

Business Europe Environment Working Group

Kristin's opening

- The aim is to phase out the most harmful chemicals and to replace them by safe and sustainable chemicals.
- Planned Commission proposals to revise CLP (second half 2022) and REACH (end 2022).
- Essential uses – concept has been introduced in the SCC as a new way to manage chemicals and speed up the decision making process. An on-going study delivered in July 2022. All options are still open at the moment.
- A workshop with stakeholders - February 2022. Industry is encouraged to participate in that ; also public consultations related to the revision of REACH Regulation.
- Open Public Consultation - launch in December 2021 with a deadline of March 2022.
- For REACH - link the work on the essential use concept with the planned reform of the authorisation and restrictions system.
- Impact assessment finished before the summer break ; proposal for a revised REACH regulation by end 2022.
- Many unknowns and misunderstandings among the broad public and stakeholders on the potential implementation of the concept in REACH and other chemical legislation.
- Preparing discussion documents – still subject to internal discussion.

Comments from the audience

BDI

- Why do we need an additional regulatory approach apart from authorisation and restriction? Now we are going towards a broad hazard base approach. We may lose important substances, which we need for innovation purposes.
 - ➔ [REDACTED] response – we will stay within the existing system of authorisations and restrictions. We may merge the two.
 - ➔ Indeed, essential uses won't be easy to implement.

EUROFER

- Platform on sustainable finance – we need to discuss these updates before final decision is taken
 - ➔ Kristin – we should not pre-empt the definition of “essential uses” in the context of sustainable finance

BASF

- Endocrine disrupters – will there be classification criteria

- Can the essential use concept be brought to a level where a substance is already classified as a substance of concern
 - ➔ Endocrine disruptors, EPVMs, EPVBs - indeed, there will be classification criteria
 - ➔ Essential use – scope is still under discussion – can also be applied to specific restrictions.
- Some chemicals may only have limited essential uses and production may cease if other uses are no more possible. What if chemicals for such essential uses disappear from the market?
 - ➔ [REDACTED] problem is understood, but it is not straightforward to use market size as an argument to defend the continued use of such chemicals in non-essential uses.

Business Europe

- What problems do you see in the application? Can this lead to longer assessments and lengthier policy decisions, for instance?
 - ➔ Kristin: stakeholders can help us both in the theoretical discussions, and in the evidence on how essential use can be applied in practice. What would it mean in certain cases?



- Question on B2B vs B2C use of chemicals.
 - ➔ [REDACTED] – we are reflecting on future rules on B2B, too. There is a strong link with the occupational safety and health legislation