



European  
Commission

## **Feedback on the REACH SMEs workshop in Brussels 10-11 December**

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***REACH Information and  
Experience Exchange  
Forum (RIEF II)  
18 December 2013  
Brussels Airport Sheraton  
Hotel***

Environment

# A workshop for SMEs : The premise

- *More SMEs will register for the REACH 2018 registration deadline*
  - **Lower tonnages implies often smaller companies (not automatic)**
- *They have to prepare for the important task ahead*



**REACH SMEs workshop**  
**Brussels, 10-11 December 2013**

# Many of them do not know about REACH



- *Do not know the Regulation exists*
- *Or concerns them*
- *Or do not know they are manufacturing substances*
- *Or information overload*
  
- *Varying degrees of knowledge but in general very low*

# Data sharing

- *SMEs must join SIEFs to share data (Article 29 of REACH)*
  - **In these structures, companies who have to register the same substance must come together and share data**
  - **the way they operate is left to the registrants themselves**
  - **extortionate costs, unfair commercial practices, even competition issues**
    - SMEs fear being priced out of the market !!!
    - Big structures have more leverage to deal with SIEFs (access to consultants and lawyers, good quality advice and planning)
    - For an SME : a lot of bad players out there trying to bank on the weaknesses of the system



# Set up of the workshop

- *Website set up six months in advance and open to all to gather feedback*
  - **On SMEs issues with dealing with REACH**
  - **Particular areas of concerns for them (SIEFs, awareness, competition issues)**
  - **Asking for their ideas for solutions**





# Set up of the workshop



- ***On the day***
  - **2 days of work in small groups of eight with the help of a moderators**
  - **67 participants, mostly SMEs but some large companies and consultants as well**
  - **Support from the Commission, ECHA and REACH national helpdesks to help participants in the groups (but not framing discussions)**



## Feedback from participants I - A final message from SMEs to ECHA/Commission

- *Make it **SIMPLE!***
- *Follow up the value of the 2 days will be defined by the effectiveness/timeliness of the outcomes*
- ***Act now!** Feedback asap on suggestions before it is too late! (for SMEs)*
- *Please listen and take action **NOW!!***
- *ECHA should be pragmatic!*
- *Solutions suitable for large companies may be problematic or even fatal for SMEs -> go for simplifications*
- *Propose solutions to reduce costs of registration*

## Feedback from participants II - Priority areas for action in the next 12 months

- Increase **transparency** of whole process (LR, Registration, Costs, Business Risks & Early Action)
- **Fair** cost sharing Standard cost sharing model
- Eliminate the costs for 1-10t of multiple registered substances & reduce costs for newly registered substances
- Explore possibilities to reduce burden (1-10t)
- **Be more "empathic"** to SMEs accessing information (SME website corner)
- More pragmatic, **less box ticking attitude**
- First steps for SME by registering 1-10 to. and 1-100 to. (**decision tree**)
- Practical guide "checklist"
- **Information campaign to activate the 2018 phase**
- Awareness raising campaign before mid. 2014



# Follow up

- *The Commission is working on a report of the Workshop that will be made available to the public*
- *It will outline the results in more detail*
- *And reflect what the workshop concluded as to the direction in which work must be directed for the years to come to prepare the 2018 deadline*
- <http://www.euconf.eu/reach2013/en/registration/index.html>

2018





*Thank you for your attention!*

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