

EU Monitoring Report

29 October – 5 November 2020

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Chemicals

➤ REACH

- New intention to identify a substance of very high concern for 1,4-dioxane

Source: [ECHA](#)

A new intention has been received for 1,4-dioxane (EC 204-661-8, CAS 123-91-1). 1,4-dioxane is widely used, such as in adhesives.

- REACH Committee on 20 November 2020 – agenda online

Source: [ECHA](#)

The European Commission's REACH Committee will meet online on 20 November 2020. The agenda of the Webex meeting is available on the Commission's website. The agenda indicates that phthalates will be discussed.

- DRAFT AGENDA 37th Meeting of Competent Authorities for REACH and CLP

Source: [European Commission](#)

Meeting on 17-18 November.

- Documents published for 35th Meeting of Competent Authorities for REACH and CLP (30 June – 1 July)

Source: [European Commission](#)

The European Commission has made documents available which were submitted ahead of the 35th meeting of competent authorities for REACH and CLP which was held in virtual format on 30 June and 1 July 2020. Relevant agenda items and their documents:

- [4.2 Second REACH review: implementation - Action 3 – improving the workability and quality of extended Safety Data Sheets](#)
- [5.1 Polymers - Final report of study defining criteria for polymers requiring registration](#) Mandate and Composition CASG-Polymers

- [Update from CEFIC on Industry pilot project with ECHA](#)
- [5.3 ECHA-COM joint position paper on intermediates Discussion](#)

➤ **CLP**

- **Seven countries now accept poison centres notifications through ECHA's portal**

Source: [ECHA](#)

Norway is the latest country to join the list of EU/EEA countries accepting poison centre notifications through ECHA's Submission Portal. Find the contact details of all national authorities on the national support page.

➤ **Biocides**

- **ECHA's Biocides Submission Manual: How to prepare a biocides dossier**

Source: [ECHA](#)

This document aims to assist users in complying with their obligations under the Biocides Regulation. This manual gives guidance on how to create a IUCLID1 dossier concerning biocidal active substances² (AS) and biocidal products³ (BP) for applications made under the Biocidal Products Regulation⁴ (BPR). The various chapters in this manual aim to explain the different functionalities in IUCLID, and how to use those functionalities to create a valid dossier that can be submitted through the Register for Biocidal Products (R4BP 3).

- **Minutes of the 35th meeting of the Biocidal Products Committee (BPC)**

Source: [ECHA](#)

The minutes of the 35th meeting of the Biocidal Products Committee (BPC) held on 16-18 June 2020 are now available. During the meeting, the Chair informed members that the Work Programme for active substance approval was revised after the last BPC meeting. Members were invited to contact the SECR on possible changes on the revised programme after which an updated version will be published on the ECHA website. The Chair stated that the outlook for 2020 contains 1 Article 75(1)(g) (a request related to active chlorine generated via electrolysis). In addition another request is under preparation for DBNPA in PT 4. Two other requests may still arrive.

Draft BPC opinions on active chlorine generated from sodium chloride by electrolysis for PT 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

The Chair welcomed the applicant. The ASOs were allowed to be present during the discussion. The discussion focussed on the items included in the open issues table regarding the comments on the assessment report and the draft BPC opinion. The eCA briefly introduced the dossiers, informing that the opinions were adopted in 2018 and have been revised upon Commission requests on Art 75 (1) (g) on the ED assessment and on the reference specification of the precursor sodium chloride and the required water quality.

Draft BPC opinions on active chlorine released from hypochlorous acid for PT 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5

The Chair welcomed the applicant. The ASOs were allowed to be present during the discussion. The discussion focussed on the items included in the open issues table regarding the comments on the assessment report and the draft BPC opinion. The eCA briefly introduced the dossiers, informing that the opinions were adopted in 2018 and have been revised upon Commission request to include the ED assessment. The ED assessment was discussed at WG-I-2020. No conclusion on the ED assessment could be drawn with the available data respect to human and non-target organism, although it was to be noted that there are ED concerns for the impurity chlorate.

➤ Events

- Asian Helsinki Chemicals Forum conference and Chemical Regulatory Annual Conference go virtual

Source: [ECHA](#)

The second Asian Helsinki Chemicals Forum conference (HCF) and the 12th Chemical Regulatory Annual Conference (CRAC) will be held virtually as the CRAC-HCF 2020 Virtual Forum from 16 November 2020 to 10 December 2020. It is organised by the Helsinki Chemicals Forum and REACH24H.

- **Webinar: IUCLID October 2020 release**

Source: [ECHA](#)

IUCLID is updated twice a year. This October release reflects the latest EU, OECD and other format changes as well as an important milestone in the transition to the web user interface.

The web interface now contains almost all the features needed to perform advanced management of IUCLID data. We will introduce the latest features of the interface such as:

- (advanced) Printing of dossiers
- (advanced) Import settings
- Navigation tree for datasets
- Dossiers search
- View of inbound references
- Bulk export and deletion of entities

The webinar will be published on ECHA home page at 11:00 Helsinki Time (EEST, GMT +3) on November 11th. At the same time, a live Q&A session through Slido will be opened where questions will be answered until 17:00 Helsinki Time.

You can join the Q&A directly or by going to [slido.com](https://www.slido.com) and entering the event code: **iuclidoctober2020**

➤ **Trade**

- **ECHA updated IT tools and Brexit advice for companies**

Source: [ECHA](#)

ECHA has updated its IT tools and dedicated web section on the UK's withdrawal from the EU including Q&As with advice to companies.

The transition period of the UK's withdrawal from the EU ends on 31 December 2020, and the Protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland starts to apply from 1 January 2021.

REACH, CLP, the BPR, PIC and POPs will continue to apply in Northern Ireland (UK(NI)) after the transition period, but will no longer apply in the rest of the UK (UK(GB)).

Downstream users in the EU/EEA should check the list of substances registered only by UK companies on ECHA's website to see if they need to take action before the end of the transition period. If they plan to get their supply from the UK(GB) after the end of the transition period, they should register the substance themselves as an importer, unless the registration has been transferred to the EU/EEA.

- **Commission Delegated Regulation amending Annexes I and V to Regulation (EU) No 649/2012 on export and import of hazardous chemicals**

Source: [European Commission](#)

The Commission intends to review the list of chemicals in Annex I to the Regulation on export and import of hazardous chemicals. Chemicals listed in this annex can be exported only be possible if certain conditions are met.

➤ **Health & Safety**

- **ECHA Guest Corner: Valérie Séjourné | Cleaning and hygiene is key to EU citizens health**

Source: [ECHA](#)

Valérie Séjourné is Director of Communications and Stakeholder Outreach at A.I.S.E., the International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance products in Brussels. Valérie joined A.I.S.E. in 1997 from the private sector. Current priorities include projects related to sustainable production and consumption, circular economy, end-user engagement, digitalisation and labelling, working in close interaction with members, value chain partners and external stakeholders.

In a recent survey of consumers habits at home (Pan-European consumer habits survey by Insites Consulting for A.I.S.E., Feb & Jun 2020. Read more in [A.I.S.E website](#)), 89% of consumers in Europe said that when their home is clean, it gives them peace of mind. The same number confirmed that cleaning and hygiene in their home is important to avoid getting unwell or getting an infectious disease, both for themselves and their loved ones.

The survey, which was run in 23 countries across Europe in 2020 with 4500 citizens, is the latest research commissioned every three years by A.I.S.E. to monitor cleaning, washing and sustainability habits in households across Europe.

The survey findings confirm the increasing value of cleaning and hygiene products for European consumers as the COVID-19 sanitary crisis has reinforced the need for cleanliness and hygiene both at home and in public spaces for good health and wellbeing.

Whilst already very high in 2017, even more people now value the contribution of cleaning and hygiene at home for good health, not only for themselves but for the people around them. This includes the need for good hygiene practices at home to prevent infections. Outside the home, in public spaces, an increasing number of people agree that cleanliness and hygiene in public transport, schools and offices are important and reassuring, but that a dirty shop leaves them feeling uncomfortable.

- **European Commission publishes working documents on EDC fitness check**

Source: [Food Packaging Forum](#)

On October 14, 2020, the *European Commission (EC)* published a [working document](#) and related [executive summary](#) on the outcomes of a [fitness check](#) carried out on the effectiveness of existing EU legislation in managing exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs). The documents were published alongside the release of the new European [chemicals strategy](#), together with a set of other working documents including [one](#) addressing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and [another](#) on managing exposures to chemical mixtures.

Sustainability

➤ Chemicals

- **BEUC welcomes the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability**

Source: [BEUC](#)

BEUC, the powerful consumer lobby based in Brussels, wrote letters to two European Commissioners regarding the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability.

- [letter to Commissioner Sinkevičius](#)
- [letter to EVP Frans Timmermans](#)

- Euro Chlor's new Mid-Century Strategy for a Sustainable Chlor-Alkali Industry

Source: [Euro Chlor](#)

Euro Chlor's published an overview Powerpoint presentation giving information about Euro Chlor's new Mid-Century Strategy for a Sustainable Chlor-Alkali Industry. This presentation is also available on the [dedicated MCS webpage](#).

- Can the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability make the Green Deal a reality?

Source: [POLITICO](#)

Imagine a future where our European economy has gone circular, recycling all sorts of molecules into new raw materials. A future where electric vehicles rule our roads and are powered by sustainable batteries. A future where we have smart homes, connected to our phones as part of an internet of things, and also to a European renewable energy grid supplied by endless amounts of wind and solar energy. A future where climate-neutrality is achieved by 2050. That future will be created by chemistry. Already today, Europe's chemical industry is every bit as indispensable to modern life necessities, from medicines, food and clean water to producing the hi-tech materials with which our increasingly digital societies are built. Tomorrow's world will become even more so a world created by chemistry.

This is why the choices that will be made about how to implement the new European Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability represent opportunities to accelerate that Green Deal vision and the role of European, homegrown chemistry. It is an opportunity for European and member country authorities dealing with climate, circular economy, innovation, trade, enforcement and digital policies to work more closely with the chemical industry to deliver on European Green Deal objectives, accelerate the post COVID-19 Green Recovery and strengthen the EU's strategic value chains.

- Making the Green Deal real

Source: [POLITICO](#)

The Commission aims to build national support for the Green Deal with dollops of money, but to ensure countries follow along it's also swinging a big stick: infringement procedures, or legal challenges — and ultimately financial penalties — against EU countries.

“The [Green Deal](#) is very clear that new measures on their own will not be enough to achieve its objectives,” Environment Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius told POLITICO, explaining the European Commission’s reasoning on why it will step up enforcement of existing environmental legislation.

[Infringement procedures](#) are laid out step-by-step in EU law, starting with a letter of formal notice to a national capital and, if a country refuses to comply, ending with a case before the Court of Justice of the EU and stinging fines. At the end of 2019, there were a total of 327 open infringement cases relating to the environment, the highest number of any area, the Commission said in its annual [review](#).

The Commission has rolled out its heavy artillery for cases ranging from air quality to improper Polish and Romanian logging in protected forests. In its [latest infringement package](#), the Commission was particularly careful in showing how opening infringements for breaches of existing environmental rules is contributing to reaching the Green Deal’s objectives.

➤ **Water**

- **EU Water Legislation - Fitness Check - Inception Impact Assessment**

Source: [European Commission](#)

In December 2019, the Fitness Check concluded that water legislation is broadly fit for purpose, with room for improvement related to investments, implementation, integrating water into other policies, chemical pollution, administrative simplification and digitalisation.

On 23 October 2020, an [Inception Impact Assessment](#) was launched. This initiative addresses the findings of the Fitness Check in relation to chemical pollution and the legal obligation to regularly review the lists of pollutants affecting surface and groundwaters. The feedback period ends on 20 November 2020.

In line with the Better Regulation requirements, stakeholders will be consulted in the course of 2021. The Consultation Strategy is available [here](#).

- **Governance of water services in Europe - EurEau report**

Source: [EurEau](#)

Water services are essential services. They support the sustainable development of our societies and are fundamental to realising our green and societal ambitions. How they are managed differs from country to country across Europe. The online report is [here](#).

- **EurEau briefing note on PFAS and drinking water**

Source: [EurEau](#)

PFAS are a diverse group of synthetic fluorinated compounds. The persistent nature of these substances means that they are very resistant to biodegradation and they are now ubiquitous in the environment, including - sometimes - water sources.

Our briefing note details the knowledge that drinking water operators have acquired on PFAS: what they are, why they are problematic for drinking water suppliers, if and how they can be removed from water by various treatments that would shift the problem from water to other media (carbon, concentrate, etc.), creating new challenges. Case studies reported by water operators from various EurEau countries are also gathered. You can read our briefing note [here](#).

- **EurEau updates on EU legislation**

Source: [EurEau](#)

EurEau's newsletter which was published on 29 October 2020 contains several interesting updates on EU legislative developments, including:

- Drinking Water Directive update: adopted by the Council of the EU
- Bathing Water Directive: Review timeline published
- Water Reuse Regulation: Work on implementation guidelines progress
- WFD and the daughter directives
- European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR)
- EurEau on Circular Economy Action Plan: update
- The Zero Pollution Ambition roadmap is published and EurEau sent its [feedback](#).
- 8th Environment Action Programme: adoption

- **Drinking Water Directive (Recast) - Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety**

Source: [European Parliament](#)

On 1 February 2018 the Commission proposed the recast of Council Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption (the 'Drinking Water Directive'). The proposal aimed to update parameters set over 20 years ago, correct shortcomings and introduce access to water in response to the first ever European citizens' initiative 'Right2Water'.

After intense negotiations, an agreement was found between the co-legislators in December 2019, and in February 2020 the ENVI Committee approved the outcome of the negotiations. The Council adopted its first reading on 23 October 2020. The adoption of the EP second reading is foreseen in December Plenary.

The agreed text will ensure that tap water across the EU is safe to drink. Under the new rules, the quality standards for drinking water are brought up to date, a cost-effective risk-based approach to monitoring water quality is introduced as well as hygienic requirements for materials in contact with drinking water.

The recast also addresses growing concern about the effects of endocrine disruptors, pharmaceuticals and microplastics on human health by introducing a watch list mechanism which will allow to follow up, in a dynamic and flexible way, on new knowledge about these substances and their relevance for human health.

- **Conference "Water and Adaptation to the Impacts of Climate Change in EU Member States"**

Source: [EU2020.de](#)

A European conference on adaptation to the impacts of climate change will take place on 4 and 5 November in Berlin. Adaptation in the water sector will be outlined and discussed. In addition, the conclusions of expert discussions will be incorporated into the ongoing debate on updating the EU Adaptation Strategy. Part of the conference will deal with the important long-term issue of water scarcity and low water and attempt to lay the foundation for a strategic approach to water management in Germany and the EU.

- **Online event: The role of water in the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change**

Source: [EBCD](#)

Since 2013, the EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change has been a significant reference for adaptation in the European Union. Given however the climate emergency and its impacts on people, planet and prosperity, the European Commission has decided to put forward a new – more ambitious – EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change in Q1 2021, in the context of its European Green Deal.

While climate extremes are having far-reaching effects, water shortages both in the EU and globally result in direct impacts in a plethora of sectors and activities. Underlining the essentiality of water services in ensuring availability, as well as sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, this webinar aims at addressing water in the new EU adaptation strategy as well as the growing impact of climate change on water, providing MEPs the opportunity to share their views with institutional actors, water sector professionals, industry representatives and NGOs.

➤ **Environment**

- **EEB | Circular Economy: Member States delaying the inevitables targets**

Source: [EEB](#)

In an effort to boost the transition to a circular economy, the EU adopted several new anti-waste laws in May 2018. However, having missed the July deadline for the transposition into national law, many EU member states are yet to implement most of these laws.

In this report, we take stock of progress made so far to advance the circular economy across all 27 member states. The report was written by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) together with lawyers at [ClientEarth](#) and [Ecoteca](#).

- **SUSTAINABLE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE | Opinion of the EU Committee on the Environment for the Committee on Legal Affairs**

Source: [European Parliament](#)

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Legal Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the suggestions into its motion for a resolution on sustainable corporate governance.

- **EU Action Plan Towards a Zero Pollution Ambition for air, water and soil**

Source: [European Commission](#)

Pollution harms citizens and ecosystems. The COVID 19 pandemic has made the urge to build a healthier planet for healthy people greater than ever. To secure clean air, water and soil, healthy ecosystems and a healthy living environment for Europeans, the EU needs to better prevent, remedy, monitor and report on pollution, mainstream the zero pollution ambition into all its policy developments and further decouple economic growth from the increase of pollution as well as strengthen the inter-linkages between environmental protection, sustainable development and people's well-being, in line with United Nations driven efforts.

➤ **Products**

- **Industrial products - evaluation of the new legislative framework | Consultation Period 04 November 2020 - 02 December 2020**

Source: [European Commission](#)

The new legislative framework (NLF) for industrial products in the EU aims to improve the internal market for goods by improving market surveillance and boosting the quality of conformity assessments.

Given the evolving technological landscape, this initiative seeks to evaluate whether the NLF remains fit for purpose in a digital and circular economy.

- Sustainable Products Policy Legislative Initiative | INCEPTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Source: [European Commission](#)

The ‘European Green Deal’ is a growth strategy to transform the EU into a fairer and more prosperous society, with a modern, competitive, climate neutral and circular economy. As stated in the Commission’s strategic recovery package, in response to the dramatic and unprecedented effects of the COVID19 crisis, a collective and cohesive recovery that accelerates the twin green and digital transitions will only strengthen Europe’s competitiveness, resilience and position as a global player. We must invest in protecting and creating jobs and in driving our competitive sustainability by building a fairer, greener and more digital Europe. We must repair the short-term damage from the crisis in a way that also invests in our long-term future.

The March 2020 Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) provides a future-oriented agenda for achieving a cleaner and more competitive Europe in co-creation with economic actors, citizens and civil society organisations. It contributes to achieving 2030 climate and energy efficiency goals, climate neutrality by 2050 and decoupling economic growth and well-being of EU citizens from environmental and climate impacts while ensuring the long-term competitiveness of the EU and leaving no one behind. It announces a sustainable product policy legislative initiative to make products fit for a climate neutral, resource efficient and circular economy, reduce waste and ensure that the performance of frontrunners in sustainability progressively becomes the norm.

The initiative will aim to set out the EU policy framework necessary to achieve this objective. For this, the scope of the Ecodesign Directive needs to be widened beyond energy related products, and made applicable to the broadest possible range of products. Through this revision and, where necessary, complementary legislative proposals, the Commission will establish sustainability principles and other mechanisms to regulate sustainability-related aspects in a wide range of product related instruments, while continuing to respect the EU’s commitments in international trade agreements, including in the World Trade Organization context.

This initiative will be developed in close coordination with other initiatives announced in the CEAP, in particular the initiative on empowering consumers for the green transition and the initiative on the substantiation of environmental claims using product and organisational environmental footprint methods. Together these initiatives will seek to establish a



coherent policy framework whereby sustainable goods, services and business models become the norm and consumption patterns are more sustainable.