

Costs and benefits of restrictions under REACH

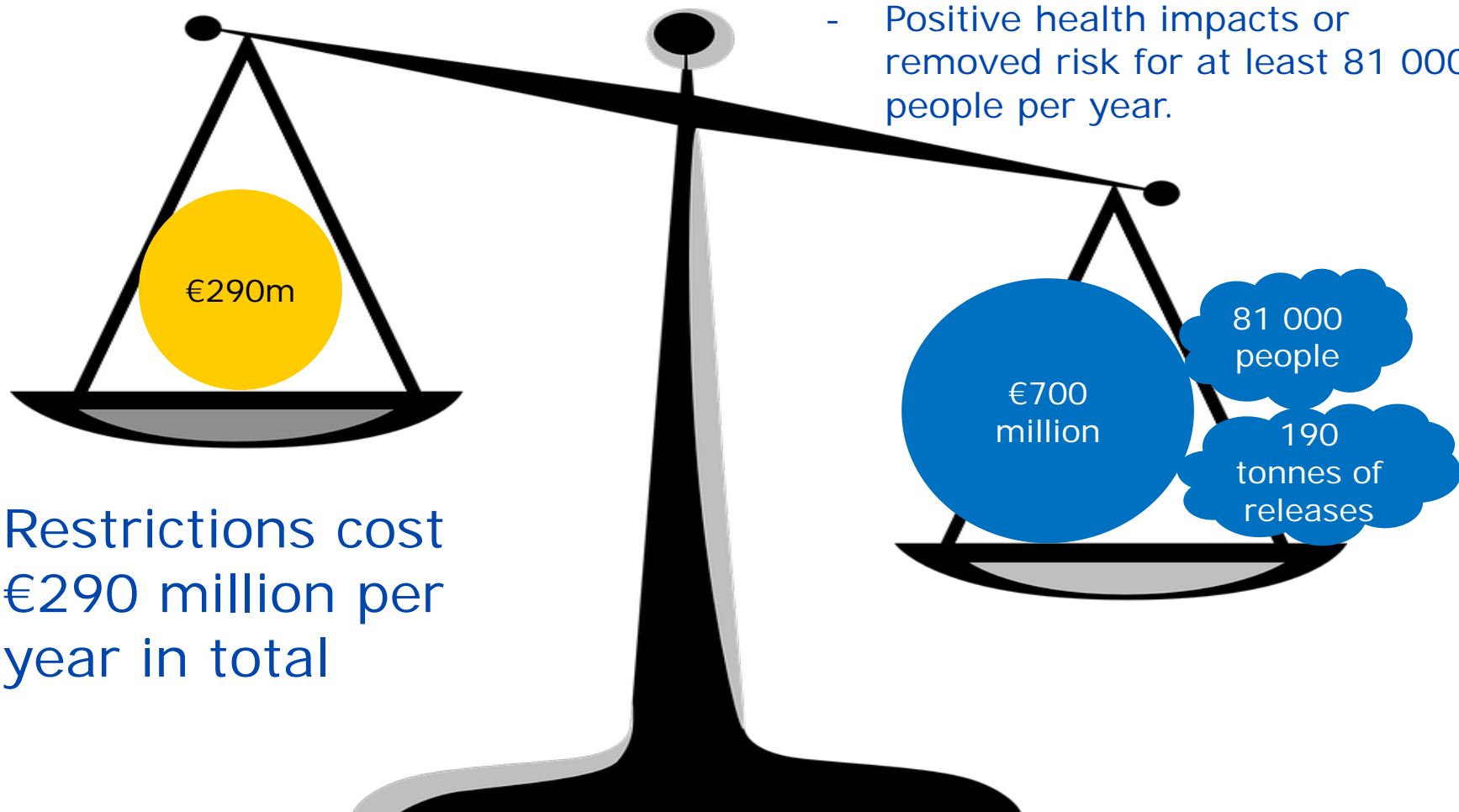
Workshop on Socio-Economic Analysis in AfAs and Restrictions under REACH

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Costs vs. benefits



Why?

- ECHA study to improve our understanding on the overall costs and benefits of restrictions and approaches/methods used and elements considered in the SEA.
- Restrictions are proposed under REACH if a chemical poses an unacceptable risk that needs to be addressed on a EU-wide basis
- Socio-economic analysis (SEA) is one part of the restriction proposal
- SEA is systematic and transparent approach to analyse impacts – information is available

Results

19 restriction cases processed under REACH between 2008 and 2015 are covered.

3 opinions not recommending restriction described.

Best available information on the impcats. The results are subject to the uncertainties reported in the RAC and SEAC opinions. The uncertainties are not further discussed in the report.



Costs

- Always monetised (or argued negligible)
- Mainly substitution costs (higher prices of alternative substances and investment costs), sometimes also e.g. compliance control costs to industry
- Results (per year):
 - Total: €290m
 - Min: €0
 - Max: €100m
 - Arithmetic mean: €18m
 - Median: €5m



Benefits (1/2)

- Adverse health effects
 - Cancer
 - Dermatitis, burns, eye problems and breathing difficulties, decreased lung functioning, fractures
 - Neurotoxic and neurodevelopmental effects (e.g. decrease in IQ)
 - Infertility
- Environment
 - Ecosystem's function and services, biodiversity, water quality
 - General PBT concern (unknown impacts and uncertainty in longer time period)
- Others
 - Avoided legal costs
 - Avoided loss of consumer surplus
 - Avoided restoration costs
 - Improved clarity of the restriction entry



Benefits (2/2)

- Challenging to estimate
- Categorised to allow aggregation (n=16)
 1. Monetised benefits (4)
 2. Benefits based on emission reduction (e.g. PBTs) (6)
 3. Other qualitatively and quantitatively described benefits (6)
- Results (per year)
 1. Health benefits equivalent to over €700 million, and
 2. reduction of around 190 tonnes of releases of substances of concern, and
 3. positive health impacts or removed risk for at least 81,000 consumers and workers.

Dossiers covered in the report

- Dimethylfumarate (DMFu) in treated articles
- Lead and its compounds in jewellery
- Mercury in measuring devices
- Phenylmercury compounds used e.g. in the production of polyurethane coatings
- Chromium VI in leather articles
- 1,4-DCB in toilet blocks and air fresheners
- Lead and its compounds in consumer articles
- Nonylphenol (NP) and its ethoxylates (NPE) in textile
- 1-Methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP)
- Cadmium and its compounds in antifouling paints
- Use of asbestos fibres
- Ammonium salts in cellulose as insulating material
- DecaBDE as a flame retardant in plastics and textiles
- Four phthalates
- PFOA and its salts, including substances that may degrade to PFOA
- Methanol in windshield washing fluids
- Siloxanes D4 and D5 in personal care products

- Bisphenol(A) in thermal paper
- Four phthalates (DEHP, BBP, DBP and DIBP)
- Cadmium in artists' paints

Thank you!

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The report is available at:

http://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13630/cost_benefit_assessment_en.pdf