

Involvement of stakeholders in ECHA's work

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Legal background



Recital 95 of REACH:

”The Agency should be central to ensuring that chemicals legislation and the decision-making processes and scientific basis underlying it have credibility with all stakeholders and the public. The Agency should also play a pivotal role in coordinating communication around this Regulation and in its implementation. The confidence in the Agency of the Community institutions, the Member States, the general public and interested parties is therefore essential. For this reason, it is vital to ensure its independence, high scientific, technical and regulatory capacities, as well as transparency and efficiency.”

- Detailed provisions on the REACH processes clearly spell out procedures for consultation of stakeholders and interested parties.

ECHA Stakeholder policy

ECHA Stakeholder policy



- Benefits of Stakeholders' participation:
 - Building up **trust and confidence** among ECHA partners
 - Getting specific scientific and technical expertise and knowledge in to the process and so ensuring high quality work
 - Ensuring that the output of ECHA is generally acceptable and there is a feeling of **shared ownership** e.g. on the ECHA guidance
 - Increasing **awareness** and capacity of stakeholders to properly implement REACH

ECHA Stakeholder policy



- 1. ECHA is committed to transparency, openness and mutually beneficial involvement of stakeholders**

- 2. Objectives of the policy are:**
 - The founding principles of transparency, efficiency and independence to be put into practice
 - To meet and go beyond the direct legal requirements
 - Equal and fair treatment of different stakeholders

ECHA Stakeholder policy



3. Principles of the policy are:

- **MB criteria for Stakeholder Organisations**
- **Open call for expressions of interest**
- **Rules of rotation, if needed**
- **Code of conduct**

Stakeholder Organisations (StOs) shall meet all four criteria:

1. established activities at EU level;
2. members from all or a majority of the EU-MS;
3. a legitimate interest in ECHA's areas of work;
4. representative in the field of its competence.

Stakeholder call

Call for expression of interest



- March 2008: ECHA published the policy document approved by the Board and invites stakeholder organisations (StO) to express their interest in participating in the work of ECHA
- June 2008: First list of StOs meeting the criteria set by the Board published on ECHA website
- September 2008: First update of the list submitted to the Management Board

Outcome of the open call

- 77 expressions of interest by 31 August
- 40 organisations meet the MB criteria
 - **19 representing general interests**
 - Environment (5)
 - Health (1)
 - Consumers (1)
 - Trade union, workers (2)
 - Animal welfare (2)
 - Academia, science (3)
 - Manufacturers of chemicals (3)
 - Users (incl. down-stream users) of chemicals (1)
 - Importers and distributors (1)
 - 21 sectoral or otherwise specialised StOs

Participation in the Committees and the Forum

StOs participation in the Committees and the Forum



- **Scientific integrity, independence and confidentiality to be protected**
 - Decision on who to admit always in the hands of the Committee/Forum itself
 - Rules of Procedure need to be respected
 - Declaration of confidentiality
 - Code of conduct

StOs participation in the Committees and the Forum



- **Member State Committee (MSC)** and the **Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC)** have decided to invite regular observers from 15 different StOs.
- **Committee for Socio-economic Analysis (SEAC)** agreed to invite 12 StOs to its second meeting – decision on regular observers at SEAC-2
- **Forum** has decided to organise a session open to stakeholder organisations at least every year – decision on invitees not yet made

StOs participation in the Committees and the Forum



- **Other means of following the Committee work:**
 - Agendas, meeting minutes and opinions/agreements published on ECHA website
 - News alerts after each meeting

Code of conduct



- A code of conduct for stakeholder observers established by ECHA in September 2008 after endorsement by the MSC
- Published on the Agency website and sent with the invitations to the StOs
- Contains rules/recommendations mainly concerning attendance to the meetings of the Committees and the Forum but will be applied also, as appropriate, to other ECHA meetings where StOs are present.

Involvement in other core work of ECHA

Involvement in other core work of ECHA



Guidance development and update

Consultation procedure on guidance – policy document approved by the Board:

- Aims to ensure broadest possible acceptance among relevant actors and that the guidance is published as quickly as possible
- Process will be kept transparent and open to participation by relevant partners
- Feedback on existing guidance can be submitted by stakeholders (via a webform); ECHA to assess the need to update or develop new guidance
- ECHA will consult with stakeholders on the draft before final publication
- PEG – Partner Expert Group

REHCORN (Network of REACH helpdesks)

- 6 StOs who have Helpdesk at EU level are participating as observers in REHCORN

Third countries and international organisations

Third countries and international organisations



- Management Board may invite third countries to participate in the work of ECHA
 - Inclusion of REACH in the EEA-EFTA Agreement - Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway to participate fully (without voting rights) in the Agency
- Management Board may invite representatives of international organisations with interests in the field of chemicals regulation to participate in the work of ECHA
 - OECD secretariat invited by the Board and subsequently by RAC and MSC to participate in their meetings as an observer.

Thank you
for your attention