



## POSITION PAPER

# Recommendations by an EU-wide cross-industry initiative for better regulation in chemicals management

16 November 2015<sup>1</sup>

### Executive summary:

- Better regulation in chemicals management requires identification, implementation and enforcement of the most effective risk management option, tailored to tackle a specific risk.
- When authorities identify a risk, but find that it is limited to the workplace, then workplace-specific legislation offers the most targeted, effective and proportionate regulatory risk management approach.
- Adding Candidate Listing and REACH Authorisation will not improve workers' protection; it may instead have a negative impact on, or even prevent, the achievement of key environmental and other policy objectives.
- The co-signatories of this paper submit a concrete set of proposals aimed at achieving better regulation when managing chemicals in the workplace.

<sup>1</sup> Please note that this paper constitutes a revisited version of an earlier position paper, which is complemented with more comprehensive subject-specific reports. The general message transmitted by the original paper remains unchanged in the current version.

The undersigned organisations represent industry sectors and technologies which contribute strongly to competitiveness, economic growth and jobs in the European Union (EU). Indeed, we manufacture and/or use substances which are often indispensable enablers for key technologies, such as advanced materials, innovative production technologies and biotechnology, necessary for major EU policies, including environmental and health objectives.

Collectively, our organisations are very supportive of the **Better Regulation policy**<sup>2</sup> in general, and the regulatory fitness and performance (REFIT) programme<sup>3</sup> in particular. In this Position Paper, we provide a concrete case on how better regulation can be applied in the field of chemicals management.

While REACH is rightly established as the regulatory pillar of EU chemicals management and has contributed to unrivalled data collection about the use and effects of substances, our organisations believe that REACH Candidate Listing and Authorisation should not be considered as the preferred option **when potential risks from a substance have found to be limited to the workplace and can be more effectively addressed by workplace-specific legislation**. Referring to the Commission's Roadmap on Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC Roadmap), we would like to stress that Risk Management Option Assessments (RMOAs) are rightly aimed at identifying the best regulatory option to manage the risk "*either in REACH [...] or outside of REACH*"<sup>4</sup>.

In our view, workplace legislation:

- More holistically addresses potential risks at the workplace by also covering uses which are not in scope of REACH Authorisation;
- Prescribes the principle of substitution for hazardous substances; and
- Directs investment towards enhanced protection of workers, instead of allocating these resources to the preparation of complex applications and the payment of application fees – and is in this respect more cost-efficient than REACH Authorisation.

Adding REACH Authorisation on top of workplace legislation would **not add any layer of protection** for workers and would instead, *inter alia* have detrimental impacts on the competitiveness of production sites, Research and Development, the recycling sector, etc.

Our organisations would therefore like to call for a tailor-made and targeted use of REACH Authorisation for relevant substances. It should not be applied to cases where it would duplicate other existing legislation when that already offers a more effective and proportionate risk management option.

We propose that the European Commission and Member States:

- i) recognise workplace legislation including EU-wide Occupational Exposure Limits (OELs) as the most effective risk management option for substances where there is a need to address a risk limited to the workplace;
- ii) review how to strengthen EU capacities for the swifter setting and/or review of EU-wide OELs;
- iii) proceed to set EU-wide OELs for substances, where a risk is identified at the workplace; and
- iv) ensure that in the described cases no additional and unnecessary regulatory measures (e.g. Candidate Listing, Authorisation) are applied, i.e.:
  - a. when the identified risk for all uses of a substance can be more effectively addressed by workplace legislation, the substance should not be included in the Candidate List<sup>5</sup>; and

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<sup>2</sup> The Commission's "Better regulation" policy is intended at designing EU policies and laws so that they achieve their objectives at minimum cost. [http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/index_en.htm)

<sup>3</sup> The REFIT programme is aimed at making EU law simpler and reducing regulatory costs. [http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/refit/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/refit/index_en.htm)

<sup>4</sup> Roadmap on Substances of Very High Concern, 5 February 2013: <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/doc/srv?l=EN&f=ST%205867%202013%20INIT>

<sup>5</sup> In the event of a substance that has already been included in the Candidate List but meets the criteria established in this position paper, it should not be prioritised for Authorisation.

- b. when the identified risk for some uses of a substance can be more effectively addressed by workplace legislation, those uses should be exempted from REACH Authorisation pursuant to Article 58(2) of the REACH Regulation.

We look forward to cooperating with the Commission, other public authorities and stakeholders on this subject, as a positive move for ensuring the safe use of substances as well as Europe's competitiveness and employment.

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For further details about our policy recommendations, you can refer to the complementing documents:

1. Flowcharts: Our proposal - an application of the principles of the Commission's SVHC Roadmap
2. Detailed proposal and responses to questions raised on workplace legislation
3. Setting indicative and binding OELs / Outlook on a possible revision of OSH

## **Signatory organisations**

### *European and global associations and platforms*

ACEA – European Automobile Manufacturers' Association  
ADCA Taskforce  
AmCham EU  
BeST – Beryllium Science and Technology Association  
Cadmium Consortium  
CAEF – European Foundry Association  
CDI – Cobalt Development Institute  
CECOF - The European Committee of Industrial Furnace and Heating Equipment Associations  
CEMBUREAU – The European Cement Association  
CerameUnie – The European Ceramic Industry Association  
CETS – European Committee for Surface Treatment  
CheMi – European Platform for Chemicals Using Manufacturing Industries  
ChemLeg PharmaNet  
CIRFS – European Man-made Fibres Association  
CPME – Committee of PET Manufacturers in Europe  
EAA – European Aluminium Association  
EBA – European Borates Association  
ECFIA – Representing the High Temperature Insulation Wool Industry  
ECGA – European Carbon and Graphite Association  
ECMA – European Catalyst Manufacturers Association  
EDMA – European Diagnostic Manufacturers Association  
EPMF – European Precious Metals Federation  
ETRMA – European Tyre & Rubber Manufacturers' Association  
Eucomed  
Euroalliages – Association of European Ferro-alloy Producers  
EUROBAT  
EUROFER  
Eurometaux  
Euromines  
FEPA – Federation of European Producers of Abrasives products  
Frit consortium  
Glass Alliance Europe  
ICdA – International Cadmium Association  
IIMA – International Iron Metallics Association  
IMAT – Innovative Materials for Sustainable High-Tech Electronics, Photonics and Related Industries  
Ipconsortium  
Lead REACH Consortium  
Nickel Institute  
PRE – The European Refractories Producers Federation  
RECHARGE – European Association for Advanced Rechargeable Batteries  
UEAPME – European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises  
UNIFE – The European Rail Industry

### *National associations*

A3M – Alliance des Minerais, Minéraux et Métaux (French Ores, Minerals and Metals Association)  
BVKI – Bundesverband Keramische Industrie e.V. (German Association of the Ceramic Industry)  
ION – Vereniging Industrieel Oppervlaktebehandelend Nederland (Dutch Association for Industrial Surface Treatment)  
NFA – Non-Ferrous Alliance  
SEA – Surface Engineering Association  
VDA – Verband der Automobilindustrie (German Automotive Industry Association)  
VDFFI – Verband der Deutschen Feuerfest-Industrie e.V. (German Association of the Refractory Industry)  
VDS – Verband Deutscher Schleifmittelwerke e.V. (German Abrasives Association)  
WKÖ – Wirtschaftskammer Österreich (Austrian Federal Economic Chamber)  
WVM – Wirtschaftsvereinigung Metalle (German Metals Trade Association)  
ZVO – Zentralverband Oberflächentechnik e.V. (Central Association of Surface Technology)

### *Corporations*

Colorobbia  
DALIC  
Esmalglass itaca  
Ferro  
Smalticeram  
Vernis