

**OPINION OF
THE MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY
ON THE FINAL ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2018**

THE MANAGEMENT BOARD,

having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing an European Chemicals Agency, and in particular Article 97 thereof,

having regard to the Agency's Financial Regulation adopted on 28 February 2014 and, in particular, Article 99(2) thereof,

having regard to the preliminary observations adopted by the European Court of Auditors on 21 May 2019,

whereas:

- 1) on receipt of the European Court of Auditors' preliminary observations on the Agency's Provisional Annual Accounts, the Accounting Officer shall draw up the Agency's Final Annual Accounts and the Executive Director shall forward them to the Management Board for an opinion;
- 2) the Management Board shall deliver an opinion on the Agency's Final Annual Accounts;
- 3) by 1 July 2019, the Executive Director shall send the Final Annual Accounts 2018, together with the opinion of the Management Board, to the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission and the European Court of Auditors.

HAS DECIDED TO GIVE THE FOLLOWING OPINION:

The Management Board notes that the European Court of Auditors, in its preliminary observations on the Provisional Annual Accounts 2018, has made no reservation concerning the implementation of the European Chemicals Agency's annual budget for 2018.

On the basis of the examination of the Final Annual Accounts, submitted to it on 4 June 2019 by the Executive Director, and on the basis of the Court's preliminary observations, the Management Board has obtained sufficient assurance to conclude that the accounts for the year 2018, taken as a whole, present a true and fair view of the Agency's financial position as at 31 December 2018 and properly reflect the implementation of the Agency's budget for the year 2018.

The Management Board notes the comments in the Court of Auditors preliminary observations. While these preliminary observations do not call into question the Court's opinion that the accounts of the Agency are legal and regular in all aspects, they require further discussion between the Agency and the Court. The Management Board looks forward to receiving the final observations of the Court.

As regards the Agency's long-term resourcing, the Management Board notes the Court's preliminary observation that ECHA, together with the Commission, should assess a new, viable financing model, as foreseen in the Commission General Report on the operation of REACH¹.

Done at Helsinki, 20 June 2019

For the Management Board

signed

The Chair

Sharon McGUINNESS

¹ COM(2018)116 final