



REACH

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THE NEW EU CHEMICALS LEGISLATION – REACH

On 29 October 2003, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a new EU regulatory framework for chemicals, [COM \(2003\) 644](#). Under the proposed new system called REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of CHemicals), enterprises that manufacture or import more than one tonne of a chemical substance per year would be required to register it in a central database. The aims of the proposed new Regulation are to improve the protection of human health and the environment while maintaining the competitiveness and enhancing the innovative capability of the EU chemicals industry. REACH would furthermore give greater responsibility to industry to manage the risks from chemicals and to provide safety information on the substances. This information would be passed down the chain of production. The proposal has been drafted in close consultation with all interested parties, including an [Internet consultation](#). This has allowed the Commission to propose a streamlined and cost-effective system. The proposal is now being considered by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU for adoption under the so-called co-decision procedure.

Background documentation:

- Press Release [IP/06/1799](#) of 13.12.2006
- [Press Memo](#) of 13.12.2006
- REACH in brief (revised 12.12.2006)  
- Presentation given by Commission (DGs Enterprise and Environment) at the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee on REACH on 4.11.2004  
- Official response of the EU to comments made by WTO members about REACH of 28.10.2004  
- Process description – REACH Proposal of 15.6.2004  
- Flow chart – REACH in detail   of 4.4.2004
- Memorandum of Understanding on further work on the Impact Assessment of REACH   of 3.3.2004
- Press Release [IP/03/1477](#) of 29.10.2003
- Flow chart – REACH at a glance   of 29.10.2003
- Speech by Erkki Liikanen, Commissioner for Enterprise, [SPEECH/03/502](#) of 29.10.2003
- New Extended Impact Assessment ([EIA](#)) of the REACH draft legislation
- Further background on the [White Paper](#) – Strategy for a future Chemicals Policy

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