

8 December 2021

ECHA's contribution to the Commission's Restrictions Roadmap

Background

The European Commission adopted its Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability on 14 October 2020¹. As announced in the Strategy, the Commission considers extending the 'generic approach to risk management', i.e. restricting certain substances in products for certain users while allowing limited exemptions under conditions clearly defined in law. Until the assessment of the proposed changes and their introduction in the REACH Regulation is in place, it is foreseen in the Strategy to prioritise the most harmful substances for restrictions for all uses and through grouping. To facilitate this, the Commission decided to prepare a Restrictions Roadmap.

The Commission has requested² ECHA to take an active role in several work areas to support the implementation of the Strategy, including supporting the Commission in the preparation of a Restrictions Roadmap.

ECHA's contribution

ECHA has contributed to the preparation of a Restrictions Roadmap through providing:

- input on ongoing or planned restriction activities of authorities included in the Registry of Intentions³;
- suggestions on a number of (groups of) substances that could be included in the rolling list of the Restrictions Roadmap where the assessments of regulatory needs, from ECHA's Integrated Regulatory Strategy work on groups of substances, recommends restriction;
- an overview of the current progress with restrictions on articles for substances subject to authorisation⁴ (REACH Article 69(2) assessments);
- an estimate of the available resources to develop restriction proposals and to assess restrictions in ECHA's committees in the coming years, considering also the already known restrictions planned or under development;
- technical input on responses to comments from Member States and stakeholders on draft versions of the Restrictions Roadmap;
- scientific and technical advice on draft documents.

Furthermore, ECHA supported the Commission services in several meetings, including exchanges on a draft Restrictions Roadmap at the RIME+ meeting⁵ on 22 April 2021, the Restrictions Task Force meeting on 29 April 2021 and at the CARACAL⁶ meetings of 28 - 29 June 2021 and 17 November 2021.

The European Commission plans to publish the Restrictions Roadmap in early 2022 and we will provide then a link to the publication on the Commission's webpage.

ECHA remains committed to supporting the Commission in the implementation of the Restrictions Roadmap, as well as in the preparation of future updates.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/pdf/chemicals/2020/10/Strategy.pdf>

² https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/17206/chemicals_strategy_com_request_for_support_en.pdf/a039ba03-da22-09d6-2d60-eeff9d12e527?t=1619097246273

³ <https://echa.europa.eu/registry-of-restriction-intentions>

⁴ <https://echa.europa.eu/echas-work-with-annex-xiv-substances>

⁵ <https://echa.europa.eu/rime>

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/reach/competent_authorities_en.htm