



# **REACH Review**

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# Overview of the presentation

1. Objectives of REACH
2. REACH review: context
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4. REACH review and industrial policy

# REACH objectives

## REACH objectives:

- ⇒ protection of **human health** and the **environment**
- ⇒ enhance **competitiveness** and **innovation**
- ⇒ **free circulation** of substances
- ⇒ promotion of **alternative methods**

# REACH review: context

- REACH required specifically 3 reviews to be conducted by the Commission by 1 June 2012:
  - Review of ECHA** (Article 75(2)),
  - Low tonnage substances review** (Article 138(3))
  - Review of the scope** of REACH (Article 138(6))
- The Commission should publish by 1 June 2012 a **general report** on the operation of REACH, and the funding of alternative test methods (Article 117(4))

# REACH review: context

- COM has carried out a broader review, including on the first lessons learnt from the REACH implementation
  - ⇒ special attention
    - the costs and administrative burden
    - other impacts on innovation
- Results to be presented in the **COM report** (accompanied by the **COM Staff Working Paper**)

# REACH review – indications

## The scope of REACH and assessment of overlaps (Milieu)

- REACH in-built mechanisms for avoiding overlap seem to work well, coherent regulatory structure in place
- some minor overlaps identified (more coherence in restriction legislation advocated for)
- some gaps also identified
- large number of synergies identified between REACH and the various sector-specific legislation

# REACH review – indications

**external studies** published on the Commission's website

## **The REACH baseline study (5 years update)**

tracks 2 major goals (representative set of substances):

1. improvement in the quality of available data for the assessment of chemicals ⇒ increase of quality for registered substances
2. reduction in the risk of chemicals to humans and the environment ⇒ significant reduction in nominal risk already! (e.g. almost 5-fold decrease in nominal risk in the impact area of workers)



# REACH review – indications

## European chemical market after the introduction of REACH (CSES)

- sizeable compliance costs (registration, SDS), should decrease over time
- withdrawal of substances from the market does not appear to be a problem
- not sizeable impact on consumer prices

# REACH review – indications

## Impact on the innovativeness of chemical industry (CSES)

- survey with different views of industry
- smaller part of industry benefits from more information generated on chemicals
- impact of the candidate list of SVHC on innovation

# REACH review – follow-up

- on the basis of the COM report, discussion with stakeholders expected, REACH review conference etc.
- on the basis of the COM report and subsequent discussion, COM may consider a legislative proposal bearing also in mind potential impacts on the next registration deadlines (2013 and 2018) and on SMEs



# REACH review and industrial policy

REACH review – a wide exercise to assess the effects of the Regulation on the competitiveness of the European industry:

- **Costs and administrative burdens – e.g. compliance costs**
- **Impacts on innovation and SMEs – e.g. increased information about uses of chemicals**

Wider context – the impact of the economic crisis: pressure on industry still lingers

- **Chemical industry: coping better than other sectors but nevertheless under pressure**
- **SMEs: more vulnerable than large companies (market, access to information and finance) – also findings of the REACH review**

# REACH review and industrial policy

## Communication on industrial policy: proposals to strengthen European industry – 10 October 2012

- Role of chemical industry: integral part of the strategy
  - **Close links with priority areas identified – e.g. bio-based products or nanotechnologies (one of the KETs)**
  - **Pillar for innovation in other industrial sectors – e.g.**
- Chemical industry to make use of industrial policy instruments proposed in the strategy (innovation, market conditions, skills,...)
  - **REACH key element for the Internal Market of chemicals – better market conditions through a stable and predictable framework**
  - **Innovation: a crucial objective of REACH**



# Thank you for your attention.

*For further information:*

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/index_en.htm)

<http://ec.europa.eu/comm/environment/chemicals/reach.htm>

<http://echa.europa.eu>

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