

# ECHA's Transparency Approach

6th meeting between NGO  
representatives and ECHA

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# Background

- Transparency is core value of the Agency;
- Strong drive for transparency from the start;
- However, balance needed with rights of third parties and other core values of the Agency;
- Time to take stock and to bring together all the initiatives taken over the years into one single document.

## Implementation

- ECHA consulted its stakeholders on two documents in ASO annual workshop 9/10/2014:
  - ECHA's Approach to Transparency (current state of play)
  - ECHA becoming more transparent (improvement ideas);
- Also CARACAL consulted (10-11/11/2014);
- Final document adopted by ECHA's Management Board Dec. '14.

## Implementation (2)

- ECHA's Approach to Transparency based on three main pillars:
  - It clearly explains activities and processes
  - It practices open decision making
  - It makes information available, in a timely manner
- Commitment to continuous improvement

## Implementation (3)

- ASO prioritised 6 ideas for improvement, which were further grouped into 3 recommendations:
  - The dissemination project and extending it to decisions taken by the Agency to give a start to finish picture of what's happening to dossiers and substances;
  - Communication – rethinking the website structure and making all our communication clearer;
  - Committee meetings – more explanation and information on the processes, decision making and reviewing observer and third party involvement.

# 1. Enhanced dissemination portal

- More user friendly for wider audiences
  - Infocards and substance Brief Profiles, presenting a substance centric overview of the substance's main regulatory processes, links to associated evaluation decisions, as well as an overview of the substance's main critical properties;
  - Improved search functionalities and advanced search functionalities by chemical properties;
  - Increased automation of data processing .

## 2. Improving communication

### Examples:

- Simplification of the sometimes legalistic and complex correspondence with individual companies underway;
- Existing content on ECHA's website is under constant review (e.g. chemicals in our life and REACH 2018);
- ECHA's Helpdesk project to improve the user friendliness of answers given to enquiries; Guidance nowadays accompanied by "Guidance in a Nutshell";
- Executive summary documents ("facts & figures") for major corporate reports published by the Agency;
- Etc.

## 3. Improving transparency of Committee meetings

- Continue improving the clarity and understandability of the available information;
- Authorisation applications:
  - ASOs will in future be allowed specific speaking rights in plenary meetings of RAC and SEAC with the intent of having contributions with regards to consistency and procedural matters;
  - “Dialogues” (in which ASOs participated already) also retained.



## Additional quick win

- New 'Transparency' section for ECHA website in progress, including quick links to e.g.:
  - Final regulatory decisions taken by ECHA;
  - Agenda of Executive Director;
  - Ongoing public consultations;
  - Plans and reports;
  - Etc.