

EU Monitoring Report

11 - 18 February 2021

CONTENTS

CHEMICALS	2
➤ Health	2
• <i>Restricting hazardous chemicals protects millions of Europeans from serious diseases</i>	<i>2</i>
➤ REACH	2
• <i>Draft agenda of the 50th meeting of the Committee for Socio-economic Analysis (9-12 March and 15-17 March)</i>	<i>2</i>
➤ Biocides	2
• <i>91st meeting of Competent Authorities for the implementation of Regulation on biocidal products (10-11 March).....</i>	<i>2</i>
• <i>Article 95 has been updated and includes new suppliers of biocides</i>	<i>3</i>
• <i>Updated table of notifications for the permission for a limited and controlled use of biocides - Active chlorine released from sodium hypochlorite</i>	<i>3</i>
➤ Brexit	4
• <i>UK industry pushing post-Brexit deregulation of chemical laws, but the Swiss model is better for everyone.....</i>	<i>4</i>
SUSTAINABILITY.....	5
➤ Sustainable use of chemicals	5
• <i>Event: Defining Europe’s ‘Essential’ Chemicals for Society: What is the Goal and What is at Stake? (1 March)</i>	<i>5</i>
➤ Energy	5
• <i>The improved EU energy label – paving way for more innovative and energy efficient products.....</i>	<i>5</i>
• <i>EurEau’s reactions to EU public consultations on energy matters.....</i>	<i>6</i>
➤ Circular economy	6
• <i>EurEau’s position on the Zero Pollution Action Plan</i>	<i>6</i>

CHEMICALS

➤ Health

- Restricting hazardous chemicals protects millions of Europeans from serious diseases

Source: [European Chemicals Agency](#)

THE ECHA published a study on the Costs and benefits of REACH restrictions, in which it estimates that these restrictions protect the health of citizens by reducing risks of serious illness such as cancers, sexual development disorders, asthma and skin allergies.

Restricting the manufacture and use of chemicals that pose a risk in the EU results in health benefits worth around €2.1 billion each year over the next decades. As the associated costs to society add up to €0.5 billion per year, the health benefits are four times greater than the costs.

The full study on the *Costs and benefits of REACH restrictions 2016-2020* can be found [HERE](#).

➤ REACH

- Draft agenda of the 50th meeting of the Committee for Socio-economic Analysis (9-12 March and 15-17 March)

Source: [ECHA](#)

Relevant points on the agenda are:

- Procedure for admission of Accredited Stakeholder Organisations to the ECHA Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis
- Authorisation applications

➤ Biocides

- 91st meeting of Competent Authorities for the implementation of Regulation on biocidal products (10-11 March)

Source: [European Commission](#)

Relevant points on the agenda are:

- Change of classification of active substances and the consequences on biocidal product procedures
- Management of data on an active substance in an application for a biocidal product

- Status of an active substance generating disinfection by products identified as an endocrine disruptor
- Review Programme on active substances
- Brexit
- Risk assessment of antifouling products for environment

Access the full agenda through the link above.

Work documents for the meeting about:

- “Authorisation of “Same biocidal products” – legal nature and consequences” can be found [HERE](#);

- **Article 95 has been updated and includes new suppliers of biocides**

Source: [ECHA](#)

As a reminder, ECHA is responsible for the publication of the list of relevant substances and the respective substance and product suppliers, in accordance with Article 95 of the Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR). The purpose of this list is to "ensure the equal treatment of persons placing active substances on the market".

The following changes occurred:

- Active chlorine released from hypochlorous acid (Redefined from Active Chlorine: manufactured by the reaction of hypochlorous acid and sodium hypochlorite produced in situ) for PT1, PT2, PT3, PT4 and PT5 submitted by Chemprox GmbH (DE), ECAdisinfection ApS (DK), Nuova Control Systems SRL (IT) and Watair (CH);
- Active chlorine released from sodium hypochlorite for PT1, PT2, PT3, PT4, PT5, PT11 and PT12 submitted by HIPOCLORITO TEJAR VIEJO S.L (ES).
- **Updated table of notifications for the permission for a limited and controlled use of biocides - Active chlorine released from sodium hypochlorite**

Source: [European Commission](#)

After a notification of derogation pursuant to the Article 55.1 of the REACH Directive, the Member states and competent authorities can permit the making available on the market or use of a BP, which is not authorised if there is an unforeseen danger to public or animal health or the environment which cannot be contained by other means. Such BPs can be placed on the market for a limited and controlled use only and under the supervision of that MSCA for a period not exceeding 180 days. Only with a justified request of the MSCA, can the European Commission extend that period by no more than 550 days.

The overview of notifications and periods of derogations granted was updated on 17 February and can be found on the link above.

Many notifications have been made for Active chlorine released from sodium hypochlorite.

➤ **Brexit**

- **UK industry pushing post-Brexit deregulation of chemical laws, but the Swiss model is better for everyone**

Source: [ChemTrust](#)

A joint letter from chemical and other industry associations was sent to the UK Government, asking for a radical deregulation of the UK's post-Brexit chemicals regime. The letter reportedly proposes that the Government should deregulate GB REACH, the regulatory system that the UK government has put in place for England, Wales and Scotland post-Brexit (Northern Ireland remains in EU REACH). The deregulation would remove the obligation for industry to submit detailed safety data and instead create a weaker and slower system where industry would only provide data for substances the regulator has prioritised.

CHEM Trust's view is that regulatory alignment with EU REACH, as it continues to identify the most hazardous chemicals, remains the best option for maintaining our relatively high environmental and public health standards for chemicals in the UK. It's also worth noting that in the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) includes provisions on Level Playing Field and Rebalancing that will limit the ability of the UK to deregulate – and will put pressure on the UK to match improvements in EU chemicals policy, like the EU's Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability.

Given where the UK is now, a better model is the Swiss system which doesn't require full safety data for substances already registered with EU REACH, but has a process of largely automatic alignment with EU controls and laws on chemicals, although it remains a sovereign 'autonomous' regime, with the ability to deviate.

SUSTAINABILITY

➤ Sustainable use of chemicals

- **Event: Defining Europe's 'Essential' Chemicals for Society: What is the Goal and What is at Stake? (1 March)**

Source: [Cefic](#)

As a reminder, the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) is the main European trade association for the chemical industry. It regularly organises “Digital Dialogues”: open stakeholder discussions, designed to provide an exchange of perspectives, activities and initiatives between the European chemical industry and its broader community, with the aim of contributing to the European policy agenda.

On 1st March, it will hold a Dialogue aimed at defining the “essential societal uses” of chemicals, as the European Union aims to phase out the most harmful chemicals for non-essential societal use, in the framework of the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability. The Dialogue will bring together officials and representatives from the EU institutions and scholars.

Registration is open [HERE](#).

➤ Energy

- **The improved EU energy label – paving way for more innovative and energy efficient products**

Source: [European Commission](#)

The energy label provides a clear and simple indication of the energy efficiency of a product at the point of purchase. It helps consumers to compare products, save energy and thereby save money on their future household energy bills.

In an EU-wide survey in 2019, 93% of consumers confirmed that they recognised the label and 79% confirmed that it influenced their decision on what product to buy. The label has also been a major driver for manufacturers to improve their products' energy performance in order to get a rating in the top categories. Over time, top products have improved their energy efficiency, gradually rising their class to A+, then A++ and in many cases A+++.

In order to be more understandable to consumers and to pave the way for more innovative and energy efficient products, the current energy label with energy classes from A+++ to D will gradually be replaced in the coming years with a new, simpler scale from A (most efficient) to G (least efficient).

In a drive to put consumers first, the rescaling of EU energy labels is part of a broader push that also includes public access to a European product database and recent ecodesign rules regarding consumers' right to repair products (including the availability of spare parts). These will be the subject of further wide-ranging initiatives, as part of the European Green Deal and the circular economy agenda.

From 1 March 2021, the new A to G scale will start to apply for: fridges, dishwashers, washing machines and televisions. In addition to these 4 product groups the energy labels for light sources, such as light bulbs, will be rescaled as of 1 September 2021 and other product groups will follow. After 1 March 2021, retailers will have 14 working days to replace the old energy label on all rescaled products in stores and online shops, as well as in marketing materials.

- **EurEau's reactions to EU public consultations on energy matters**

Source: EurEau ([Energy Efficiency Directive](#) / [RED II](#))

EurEau published online its responses to two EU public consultations. The consultations aimed to collect views and suggestions from stakeholders and citizens in view of:

- The revision of Directive 2018/2001/EU on the promotion of the use of renewable energy (RED II), planned for 2021.
- The review and revision of Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency (Energy Efficiency Directive or EED), foreseen by June 2021.

You can find the full content of EurEau's responses to these consultations on the links above.

➤ **Circular economy**

- **EurEau's position on the Zero Pollution Action Plan**

Source: [Eureau](#)

The European Federation of National Associations of Water Services (EurEau) reacted to the publication of the Zero Pollution Action Plan and the organisation of workshops on the topic by the European Commission.

EurEau welcomes the fact that the Commission wants to put the following principles at core of its strategy: the precautionary principle, the principle that preventive action should be taken, the principle that environmental damaged should be, as a priority, rectified at the source and the principle that the polluter pays.

Eureau also calls for the Zero Pollution Action Plan to be as ambitious and driven than the Chemical Strategy for Sustainable. The association calls for the following actions:

- Pollutants should be addressed according to a life-cycle approach.

- The costs of environmental pollution caused by products should be internalised in the price.
- Stringent cut-off criteria should be applied in the authorisation process of substances.

EurEau also acknowledges that the challenges posed by the development of alternatives when replacing polluting substances need to be considered, because more sustainable replacements are not always found in the process.