

## Regulatory co-operation and chemicals in TTIP

In the context of regulatory co-operation for chemicals in the TTIP negotiations, the European Chemicals Industry asks EU policy makers to maintain the **highest standards of chemical safety in the EU** and also to take measures that would support increased economic activity and jobs, improve standards, facilitate the regulatory process and reduce compliance costs on both sides of the Atlantic. In particular, while upholding REACH and its implementation, Cefic considers the following issues as priorities:

### **Promoting alignment in classification and labelling of chemicals**

This is an area with great potential of co-operation due to the fact that an international standard exists, which is the GHS, Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. The EU and US authorities could commit to work towards convergence, when implementing the GHS, e.g. by using the same GHS building blocks. This would also fit with an initiative in the UN GHS promoted by the US for a global list of agreed GHS classifications. An enhanced EU-US co-operation on agreeing classifications for chemicals could become a good basis for a global list while respecting each other procedures. The benefit for companies is a reduction in the burden of differing safety data sheets and labelling of chemical products. This is particularly relevant for SMEs.

### **Co-operation in prioritising chemicals for assessment and assessment methodologies**

Methods for assessment/evaluation are an area where EPA and ECHA already co-operate and this can be intensified – in particular in the development/integration of new scientific developments. The already existing Statement of Intent signed between EPA and ECHA could be a good basis for developing further co-operation activities. Under OECD programme for existing chemicals, evaluation of hazardous properties and hazard characterization of high production volume chemicals was agreed. Similarly any further evaluation by US EPA or any EU Member States could be shared and considered as a common basis to avoid redundant work and by doing so limiting the time for authority examination and approval. The risk evaluation should remain separate as exposure models differ. As regulatory systems also differ this would ensure each one is respected. In this case the benefit is mainly for the authorities (reduction of the administrative burden) but industry - including downstream customers - may also benefit by quicker access to market for innovative products.

**Note on information sharing and protection of IP rights & confidential business information (CBI)**

The US EPA and OSHA have expressed interest to discuss these issues in the framework of the TTIP negotiations. In addition, several animal welfare organisations have called on the authorities to increase data exchange between regulators to avoid duplication of tests involving animals. While it is undoubtedly important that the EU and US authorities exchange information both sides also make vast and increasing amounts of data publicly available. Important concerns for industry would be mutual acceptance of data and proper safeguard of intellectual property rights and confidential business information. Agreeing on a common data format like IUCLID as the basis for an exchange on safety studies would greatly facilitate data sharing.

For more information please contact:  
René Van Sloten, Executive Director, Cefic,  
+32 2.676.72.10 or [rvs@cefic.be](mailto:rvs@cefic.be).

**About Cefic**

Cefic, the European Chemical Industry Council, founded in 1972, is the voice of 29,000 large, medium and small chemical companies in Europe, which provide 1.2 million jobs and account for 17% of world chemicals production.