



# Promoting substitution through the authorisation process: role of CSO stakeholders

NGO-ECHA discussion platform, 25 September 2013

Tatiana Santos-EEB

# Substitution drivers & stakeholders



# OUR GOAL



**Authorisations are not granted for SVHC for which feasible alternatives are available in the market**



# What have we done so far?

## SIN LIST

The fast track to a toxic free world



MOVING TOWARDS SAFER ALTERNATIVES

Home News Newsletter About the Project Substitution Steps Substitution in Legislation Identifying substances of concern Restricted and Priority Substances Database Case Story Database Substitution Tools Training

Financial Support by Baua: Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Berufshilfe

Welcome to SUBSPORT the Substitution Support Portal! Here you can find information to support your efforts in substituting hazardous substances. Enjoy exploring the portal and please do not hesitate to contact the project team for any comments or questions. SUBSPORT is an ongoing project. Therefore we recommend to revisit the portal from time to time if you could not yet find the information you expected. To keep yourself informed about the progress of the portal and other related news you can subscribe to the SUBSPORT newsletter.

Latest News: Webinar: Chemical-Intensive Products Sustainability-Driven Innovation

Support for Substitution: Substitution of hazardous chemicals is a fundamental measure to reduce risks to environment, workers, consumers and public health. Legislation encourages you to substitute, this site will show you how.

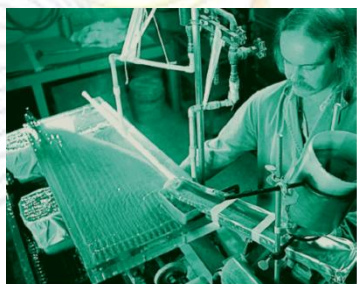
Substitution Steps: Substitution may be fast and easy or a more complex process. Generally it includes the following steps: 1. Define the problem 2. Set substitution criteria 3. Search for alternatives 4. Assess and compare alternatives 5. Experiment on pilot 6. Implement and improve

Search SUBSPORT: Website, Restricted and priority substances database, Case story database

External substitution websites and databases

Your contribution: Provide substitution examples, Provide feedback

Training: Alternatives identification and assessment



Trade Union Priority List for REACH Authorisation

Trade Union Priority List for REACH Authorisation



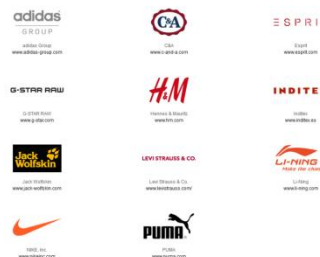
Version 2.0, April 2010  
Web site usage included in each entry

Contact Glossary Imprint Links



## RØADMAP TO ZERO DISCHARGE OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

CURRENT SIGNATORY MEMBERS (SORTED BY ZONE)



SH Sustainable HOSPITALS

REGISTER GLOSSARY FEEDBACK SITE MAP

Providing technical support to the healthcare industry for selecting products and work practices that reduce occupational and environmental hazards, maintain quality patient care, and contain costs.

Here are four ways to find alternative products:

SHP re grant to and Blo

# What have we done so far?



25 August 2012

**What can ECHA do to boost substitution:**

A) SUPPORT THIRD PARTY PARTICIPATION IN THE AUTHORIZATION PROCESS  
 B) SUPPORT SUBSTITUTION

A) SUPPORT THIRD PARTY PARTICIPATION IN THE AUTHORIZATION PROCESS

A1) DISSEMINATE WIDELY THAT THE APPLICATION PROCESS HAS BEGUN. COMMUNICATE EACH TIME AN APPLICATION IS DELIVERED BY INDUSTRY TO ECHA SO 3<sup>rd</sup> PARTIES CAN PREPARE.

ECHA could begin by carrying out similar dissemination activities as those carried out during the registration and restriction process (develop a communications strategy):

- notices on ECHA's website
- press conferences and press releases
- ECHA Newsletter
- enhance Member State authorities' involvement in dissemination: environment, health, industry and work
- REACH Helpline
- collaborate with Trade Union and NGOs
- industrial federations
- sustainable chemistry nets
- workshops
- stakeholder days
- create NGO section in ECHA webpage

A2) ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS OF SPECIFIC 3<sup>rd</sup> PARTIES THAT MAY HAVE INFORMATION ON THE USE APPLIED FOR IN PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS:

A.2.1. ECHA should contact interested:

- Downstream users associations
- (small) technological institutes and academic
- Trade union institutes
- NGOs involved
- adds in industrial (small) magazines

A.2.2. Organize supply chain dialogues for applications that may get an authorization

A.3.) PROVIDE INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO 3<sup>rd</sup> PARTIES.



8<sup>th</sup> March 2013

## NGO RECOMMENDATIONS:

**ENCOURAGING THIRD PARTY PARTICIPATION IN THE REACH AUTHORIZATION PROCESS TO ASSURE THAT SVHC THAT HAVE SAFER ALTERNATIVES ARE NOT USED**

### Background

Substitution of hazardous chemicals is one of REACH's main objectives<sup>1</sup>. The processes that REACH establishes to meet this objective are the Authorisation and Restriction processes.

Companies willing to use or place Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) on the market have to request an authorisation, which will be use specific. Applicants will have to investigate the possibility of substituting these substances with safer alternatives or technologies, and prepare substitution plans, if appropriate.

The European Commission will take the decision to grant or not an authorisation, taking into account the opinions of the Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) and the Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC). It should be noted that because REACH applies without prejudice to EU laws on safety and health at work, in any case authorisations should not be granted when, in so far as it is technically possible<sup>2</sup>, there is a

<sup>1</sup> REACH Regulation Recital, recital 12, reads "encourage and in certain cases to ensure that substances of high concern are eventually replaced by low hazardous substances or technologies whose suitable economically and technically viable alternatives are available."  
 Article 1 establishes that the aim of the Regulation is to ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment, and that substances that are placed on the market do not adversely affect human health and



Submission of information on alternatives by interested third parties for the public consultations on alternatives for Applications for Authorisation

Instructions & Templates



**ECHA**  
EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY

**Eighth Stakeholders' Day**  
26 MARCH 2013  
HELSINKI EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE CENTRE

15.30 - 15.45

**PROMOTING SUBSTITUTION THROUGH THE AUTHORISATION PROCESS: ROLE OF NGOS AND THIRD PARTIES**

Tatiana SANTOS  
Senior Policy Officer: Chemicals and Nanotechnology - European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

# What will we do



1. Encourage ECHA's work in the promotion of substitution
2. Promote CSOs' participation during the public consultations
3. Participate in relevant ECHA meetings
4. Raise awareness among the relevant NGOs on their role in promoting substitution
5. Participation in relevant working groups and networks
6. Analysis of Authorisation process
7. Training on substitution - to CSOs, MS, companies... to RAC, SEAC & ECHA?



## Recommendations to ECHA



- **Develop guidance documents & web section on substitution**
- **Dissemination of authorization applications;** web; Helpdesk; collaborations, ind federations, sustainable chem nets; workshops, etc.
- **Encourage participation of interested 3<sup>rd</sup> parties;** Contacting them and organizing supply chain dialogues for applications that may get an authorization
- **Provide information and technical support to 3<sup>rd</sup> parties:** ECHA helpdesk; informing, training and coordinating MS helpdesks
- **Elaborate alternative assessments** for uses that may obtain an authorization
- **Prioritise towards advanced/green chemistry** instead of obsolete chemistry (even if the last ones will pay authorisation fees)

## NGOs' main concerns on Authorisation



- **Proposal of standard review periods of 7 or more years** (plus 6 years in candidate list + 1,5 y authorization procedure = 15 years!!)
- **No procedure for reviewing authorizations** when new alternatives or risks appear.
- **Establishment of DNEL** for substances that are well known EDC (DEHP, BBP, ...)
- **No comparison of overall risks** of the SVHC and its alternatives (SVHC only candidate list property, however all risks of alternatives)
- **CSO observers not allowed to speak/participate** during discussions in RAC and SEAC



# Conclusions



- **ECHA has the opportunity to promote a sustainable European chemical industry and make it a forerunner world wide**
- **ECHA must ensure that ALL information on alternatives is gathered in the process**
- **Downstream users play a key role** (acceptability of alternatives, but also as drivers for innovation)
- **3rd parties contribution is key for achieving advanced and sustainable development**
- **Hazardous and obsolete chemistry has no future – Authorisations shouldn't be granted for SVHC when alternatives are available!**



# Thank you for your attention!

## European Environmental Bureau

Boulevard de Waterloo  
B- 1000 Brussels  
Belgium

Tel: + 32 2 289 10 94  
Site Web: [www.eeb.org](http://www.eeb.org)

Contact:  
Tatiana Santos  
[tatiana.santos@eeb.org](mailto:tatiana.santos@eeb.org)

An international non-profit association