service level agreement with the Commission. ECHA's Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) proposes health-based occupational exposure limits (OELs) or dose-response relationships (DRRs) under the Chemical Agents (CAD) and Carcinogens and Mutagens (CMD) directives. In 2020, the committee recommended limit values to protect workers from exposure to lead and its compounds, and diisocyanates, as well as initiating evaluations of asbestos and cadmium and its inorganic compounds.

Prevention is the cornerstone of the Commission's Roadmap towards the EU Beating Cancer Plan – with more than 40 % of all cancer cases estimated to be avoided through preventive actions. ECHA's scientific work on OELs underpinning the CMD amendments contributes to this goal by protecting workers from exposure to chemicals that have the potential to cause cancer or genetic mutations.

In 2020, ECHA's Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) recommended a more robust OEL and a biological limit value (BLV) to better protect workers from being exposed to lead and its inorganic compounds, as well as a biological guidance value (BGV) for background exposure levels.

RAC also derived a DRR to help reduce worker exposure to diisocyanates, which can cause respiratory health effects including asthma and respiratory sensitisation.

While the use of asbestos and new products containing asbestos are already banned in the EU, there is still a large number of legacy products containing the cancer-causing substance – so the scientific opinions of RAC and the review of the OELs are crucial elements in keeping exposure to asbestos to a minimum.

The Commission asked ECHA to assess the option of an airborne OEL either alone or in combination with biological monitoring value for cadmium and its inorganic compounds. Cadmium and its inorganic compounds are commonly found in batteries, alloys, solar cells, coatings and pigments.

Addressing the risks of substances of concern

Strengthening safety with labels and pictograms – harmonised classification, labelling and packaging

Classification and labelling (C&L) is the starting point for hazard communication on chemicals. Once a substance or mixture is classified, its properties must be communicated to users, through labels and safety data sheets, to alert them about the hazards and the need to manage associated risks. ECHA's C&L Inventory helps companies to find and apply classifications where no harmonisation has yet taken place.

Every substance that undergoes harmonised classification and labelling improves safe use. The EU saw such improvements in 2020 for 50 harmonised classification and labelling dossiers processed by ECHA's Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) – including 33 industrial chemicals and 40 proposals for carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic substances (CMRs). Furthermore, 17 dossiers were processed for active substances used in biocides and plant protection products.

Surmounting the logistical challenges posed by COVID-19, RAC continued its scientific-technical work uninterrupted holding all its meetings remotely. The Committee adopted 50 opinions on hazardous substances which were proposed for an EU-wide harmonised entry under CLP for making the classification and labelling obligatory in all Member States and ensuring that the hazards are communicated throughout supply chains: this included 4 carcinogens (Cat 1B), 26 substances causing reproductive effects and 22 substances with sensitisation effects.

The Commission updates the legislation with new and revised harmonised classification and labelling of hazardous substances through adaptations to technical progress (ATPs). The 51 RAC opinions from 2019 were added under the 17th ATP – which includes 22 new entries, 41 revisions and one deletion. Once the Commission has included the substances to Annex VI to CLP based on RAC's opinion, the common standards for risk communication through labels and safety measures to use are effective and enforceable across the EU.

infobox

MANDATORY CLASSIFICATION FOR TETRAFLUOROETHYLENE (TFE) AS A CARCINOGEN TO PROTECT WORKERS

Concerns raised over the safe use of some perfluorinated carbon compounds led to a harmonised classification and improved safety. T**etrafluoroethylene** (TFE), for instance, is an industrial chemical that had no previous harmonised classification. It is mainly used to manufacture of polymers, like Teflon, but also in inks and toners, and is produced or imported in volumes between 10 000 and 100 000 tonnes per year.

Although some manufacturer and importers self-classified TFE as a carcinogen (Carc. 1B), more than two thirds of all notifiers did not self-classify the substance for carcinogenicity.

Ireland proposed to classify TFE for carcinogenicity (Carc. 1B; hazard statement H350: May cause cancer). RAC gave its opinion on the proposal in December 2019 and in 2020 the Commission included the substance in Annex VI to the CLP Regulation.

As a result, the classification and labelling of the substance became mandatory. Risk communication to professional workers at manufacturing sites will improve considerably, and risk management measures will apply to minimise the exposure to the substance and reduce incidences of cancer.

Authorisation accelerates substitution and reduces risks at a reasonable cost

ECHA's authorisation work aims to ensure that the internal market functions well, and that the risks of substances of very high concern are controlled throughout their life cycle and progressively replaced with safer alternatives, where technically and economically feasible. Moreover, the preparation of applications for authorisation is an opportunity for companies to review the safety measures in place for the chemicals they use, often resulting in risk reduction for workers, consumers and the environment.

In 2020, ECHA added six substances to the Candidate List of substances of very high concern – five that are toxic for reproduction and one with endocrine-disrupting properties for human health. This brought the total number of entries on the list to 211 by the end of the year.[35] In February 2020, the Commission added 11 substances to the Authorisation List based on earlier recommendations from ECHA. Based on a survey of companies and

35 Six substances were identified in 2020 and the assessment work for these was conducted in 2020. The two substances identified in December 2020 were communicated about in January 2021.

For the first time we were able to see the dynamic impacts of authorisation at the review stage. Authorisation helps to control the risk of substances that cannot yet be substituted, but also gives an important push to companies to search for safer alternatives."

Peter VAN DER ZANDT
Director of Risk Management

industry associations[36], the results of which were published in July 2020, the placing of chemicals on these lists spurs companies' substitution activities.

Throughout the year, ECHA received[37] 31 applications for 53 uses and four review reports for four uses. To gain momentum in managing risks, the European Commission made substitution plans a mandatory part of applications for authorisation when suitable alternatives for uses are available in general, even where applicants may consider them to be technologically or economically unfeasible. Substitution plans complementing four applications concerning the uses of hexavalent chromium in surface treatments and the curing agent MOCA were sent to ECHA in October 2020. Further plans complementing applications for uses of hexavalent chromium as well as for uses of the plasticiser DEHP and sodium dichromate in wool dyeing were submitted in December 2020.

By 2020, 24 authorisation decisions had become subject to review. In the review phase, the volumes of SVHCs in the applied uses for these authorisations had dropped by 97 % – indicating that these SVHCs in the authorised uses have been extensively replaced. Where replacing a harmful chemical is not yet feasible, ECHA's study on the socio-economic impacts of the authorisation system[38] estimated that the societal benefits of authorising continued SVHC use were, according to the quantified impacts, almost 20 times greater than the remaining health risks. The study also showed that of the 54 chemicals on the Authorisation List, the use of almost half has ceased in the EU.

The study analysed more than 200 applications for authorisation and indicates that the authorisation requirement has improved health and reduced emissions to the environment related to the substances subject to authorisation. But these impacts could not be further quantified as the applicants' situations were not known before they needed to apply. It also described how the authorisation system has advanced the substitution of harmful chemicals. Finally, the study identified the remaining health and environmental risks if authorisations were granted and how ECHA's recommendations for additional conditions are expected to reduce these risks.

Providing the scientific bases for restricting chemicals of concern

ECHA's restriction work promotes the substitution and replacement of chemicals of concern with safer alternatives, improves risk management and stimulates innovation. The listing of a chemical in the registry of intentions has been shown to increase their substitution and also supports research and development of alternatives.

Following input and analysis from ECHA's committees and experts, ECHA provided the Commission[39] with a package of information

36 https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/24152346/impact_rest_auth_on_substitution_en.pdf
37 Applications are only consider received when the application fee has been paid.
38 See Figure 11 at: https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13637/socioeconomic_impact_reach_authorisations_en.pdf.
39 The opinions of ECHA's scientific committees were adopted in 2020 (RAC: 11

The restriction of microplastics from a wide range of consumer products will prevent 500 000 tonnes from polluting the environment over the next 20 years. This is a significant achievement that will, if adopted, protect our bodies, food and environment for years to come."

Maria OTTATI

Chair of the Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis

allowing them to decide if there should be a ban on intentionally added microplastics in cosmetics, detergents, fertilisers and its use as infill in artificial sports pitches. This ban would represent the most comprehensive initiative ever for reducing emissions from intentional uses of microplastics – with an estimated 500 000 tonnes of microplastics prevented from being released to the environment over the next 20 years. Without the restriction, 928 000 tonnes of microplastics would end up in the environment over the same period.

Aside from this boundary-pushing work, in 2020, the Committees for Risk Assessment (RAC) and Socio-economic Analysis (SEAC) also adopted opinions on restriction proposals for:

- skin sensitisers in textiles;
- formaldehyde in consumer articles;
- perfluorohexane-1-sulphonic acid, its salts and related substances (a PFAS substance used in a variety of products);
- calcium cyanamide used as a fertiliser;
- five cobalt salts for professional and industrial use; and
- siloxanes (D4, D5 and D6) in personal care products.

Analysis also continued on potential restrictions of perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) used in clothing, polymers and fire extinguishers, and of PAHs, furans, dioxins, PCBs and formaldehyde in single-use nappies.

The ECHA secretariat also worked on several additional restriction proposals during 2020, including expanding on a previous restriction proposal regarding the use of lead gunshot in wetlands to include the use of lead in sports shooting, hunting and in fishing tackle. The aim is to ensure that lead is, as far as possible, phased out to protect our environment, our wildlife and our food chain. This proposal was submitted in January 2021.

In addition, ECHA continued to investigate the need for restrictions on lead chromates in articles, the phosphates TCEP, TCPP and TDCP used in childcare articles and upholstered furniture, coal tar pitch, high temperature (CTPHT) in clay targets and PFAS in fire-fighting foams. ECHA also prepared investigation reports to support the Commission on restriction entries 50 for PAHs and 63 for lead and its compounds.

The impact of earlier restrictions was also closely monitored – such as the replacement of bisphenol A with other developers in thermal paper. The EU-wide ban on BPA in thermal paper took effect in January 2020. ECHA's market survey indicated that by 2022, 61 % of all thermal paper in the EU will be bisphenol S-based, but there are concerns that BPS may have similar adverse health effects as BPA. ECHA is currently looking at bisphenols as a group to collect information on a more comprehensive regulatory strategy to avoid such regrettable substitution in the future.

June 2020; SEAC: 10 December 2020). They were sent to the Commission in February 2021 and published on ECHA's website on 1 March 2021.

In partnership with the OECD, ECHA has launched a survey study to learn about citizens' willingness-to-pay to avoid chemicals-related ill health effects. In this context, ECHA developed and tested a survey instrument to value fertility loss, which will run in 2021 together with surveys on asthma, neurotoxic effects in children, renal malfunctions, and very low birth weight in various EU Member States. The results of this study will serve to improve ECHA's methodologies concerning impact assessments around these issues, ultimately improving the Agency's ability to inform decision makers about the benefits of limiting these outcomes in the population.

infobox

USING WHAT WE'VE LEARNT TO IMPROVE SUSTAINABLE SUBSTITUTION

2020 saw ECHA and its network of European and international partners further improve support for businesses in substituting chemicals of concern with safer alternatives. This was achieved by:

- publishing online training resources on YouTube – making these resources as widely available and easily accessible as possible;
- contributing to the OECD's Guidance on Key Considerations for the Identification and Selection of Safer Chemical Alternatives, so that ECHA's expertise can help in supporting substitution beyond EU borders;
- co-leading a study with the Commission on PFAS-based fire-fighting foams and their alternatives, so that PFAS might be removed from as wide a range of products as possible in the future; and
- participating in and supporting several substitution-related events such as the International Symposium on Alternatives Assessment[40], the Austrian workshop on substituting problematic chemicals[41] and the LIFE-funded Fit For REACH project[42].

Biocides – supporting EU action to face the pandemic

Biocidal products protect humans, animals and materials from harmful organisms, pests and bacteria. All biocidal products need to be authorised and the active substances contained in them need to be approved. Active substances that are carcinogens, mutagens, reprotoxic, endocrine disruptors, (very) persistent, (very) bioaccumulative and toxic are in principle not approved. This incentivises companies to find less harmful but equally effective substitutes and brings certainty to users that they can rely on the functioning and safety of their products.

With the unique challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the demand for biocidal products and, in particular, disinfectants increased strongly in 2020. To help meet this crucial demand, ECHA, in close coordination with the Commission, took a series of special actions, to support Member States and industry.

By providing compositional recommendations to ensure safety and efficacy, ECHA's expertise specifically supported Member States in allowing some biocidal products to enter the market temporarily, to combat COVID-related shortages. These efforts most notably concerned disinfectants but were also extended to fuel additives, which became more necessary with much of Europe's air fleets grounded.

To further contribute to achieve these essential goals, fast-tracking measures were put in place to accelerate access for companies to the biocides market, focusing on the inclusion in the list of approved active substance suppliers and the assessment of the technical equivalence[43].

40 https://saferalternatives.org/2020-virtual-symposium/program/
41 https://www.wko.at/service/umwelt-energie/workshop-problematische-chemikalien--2020.html
42 https://www.fitreach.eu/index.php/
43 The purpose of technical equivalence is to determine similarity with regards to the chemical composition and hazard profile when there has been a change to the source of the active substance.

infobox

TAKING ACTION TO BOOST THE REVIEW PROGRAMME

ECHA built up an active substance action plan to enhance the pace of the review programme – the work programme to assess the existing active substances that was initiated in 2000. The plan was agreed by the European Commission and the Member State competent authorities in February 2020 – a move which will accelerate assessment and increase progress on the review programme of existing active substances.

The plan consists of five complementary actions: prioritising selected dossiers, supporting evaluating competent authorities, streamlining the peer review, reducing complexity and harmonising the assessment of confidentiality requests.

Extended support for Member State competent authorities started to bear fruit with a notable increase in the number of finalised assessment reports on active substances.

ECHA also supported the Commission to revise the information requirements for active substances and biocidal products, ensuring that the regulatory regime remains relevant to current scientific understanding, particularly regarding endocrine-disrupting substances.

Management

Management Board

The Management Board provides strategic direction and strong governance to enable the Agency to deliver its mission and vision and meet its stakeholders' expectations. In 2020, the Management Board successfully concluded a critical priority setting exercise, providing steer for the Executive Director and the Secretariat, relying exclusively on remote interaction due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board also elected Mr Paul Krajnik, the Austrian Board member as its new Chair and Ms Claudia Dumitru, the Romanian Board member, as its new Deputy Chair – both for a first term of two years.

Throughout the year, the Management Board closely followed the evolution of ECHA's regulatory and financial context, in particular, the publication of the European Commission' Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability[44] and the next Multiannual Financial Framework[45]. ECHA's resources outlook, reflecting a stable level of EU subsidy and anticipating a continuing trend of declining fee income, resulted in a priority setting exercise, based on a proposal from the Executive Director. Consequently, the Management Board concluded on a set of (negative) priorities for 2021 and beyond that aims to ensure that ECHA can fulfil its mandate and best contribute to realising EU ambitions for the safe and sustainable use of chemicals.

The Management Board adopted all statutorily required documents in line with the applicable rules and regulations, carried out the annual appraisal exercise of the Executive Director and the members of the Board of Appeal, and confirmed the Chair of the Board of Appeal in his functions after his probationary period. Furthermore, the Management Board appointed the new Technically Qualified Member of the Board of Appeal and endorsed the administrative arrangements for alternate and additional members of the Board of Appeal.

The actions taken in response to audits and evaluations, as well as the Commission's second REACH Review[46] continued to be monitored.

The Secretariat regularly provided the Board with reports on ECHA's activities and gave updates on progress in key operational areas and, in particular, on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and actions taken in response to support EU action to speed up the availability of disinfectants.

Financial management

The successful management of ECHA's finances ensured that the 2020 accounts closed correctly, and that significant challenges faced in budget and liquidity management due to decreasing fee income and COVID-19 implications could be coped with well. The Agency met its budget implementation targets reaching a 98 % commitment rate and an 88 % payment rate (estimates were 95 % and 80 %, respectively).

The combination of uncertain fee income and a fixed EU balancing subsidy to finance the Agency's operations again proved complicated. In 2020, ECHA's fee income from industry continued to decline, following the trend observed since the last REACH registration deadline of 2018. Apart from identifying significant expenditure savings because of the various implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, the lack of fee income forced the Agency to run a deficit on the Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR) to meet its legal obligations. This deficit will be compensated through an additional EU contribution in 2021.

The split between overall ECHA fee income and subsidies was around 31 % and 69 %, respectively. This contrasts to 2019 where the split was 40 % and 60 % and, in particular, the long-term average which has seen 72 % of income coming from fees and 28 % from EU subsidy.

44 https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/chemicals-strategy_en
45 https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/eu-budget-2021-2027_en
46 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2018:116:FIN

In 2020, ECHA's staff demonstrated outstanding levels of commitment and resilience in adapting to the unprecedented COVID-related circumstances, which impacted both professional and personal lives, while ensuring continuity of ECHA's business operations."

Shay O'MALLEY

Director of Resources

The European Parliament[47] and the European Court of Auditors[48] recognised ECHA's financial stability as a key aspect, while the European Commission has also acknowledged the challenges of ECHA's current financing model. [49]

The second REACH Review called on ECHA "to assess all possible options for financing in the context of projected reduced fee income."[50] The Agency has made proposals, using the 2019 fee forecasting studies as reference points, to support a review of ECHA's financing model, with an aim to achieve better predictability and stability in its budget planning.

The initial total budgetary payment appropriations for expenditure in 2020 amounted to EUR 116.4 million. However, the final total expenditure figure concluded in the first amending budget in September 2020 was EUR 109.6 million. The main reasons for the reduced budget were related to the COVID-19 pandemic that led to, for instance, drastically reduced on-site committee meetings, decreased duty travels and delayed onboarding of newly recruited staff.

As the year progressed, it became apparent that the fee income was not developing as planned. The Agency, therefore, had to reduce the budget and find further savings by, for example, reducing translations, and postponing some none-critical procurements. Another element that facilitated the decrease of the budget was the lower than anticipated country coefficient. Finally, the continuing pandemic resulted in lower needs for security and cleaning services, physical meetings and travel costs.

Details on ECHA's budget information and budget management in 2020 can be found in Appendix II.

Human Resources management

ECHA's key services continued seamlessly in a remote setting, with the health and wellbeing for staff remaining at a high level despite the year being dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Agency's Human Resources Strategy for 2019-2023 was implemented, supporting the organisation to achieve its overall strategic priorities. The HR strategy ensures a work environment that promotes a culture of high performance and enables flexibility. While 98 % of establishment plan posts were filled, the turnover of temporary agents remained low at 3.9 %.

ECHA put the necessary steps in place to continue providing its key functions in a fully remote setting with extended teleworking arrangements for all staff members due to COVID-19. Selections took place online, new colleagues were successfully integrated despite not being able to enter the premises and training courses were rescheduled from physical to web-based courses. Thanks to the timely and robust changes put in place, all services were provided in good time and there were no delays or cutbacks in meeting the organisation's requirements.

50 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2018:116:FIN

In addition, all necessary efforts were taken to maintain a high level of staff health and wellbeing. We put in place advisory groups that responded swiftly to the changing requirements during the pandemic, whether handling health and safety matters or dealing with the specific challenges of a fully remote working environment. Based on regular surveys of staff, we eased working from home for staff by rolling out the necessary IT and reimbursing staff for office equipment.

We also continued to work on the priorities of the HR strategy by revamping our advice on career paths in the Agency. Together with the data gained through a competency mapping exercise, we are now in a position to address competency gaps proactively, either through targeted learning activities or external selections. ECHA further invested in developing management culture by initiating a new development programme for its heads of units.

Our organisational culture aims to provide a more agile and flexible working environment in which staff contribute to projects and processes based on their individual competencies. To facilitate this change, we initiated a collaboration project that enabled staff to choose priority areas describing the way we want to interact with each other. Moreover, we launched a joint working group on diversity in which volunteers from different units discussed gender balance and how to ensure that all groups of society feel welcomed at ECHA. The first actions from this initiative addressed our selection processes and how to attract more diverse applicants.

As part of a wider inter-agency benchmarking exercise initiated by the Commission, ECHA has conducted a job screening exercise that aims to clarify the amount of posts spent on administrative tasks opposed to operations to ensure that there is enough staffing in operational areas.

Corporate Resources management

The project team for ECHA's new premises ensured business continuity and a smooth removal to new state-of-the-art and environmentally friendly premises in the heart of Helsinki's historic shipyard area. The removal at the beginning of 2020 concluded five years of preparations for relocating the Agency.

The physical removal process to ECHA's new premises began on 21 December 2019 and the new building was open and operational for ECHA staff as planned at the beginning of January 2020. The project was delivered on time and on budget in accordance with the notification sent to the EU Budgetary Authority (European Parliament and Council of the EU). In addition, ECHA returned its old premises successfully without any additional costs or penalties for the Agency.

Swiftly dealing with the COVID-19 challenges was of utmost importance to ensure business continuity for ECHA's operations throughout 2020. Following the decision to move to teleworking for all staff and arrange committee meetings remotely in March 2020, hotel cancellation policies and the recovery of cancelled flight payments were renegotiated with suppliers with no financial loss to the Agency.

The audiovisual services of the Agency successfully organised all the events and meetings in a virtual setting, requiring lots of support from and flexible redeployment of resources – from the events organisation services to virtual support of external meeting participants.

During 2020, the number of virtual meetings supported by the audiovisual support team increased by 13 % to 1 120 in the year. However, the number of online Webex participants to these meetings increased even more by 108 % to approximately 47 000.

While the pandemic has caused challenges, there has been a reduced need for building (cleaning and maintenance) and security services, resulting in considerable cost savings, as well as significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by the Agency.

Environmental management

Promoting the sustainable use of resources through a sound environmental management is an integral part of the Agency's management system.

ECHA has been ISO 14001:2015 certified since 2016 and was successfully recertified in October 2020. Our environmental performance sets targets to decrease the consumption of natural resources, to lower waste and to reduce our carbon footprint.

The move to ECHA's new premises in 2020 presented an opportunity to scale-up the environmentally-conscious actions and the three-year environmental work programme was updated to reflect the level of ambition stated by ECHA's Executive Director in his pledge made to the June Management Board[51] for the Agency to become net carbon-neutral by 2030.

The environmental objectives identify three priorities and describe the actions required during 2020-2022 (2019 as the reference year) to achieve this. The environmental work programme 2020-2022 targets the continuous reduction of greenhouse gas emissions generated by ECHA's premises, travel by meeting participants and staff missions.

In the first reporting year, ECHA exceeded the targets, however travel and building carbon reduction were positively impacted by COVID-19 and teleworking provisions. ECHA will continue to take action to meet its set objectives in the next two years and aims to achieve the overall carbon reduction even if the current restrictions are lifted.

TABLE 1: ECHA environmental performance 2019

Environmental objective for 2020-22	Result in 2020 (benchmark year 2019)	Achieved?
Building CO_2 emission reduction by 20%	71 % decrease of CO_2 emissions	Exceeded
Travel (meeting participants) CO_2 emission reduction by 75%	93 % decrease of CO_2 emissions	Exceeded
Travel (staff missions) CO_2 emission reduction by 50%	90 % decrease of CO_2 emissions	Exceeded

IT Resources management

ECHA's IT landscape has been changing rapidly and the number of tools provided to industry, authorities and staff have grown significantly over the years. The second Enterprise Architecture Roadmap (2018-2020) has allowed us to leverage our applications for multiple purposes as platforms. Dynamic Case is the platform for our regulatory work; ECHA Interacts is the platform for interaction with authorities, including the Committees; IUCLID is forming the base for working on chemical data and Dissemination is the integrated platform for publishing information on chemicals.

The breakout of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 put an enormous pressure on our IT systems, as the Agency had to revert to full scale teleworking within a matter of days. The transition was successful, demonstrating that ECHA has a mature and well-developed IT landscape for its staff, stakeholders and contributors, allowing – among other things – the different committees to continue their work remotely.

During the year, as experienced by many organisations during the COVID crisis, ECHA experienced an increase in cybercrime activities requiring an equivalent increased vigilance in IT security to keep the Agency safe. Several improvements were implemented, particularly to address the reality of increased remote working of staff, and a decision was taken to invest more heavily in this area.

51 See point 4.c in: https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/29644884/FINAL_MB_M_03_2020_minutes_MB_58.pdf

In parallel, ECHA has digitalised its workflows, which has further helped to facilitate remote working for staff. At the same time, ECHA's ability to reuse existing systems and efficiently develop them further for new tasks, as demonstrated by the SCIP development in 2020, shows that the IT infrastructure is comprehensive and advanced.

Further cooperation with EFSA also illustrates how ECHA's IT competence can be used by other regulatory agencies to manage data and carry out regulatory tasks that are similar to ours.

Litigation, appeals and complaints

The EU Court ruled in favour of ECHA on endocrine disruptors for the environment. The Board of Appeal assessed the interface between REACH and the Cosmetics Regulation. ECHA intervened in a record number of cases before the EU Courts.

All 12 judgments and orders received from the European Courts in 2020 were positive to ECHA. The General Court acknowledged ECHA's competence to identify substances of very high concern on the basis of their endocrine disrupting properties by confirming the methodology applied for determining whether Bisphenol A is an endocrine disruptor to the environment.[52] The Court ruled that ECHA had correctly applied a weight-of-evidence approach. Already in 2019, the Court had dismissed two other actions challenging the identification of the same substance as toxic to reproduction and as an endocrine disruptor to human health.

Two decisions of the Board of Appeal in compliance check cases and one decision in a substance evaluation case were challenged before the General Court in 2020.[53] In addition, the General Court upheld a decision of the Board of Appeal in one substance evaluation case.[54]

To demonstrate its engagement in consistent legal interpretations and that it provides its procedural experiences, ECHA intervened in many cases before the European Courts concerning a variety of issues such as relating to a dossier evaluation decision taken by the Commission and classification and labelling cases.

The Board of Appeal adopted 16 decisions in appeal cases brought against ECHA decisions. For the data-sharing process, the Board of Appeal defined the test which ECHA should apply in assessing applications for permission to refer.[55] On the compliance check process, the Board of Appeal clarified:

- the respective responsibilities of ECHA and of registrants in ensuring that testing on vertebrate animals is carried out as a last resort[56];
- the general requirements for weight-of-evidence adaptations[57];
- the workings of the follow-up procedure to a compliance check decision[58];
- the requirements for examining whether a study was carried out correctly[59]; and
- the interpretation of the requirements for aquatic toxicity testing[60].

In addition, the Board of Appeal issued two decisions addressing the relationship between the REACH Regulation and the Cosmetics Regulation.[61]

The Agency received 20 external administrative complaints in 2020. Four complaints were related to biocides and active substance approval, three were on the processing of data submissions and another three related to SME verification. Two were on the processing of applications under Article 24 of the CLP Regulation and the rest were on areas such as poison centres, managing access to documents, relations with accredited stakeholders, dossier evaluation and technical equivalence, and processing CLH dossiers for opinion. Within the integrated management system of the Agency all complaints are analysed and followed up resulting in corrective actions, where appropriate.

52 Judgment of 16 December 2020, Plastics Europe AISBL v ECHA, T-207/18, EU:T:2020:623.
53 T-127/20, France v ECHA; T-655/20 and T-656/20, Symrise v ECHA; T-663/20 and T-664/20, OneVoice v ECHA (all pending).
54 T-176/19, 3V Sigma v ECHA.
55 Case A-013-2018, Tecnofluid; Joined cases A-014-2018 to A-021-2018, Tecnofluid; A-023-2018, Oxiteno Europe; A-024-2018, Symrise; A-005-2019, Codyeco and Others.
56 A-006-2018, Emerald Kalama Chemical and Others; A-011-2018, Clariant Plastics & Coatings (Deutschland).
57 A-011-2018, supra.
58 A-001-2019, Solvay Fluor.
59 A-011-2018, supra.
60 A-011-2018, supra; A-010-2018, Symrise.
61 A-009-2018, Symrise; A-010-2018, supra.

Audits and evaluations

Internal Audit Service

The Internal Audit Service (IAS) of the Commission conducted an audit on 'Integrated regulatory strategy: screening, evaluation and regulatory management option analysis in 2020', resulting in the following important recommendations:

- Improve the planning, monitoring, and reporting of the Integrated Regulatory Strategy.
- Grouping process: Document procedures and workflows for review and approval.
- Grouping process: Review and improve tools and document internal processes for managing comments from Member State competent authorities.

The Agency is following up on these recommendations. Furthermore, it considers how to address one open action from the follow-up audit on performance management conducted in 2020. This relates to defining an approach for reclassification in cases where the third language eligibility criterion has not been fulfilled.

Internal Audit Capability

Consultative audit of the 'harmonised classification and labelling' activity

The objective of this audit was to provide insights and improvement opportunities on the operation of the process, interaction with stakeholders and contribution to ECHA's strategy, within the new organisational structure.

The main recommendations are:

- Review the need, focus, format, and depth of the check done on classification proposal dossiers whether they are fit for processing (accordance check).
- Lighten the overall workload of the RAC plenary, for instance, through increased use of working groups.
- Analyse the group management work in relation to CLH dossiers.
- Scrutinise, together with Member States, the mechanisms to increase the impact of the CLH process.

Audit of the 'applications for authorisation' activity

The objective of this audit was to assess and provide reasonable assurance on the regularity and the quality of internal control systems applied. The audit resulted in one very important recommendation:

- Improve the assessment of alternative substances or technologies.

Furthermore, there were six important recommendations:

- Improve working methods to ensure high quality applications and opinions.
- Improve knowledge management and consistency by making it easier to find agreed interpretation rules and precedent opinions.
- Improve feedback mechanisms.
- Ensure sufficient resources for the ECHA Secretariat and committees.
- Clarify the roles and responsibilities.
- Consider further process simplification and efficiency gains.

The Agency follows up these recommendations with corresponding actions.

For earlier audits, the Internal Audit Capability conducted two follow-up audits to verify the implementation of the action plans concluding that no very important issues are currently pending while one important action is still being implemented.

European Court of Auditors

In their statement of assurance[62], the European Court of Auditors (ECA) concluded that the accounts of the Agency for the financial year 2019 present fairly, in all material respects. This includes the financial position of the Agency at 31 December 2019, the results of its operations, its cash flows, and the changes in net assets for the year then ended in accordance with its Financial Regulation and with accounting rules adopted by the Commission's accounting officer. The revenue and payments underlying the accounts for the year were also legal in all material aspects.

The Court made one observation on the clarity of tender specifications in a procurement procedure and another observation on the completeness of the audit trail in recruitment procedures.

Three of the actions of the ECA's audits from previous years (2017-2018) are ongoing with respect to:

- launching a discussion, with the Commission and Budgetary Authority, about a viable new financing model;
- collecting the outstanding administrative charges; and
- publishing vacancy notices on the European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO) website in addition to its own website and social media.

In addition, one action is unresolved and recognised as outside of the Agency's control. This being the fact that two-thirds of companies do not update the registered information on volumes of chemicals, since Member States are responsible for verifying this.

Follow up of observations from the discharge authority

For the discharge 2019, the Secretariat of the European Parliament Committee on Budgetary Control asked all EU decentralised agencies for a follow-up report to the 2018 budgetary discharge to be submitted by 31 August 2020.

The report[63] provides an overview of the relevant observations and recommendations from the European Parliament Resolution of 14 May 2020 on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of ECHA for the financial year 2018, together with the measures ECHA has taken in light of these. For completeness, replies to the comment accompanying the Council's Recommendation of 6 February 2020 on the discharge of the Agency for the financial year 2018 are included as well.

In summary, there were 16 recommendations in total from both the European Parliament and the Council, out of which six have been completed.

Ex-ante and ex-post evaluations

In 2020, the Agency did not start any new evaluations, but continued the work on analysing the IT governance in view of streamlining its functioning in future. For earlier evaluations, work continued where there still were open recommendations.

The ex-post evaluation of the EU Observatory for Nanomaterials (performed in 2019) analysed the added value to stakeholders and aimed to support ECHA to identify areas where more information is needed and set priorities for developing the EUON in the future.

62 Report on the annual accounts of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) for the financial year 2019 provided to the European Parliament and the Council.
63 European Chemicals Agency report on the follow-up to the 2018 budgetary discharge.

The ex-post evaluation on the functioning of ECHA's Integrated Management System (performed in 2019) was to analyse the costs and benefits of the ISO 9001:2015 certification and the relevance of the Integrated Management System (IMS) with ECHA's new Strategic Plan. The recommendation on the integration of different types of audits has been implemented fully through the consolidation of the audit plan, where quality audits are part of the assurance or consultative audits performed by IAC. The rest of the recommendations are still being implemented due to the long-term nature of the actions taken. There has been progress towards simplification of IMS processes, where the focus is on proportionality between costs and benefits and promotion of new culture of staff empowerment.

As a follow up and in response to the recommendations made, there was an increase in the frequency of news and the EUON website[64] was updated with a link to consumer content: with an interactive section for consumers and a new "nanomaterials in our lives"[65] with more content for non-expert audiences. We also now publish EUON news in ECHA's other communication channels and an information campaign began in November 2019 to promote recent nano studies. In 2020, the latest pending recommendation on the development of measurable indicators and targets to track the progress of the project was implemented with establishing an indicator that relates to the audience numbers of the EUON.

Actions on all recommendations indicated in the ex-post evaluation on the Cloud services (performed in 2018) have been taken.

The main improvements from the recommendations on the ex-post evaluation on the Portal Dashboard for national enforcement authorities (PD-NEA) and Portal Dashboard for Member State competent authorities (PD-MSCA) (performed in 2018) include consolidating the separate interfaces into the new Interact Portal where data is updated each day.

The search functionality and visibility on substance-specific activities were also improved for both user groups. Associated process list views make data and documents under 11 REACH and CLP processes, as well as on BPR processes more visible for users. However, the translation of the tool into other languages will not be implemented due to several limitations.

Most of the recommendations under the ex-post evaluation of the efficiency programme (performed in 2017) have been tackled through the Agency's reorganisation, and subsequent projects and activities.

64 https://euon.echa.europa.eu
65 https://chemicalsinourlife.echa.europa.eu/nanomaterials-in-our-life

Internal control – system effectiveness

Risk management

Risk management is an integral part of ECHA's Integrated Management System. The risks, that were identified as possibly jeopardising the achievement of the objectives defined in the Programming Document, were followed up every four months.

In May, an increased risk level was identified for two of the risks and, at the same time, the risk level of one risk was considered to have decreased.

In addition, following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, a specific exercise to identify risks in relation to business continuity, staff wellbeing and achievement of objectives was carried out. Regular updates on the risks were also given to the Management Board Subgroup Finance, Audit and Risks.

In 2020, ECHA also coordinated the peer risk review exercise of the EU Agencies Network. This work focused on identifying shared critical residual risks for which controls exist in the different agencies, and to share practices on how to treat such risks and identify alternative ways to increase the effectiveness of controls. ECHA took the results of the peer review into account in the risk identification exercise for 2021.

Transparency, accountability and integrity

Throughout 2020, the Agency lived up to its values of transparency and independence, ensuring continued public and stakeholder trust in the impartiality and objectivity of ECHA's work.

ECHA maintains the world's largest regulatory database on chemicals. The database provides transparent information on the chemicals used in Europe today in three layers: a simple Infocard aimed at consumers, a more detailed Brief Profile for professionals and the non-confidential source data submitted by industry to ECHA.

ECHA's work in developing this database continued apace in 2020, with additional data and better search functionalities implemented. The portal ensures that information on chemicals is easily available and currently serves over 40 000 daily users.

ECHA also launched the first version of the EU Chemicals Legislation Finder (EUCLEF), allowing users to see how their substances are regulated across 40 pieces of EU legislation. Preparations for the dissemination portal for the SCIP database with information on hazardous chemicals in articles and products were also underway, with the database ready for use in October 2020 – well ahead of the date in which duties kicked in on 5 January 2021.

Furthermore, ECHA has published a list of more than 21 000 REACH registered substances mapped in its chemical universe. The substances have been divided into five pools based on the regulatory actions in place, initiated or considered for them. It is a planning and monitoring tool that helps Member States and EU authorities focus on substances of (potential) concern and identify appropriate regulatory actions, where needed.

For companies and other stakeholders, publishing the mapping provides additional transparency on the work of authorities and the progress made in regulating chemicals.

Prevention of conflicts of interest

Policy update

Based on a thorough risk assessment of its activities, the Agency has identified the processes and sub-processes that require conflicts of interest to be managed. Conflict of interest checks are performed for more than 30 processes, sub-processes or process steps, including the main operational processes of the Agency.

In all of these processes, a review of the annual declarations of interest is performed by the process owner each time a task is assigned to a staff member, while for some sensitive processes this is complemented with a case-specific declaration of no interest by the staff member.

If there is a potential conflict, the case is assigned to a different staff member. The approach is documented in detailed work instructions and guidance is available for those managing the interests to help them deal with individual cases. As a result, no cases of actual conflicts of interest affecting the output of the Agency were identified in 2020.

For the ECHA bodies, all members are assessed against the eligibility criteria agreed upon by the Management Board at the time of their appointment. Once they take up their function, their annual declarations of interest are reviewed by the respective Chair and published on ECHA's website.

Before each meeting of an ECHA body, specific declarations for items on the agenda are collected and documented in publicly available minutes together with the mitigating measures imposed. As most of the members of ECHA's bodies are Member State public officials, the majority of the conflicts of interest declared by the members concerned involvement in preparing dossiers submitted by their Member State competent authority. In all such cases, the members concerned were considered to not be in a position to participate in the voting on such dossiers.

Post-employment

Members of staff must notify new occupational activities for the first two years after leaving the service of the Agency. ECHA can forbid the new activity or impose conditions.

In 2020, 28 staff members left ECHA: 7 of them went to work for another EU institution, body or agency. One staff member moved to a national public administration or international organisation. Three staff members moved to the private sector or started self-employment and in none of these cases did the Agency deem it necessary to impose any specific conditions due to the nature of the occupational activity or the role of the individual within their new occupation.

In the remaining 17 cases, ECHA has not (yet) been informed about a new occupational activity, as the departure was due to unemployment after resignation, retirement or permanent invalidity. One of these cases concerned the retirement of a member of senior management.

An overview of the post-employment decisions of all former senior managers is published on the ECHA website, including their names, date of departure, positions, their foreseen new occupational activities, and the outcomes of ECHA's assessments[66].

No breach of trust or disciplinary procedure was initiated for conflict of interest management.

Conflict of Interest Advisory Committee

The Conflict of Interest Advisory Committee (CoIAC) is an advisory body in the context of ECHA's Procedure on Prevention and Management of potential conflicts of interest. The Committee is available to the Management Board, the Committees, the Forum and the Executive Director for advice on matters related to potential conflicts of interest of ECHA staff or members of the Agency's bodies.

No changes occurred in the composition of the CoIAC in 2020. The Committee comprises three members: Ms Judite Dipane, appointed by the Management Board of ECHA, Mr Julio Bacio Terracino from the OECD ethics department, appointed as an external expert, and Ms Minna Heikkilä, Head of the Legal Affairs Unit of ECHA as Chairperson.

On 12 November 2020, the CoIAC convened for its annual meeting. The Chair introduced a request for advice from the Executive Director regarding a possible review of certain aspects of the post-employment rules. The CoIAC will re-convene in early 2021 to further discuss its analysis and then provide its advice.

At the request of the Chair of the Management Board, the CoIAC has further given advice on one case relating

66 https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13559/post-employment_senior_managers_en.pdf.

to the Board of Appeal in December 2020. In line with the ECHA Procedure on Prevention and Management of Potential Conflicts of Interest, the Chair of the Management Board appointed an ad hoc member to replace the CoIAC Chairperson who does not participate in matters relating to the Board of Appeal.

Ex-post controls

In line with the revised Procedure on Prevention and Management of potential Conflict of Interest, ECHA must annually undertake several ex-post controls to guarantee the effectiveness of the procedure.

A sample check on 45 annual declarations submitted by ECHA staff members, working as managers or (deputy) chairs of ECHA committees or expert groups revealed that all of them were in place, publicly available and sufficiently complete, with one exception for the Chair of the nanomaterial expert group due to the fact that this body has been inactive since 2018.

For two chairs of committees, the publicly available declaration had not been updated on the website with the newest version. However, a version updated in 2020 was available to the Agency for scrutiny.

In addition, ex-post reviews were carried out during the internal audit of the Application for Authorisation process: for three sample authorisation application dossiers verified, the RAC and SEAC rapporteurs had sent the required declaration of absence of conflicts of interest. In addition, for two sample authorisation application dossiers, the head of unit had performed the required conflict of interest check on all team members.

Fraud prevention

By design, the Agency's internal control systems contain fraud prevention, with an emphasis on critical areas such as financial transactions, procurement and selections.

ECHA's Code of Good Administrative Behaviour[67] is well communicated to all staff members. Management Board decision 30/2009 of 23 April 2009 stipulates the terms and conditions for internal investigations in relation to the prevention of fraud, corruption, and any illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' interests. Guidelines for whistleblowers were first adopted in 2015 and updated in September 2018. Through these guidelines, ECHA ensures that its employees can always highlight any action which goes against the public interest.

The ECHA Anti-Fraud Strategy[68], last revised by the ECHA Management Board in December 2016, includes a focus on maintaining and further developing the anti-fraud culture in the Agency and regularly reviewing key policies and procedures.

Data protection

The Data Protection Officer is an independent function within the Agency, who advises the units on the compliance with privacy laws and regulations. He keeps centrally the required records of the processing operations and acts as the liaison with the European Data Protection Supervisor.

In 2020, the areas of activity concerned mostly contractual arrangements for cloud solutions procured by the Agency, the measures take to address COVID-19, the medical files kept by the Agency, the publication of personal data on the website and the balancing act with transparency obligations, and four personal data breaches that occurred. As required, these cases were recorded and reported and appropriate mitigating measures were agreed with the process owners to avoid repetition in the future.

Security and business continuity

Following the relocation to the new premises in the beginning of 2020, fire safety training and evacuation trainings for ECHA were organised by the Helsinki Rescue Association, followed by internal fire safety walkthroughs and an evacuation exercise conducted in November.

67 https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13559/code_of_good_administrative_behaviour_en.pdf
68 https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/17208/mb_60_2014_anti_fraud_strategy_en.pdf

ECHA also developed an Emergency Plan (Rescue) for the new building and communicated it to the Helsinki Rescue Authorities. Furthermore, the rules for accessing ECHA premises and the Video Surveillance Policy[69] were updated.

In March, the European Commission representation visited the Agency to familiarise with the premises in the event of a crisis. Despite the challenging situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ECHA security successfully supported ECHA business in continuing operations with minimum disruption.

Rapid transition to large-scale, long-term teleworking resulted in significant additional efforts for the security function of the Agency. Many of ECHA's contractors were not yet prepared for the large-scale teleworking and related arrangements had to be put in place with high priority.

ECHA organised the Security Officers Network (SON)[70] annual meeting on 21-22 October 2020, where the security model for national enforcement authorities was extended to also include biocides inspectors and the security model for access to ECHA's information systems on persistent organic pollutants by competent authorities of the Member States was agreed upon.

Compliance and performance of ECHA under the Integrated Management System Strategy and Framework

The objective of the Integrated Management System Strategy[71] is to enable ECHA's strategic priorities to be achieved by ensuring flexible and performance-based governance, well adapted to its priorities and ECHA's operational structure, while simultaneously recognising the legislative framework within which ECHA operates. It covers the quality and environmental management, conforming to the internationally recognised ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 standards and is based on the Internal Control Framework of the Commission.

The strategy is supported by the framework, detailing the common principles and characteristics to be implemented in ECHA's operational and governance processes. The progress towards the achievement of the strategy is measured annually, based on the criteria stipulated in the framework. The assessment also ensures the periodic assessment of the sound functioning of the internal control system, required under Article 30 of ECHA's Financial Regulation.

Based on the assessment, overall, ECHA is either fully or mostly compliant with the requirements of the Integrated Management System Framework and is implementing well the Integrated Management System Strategy.

In terms of costing the controls, the Agency follows the definition in the General Financial Regulation[72] of the EU, according to which 'control' means "any measure taken to provide reasonable assurance regarding the effectiveness, efficiency and economy of operations, the reliability of reporting, the safeguarding of assets and information, the prevention and detection and correction of fraud and irregularities and their follow-up, and the adequate management of the risks relating to the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions, taking into account the multiannual character of programmes as well as the nature of the payments concerned".

Controls may involve various checks, as well as the implementation of any policies and procedures to achieve the objectives. Based on an approximation of the resources needed in the units responsible for governance and financial management, as well as the average salary costs, the cost of controls as a percentage of the total budget are estimated to be around 3.7 %.

69 https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13607/procedure_video_surveillance_at_the_echa_premises_en.pdf
70 Composed of nominated security officers from Member State competent authorities, mandated national institutions, designated national authorities, the European Commission and chemicals industry, and chaired by ECHA.
71 ECHA Integrated Management System Strategy and Framework (POL-0001): https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/0/pol_0001_07_man_system_strategy.pdf
72 Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the Union: https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/e9488da5-d66f-11e8-9424-01aa75ed71a1

The main highlights from the assessment of the framework are as follows:

Governance

Mission and vision

- Clear and relevant mission, linked to ECHA's Strategic Plan and work programming, providing a good framework for ECHA to move forward in these uncertain times.
- Further work done to focus the communication on the added value and impact of ECHA's work.
- Possibility to simplify the vision further to increase its appeal at the upcoming review of ECHA's strategic plan.

Ethical and organisational values

- ECHA's current values are well defined and the organisation is committed to them.
- ECHA is overall perceived as a transparent organisation.
- Management is promoting appropriate behaviour through good examples and the harassment prevention and promotion of the ethics and work of the confidential counsellors has been continued.

Management responsibility

- Management is committed to the management system and there is a good understanding of roles and responsibilities.
- Further progress in empowering staff and delegating the decision making, to find the right balance between cost, risk and benefit and to ensure decisions are taken at the level corresponding to the process risk – going forward, systematic implementation throughout the organisation needs attention.

Human resources

- Highly qualified and competent staff in place to carry out the current tasks.
- The organisation and staff have shown their ability to adapt to changing circumstances following the outbreak of the pandemic – successful transition to large-scale teleworking.
- Need to secure the right competences also for the future – further work done to map the competences.

Stakeholder and partner engagement

- ECHA is well committed to stakeholders and building good relations with them.
- Chairmanship of the European Union Agencies Network (EUAN) has been an opportunity to strengthen the collaboration and exchange with peer organisations and the EU institutions.
- Communication could be developed to be more impact-oriented and user friendly.

Strategy, planning and risk management

Priorities planning and resources allocation

- The strategic priorities established in the Strategic Plan 2019-2023 remain relevant. However, with the experience of implementing the Strategic Plan for two years and programming work under the Multi-annual Financial Framework of the EU for 2021-2027, the Agency had to deviate from its initial intent to implement all priorities by 2023. A mid-term review of the Strategic Plan is required to adjust to the changed environment.
- Outcome and impact have been a specific focus area in the work programming, but the efforts need to be continued and incorporated further into activities and processes including indicator setting. While further progress in setting priorities, including negative priorities, have been made, the change management and impact on staff, in particular working on negative priorities, needs continuous attention.

- The on-boarding of new tasks has taken leaps forward. While the prioritisation and work-resource planning can still pose challenges, the cooperation with the Commission has been constructive.
- The priority setting could still benefit from a more efficient, structured approach, also to increase the needed buy-in of middle management.

Risk management

- Sound, well-structured and integrated corporate risk management exercise.
- More frequent discussions and follow-up with the Management Board subgroup in charge has been appreciated.
- Further integration to the day-to-day management and engagement of the Management Board to strengthen the strategic viewpoint are areas identified for improvement.

Operations and operational structure

Activity management

- Progress in the regulatory work through the implementation of the Integrated Regulatory Strategy and joint definition of priorities and cross-directorates coordination of progress.
- The implementation of the One-ECHA culture is progressing and the re-allocation of the managers has increased the collaboration.
- Continuous review and focus are needed, also in maintaining the element of 'team spirit'.

Information and data management

- Development of the new data strategy continued and is planned to be finalised in mid-2021 – further steps taken to make the data more accessible to users.
- The breakout of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, put an enormous pressure on the IT systems, as the Agency had to revert to full scale teleworking in a matter of days.
- Synergies within ECHA's own legislation, while re-using existing IT platforms for new tasks, resulted in economies of scale.
- Increase in different types of IT security threats requires intensified efforts and focus from the IT directorate and from all staff.

Change management

- Scenario planning exercise by the Senior Management, in view of the developments at EU and political level, including the EU's Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability towards a toxic-free environment and adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027.
- Flexibility and adaptability demonstrated by the swift and successful move to remote working arrangements following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Evaluation and improvement

Performance management

- Overall, the Agency runs a solid performance management system, however, better visibility on the impact generated by ECHA, with corresponding indicators is an area for improvement.
- Further streamlining and digitisation of workflows and implementation of process simplifications.
- Good progress in handling non-conformities.

Assessments, audits and evaluations

- Right expertise of ECHA staff members in the area of evaluation, internal control, quality and audit. The task distribution of the Quality Manager needs to be clarified.
- Appropriate level of audits that are well integrated in the way of working – further integration and synergies, also considering business continuity aspects, could be sought.

Specific efforts to improve the efficiency and economy of financial and operational activities

Continual improvement, including for efficiency, is embedded in ECHA's Integrated Management System Strategy. During 2020, ECHA continued to implement its commitments, particularly on flexibility, risk tolerance and simplicity through reduced bureaucracy, and efficiently executing its activities.

Both the Integrated Regulatory Strategy and the grouping approach intend to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of ECHA's work by focusing our efforts on chemicals with properties that may cause long-term effects on human health and the environment and to ensure that all available information is used effectively when progressing similar substances.

The streamlining of the organisational design continued and efficiency gains have been achieved by investing in automation and improving workflows, while supporting the introduction of additional pieces of legislation. Efficiency gains have also been delivered through re-engineering and automation of operational and support processes. Almost all workflows have been entirely digitalised and many have been transformed to self-service, with workflows and controls built into the digital flow.

Concrete achievements in 2020 include finalising the adaptation of the tools for financial workflows allowing electronic circulation, approval and storage of files. In parallel, the development of tools to facilitate financial planning continued. The available corporate level reports for planning and monitoring resources, particularly for HR, were also further improved reducing the need for manual processing.

Following improvement proposals from staff, several process simplifications were implemented, including the introduction of a new simplified way for handling the Declarations of Interest and commitment, increasing the efficiency for both ECHA's committee members and the Agency. Finally, the introduction of new collaboration tools has increased the efficiency overall, as well as facilitated the remote working during the pandemic.

Review of the elements supporting assurance - assessment by management

The Authorising Officer performed an assessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of the internal control system, acknowledging that the system, based on ECHA's Integrated Management Strategy and Framework, is functioning well.

The assessment considered a broad range of input[73] and will feed into the Management Review 2021, where senior management of the Agency gets together to reflect on the strengths, weaknesses, risks and opportunities of the management system.

Based on this retrospective assessment, the Senior Management agrees on the priorities and actions to take in 2021.

No significant weaknesses that may have a potential impact on the declaration of assurance of the Authorising Officer were identified and reported in any of the relevant parts as set out in the present report.

73 Surveys, interviews, reports, audit results, non-conformities, complaints, improvement proposals, risks, opportunities, and other sources of information.

Declaration of assurance by the Authorising Officer

I, the undersigned,

In my capacity as Authorising Officer,

Declare that the information contained in this report gives a true and fair view,

State that I have reasonable assurance that the resources assigned to the activities described in this report have been used for their intended purpose and in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, and that the control procedures put in place give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions,

This reasonable assurance is based on my own judgement and on the information at my disposal, such as the results of the self-assessment, ex post controls, the work of the Internal Audit Capability, the recommendations of the Internal Audit Service and the lessons learnt from the reports of the Court of Auditors[74] for years prior to the year of this declaration,

Confirm that I am not aware of anything not reported here which could harm the interests of the Agency.

Done at Helsinki, on 12 March 2021

e-signed

Bjorn HANSEN
Executive Director

74 With regard to the implementation of the European Union legislation and the fee regulations under the Agency's remit, this assurance has to be limited to the field of competences of the Agency. Since ECHA's mandate does not include controls or inspections at national level, it cannot be confirmed that only registered or authorised substances and products, for which a fee has been paid to the Agency, are circulating on the European Union market.

Statement of the managers in charge of risk management and internal control

We, the undersigned,

In our capacities as manager in charge of risk management and internal control, we declare that in accordance with ECHA's Internal Control Framework, we have reported our advice and recommendations on the overall state of internal control in the Agency to the Executive Director.

We hereby certify that the information provided in the present Annual Report and in its annexes is, to the best of our knowledge, accurate, reliable and complete.

Done at Helsinki, on 11 March 2021

e-signed

Shay O'MALLEY
Director of Resources

e-signed

Frank BÜCHLER
Head of Unit Governance, Strategy and Relations

APPENDICES

Appendix I – Actions, outputs and indicators

Table A. Actions and outputs

In its Work Programme 2020[75], the Agency established the actions and outputs for each of its activities. 210 actions have been carried out and all outputs have been achieved, except for 16 listed here:

1.6 Restrictions

Main actions and outputs specified in the Work Programme 2020	Achieved [Yes/No]	Additional information/ Explanation
Submit fit-for-purpose restriction proposals or restriction reports to address the identified concerns for (groups of) substances, as requested by the Commission, or for substances of very high concern used in articles, addressing the specific aspects of groups of substances where appropriate.	No	The submission of a restriction dossier on lead in shooting, hunting and fishing was delayed due to COVID and the delayed adoption of the lead in wetlands proposal. The dossier was submitted in January 2021. A restriction dossier on lead chromates has been prepared but awaits further clarification from the Commission related to the next steps in the lead in PVC restriction following the EP resolution. A proposal on several phosphate fire retardant substances[76] is being developed but suspended awaiting a study being carried out in the US under the NP programme. This is due to restart in 2021. A proposal is currently being prepared on Coal Tar Pitch High Temperature for its use in clay targets. The proposal will be submitted in mid-2021. A proposal on PFAS in Fire-Fighting Foams is also being developed for submission in 2021. A simplified proposal to restrict 2,4-dinitrotoluene in articles for consumers and professional workers has been prepared according to article 69(2) for submission in 2021. Investigation of several SVHC substances[77] on the authorisation list used in articles started, assessing whether a restriction is needed to control the risks. Outcomes to be submitted in 2021. As requested by the Commission, investigation reports on PAHs in consumer articles (entry 50) and lead in consumer articles (entry 63) published in order to advice the Commission in their reviews of these entries.
Support the Commission, stakeholders and enforcement authorities to clarify the existing restriction entries by developing public Q&As. [2020, 2021]	No	Several Q&As were developed to clarify the existing entries. Finalisation of the Q&As were postponed due to other priorities. Publication in 2021.

75 As part of the Programming Document 2020-2024 available at: https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13609/programming_document_2020-2023_en.pdf.
76 tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate (TCEP); tris(2-chloro-1-methylethyl) phosphate (TCPP); Reaction mass of tris(2-chloropropyl) phosphate and tris(2-chloro-1-methylethyl) phosphate and Phosphoric acid, bis(2-chloro-1-methylethyl) 2-chloropropyl ester and Phosphoric acid, 2-chloro-1-methylethyl bis(2-chloropropyl) ester (TCPP); Reaction products of phosphoryl trichloride and methyloxirane (TCPP); tris[2-chloro-1-(chloromethyl)ethyl] phosphate (TDCP).
77 Arsenic acid, 13 chromium VI compounds, trichloroethylene, coal tar pitch high temperature (other than in clay targets), 1,2-dichloroethane, technical MDA, glyme, 2,2'-dichloro-4,4'- methylenedianiline and 1-bromopropane.

Main actions and outputs specified in the Work Programme 2020	Achieved [Yes/No]	Additional information/ Explanation
By the end of 2020, ECHA will have developed and started to collect information on a number of indicators that would allow for an ex-post evaluation of the most relevant impacts of restrictions. The insights will help in improving the preparation of restriction proposals by ECHA and Member States and in making the restriction process more effective. [2020, 2021]	No	This action was postponed to 2021 and ECHA will look more holistically on indicators in 2021.

1.7 Classification and Labelling

Main actions and outputs specified in the Work Programme 2020	Achieved [Yes/No]	Additional information/ Explanation
Continue to develop and complement the CLH dossier submitter support package with a guidance document and a Workshop to help Member States in preparing fit-for-purpose dossiers in an efficient manner. [2020]	No	Due to COVID-19 pandemic the Workshop was postponed. To be revisited and organised in 2021.
Update the CLP guidance, to reflect changes in information requirements as well as updates to reflect revised practises in applying criteria and to ensure consistency in decision making; starting with the environmental sections (2020) and then the human health sections (2020/2021). [2020, 2021]	Partially – on-going	This is delayed to 2021 awaiting the outcome of the RAC discussions. However, the drafting of new text for the criteria guidance have begun.

1.8 Safe and sustainable use of chemicals

Main actions and outputs specified in the Work Programme 2020	Achieved [Yes/No]	Additional information/ Explanation
Support formulators to process efficiently incoming exposure scenario information into their mixture safety data sheets for their mixtures. [2019, 2020] [REACH Review Action 3	No	See above. Would have been carried out 2021 onwards as part of the development plan.
Support end users to process effectively supply chain information in order to safely use the substances on-site and when introducing substances into articles, and improve compliance with related OSH and environment legislation. [2020, 2021] [REACH Review Action 3]	No	See above. Would have been carried out 2021 onwards as part of the development plan.
Concerning substances in articles, ECHA will:		
Work further on the strategy to support a safer use of chemical substances in articles, including any specific questions arriving via the Commission in relation to the development and implementation of the Circular Economy policy [2020, 2021]	No	Not progressed due to limited resource and focus on RRA3 work (a prerequisite to this).
Concerning substitution, ECHA will:		

Main actions and outputs specified in the Work Programme 2020	Achieved [Yes/No]	Additional information/ Explanation
Further investigate how to facilitate access to REACH/CLP data relevant for substitution (e.g. information on alternatives from applications for authorisation and restrictions). [2020, 2021] [REACH Review Action 5]	No	Action not in the focus of the 2020-21 substitution action plan.
Facilitate access to and promote enhancement of financial and technical support for substitution. Based on the experience gained, continue, adapt or discontinue the facilitation. [2020, 2021] [REACH Review Action 5]	No	Action not in the focus of the 2020-21 substitution action plan.

1.9 Data management and disseminations

Main actions and outputs specified in the Work Programme 2020	Achieved [Yes/No]	Additional information/ Explanation
Dissemination		
Maintain and further develop the OECD Global Portal to Information on Chemical Substances (eChemPortal). Further automate the synchronisation with ECHA's dissemination website to increase efficiency. [2020]	No	Synchronisation between ECHA's dissemination website and eChemPortal was not maintained in 2020.

2. Biocides

Main actions and outputs specified in the Work Programme 2020	Achieved [Yes/No]	Additional information/ Explanation
Support the Member State competent authorities in the preparation of BPC opinions on the early review of already approved active substances following the adoption of the endocrine-disrupting criteria. Such opinions are foreseen to be requested by the Commission for at least three active substances. [2020, 2021]	No	The Commission requests have been delayed compared to the original forecast. The work will start in 2021.
Revision of BPR guidance Volume I to IV in line with the amendments to the Annexes II and III of the BPR. [2020, 2021]	No	The adoption of the amendment to the Annexes II and III of the BPR has been delayed compared to the original forecast. As a consequence, the revision of the guidance was also postponed to start in 2021.

3.2 Persistent organic pollutants

Main actions and outputs specified in the Work Programme 2020	Achieved [Yes/No]	Additional information/ Explanation
Definition, set-up and launch of a fit-for-purpose data reception, storage and reporting system on POPs implementation status in the EU. [2020, 2021]	Partially - ongoing	Due to ECHA wide priority setting for IT developments, regarding the Interact Portal, the implementation of the platform for submission of reports by MS has been postponed due to other ECHA priorities for IT development. A temporary work-around is available for receiving the reports.

4.4 Support to other legislation

Main actions and outputs specified in the Work Programme 2020	Achieved [Yes/No]	Additional information/ Explanation
[Support and technical advice to Commission services under and in anticipation of the revised Water Framework Directive. [2020]]	No	Based on the outcome of the fitness check, no further action was necessary in 2020

5.1 Forum

Main actions and outputs specified in the Work Programme 2020	Achieved [Yes/No]	Additional information/ Explanation
Start the pilot phase of the annual reporting of national enforcement activities to ECHA. [2020]. [REACH Review Action 13]	No	Template for annual report was delivered but Forum agreed to start delivery of national data as of 2021. This was then further postponed due to reprioritisation of resources in the Agency.

Table B. Indicators

1.1. Dossier preparation

Work Programme 2020 workload drivers and performance indicators	Type	Estimate	Actual
Effective working time for processing inquiries	Performance	0.5 person days/ inquiry	0.35 person days
Inquiries received and concluded	Output	3 000	4 680

1.2 Dossier submission

Work Programme 2020 workload drivers and performance indicators	Type	Estimate	Actual
Number of PPORD notifications	Input	340	394
Effective working time for processing a registration dossier (first submission)	Performance	0.60 – 0.65 person days	0.35 person days
Registration dossiers received (incl. updates)	Input	15 000	14 061
Registrations stopped for manual verification at technical completeness check	Input	6 000	5 885
Number of registrations failing first technical completeness check	Output	1 860	1 313
Share of registration dossiers over 100 tonnes in the database that has passed the enhanced technical completeness check	Outcome	50 %	47 %

1.3 Screening and prioritisation

Work Programme 2020 workload drivers and performance indicators	Type	Estimate	Actual
Share of dossier updates following the sector specific actions for metals and inorganics	Outcome	75 %	45 %

1.4 Evaluation

Work Programme 2020 workload drivers and performance indicators	Type	Estimate	Actual
Compliance checks concluded: draft decisions or no action[78]	Output	300	271
Final decisions on dossier evaluation (testing proposals and compliance checks) [79]	Output	300	354 TPE: 99 CCH: 255
Number of substances for which a conclusion was reached in the follow-up to dossier evaluation	Outcome	200	221
Substance evaluation final decisions issued	Output	20	18
Number of substances for which a conclusion was reached in substance evaluation	Outcome	20	30

1.5 Authorisation

Work Programme 2020 workload drivers and performance indicators	Type	Estimate	Actual
Number of new entries in the Candidate List	Output	15	6
Recommendation for inclusion of substances in the authorisation list	Output	-	0
Cumulative number of downstream user notifications of authorised uses of SVHCs	Outcome	3 000	1 709[80]
Number of RAC and SEAC opinions adopted on applications for authorisation (number of uses)	Output	80-100	96
Effective working time of ECHA staff per opinion	Performance	38-46 person days	28 person days
Applications for authorisation received (number of uses)	Input	50	57

1.6 Restrictions

Work Programme 2020 workload drivers and performance indicators	Type	Estimate	Actual
Number of RAC and SEAC opinions on restriction proposals	Output	8	7
Restriction proposals 69(1) or reports developed under Article 69(2)	Output	3	0

78 The estimate reflects the number of substances that will be checked for compliance. The overall number of dossiers concerned by that compliance check depends on the number of companies having registered jointly. It can vary significantly depending on whether the substance is a commodity or a specialty. Therefore, the estimate differs from the actual number.
79 This estimate reflects the number of substances for which a final evaluation decision has been taken under dossier evaluation.
80 The number is lower than the estimate as it was assumed that the Commission would have made its decisions on CTAC, ReachLaw and Hapoc applications in (mid) 2020. The decisions were issued in late December 2020 instead.

Work Programme 2020 workload drivers and performance indicators	Type	Estimate	Actual
Effective working time of ECHA staff per opinion (ECHA dossier)*	Performance	240-290 person days	275 person days
Effective working time of ECHA staff per opinion (Member State dossier)*	Performance	Approx. 200 person days	142 person days

* The effective working time per dossier depends greatly on the complexity of the dossier.

1.7 Classification and labelling

Work Programme 2020 workload drivers and performance indicators	Type	Estimate	Actual
Number of RAC opinions on proposals for harmonised classification and labelling	Output	60	50
Decisions made on requests to use alternative (Article 24)	Output	45	25
Effective working time for processing RAC opinions	Performance	45-55 person days	40.9
person days	Performance	Approx. 200 person days	142 person days
Proposals for harmonised classification and labelling	Input	80	42

1.9 Data management and dissemination

Work Programme 2020 workload drivers and performance indicators	Type	Estimate	Actual
Number of user page views for published information on chemicals	Outcome	47.0 M	47.2 M
Description and number of data requests	Outcome	Internal:60 External:30	Internal:77 External:47
Average time taken for publication (days)	Performance	4	3.5

2. Biocides

Work Programme 2020 workload drivers and performance indicators	Type	Estimate	Actual
Number of BPC opinions on active substances approval (under the Review Programme)	Output	30	15
Number of BPC opinions on the renewal of active substances approval	Output	1	1
Number of BPC opinions on endocrine-disrupting properties (ED) of active substances approval	Output	10	10

Work Programme 2020 workload drivers and performance indicators	Type	Estimate	Actual
Number of ECHA opinions on Article 75(1)(g) other than ED of active substances approval	Output	2	2
Number of ECHA opinions on Article 38	Output	2	0
Number of BPC opinions on early review of approved active substances	Output	1	0
Number of applications for Union authorisation for biocidal products (received, fee paid)	Input	12	5
Number of applications for same biocidal product Union authorisation (received, fee paid)	Input	3	2
Number of BPC opinions on Union authorisations for biocidal products	Output	30	9
IT tool releases (R4BP 3)	Output	2	5
Number of ECHA opinions on same biocidal product Union authorisations	Output	30	1
Number of ECHA opinions on administrative and minor changes of Union authorisations	Output	8	5
Number of BPC opinions on major changes of Union authorisations	Output	1	0
Support actions on identification of endocrine disrupting properties for active substances	Output	32	30
Other support actions on evaluation of Active substance approvals	Output	19	22
Support actions on evaluation of Union authorisation applications	Output	3	3
Early WG discussions	Output	45	17
Effective working time for processing BPC opinions	Performance	27 – 33 person days	34 person days

3.1 Prior Informed Consent (PIC)

Work Programme 2020 workload drivers and performance indicators	Type	Estimate	Actual
Scientific and technical support provided to the Commission, EU and non-EU DNAs	Output	3 500	3 450
Export notifications processed (validated, rejected, resubmissions)	Output	12 000	11 971

Work Programme 2020 workload drivers and performance indicators	Type	Estimate	Actual
Share of notifications validated/accepted by ECHA	Outcome	90 %	92 %
Effective working time for processing export notifications sent by email	Performance	8.5 min.	8.5 min.

4.1 EU Observatory for Nanomaterials

Work Programme 2020 workload drivers and performance indicators	Type	Estimate	Actual
Number of users viewing EUON information	Input	45 000	77 701

4.3 Support to occupational health legislation

Work Programme 2020 workload drivers and performance indicators	Type	Estimate	Actual
Number of OEL requests received under SLA	Output	2	2
Number of RAC opinions on OELs completed	Output	2	2

5.1 Forum

Work Programme 2020 workload drivers and performance indicators	Type	Estimate	Actual
Number of enforcement trainers trained by the Forum	Output	55/80[81]	189/469[82]

5.3 Management

Work Programme 2020 workload drivers and performance indicators	Type	Estimate	Actual
Areas where audits and evaluations results (including prevention of conflicts of interest and fraud) have been taken into account in future strategic decisions	Intermediate impact	4	4
Reputational survey - ECHA's activities overall	Outcome	Increasing positive trend	97 % (2019: 98 %)
Website unique visitors/traffic to the web content	Outcome	3.8 million	6.48 million

5.5 Financial resources

Work Programme 2020 workload drivers and performance indicators	Type	Estimate	Actual
Level of budget implementation: commitment rate and cancelled carry-over rate	Performance	Min. 95 %, max. 5 %, respectively	98 %, 3 % respectively
Processing of payments within legal deadlines	Performance	No less than 99 %	100 %

5.6 Human resources

Work Programme 2020 workload drivers and performance indicators	Type	Estimate	Actual
Percentage of Establishment Plan posts filled	Performance	98 %	98 %

81 55 is the estimate for REACH and CLP trainings and 80 the estimate for REACH, CLP and BPR trainings subject to budget availability.
82 189 trainers on REACH/CLP, 469 trainers on REACH/CLP/BPR (Due to COVID-19, training took place remotely with more participants than estimated).

Appendix II - Budget implementation reports and statistics on financial management

Budget overview

The initially budgeted total payment appropriations for the Agency's expenditure in 2020, as concluded by the Management Board in December 2019, amounted to EUR 116.4 million and the final total expenditure, concluded in the amending budget in September 2020, amounted to EUR 109.6 million. The primary reason for this amendment was the observed fee income decrease, compared to the initial budget estimates. In particular, the REACH fee income estimates were revised downwards by c. EUR 7 million, this reduction being entirely compensated through REACH expenditure savings, primarily relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving the REACH subsidy unchanged. Similarly, the BPR fee income estimates were revised downwards by c. EUR 1.1 million, with the reduction compensated by BPR expenditure savings, leaving also the BPR subsidy unchanged. Finally, the budget was increased by c. EUR 1.3 million relating to the Service Level Agreement concluded with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), leading to a net decrease of c. EUR 6.8 million in payment appropriations.

Revenue	Initial voted budget	Amending budgets	Final voted budged
Total revenue	116 370 181	(6 772 396)	109 597 785

Expenditure	Initial voted budget	Amending budgets	Final voted budged
Commitment appropriations	116 185 181	(6 823 023)	109 362 158
Payment appropriations	116 370 181	(6 772 396)	109 597 785

Revenue

The budget funding of ECHA in 2020 consisted of the following (amounts in EUR):

Description	Initial voted Budget 2020	Amending Budgets 2020	Final Voted Budget 2020	Entitlements established 2020	Revenue received 2020
Fees and charges from Registrations & Updates	32 000 000	(7 415 983)	24 584 017	25 575 595	25 575 595
Fees and charges from Authorisations	2 500 000	459 690	2 959 690	2 996 059	2 996 059
Fees SME Administration	1 000 000	-	1 000 000	1 053 334	1 053 334
Fees and charges from CLP	200 000	(39 312)	160 688	73 200	73 200
Fees and charges from Appeals	-	14 350	14 350	45 441	45 441
Total REACH Fees & Charges Income	**35 700 000**	**(6 981 255)**	**28 718 745**	**29 743 629**	**29 743 629**
Fees relating to Biocidal Active Substances	870 000	(426 479)	443 521	377 000	377 000
Fees for Union Authorisation of Biocidal products	2 210 000	(762 513)	1 447 487	497 000	497 000
Miscellaneous fees	1 470 000	83 515	1 553 515	1 672 575	1 672 575
Fees and charges from Appeals	-	2 500	2 500	2 500	2 500
Total BPR Fee & Charges Income	**4 550 000**	**(1 102 977)**	**3 447 023**	**2 549 075**	**2 549 075**
REACH subsidy	61 879 520	-	61 879 520	61 879 520	61 879 520

Description	Initial voted Budget 2020	Amending Budgets 2020	Final Voted Budget 2020	Entitlements established 2020	Revenue received 2020
BPR subsidy	7 008 000	-	7 008 000	7 008 000	7 008 000
PIC/POPs/WFD subsidy	3 057 000	-	3 057 000	3 057 000	3 057 000
EFTA Contribution - REACH	1 441 278	-	1 441 278	1 441 278	1 441 278
EFTA Contribution - BPR	157 552	-	157 552	157 552	157 552
Confederation of Switzerland Contribution - BPR	245 831	6 331	252 162	252 162	252 162
Total EU Contributions	**73 789 181**	**6 331**	**73 795 512**	**73 795 512**	**73 795 512**
Contribution Agreement EUON	892 000	-	892 000	827 700	827 700
Contribution Agreement EUCLEF	1 199 000	-	1 199 000	1 139 050	1 139 050
Contribution Agreement IPA	-	-	-	335 000	335 000
Contribution Agreement OELs	240 000	-	240 000	240 000	240 000
SLA with EFSA	-	1 305 505	1 305 505	1 305 505	1 305 505
Total Contribution Agreements and SLAs	**2 331 000**	**1 305 505**	**3 636 505**	**3 847 255**	**3 847 255**
Total Other income - miscellaneous	**-**	**-**	**-**	**235 616**	**284 491**
Total	**116 370 181**	**(6 772 396)**	**109 597 785**	**109 597 785**	**110 219 962**

REACH/CLP Revenue

A) REACH/CLP fees and charges

In accordance with the REACH Regulation (No 1907/2006), ECHA is financed through fees paid by industry and by an EU balancing subsidy. The fees and charges collected by ECHA are determined by the REACH Fee Regulation and by the decisions of the Management Board.

Due to the one-off nature of REACH fees and their dependence on strategic decisions of the chemical industry players, there is high uncertainty as to their amount and timing.

The budgetary revenue from REACH fees and charges in 2020, in terms of cash received, amounted to EUR 29.69 million (EUR 34.69 million in 2019). In addition, EUR 0.05 million (EUR 0.05 million also in 2019) was recorded in relation to REACH appeal fees[83] giving a total of fees and charges of EUR 29.74 million (EUR 34.74 million in 2019).

During 2020, ECHA cashed in a total of 7 102 invoices related to REACH registrations and update fees, compared to 8 456 invoices in 2019. This translates into EUR 25.6 million REACH Registrations and Updates income for 2020, while the corresponding amount collected in 2019 was EUR 28.4 million (in the final registration deadline year of 2018, EUR 79.1 million was collected). This declining trend highlights the new era for the REACH registration fee income, as no further registration deadlines are defined in the REACH legislation that would generate peaks in the fee income.

In 2020, the Agency received payments for 55 applications for REACH authorisation (88 in 2019). The total REACH authorisation income collected in 2020 amounts to EUR 3.0 million (EUR 5.05 million in 2019). The Agency received payments for 20 applications under the CLP Regulation (68 in 2019). The total receipts under CLP for 2020 amount to EUR 0.07 million (EUR 0.22 million in 2019).

The additional registration fee income generated through the SME size verification process (included in the REACH registrations and updates income) in 2020 amounted to EUR 1.37 million (EUR 0.70 million in 2019). The increase compared to 2019 mainly relates to an effective SME campaign that invited companies to self-declare their correct company size before ECHA's verification starts, waiving any administrative charge that

83 Income from appeal fees is recognised by ECHA only when a case has been decided and the Board of Appeal rules that the fee should not be refunded to the applicant.

would otherwise result from a previous wrong size declaration. A total of 504 enterprises were verified for their company size in 2020 (333 in 2020). On top of the additional registration fees, the Agency generated EUR 1.05 million in administrative charges (EUR 1.01 million in 2019) levied on companies who were not eligible for the already received rebates.

B) REACH/CLP contributions from the General Budget of the EU:

During 2020, the Agency received an EU balancing subsidy for REACH/CLP of EUR 61.88 million (EUR 58.35 million in 2019) and a European Free Trade Association (EFTA) contribution of EUR 1.44 million (EUR 1.41 million in 2019).

BPR Revenue

A) BPR fees and charges

In accordance with the Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR, No 528/2012), ECHA is financed through fees paid by industry and a balancing EU subsidy. The biocide fees and charges collected by ECHA are determined by the Biocidal Products Regulation, the Fees and Charges Regulation and by the decisions of the Management Board. The budgetary revenue from biocidal product fees and charges for 2020, in terms of cash received, amounted to EUR 2.55 million (EUR 9.64 million in 2019). The significant reduction in BPR fee income, compared to the prior year, is directly related to the significantly lower number of Union Authorisation applications for Biocidal products, received in 2020.

B) BPR contributions from the General Budget of the EU

During 2020, the Agency received an EU balancing subsidy of EUR 7.00 million (EUR 2.98 million in 2019) and an EFTA contribution of EUR 0.16 million (EUR 0.10 million in 2019). In addition, the Agency received a contribution from the Confederation of Switzerland of EUR 0.25 million (EUR 0.11 million in 2019).

PIC, POPs and WFD Revenue

In accordance with the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Regulation (No 649/2012), Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulation (No 2019/2021) and Waste Framework Directive (WFD) (EU) 2018/851 amending Directive 2008/98/EC, ECHA is fully financed by an EU subsidy for these activities. In 2020, the EU contribution amounted to EUR 1.15 million for PIC, EUR 0.26 million for POPs and EUR 1.64 million for WFD, totalling EUR 3.06 million (EUR 1.56 million in 2019 for PIC and POPs).

Contribution and Service Level Agreements

The Agency has signed contribution agreements with the European Commission to implement the European Union Observatory for Nanomaterials (EUON) and the European Union Chemicals Legislation Finder (EUCLEF), as well as for work with respect to the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). ECHA has also signed a Service Level Agreement with the European Commission to provide opinions for occupational exposure limits (OELs). Additionally, the Agency signed a Service Level Agreement with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) for developing IUCLID software for plant protection products. In 2020, ECHA received an amount of EUR 3.85 million in aggregate for these tasks (EUR 3.17 million in 2019).

Other miscellaneous income

The table below shows other miscellaneous income received by the Agency in 2020 (amounts in EUR).

Description	Entitlements established 2020	Revenue received 2020
Legal recoveries	9 995	58 871
Refund of cancelled flights due to COVID	36 537	36 537

Description	Entitlements established 2020	Revenue received 2020
Late interest income	9 879	9 879
Recovery of new building change requests	126 641	126 641
Recoveries from other EU agencies	36 936	36 936
Other cost recoveries	15 628	15 628
Miscellaneous income	**235 616**	**284 491**

Fee Invoicing

ECHA uses a separate system for invoicing the fees records the invoices raised and the payments received in the central accounting system on a monthly basis.

A) REACH Fees and Charges

The total net invoiced by the Agency in 2020 amounted to EUR 28.64 million (EUR 35.53 million in 2019). The table below depicts the breakdown of the net invoiced REACH fees during the year.

REACH	2020		2019	
Description	**No of Transactions**	**EUR**	**No of Transactions**	**EUR**
Invoices issued	7 383	31 360 367	8 969	37 795 088
Credit Notes	257	(1 857 253)	227	(1 579 220)
Unpaid	154	(867 424)	167	(681 689)
Considered paid	18	(274)	38	(2 622)
Write offs	-	-	-	-
Net Invoiced		28 635 416		**35 531 557**

On 31 December 2020, the amount to be recovered for REACH fees and charges, before any year-end Accounting adjustments, stood at EUR 3.28 million relating to 552 open invoices (On 31 December 2019, the amount to be recovered for REACH fees and charges, before any year end Accounting adjustment, stood at EUR 4.34 million relating to 571 open invoices).

B) Biocidal Products Fees and Charges

The total net invoiced by the Agency in 2020 amounted to EUR 2.60 million (EUR 9.14 million in 2019). The table below depicts the breakdown of the net invoiced BPR fees during the year.

BPR	2020		2019	
Description	**No of Transactions**	**EUR**	**No of Transactions**	**EUR**
Invoices issued	1 126	3 350 000	1 085	9 904 600
Credit Notes	67	(518 800)	66	(635 300)
Unpaid	23	(230 500)	66	(127 900)
Considered paid	2	(25)	4	(752)
Net Invoiced		2 600 675		**9 140 648**

On 31 December 2020, the amount to be recovered for Biocidal product fees and charges before any year end Accounting adjustments, stood at EUR 0.01 million relating to 38 open invoices (On 31 December 2019, the

amount to be recovered for BPR fees and charges, before any year end Accounting adjustment, stood at EUR 0.05 million relating to 72 open invoices).

Expenditure

ECHA's expenditure budget consists of commitment appropriations (CA) and payment appropriations (PA). The initial CAs totalled EUR 116.2 million and the initial PAs totalled EUR 116.4 million, while the figure concluded in the final budget is EUR 109.4 million for CAs and EUR 109.6 million for PAs. These commitment and payment appropriations consist of C1 and R0 funds.

Budget expenditure includes payments made during the year and the carry-over of budgetary appropriations. The following paragraphs and the tables provided in the Statistics on Financial Management and Budget (Expenditure) summarise the execution of appropriations per title and a more detailed breakdown is provided in Appendix I as well.

Changes and implementation of the of the commitment appropriations for the current year (C1)

The initially adopted budget for the Agency in 2020 was EUR 113.9 million and the overall decrease during the year, including 10 transfers and one amending budget, was EUR 8.1 million, to arrive at EUR 105.7 million as the final budget.

The main reason for the reduction in the budget was that already in the middle of the year it became apparent that the fee income is not developing as planned and thus the Agency was required to find savings in order to balance the budget. Most of the savings were possible as a direct consequence of COVID-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions along with the limited presence of staff at ECHA building.

The final executed amount totalled EUR 104.1 million corresponding to an execution rate of 98.5 % for the appropriations.

Carry over of appropriations to 2021

The commitments and payment appropriations carried over to 2021 totals EUR 12.9 million, corresponding to 12 % of the committed amount.

The carry-over of staff related expenditure budgeted, in Title 1, was insignificant and mainly relates to the commitments for trainings and interim services.

In Title 2, covering the Agency's infrastructure, the carry over totalled EUR 2.4 million, stemming mainly from commitments related to ECHA's IT services.

The operational expenditure required to implement the Work Programme for the different regulations is budgeted in Title 3 for REACH and CLP, in Title 4 for Biocides and in Title 5 for PIC, POPs and Waste Framework Directive (SCIP). The carry over in operational titles totalled EUR 10.1 million and is mostly related to IT projects.

The high level of carry overs stems from the contracting cycle caused largely by the uncertainty in the fee income. In the past years, ECHA has had to wait late in the year before signing the contracts to make sure sufficient funds will be available, and at the same time, has had to sometimes frontload certain projects when the income has exceeded the estimates. This had led to a situation where, during the first part of the year, the focus has been on implementing the projects carried over and new projects are only commenced during the second half and sometimes even during the last quarter of the year.

Implementation of the appropriations carried over from previous year (C8)

The amount carried over from 2019 totalled EUR 14.2 million and the finally executed amount was EUR 13.8 million, corresponding to 97 %. The cancelled 3 % relates mostly to IT projects in Titles 2, 3 and 4, lower than anticipated costs for legal services related to collection of administrative charges and higher than anticipated utility costs.

Late interest payments

During 2020, ECHA did not pay late interest for commercial invoices.

Procurement procedures

In 2020, in implementing its budget, ECHA signed 456 contracts and purchase orders. The Agency also issued 49 catering orders and 80 travel orders through the electronic ordering tools of the relevant framework contracts (FWC), which represents a significant drop with regard to previous years due to the nature of the services during the COVID-19 crisis.

Out of the 456 signed contracts, 361 were specific contracts and orders under FWC, 83 were contracts resulting from tendering procedures, and the Agency signed as well 12 Service Level Agreements (SLA) with other EU institutions and bodies.

Out of the 83 contracts following procurement, ECHA concluded 7 new FWCs for IT (2), scientific services, interims, staff selection, publications, and travel agency services, and joined 8 inter-institutional FWCs mostly for HR and learning development matters. A total of 17 contracts were signed following negotiated procedures without prior publication based on the relevant rules of the Financial Regulation (Annexes 1–11.1), eleven of which refer to legal services; three for technical reasons to purchase furniture, for the service contract to implement ECHA's contribution to the SWACHE project in cooperation with OECD, and for a subscription to a scientific database. The remaining three concerned the increase of the ceiling of FWCs, as announced in the related procurement procedures.

In 2020, the performance of the suppliers of the Agency was satisfactory overall and in accordance with the terms of the contracts, with no relevant exceptions. To note that the COVID-19 pandemic led to amendments to some contracts (IT, security, printing, training, etc.) to adapt the service delivery and related payment to the actual needs of the Agency under the circumstances; for instance, decreasing on-site presence or reducing the amount of resources or volume of service to be provided by the contractor.

Green procurement continued to be a priority and an integral part of the Agency's management system. Specific environmental requirements, such as ecolabels and environmental certificates were required in FWCs of the Agency that were under implementation in 2020 for catering, cleaning, furniture supply, removal and IT equipment.

The annual list of contractors is published by ECHA by 30 June of each year for the previous year to ECHA website[84].

Acts of delegation and sub delegation

For the purposes of the budget implementation, and in line with Article 41(1) of ECHA's Financial Regulation, the Executive Director as the Authorising Officer of the Agency has delegated financial powers to the directors for the budget lines they are responsible for in line with their activities.

In accordance with Article 41(2), the directors have further sub-delegated financial powers to the heads of unit of their directorates.

For efficiency reasons, the Executive Director has also delegated financial powers to authorise payments below EUR 6 000 to staff in the Finance Unit.

84 https://echa.europa.eu/view-article/-/journal_content/title/annual-list-of-awarded-contracts

Statistics on Financial Management and Budget (Expenditure)

Budget 2020: Breakdown and changes in commitment appropriations and implementation of the appropriations for the current year (C1) per Title* (EUR)

Title	Description	Budget 2020 (1)	Transfers / amendments (2)	Final Available Commitment Appropriations (3)	Executed Commitment Amount (4)	% Committed (4)/(3)	Final Available Payment Appropriations (5)	Executed Payment Amount (6)	% Paid (6)/(5)	Carried over RAL (C8) (7)	Carried over % (7)/(4)	Cancelled (3)-(4)
A-1	STAFF	76 060 753	-2 165 747	73 895 006	73 013 484	98.8%	73 895 006	72 690 888	98.4%	322 596	0.4%	881 522
A-2	BUILDING. EQUIPMENT AND MISCELL. OPER EXPEND	15 052 950	-1 456 434	13 596 516	13 288 897	97.7%	13 596 516	10 898 522	80.2%	2 390 375	18.0%	307 619
B0-3	OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE - REACH/CLP	18 805 000	-4 029 695	14 775 305	14 485 889	98.0%	15 010 932	7 839 185	52.2%	6 910 470	47.7%	289 416
B0-4	OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE - BIOCIDES	2 040 250	-604 038	1 436 212	1 321 733	92.0%	1 436 212	698 540	48.6%	623 194	47.1%	114 479
B0-5	OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE - ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTIVES AND INTER- NATIONAL CONVENTIONS	1 895 228	127 386	2 022 614	2 013 652	99.6%	2 022 614	632 385	31.3%	1 381 268	68.6%	8 962
		113 854 181	**-8 128 528**	**105 725 653**	**104 123 655**	**98.5%**	**105 961 280**	**92 759 519**	**87.5%**	**11 627 902**	**11.2%**	**1 601 998**

** Note: As ECHA operates with both differentiated (multi-annual) and non-differentiated (annual) budget lines, the funds reserved for commitments (commitment appropriations) do not equal the funds reserved for payments (payment appropriations).The results for the administrative titles 1 and 2 are combined for all three regulations.*

Budget 2020: Breakdown and changes in commitment appropriations and implementation of the appropriations for the current year (C1) per Regulation and Title (EUR)

REACH/CLP

Title	Description	Budget 2020 (1)	Transfers / amendments (2)	Final Available Commitment Appropriations (3)	Executed Commitment Amount (4)	% Committed (4)/(3)	Final Available Payment Appropriations (5)	Executed Payment Amount (6)	% Paid (6)/(5)	Carried over RAL (C8) (7)	Carried over % (7)/(4)	Cancelled (3)-(4)
A-1	STAFF	66928019	-1733917	65194102	64509578	99.0%	65194102	64232074	98.5%	277503	0.4%	684524
A-2	BUILDING. EQUIPMENT AND MISCELL. OPER EXPEND	13102779	-1268270	11834509	11567261	97.7%	11834509	9485979	80.2%	2081281	18.0%	267248
B0-3	OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE - REACH/CLP	18805000	-4029695	14775305	14485889	98.0%	15010932	7839185	52.2%	6910470	47.7%	289416
		98 835 798	**-7 031 882**	**91 803 916**	**90 562 727**	**98.6%**	**92 039 543**	**81 557 238**	**88.6%**	**9 269 255**	**10.2%**	**1 241 189**

BIOCIDES

Title	Description	Budget 2020 (1)	Transfers / amendments (2)	Final Available Commitment Appropriations (3)	Executed Commitment Amount (4)	% Committed (4)/(3)	Final Available Payment Appropriations (5)	Executed Payment Amount (6)	% Paid (6)/(5)	Carried over RAL (C8) (7)	Carried over % (7)/(4)	Cancelled (3)-(4)
A-1	STAFF	8 210 883	-327 539	7 883 344	7 693 871	97.6%	7 883 344	7 663 587	97.2%	30 283	0.4%	189 473
A-2	BUILDING. EQUIPMENT AND MISCELL. OPER EXPEND	1 710 250	-165 069	1 545 181	1 509 258	97.7%	1 545 181	1 238 209	80.1%	271 049	18.0%	35 922
B0-4	OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE - BIOCIDES	2 040 250	-604 038	1 436 212	1 321 733	92.0%	1 436 212	698 540	48.6%	623 194	47.1%	114 479
		11 961 383	**-1 096 646**	**10 864 737**	**10 524 862**	**96.9%**	**10 864 737**	**9 600 336**	**88.4%**	**924 526**	**8.8%**	**339 874**

ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTIVES AND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Title	Description	Budget 2020	Transfers / amendments (2)	Final Available Commitment Appropriations (3)	Executed Commitment Amount (4)	% Committed (4)/(3)	Final Available Payment Appropriations (5)	Executed Payment Amount (6)	% Paid (6)/(5)	Carried over RAL (C8) (7)	Carried over % (7)/(4)	Cancelled (3)-(4)
A-1	STAFF	921 851	-104 291	817 560	810 036	99.1%	817 560	795 227	97.3%	14 809	1.8%	7 524
A-2	BUILDING. EQUIPMENT AND MISCELL. OPER EXPEND	239 921	-23 095	216 826	212 377	97.9%	216 826	174 333	80.4%	38 044	17.9%	4 449
B0-5	OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE - ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTIVES AND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS	1 895 228	127 386	2 022 614	2 013 652	99.6%	2 022 614	632 385	31.3%	1 381 268	68.6%	8 962
		3 057 000	0	3 057 000	3 036 065	99.3%	3 057 000	1 601 944	52.4%	1 434 121	47.2%	20 935

Budget 2020: Breakdown and changes in commitment appropriations and implementation of the appropriations for the year (C1) per Chapter (EUR)

Chapter	Description	Budget 2020 (1)	Transfers / amendments (2)	Final Available Commitment Appropriations (3)	Executed Commitment Amount (4)	% Committed (4)/(3)	Final Available Payment Appropriations (5)	Executed Payment Amount (6)	% Paid (6)/(5)	Carried over RAL (C8) (7)	Carried over % (7)/(4)	Cancelled (3)-(4)
A-11	STAFF IN ACTIVE EMPLOYMENT	69 841 800	-1 925 136	67 916 664	67 309 484	99%	67 916 664	67 309 484	99%	0	0%	607 180
A-12	MISCELL EXPEND ON STAFF RECRUITMENT AND TRANSFER	681 514	158 002	839 516	794 534	95%	839 516	794 534	95%	0	0%	44 982
A-13	MISSIONS AND DUTY TRAVEL	41 401	-30 059	11 342	7 084	62%	11 342	7 084	62%	0	0%	4 258
A-14	SOCIO-MEDICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE	1 921 361	-162 439	1 758 922	1 723 113	98%	1 758 922	1 641 119	93%	81 994	5%	35 809

Chapter	Description	Budget 2020 (1)	Transfers / amendments (2)	Final Available Commitment Appropriations (3)	Executed Commitment Amount (4)	% Committed (4)/(3)	Final Available Payment Appropriations (5)	Executed Payment Amount (6)	% Paid (6)/(5)	Carried over RAL (C8) (7)	Carried over % (7)/(4)	Cancelled (3)-(4)
A-15	TRAINING	860 376	-416 065	444 311	358 621	81%	444 311	254 789	57%	103 832	29%	85 690
A-16	EXTERNAL SERVICES	2 714 301	209 950	2 924 251	2 820 648	96%	2 924 251	2 683 878	92%	136 770	5%	103 603
	Total	**76 060 753**	**-2 165 747**	**73 895 006**	**73 013 484**	**99%**	**73 895 006**	**72 690 888**	**98%**	**322 596**	**0%**	**881 522**

Chapter	Description	Budget 2020 (1)	Transfers / amendments (2)	Final Available Commitment Appropriations (3)	Executed Commitment Amount (4)	% Committed (4)/(3)	Final Available Payment Appropriations (5)	Executed Payment Amount (6)	% Paid (6)/(5)	Carried over RAL (C8) (7)	Carried over % (7)/(4)	Cancelled (3)-(4)
A-20	RENTAL OF BUILDINGS AND ASSOCIATED COSTS	7 885 745	-1 195 790	6 689 955	6 652 160	99%	6 689 955	6 628 912	99%	23 248	0%	37 795
A-21	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY	6 546 723	-334 050	6 212 673	6 012 422	97%	6 212 673	3 951 764	64%	2 060 658	34%	200 251
A-22	MOVABLE PROPERTY AND ASSOCIATED COSTS	364 401	-63 152	301 249	297 820	99%	301 249	198 577	66%	99 244	33%	3 429
A-23	CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE	242 081	145 836	387 917	323 283	83%	387 917	116 114	30%	207 169	64%	64 634
A-25	MEETINGS EXPENDITURE	14 000	-9 278	4 722	3 212	68%	4 722	3 156	67%	57	2%	1 510
	Total	**15 052 950**	**-1 456 434**	**13 596 516**	**13 288 897**	**98%**	**13 596 516**	**10 898 522**	**80%**	**2 390 375**	**18%**	**307 619**

Chapter	Description	Budget 2020 (1)	Transfers / amendments (2)	Final Available Commitment Appropriations (3)	Executed Commitment Amount (4)	% Committed (4)/(3)	Final Available Payment Appropriations (5)	Executed Payment Amount (6)	% Paid (6)/(5)	Carried over RAL (C8) (7)	Carried over % (7)/(4)	Cancelled (3)-(4)
B3-0	REACH	17 055 000	-3 828 465	13 226 535	12 966 292	98%	13 226 535	6 055 822	46%	6 910 470	53%	260 243
B3-1	Multiannual activities	950 000	-180 635	769 365	740 192	96%	1 112 001	1 110 976	100%	0	0%	29 173
B3-8	INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES	800 000	-20 595	779 405	779 405	100%	672 396	672 387	100%	0	0%	0
	Total	**18 805 000**	**-4 029 695**	**14 775 305**	**14 485 889**	**98%**	**15 010 932**	**7 839 185**	**52%**	**6 910 470**	**48%**	**289 416**

Chapter	Description	Budget 2020(1)	Transfers / amendments (2)	Final Available Commitment Appropriations (3)	Executed Commitment Amount (4)	% Committed (4)/(3)	Final Available Payment Appropriations (5)	Executed Payment Amount (6)	% Paid (6)/(5)	Carried over RAL (C8) (7)	Carried over % (7)/(4)	Cancelled (3)-(4)
B4-0	BIOCIDES	2 040 250	-604 038	1 436 212	1 321 733	92%	1 436 212	698 540	49%	623 194	47%	114 479
	Total	**2 040 250**	**-604 038**	**1 436 212**	**1 321 733**	**92%**	**1 436 212**	**698 540**	**49%**	**623 194**	**47%**	**114 479**

Chapter	Description	Budget 2020(1)	Transfers / amendments (2)	Final Available Commitment Appropriations (3)	Executed Commitment Amount (4)	% Committed (4)/(3)	Final Available Payment Appropriations (5)	Executed Payment Amount (6)	% Paid (6)/(5)	Carried over RAL (C8) (7)	Carried over % (7)/(4)	Cancelled (3)-(4)
B5-0	ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTIVES AND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS	1 895 228	127 386	2 022 614	2 013 652	100%	2 022 614	632 385	31%	1 381 268	69%	8 962
	Total	**1 895 228**	**127 386**	**2 022 614**	**2 013 652**	**100%**	**2 022 614**	**632 385**	**31%**	**1 381 268**	**69%**	**8 962**

Total ECHA	Budget 2020 (1)	Transfers / amendments (2)	Final Available Commitment Appropriations (3)	Executed Commitment Amount (4)	% Committed (4)/(3)	Final Available Payment Appropriations (5)	Executed Payment Amount (6)	% Paid (6)/(5)	Carried over RAL (C8) (7)	Carried over % (7)/(4)	Cancelled (3)-(4)
	113 854 181	-8 128 528	105 725 653	104 123 655	98%	105 961 280	92 759 519	88%	11 627 902	11%	1 601 998

Budget 2020: Implementation of differentiated appropriations (EUR)

Budget line		Available commitment appropriations	Commitments made	%	Available payment appropriations	Payments made	%
B3-111	Substance evaluation and Rapporteurs (Multiannual)	2 086 435	2 003 819	96%	1 112 001	1 110 976	100%
B3-801	Cooperation with international organisations for IT programs	1 196 201	1 194 201	100%	672 396	672 387	100%
Total		**3 282 636**	**3 198 020**	**97%**	**1 784 397**	**1 783 362**	**100%**

Out of the total available commitment appropriations, EUR 1 733 866 was stemming from commitments made in earlier financial years. The available commitment appropriations for 2020 totalled EUR 1 521 770 out of which EUR 1 519 597 (100 %) were committed. The amount of commitments carried forward to 2021 totals EUR 706 089.

Budget 2020: Implementation of assigned revenue (C4, C5, R0) (EUR)

Title	Desciption	CD/CND	FS	Commitments Appropriations	Commitments Established	Com %	Payments Appropriations	Payments Executed	Pay %	Carried over commitment appropriations	Carried over payment appropriations
A-1	STAFF	CND	C4	45 541	14 184	31%	45 541	14 184	31%	31 357	31 357
A-2	BUILDING. EQUIPMENT AND MISCELL. OPER EXPEND	CND	C4	142 512	13 239	9%	142 512	13 239	9%	129 273	129 273
B0-3	OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE - REACH/CLP	CND	C4	85 756	0	0%	85 756	0	0%	85 756	85 756
B0-4	OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE - BIOCIDES	CND	C4	7 909	0	0%	7 909	0	0%	7 909	7 909
			C4	**281 719**	**27 423**	**10%**	**281 719**	**27 423**	**10%**	**254 296**	**254 296**

Title	Desciption	CD/CND	FS	Commitments Appropriations	Commitments Established	Com %	Payments Appropriations	Payments Executed	Pay %	Carried over commitment appropriations	Carried over payment appropriations
A-1	STAFF	CND	C5	51 530	51 222	99%	51 530	51 222	99%	0	0
A-2	BUILDING. EQUIPMENT AND MISCELL. OPER EXPEND	CND	C5	20 722	20 722	100%	20 722	20 722	100%	0	0
B0-3	OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE - REACH/CLP	CND	C5	66 852	66 760	100%	66 852	55 870	84%	0	10 890
B0-4	**OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE - BIOCIDES**	**CND**	**C5**	**18 776**	**18 776**	**100%**	**18 776**	**18 776**	**100%**	**0**	**0**
			C5	**157 879**	**157 479**	**100%**	**157 879**	**146 589**	**93%**	**0**	**10 890**

Title	Desciption	CD/CND	FS	Commitments Appropriations	Commitments Established	Com %	Payments Appropriations	Payments Executed	Pay %	Carried over commitment appropriations	Carried over payment appropriations
B6-000	IPA programme	CND	R0	739 778	499 013	64%	739 778	237 777	24%	240 765	502 002
B6-010	EUON	CND	R0	1 839 671	843 336	56%	1 839 671	588 810	39%	996 335	1 250 861
B6-011	EUCLEF	CND	R0	2 700 738	1 415 045	46%	2 700 738	1 011 851	26%	1 285 693	1 688 887
B6-020	Occupational exposure limits	CND	R0	373 992	304 601	83%	373 992	223 962	44%	69 391	150 029
B6-021	Further development of IUCLID (w/ third parties)	CND	R0	1 902 758	1 838 133	100%	1 902 758	1 262 367	24%	64 624	640 391
			R0	**7 556 937**	**4 900 128**	**65%**	**7 556 937**	**3 324 767**	**44%**	**2 656 809**	**4 232 170**

Budget 2020: Implementation of the appropriations carried forward from previous year (C8) Per Title (EUR)

Title	Description	Carried Forward from 2019	Paid	Cancelled	% cancelled
A-1	STAFF	342 537	324 900	17 637	5%
A-2	BUILDING. EQUIPMENT AND MISCELL. OPER EXPEND	4 532 869	4 414 594	118 275	3%
B0-3	OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE - REACH/CLP	6 324 726	6 161 210	163 517	3%
B0-4	OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE - BIOCIDES	2 574 706	2 515 161	59 545	2%
B0-5	OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE - ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTIVES AND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS	433 522	429 147	4 375	1%
		14 208 361	**13 845 011**	**363 349**	**3%**

Appendix III - Establishment plan and additional information on human resources management

Last establishment plan adopted

Category and grade	Establishment plan in voted EU Budget 2020				Posts filled 31 December 2020*			
	TA				TA			
	REACH/CLP	Biocides	PIC	TOTAL	REACH/CLP	Biocides	PIC	TOTAL
AD 15	0		0	0				0
AD 14	6		0	6	5	0	0	5
AD 13	15	1	0	16	7	0	0	7
AD 12	19	2	0	21	6	2	0	8
AD 11	30	2	0	32	21	1	0	22
AD 10	41	5	0	46	34	3	0	37
AD 9	56	10	0	66	45	3	0	48
AD 8	52	11	1	64	53	5	1	59
AD 7	53	6	0	59	71	15	0	86
AD 6	22	5	0	27	46	11	0	57
AD 5	16	1	0	17	15	1	0	16
Total AD	310	43	1	354	303	41	1	345
AST 11	0		0	0				0
AST 10	0		0	0				0
AST 9	4		0	4				0
AST 8	8		0	8	4	0	0	4
AST 7	10	1	2	13	6	0	0	6
AST 6	20	1	0	21	14	0	0	14
AST 5	19	3	1	23	23	2	1	26
AST 4	21	3	2	26	17	4	0	21
AST 3	11	1	1	13	9	0	3	12
AST 2	1		0	1	18	3	2	23
AST 1	0		0	0				0
Total AST	94	9	6	109	91	9	6	106
AST/SC 6				0				0
AST/SC 5				0				0
AST/SC 4				0				0
AST/SC 3				0				0
AST/SC 2				0				0
AST/SC 1				0				0
TOTAL AD+AST	**404**	**52**	**7**	**463**	**394**	**50**	**7**	**451**

	CAestimated need of FTEs 2020					CA posts filled 31 December 2020*				
	REACH/ CLP	Biocides	PIC	Other tasks	TOTAL	REACH/ CLP	Biocides	PIC	Other tasks	TOTAL
CA FG IV	20	7	2	10	39	25	5	1	8	39
CA FG III	64	6		1	71	52	4		2	58
CA FG II	18	2			20	26	5	1	1	33
CA FG I					0					0
TOTAL CAs in place						**103**	**14**	**2**	**11**	**130**
Total CA (FTE)	**102**	**15**	**2**	**11**	**130**	**101.1**	**12.8**	**1.4**	**7.2**	**122.5**

* Under recruitment: REACH: 9 TAs, 2 CAs. Other tasks: 2 CAs

Percentage of posts filled on 31 December 2020

	REACH/CLP/PIC	Biocides
TA posts	98%	96%
CA posts	99%	85%

Geographical and gender balance (as per 31 December 2020)

		TA			CA			OVERALL	
Nationality		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Sum	%
FI	Finnish	59	87	146	12	23	35	181	31.8%
IT	Italian	21	20	41	6	5	11	52	9.1%
DE	German	22	11	33	3	0	3	36	6.3%
FR	French	19	15	34	2	5	7	41	7.2%
UK	British	5	2	7	1	0	1	8	1.4%
ES	Spanish	12	9	21	6	7	13	34	6.0%
GR	Greek	15	6	21	5	6	11	32	5.6%
BE	Belgian	9	8	17	2	0	2	19	3.3%
PL	Polish	5	9	14	1	3	4	18	3.2%
RO	Romanian	1	4	5	3	7	10	15	2.6%
IE	Irish	11	3	14	0	2	2	16	2.8%
BG	Bulgarian	0	8	8	3	4	7	15	2.6%
PT	Portuguese	5	5	10	0	4	4	14	2.5%
SE	Swedish	3	4	7	1	0	1	8	1.4%
NL	Dutch	14	4	18	1	1	2	20	3.5%
HU	Hungarian	2	6	8	0	3	3	11	1.9%
LT	Lithuanian	1	5	6	0	0	0	6	1.1%
EE	Estonian	0	6	6	1	1	2	8	1.4%
SK	Slovakian	1	2	3	0	1	1	4	0.7%

		TA			CA			OVERALL	
Nationality		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Sum	%
SI	Slovenian	3	3	6	1	0	1	7	1.2%
CZ	Czech	0	2	2	1	0	1	3	0.5%
LV	Latvian	1	3	4	1	1	2	6	1.1%
AT	Austrian	2	3	5	0	1	1	6	1.1%
DK	Danish	2	1	3	0	0	0	3	0.5%
MT	Maltese	0	3	3	0	0	0	3	0.5%
IS	Iceland	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.2%
CY	Cypriot	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0.2%
LU	Luxembourger	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
NO	Norwegian	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0.2%
LI	Liechtenstein	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.2%
HR	Croatian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Other	**Other**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0.0%**
	TOTAL	215	229	444	51	75	126	570	100.0%

Middle and senior management – gender and nationality overview

NATIONALITY		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	%
FI	Finnish	5	4	9	29.0%
FR	French	2	1	3	9.7%
BE	Belgian	2	0	2	6.5%
NL	Dutch	4	0	4	12.9%
UK	British	1	1	2	6.5%
IT	Italian	2	0	2	6.5%
ES	Spanish	0	1	1	3.2%
DE	German	1	0	1	3.2%
AT	Austrian	0	0	0	0.0%
IE	Irish	2	0	2	6.5%
SI	Slovenian	1	0	1	3.2%
BG	Bulgarian	0	0	0	0.0%
CY	Cyprian	0	0	0	0.0%
CZ	Czech	0	0	0	0.0%
DK	Danish	1	0	1	3.2%
EE	Estonian	0	0	0	0.0%
GR	Greek	0	0	0	0.0%
HU	Hungarian	0	0	0	0.0%
LV	Latvian	0	0	0	0.0%
LT	Lithuanian	0	0	0	0.0%
LU	Luxembourger	0	0	0	0.0%
MT	Maltese	0	0	0	0.0%

NATIONALITY		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	%
PL	Polish	0	0	0	0.0%
PT	Portuguese	1	0	1	3.2%
RO	Romanian	0	1	1	3.2%
SK	Slovakian	0	0	0	0.0%
SI	Slovanian	1	0	1	3.2%
Total	**OVERALL**	**23**	**8**	**31**	**100.0%**

Results of the screening / benchmarking exercise

Key functions	Type of contract (official, TA or CA)	Function group, grade of recruitment (or bottom of the brackets if published in brackets)	Indication whether the function is dedicated to administrative support or operations [subject to definitions used in screening methodology]
Core functions			
Executive Director	TA - 5 + 5 years	AD 14	Management-Operations
Deputy Executive Director	TA - 5 + 5 years + indefinite	AD 14	Management-Operations
Director (Head of Directorate) (Level 2)	TA - 5 + 5 years + indefinite	AD 13	Management-Operations
Head of Unit (Level 3)	TA - 5 + 5 years + indefinite	AD 9	Operations/ Administration
Administrator	TA - 5 + 5 years + indefinite	AD 5 and higher depending on profile	Operations/Administration
Administration			
Head of Administration (Head of Directorate) (Level 2)	TA – 5+5 years + indefinite	AD 13	Management-Administration
Head of Human Resources (Level 3)	TA - 5 + 5 years + indefinite	AD 10	Administration
Head of Finance (Level 3)	TA - 5 + 5 years + indefinite	AD 11	Administration
Head of Communications (Level 3)	TA - 5 + 5 years + indefinite	AD 9	Administration
Head of IT (Level 3)	TA – 5 + 5 years + indefinite	AD 9	Administration
Assistant	TA - 5 + 5 years + indefinite	AST 1 and higher depending on profile, up to AST 4	Operations/Administration
Special functions			
ECHA Committee or Board of Appeal Chair	TA - 5 + 5 years + indefinite	AD 10	Operations
Data Protection Officer	TA - 5 + 5 years + indefinite	AD 6	Administration
Accounting Officer	TA - 5 + 5 years + indefinite	AD 8	Administration
Internal Auditor	TA - 5+5 years + indefinite	AD 10	Administration

Benchmarking against previous results

ECHA undertook the benchmarking exercise in 2020, in accordance with the Commission's requirements. The 2020 results indicate an increase of 0.4% in the percentage of the operational staff and a decrease of 0.5% in the percentage of administrative support and coordination staff in comparison to 2019.

Job Type (sub) category	2019	2020
Administrative support and Coordination	**15.6**	**15.1**
Administrative Support	12.8	12.1
Coordination	2.8	3.0
Operational	**79.7**	**80.1**
Top level Operational Coordination	2.7	2.5
Programme management and Implementation	52.6	52.7
Evaluation & Impact assessment	3.5	4.1
General operational	20.8	20.8
Neutral	**4.7**	**4.8**
Finance/ Control	4.6	4.6
Linguistics	0.1	0.2

Appendix IV - Human and financial resources by activity

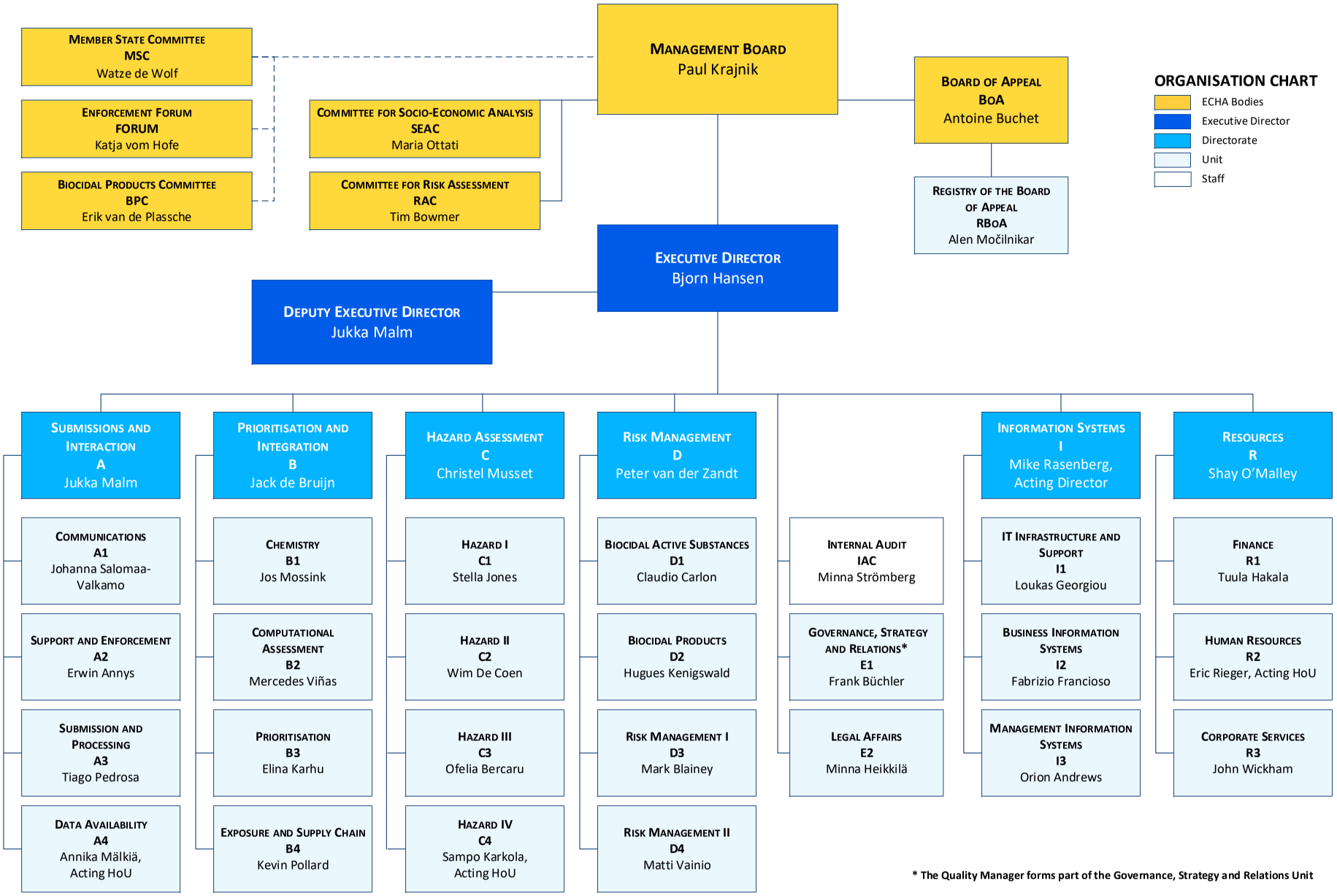
WP activity	2020 planned FTEs (TA/CA/SNE)	Actuals 2020 - rounded to the nearest FTE (TA/CA/SNE)*	Executed budget 2020
1. REACH and CLP			
1.1 Dossier preparation	26	29	8 741 573
1.2 Registration and dossier submission	35	31	6 560 501
1.3 Screening and prioritisation	45	48	7 932 062
1.4 Evaluation	116	96	16 164 222
1.5 Authorisation	40	32	5 817 833
1.6 Restrictions	24	22	4 201 421
1.7 Classification and labelling	30	29	6 399 686
1.8 Safe and sustainable use of chemicals	13	12	2 199 623
1.9 Data management and dissemination	20	23	7 729 728
Governance and enablers	152	149	24 816 080
TOTAL	**501**	**471**	**90 562 727**
2. Biocides			
Operations	55	51	7 984 315
Governance and enablers	21	19	2 540 547
TOTAL	**76**	**70**	**10 524 862**
3. Export/import of hazardous chemicals and circular economy			
3.1 Prior Informed Consent	9	6	937 679
3.2 Persistent organic pollutants	1	1	233 724
3.3 Waste Framework Directive	8	7	1 711 300
3.4 Drinking Water Directive		0	
Governance and enablers	3	3	153 362
TOTAL	**21**	**17**	**3 036 065**
4. Other tasks			
4.1 EU Observatory for Nanomaterials	3	4	843 336
4.2 EU Chemicals Legislation Finder	1	2	1 415 045
4.3 Support to Occupational health legislation	4	4	304 601
4.4 Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA)		1	499 013
4.5 Support to other legislation	6	3	
4.6 IUCLID for EFSA	3	3	1 838 133
TOTAL	**17**	**17**	**4 900 128**
Overall TOTAL	**615**	**575****	**109 023 783**

* SNEs are also included as the Commission is considering together with the CA posts

** The difference (6.5%) between the planned and reported FTEs is due to a number of factors, including the fact, as the Commission authorised 8 CA FTEs less on REACH/CLP for 2021 compared to 2020, the Agency was unable to fill a certain number of vacant CA posts so as not to exceed the 2021 ceiling of 94 REACH/CLP CA

FTEs. Moreover, decreased fee income and the transition to staffing the Agency's priority activities resulted in delayed recruitments during 2020.

	2020 planned FTEs (TA/CA/SNE)			Actuals 2020 FTEs (TA/CA/SNE)*		
Governance and enablers	REACH	Biocides	PIC/ POPs/ Waste	REACH	Biocides	PIC/ POPs/ Waste
5.1 Forum	**9.8**	**2.1**	**0.1**	**9.0**	**2.4**	**0.0**
5.2 Board of Appeal	11.7	0.4	0.1	11.1	0.7	0.0
5.3 Management	27.9	5.8	1.2	33.3	3.5	0.9
5.4 ICT	**50.2**	**6.2**	**1.1**	**49.8**	**5.9**	**0.8**
5.5 Financial Resources	16.5	2.1	0.3	14.4	2.2	0.2
5.6 Human Resources	18.5	2.4	0.3	17.4	2.3	0.3
5.7 Corporate services	17.7	2.3	0.3	13.6	1.8	0.2
TOTAL	152.3	21.3	3.4	148.6	18.7	2.6



* The Quality Manager forms part of the Governance, Strategy and Relations Unit

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