

PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS

**47TH MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
28-29 SEPTEMBER 2017, HELSINKI**

1. Selection of ECHA's next Executive Director

The Management Board selected Mr Bjorn Gaarn Hansen as ECHA's next Executive Director. He was one of the candidates shortlisted by the European Commission after an open competition, and who were interviewed by the Management Board for the post.

As part of the appointment procedure, Bjorn Hansen will make a statement before the European Parliament and answer questions of its Members. The contract signature is scheduled for the Management Board meeting of 14-15 December 2017.

Bjorn Hansen's forthcoming appointment follows that of Geert Dancet who was appointed as ECHA's first Executive Director in January 2008.

2. Proposal on ECHA's future building

The Management Board approved the submission of the notification of the project for ECHA's future building to the budgetary authority (European Parliament and Council) for their approval.

The approval was granted with the understanding that the questionnaire attached to the proposal will still be improved in line with comments received during informal consultations with Commission services and the Management Board Advisory Group.

The future building fulfils all the criteria as adopted by the Management Board and has been selected as a result of a procurement procedure, involving several candidates.

3. Revised Decision on the Transfer of Fees to Member States

The Management Board adopted the revised draft Decision on the arrangements and scale of fee transfers to Member States for the period 2018-2020, as proposed by its Working Group on Transfer of Fees.

In a number of areas, such as the man day assumptions and the approach for transfers in the area of REACH authorisation applications, the arrangements remain the same as in the current Decision. The new features of the proposal include a new overall ceiling for the transfer to Member States for the period 2018-20 (6.5 million EUR), and a revised approach, based on the use of the European Commission cost of living coefficients (so-called coefficient corrections, further adapted to Finland), for defining the scale of payments for the different Member States. This new approach aims to ensure that the transfer of fees is linked to the real costs incurred by the MSCAs (one of the overall principles of the transfer of fees system).

The draft Decision will be submitted for the agreement of the European Commission. Pending the Commission's agreement, the revised Decision shall enter into force on 1 January 2018.

4. Final programming document years 2018-2020

The Management Board adopted ECHA's Programming Document for 2018-2020. The document combines the multiannual objectives and resource outlook with the activity planning and was prepared with the help of the Working Group on Planning and Reporting.

The document is based on the preliminary draft budget which was included in the first draft, adopted by the Management Board in December 2016 and subsequently sent to the European Commission in January 2017.

Board members noted ongoing discussions between Commission Services on new tasks, which are at present not covered by the Commission Budget Proposal for ECHA. These tasks are only partially listed in the Programming Document and include Poison Centres, Occupational Exposure Limits (OELs), Endocrine Disruptors, and the implementation of the Legislation Finder. Depending on the outcome of these discussions, the resource allocation for these tasks may be increased in December or the Programming Document might be amended not to include them.

With regards Poison Centres, a number of Board members expressed concerns about the legal basis of the proposal and in particular that of the role foreseen for ECHA. It was agreed that the inclusion of these tasks in the Programming Document is pending clarification of the legal base, as well as the resources implications and sufficient interest and demand from the Member States. The adoption of the Programming Document was made subject to including a clear reference to the conditionality of taking up these tasks.

It was noted that the Human and Financial Resources planning will be reviewed in December 2017, following the adoption of the EU general budget and the subsequent adoption of the final ECHA budget and establishment plan. The procurement plan will also be submitted to the Management Board for approval in December, as well as the IT master plan for information.

5. First Amending Budget 2017, amendment to the Procurement plan and transfers within the budget

The Management Board adopted the first amendment to ECHA's 2017 budget, including the corresponding amendment of the procurement plan and the amendment of the establishment plan; and took note of the budget transfers carried out under the responsibility of the Executive Director.

With the amendment, the required EU subsidy is reduced by € 5.2 million to € 64.3 million for REACH/CLP and by € 560 000 to € 890 000 for BPR which is close to the higher amount of fees already received or to be received in 2017.

6. IAS Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2018-2020

The Management Board endorsed the Internal Audit Service' Strategic Audit Plan, including the short list of prospective audit topics for the next 3 years. The potential audit topics during the period 2018-2020 will include Conflicts of interest and ethics (January 2018); Integrated regulatory strategy: screening, evaluation and RMOA; Procurement; Integrated regulatory strategy: harmonised classification and labelling; Business continuity (including IT) and IT service management.

7. Appointment of Committee members

The Management Board appointed Ms Julie SÉBA, Ms Laure GEOFFROY, Ms Irina KARADJOVA and Mr Daniel BORG as members of the Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC).

8. Amendment to the Rules of Procedures of ECHA bodies

The Management Board adopted a technical amendment to the Rules of Procedures of the Management Board, the ECHA Committees and the Forum. The technical amendment aims to move toward an electronic handling of the related declarations signed by Committee members. It concerns the removal of the declaration templates from the annexes to Rules of Procedure text and replacing such text with hyperlink references to normalised, common declaration templates (with an electronic signature system).

9. Other topics

The Management Board:

- authorised Geert DANCET, current ECHA Executive Director, to perform an outside activity for the Community Plant Variety Office between 4 October 2017 and 31 December 2017. Board members also took note of the general handling of post-employment activities of senior managers, as well as of intentions of Geert DANCET on new occupational opportunities after retirement.
- received the quarterly report on ECHA's progress in reaching the 2017 Work Programme targets.
- took note of the technical revision of its own Operating Framework. The Secretariat technically updated the document in the light of relevant factual developments. The Chair noted that the Management Board may wish to review its Operating Framework on a future occasion.
- took note of the update on the selection process for the appointment of a new Accounting Officer for ECHA. The Management Board will decide by written procedure, so that the new Accounting Officer can take over the duties before year's end.
- heard the announcement of the 7th meeting of the Member States' Competent Authorities' Directors, scheduled to take place on 11-12 October in Helsinki.
- will hold its 48th meeting on 14-15 December 2017 in Brussels, Belgium.
