ECHA
EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY

Accredited Stakeholder Workshop 2014

Proceedings
Brussels, 9 October 2014

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1 Summary

Once a year, ECHA arranges a strategic workshop for its accredited stakeholder organisations. This is a platform to discuss topical issues and give recommendations for future improvements. All of ECHA's 79 accredited stakeholder organisations were invited and 32 were represented in the workshop this year.

The topics of the workshop were: preparations for the REACH 2018 registration deadline, stakeholder involvement in biocides, nanomaterials and transparency. As before, topics were selected on the basis of stakeholder suggestions and strategic importance. Discussions resulted in shared recommendations, which ECHA has committed to follow-up.

Recommendations from the workshop will be taken into account in the Agency's upcoming work programmes and in the development of ECHA's approach to transparency. ECHA will also consider stakeholders' recommendations in the ongoing development of its processes.

2 Participants

The workshop was attended by 40 participants from 32 accredited stakeholder organisations, representing the following sectors: industry (27), NGOs (11), trade unions (2).

The following directors participated from ECHA: Geert Dancet, Executive Director; Jukka Malm, Deputy Executive Director; Christel Musset, Director of Registration and Jack de Bruijn, Director of Risk Assessment. In addition, Laura Walin, the coordinator of the REACH 2018 registration deadline preparations and ECHA's Communications Unit staff attended to facilitate the breakout sessions and to take care of practical arrangements.

A list of participants is attached in Annex 1.

3 Concept

The aim of the workshop was to provide a forum for strategic discussions between ECHA and the accredited stakeholder organisations, which represent key interest groups for the chemicals legislation managed by ECHA.

Topics were selected based on the stakeholders' suggestions and their strategic importance. The focus was on interactive sessions which gave the stakeholders a possibility to openly express and discuss their views.

The discussions took place in parallel breakout groups. To reflect the different perspectives on the legislation, each group had participants representing various

stakeholder sectors. The breakout groups agreed on shared recommendations, which were reported to the plenary by stakeholder rapporteurs.

The programme also included a follow-up from the recommendations from last year's workshop, where ECHA explained which measures have been taken.

The agenda is attached in Annex 2.

4 Topics

This year, three topics were selected for the parallel breakout sessions and one for a plenary session discussion.

The topics were the following:

- Preparations for REACH 2018 deadline,
- Involving stakeholders in the biocides work,
- Nanomaterials, and
- ECHA's approach to transparency.

Preparations for REACH 2018 deadline

The session started with Laura Walin's presentation of the REACH 2018 Roadmap. After this, due to the large number of participants registered for this breakout session, the group was divided in two. The small groups discussed the following questions:

- REACH 2018 will impact on many "newcomers", many of whom will be smaller companies with limited resources. How can we provide the kind of specific, targeted, sector-based information that can make their lives easier? What can we do together?
- When the data requirements for substances produced in low volumes are confirmed, how best can we spread the word and help companies to comply? What can we do together?

The groups discussed the specific needs for reaching out to SMEs and the importance of involving all parties in the work: ECHA, national authorities and the accredited stakeholder organisations. ECHA has an important role in providing support to registrants, such as general information material and guidance, while national authorities and accredited stakeholder organisations can optimise the outreach and local support. SMEs will need support which is close to them and information presented in a simple way and in their own language. A special challenge was noted in reaching out to companies that are not members of professional associations.

Shared recommendations:

1. Establish a clear, uniform, multilingual information campaign;
2. Involve Chambers of Commerce in the information campaign;
3. ECHA should create material that can be adapted by Member States and others to reach the target audiences;
4. Mobilise Member States to use multiple channels to reach SMEs that are not members of professional bodies;
5. Reinforce national helpdesks for 2018;
6. Speed up the provision of simplified guidance and tools for SMEs in 23 languages;
7. Provide good, simple guidance on Annex III (including read-across and grouping);
8. Give downstream users the possibility to check registration intentions;
9. Encourage the commission to screen potential sources of financial help for SMEs and contribute to explaining their existence;
10. Look for best practice in training and mentoring to see if it can be promoted among the Member States and professional bodies.

Involving stakeholders in the biocides work

The session started with a short introduction from Jack de Bruijn explaining ECHA's approach to stakeholder involvement in the work of the Biocidal Products Committee and its working groups, which follow the same principles as the other ECHA committees. Overall, the cooperation has started well but with a relatively small number of stakeholders involved.

The group discussed how to optimise the stakeholders' participation in the biocides work. Stakeholders noted their overall satisfaction with the open approach of the Committee and working groups, but expressed some concerns about access to the working group documents and interaction between competent authority meetings and the committee meetings. Stakeholders encouraged ECHA to continue allowing participation through teleconference when possible and arranging events with the possibility for online participation.

Shared recommendations:

1. Give participating stakeholders access to an adapted version of the working group assessment reports;
2. Continue and improve the interaction between competent authority meetings and Biocidal Products Committee meetings. Policy discussions arising from committee meetings should take place in competent authority meetings;
3. Use teleconferences when appropriate for working group meetings;

4. Use online tools for events; web streaming of conferences, webinars and online questions;
5. Make sure that all of ECHA's accredited stakeholders are informed and can contribute to the substitution work.

Nanomaterials

The group discussed expectations on ECHA to improve the quality of information on the safe use of nanomaterials. The scope was on activities within ECHA's remit, leaving out the discussion about the REACH annex review.

Jukka Malm gave a short introduction on ECHA's work plan on nanomaterials for 2014-15, highlighting among others the nanomaterials working group, guidance updates, and support to registrants, expert support to the Commission and Member States and participation in international scientific activities.

The group discussed international scientific developments, the need for more information on nanomaterials and specific characteristics for quality information. Another issue was how to make information on nanomaterials more visible on ECHA's website and in IUCLID dossiers. The available information on nanomaterials should be disseminated and it could also be more targeted towards different target groups, such as workers, consumers or registrants. The search functionalities could be improved to include nano properties. The need of information on nanomaterials in safety data sheets was also highlighted. ECHA should promote best practice related to nanomaterials and include more examples in its guidance documents.

Shared recommendations:

1. Take into account information from international discussions (OECD, CEN, FP7). Make a distinction between exploratory research and standardised regulatory requirements;
2. Develop the possibility for a tiered testing requirements approach providing robust and agreed scientific justification where studies are not conducted. Identify specific properties or features which may trigger risk management measures. Translate this into IUCLID;
3. Promote best practice for nanomaterial registration dossiers;
4. Ensure that guidance documents on safety data sheets address nanomaterials;
5. Improve access to information on nanomaterials on ECHA's website.

ECHA's approach to transparency

The session started with ECHA's presentation of the transparency policy process so far. The process was initiated with a discussion at the accredited stakeholder workshop in 2013 where ECHA dedicated a specific session to the topic of transparency. Taking into consideration stakeholders' input, ECHA drafted a document describing the current practices and another with ideas for further improving the Agency's transparency. This year, the workshop participants were asked to provide comments to both papers in advance and these comments were incorporated to the versions discussed in the workshop.

In summary, ECHA's transparency approach is based on three pillars:

1. Clearly explaining activities and processes.
2. Practising open decision-making.
3. Making information available, in a timely manner.

Participants were tasked to discuss and prioritise the ideas to improve the Agency's transparency as presented in ECHA's paper. The session concluded with an agreement on the six most impactful activities. It was noted that many other activities in the paper were also important even though they were not listed among the most impactful development areas. Some further improvement ideas were also mentioned; for example, including the names of notifiers in the C&L Inventory and justifications for classified registration data.

The following six ideas were considered to have the most impact:

1. Increasing transparency on dossiers or substances, e.g. indicate which dossiers are compliant; enabling the tracking of dossiers and substances; explaining how files are selected for substance evaluation, compliance checks, SME checks; explaining what is considered confidential business information.

2. Explaining the rights of duty holders online e.g. to appeal, to ask for a review of an administrative decision as well as the rights that derive from other legislation that apply to REACH.

3. Committee work: explaining how opinion and decision making happens and which ASOs can participate as observers; having a "rules of procedure" for engagement; timed committee agendas; clear and timely committee meeting minutes; reviewing observers' presence in RAC and SEAC for authorisation discussions.

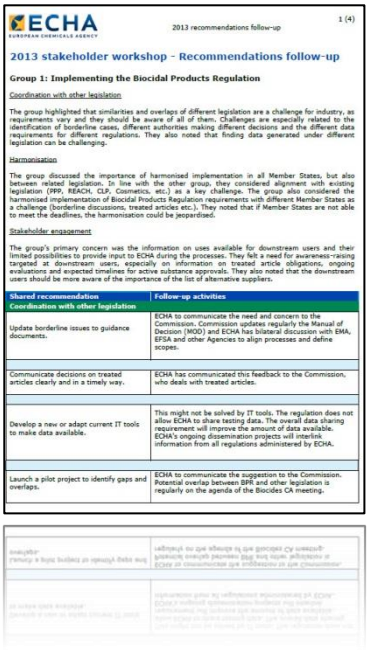
4. Improving all communications to make it simpler, clearer and shorter.

5. Improving the website: rethinking the architecture; keep monitoring the stakeholders' needs in terms of accessibility; building on the workers' part of the site and considering further tailoring to audience needs by segmenting the content.

6. Building on the current dissemination project and making the information on chemicals that we hold as user-friendly and understandable as possible.

5 Follow-up from 2013 workshop

The Executive Director of ECHA, Geert Dancet reported back on how ECHA has addressed the recommendations from last year's workshop. The Accredited Stakeholder Workshop 2013 concluded with recommendations on three topics: implementing the Biocidal Products Regulation, ECHA's approach to transparency and substitution of hazardous chemicals.


ECHA 2013 recommendations follow-up 1 (4)

2013 stakeholder workshop - Recommendations follow-up

Group 1: Implementing the Biocidal Products Regulation

Coordination with other legislation

The group highlighted that similarities and overlaps of different legislation are a challenge for industry, as requirements vary and they should be aware of all of them. Challenges are especially related to the identification of borderline cases, different authorities making different decisions and the different data requirements for different regulations. They also noted that finding data generated under different legislation can be challenging.

Harmonisation

The group discussed the importance of harmonised implementation in all Member States, but also between related legislation. In line with the other group, they considered alignment with existing legislation (PPP, REACH, CLP, Cosmetics, etc.) as a key challenge. The group also considered the harmonised implementation of Biocidal Products Regulation requirements with different Member States as a challenge (borderline discussions, treated articles etc.). They noted that if Member States are not able to meet the deadlines, the harmonisation could be jeopardised.

Stakeholder engagement

The group's primary concern was the information on uses available for downstream users and their limited possibilities to provide input to ECHA during the processes. They felt a need for awareness-raising targeted at downstream users, especially on information on treated article obligations, ongoing evaluations and expected timelines for active substance approvals. They also noted that the downstream users should be more aware of the importance of the list of alternative suppliers.

Shared recommendation	Follow-up activities
Coordination with other legislation	
Update borderline issues to guidance documents.	ECHA to communicate the need and concern to the Commission. Commission updates regularly the Manual of Decision (MOD) and ECHA has bilateral discussion with EMA, EFSA and other Agencies to align processes and define scopes.
Communicate decisions on treated articles clearly and in a timely way.	ECHA has communicated this feedback to the Commission, who deals with treated articles.
Develop a new or adapt current IT tools to make data available.	This might not be solved by IT tools. The regulation does not allow ECHA to share testing data. The overall data sharing requirement will improve the amount of data available. ECHA's ongoing dissemination projects will interlink information from all regulations administered by ECHA.
Launch a pilot project to identify gaps and overlaps.	ECHA to communicate the suggestion to the Commission. Potential overlap between BPR and other legislation is regularly on the agenda of the Biocides CA meeting.

Recommendations on the implementation of the Biocidal Products Regulation related to ensuring coordination with other legislation, supporting harmonisation of Member State decisions and enhancing stakeholder engagement. To ensure coordination, ECHA has discussed borderline issues with EMA, EFSA and other EU agencies, and gaps and overlaps have been addressed with biocides authorities. There are also ongoing projects to interlink information from all ECHA-administered legislation. ECHA has supported the harmonisation of Member State decisions through regular contact with the MSCAs and by updating FAQ documents. Stakeholder participation has been established by nominating observers to the Biocidal Products Committee and its working groups.

With regard to ECHA's approach to transparency, the Agency has taken concrete action and started a process which the stakeholders had the chance to discuss. ECHA has also improved its transparency through the following activities: ASO observer lists have been reviewed and published on ECHA's website; participation in committees has been reviewed; a workshop on evaluation strategy revision was organised in spring 2014; information for the general public was provided by re-launching the "Chemicals in our life" web section; introducing social media channels and producing two videos.

Finally, on the substitution of hazardous chemicals, ECHA has addressed the recommendation to highlight early warnings on authorisation by starting to communicate to registrants and notifiers on public consultations on SVHC identification and Annex XIV recommendations and by improving the reporting of intentions. ECHA has also improved the authorisation web pages and issued a special edition of the Newsletter dedicated to substitution. Further awareness-raising initiatives on substitution are being planned.

Participants received a document with each shared recommendation and a statement from ECHA on the status of the follow-up. The complete follow-up table of 2013 recommendations is available here

6 Conclusions

Shared recommendations from the workshop will be taken into account in drafting ECHA's work programmes and in the ongoing development of ECHA's processes. ECHA will establish an internal procedure to follow-up each of the activities. In cases where ECHA does not consider the recommendations feasible or under its remit, it will explain this to the stakeholders.

In relation to ECHA's approach to transparency, the defined priorities will be analysed internally both in terms of the scope and achievability. ECHA will consult CARACAL on the approach in November and present both the approach and concrete proposals for addressing the six development ideas to the Management Board in December 2014.

Communication on the follow-up activities will be channelled through the Stakeholder update, which is sent bi-monthly to the accredited stakeholders. As before, ECHA will also present the outcomes in the next accredited stakeholder workshop.

Annex 1 - List of participants

	First name	Last name	Organisation
1	Cristina	Arregui	International Fragrance Association (IFRA)
2	Julia	Baines	PETA International Science Consortium Ltd (PISC)
3	Jan	Bambas	The Confederation of European Business (BUSINESSEUROPE)
4	Laurel	Berzanskis	Health Care Without Harm Europe (HCWH)
5	Sophie	Bornstein	The oil companies' European organisation for environment, health and safety in refining and distribution (CONCAWE)
6	Raf	Bruyndonckx	European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic)
7	Vito	Buonsante	ClientEarth
8	Sonia	Clarena Baron	European Industrial Minerals Association (IMA-Europe)
9	Maria Chiara	Detragiache	European Engineering Industries Association (Orgalime)
10	Nadia	El Bennich	European Environmental Bureau (EEB) / Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)
11	Guillaume	Flament	Nanotechnology Industry Association (NIA)
12	Véronique	Garny	European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic)
13	Divina	Gomez	Association of European Adhesives and Sealants Manufacturers (FEICA)
14	Trevor	Grounds	European Federation of Concrete Admixture Associations (EFCA)
15	Celia	Gryspeirt	European Industrial Minerals Association (IMA-Europe)
16	Heather	Hamilton	Green Chemistry Network (GCN)
17	Corina	Hebestreit	European Association of Mining Industries (Euromines)
18	Elizabeth	Hiester	ClientEarth

19	Amaya	Jánosi	European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic)
20	Uta	Jensen-Korte	European Association of Chemical Distributors (FECC)
21	Guido	Lena	The European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (UEAPME)
22	Martin	Ludescher	European Federation of Concrete Admixture Associations (EFCA)
23	Carol	Mackie	European Copper Institute (ECI)
24	Tony	Musu	European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
25	Kasia	Palaczanis	European Association of Mining Industries (Euromines) / European Carbon and Graphite Association (ECGA)
26	Aida	Ponce Del Castillo	European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
27	Laura	Portugal	International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenace Products (AISE) / DUCC (c/o A.I.S.E.)
28	Kirsty	Reid	Eurogroup for Animals
29	Joséphine	Reinaud	European Cement Association (CEMBUREAU)
30	Ninja	Reineke	Chemicals, Health and Environment Monitoring Trust (CHEM Trust)
31	Nicolay	Renaud	European Precious Metals Federation (EPMF)
32	Ophélie	Roblot	European Association of Chemical Distributors (FECC)
33	Richard	Roden	Only Representatives Organisation (ORO)
34	Marianne	Rosborg	European Trade Association for the nonwovens and Related Industries (EDANA)
35	Costanza	Rovida	European Consensus Platform for 3R Alternatives to Animal Experimentation (ECOPA)
36	Elisa	Setien	European Federation for Construction Chemicals (EFCC)
37	Katy	Taylor	European Coalition to End Animal Experiments (ECEAE)

38	Violaine	Verougstraete	European Association of the Metals Industry (Eurometaux)
39	Nadia	Vinck	Euroalliages
40	Susie	Wilks	Humane Society International (HIS)
	Geert	Dancet	European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)
	Jukka	Malm	European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)
	Jack	de Bruijn	European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)
	Christel	Musset	European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)
	Lindsay	Jackson	European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)
	Mira	Banerjee	European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)
	Tiiu	Brautigam	European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)
	Laura	Walin	European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)
	Anca - Mirela	Petrisor	European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)
	Jonath	Blokker-Rowe	European Commission - Directorate-General for the Environment
	Liliana	Popescu	European Commission - Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry
	Lucia	de Luca	EFSA (European Food Safety Authority)

Annex 2 - Agenda

Time: 9 October 2014

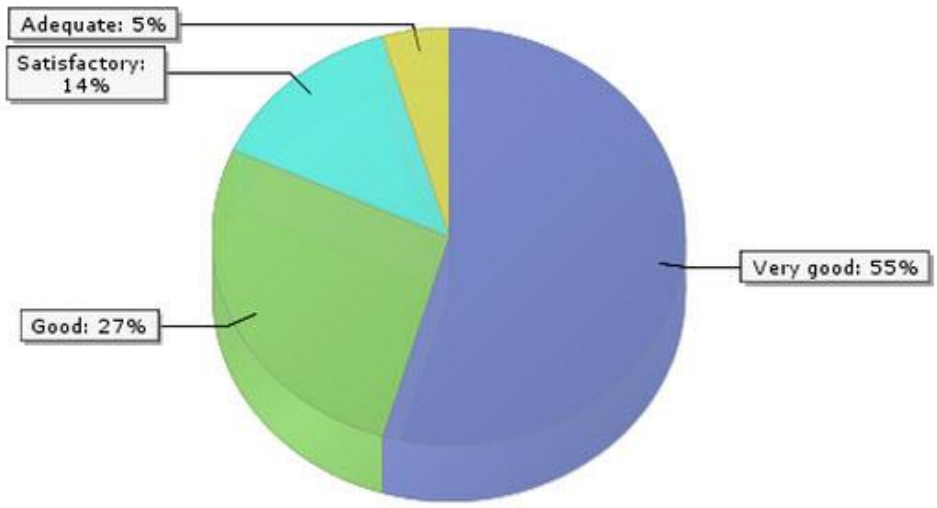
Venue: European Commission - DG Environment
Avenue de Beaulieu 5
1160 Brussels

09:15	Registration and coffee
09:45	Opening and follow-up from the 2013 workshop
10:00	Breakout group discussions
	Group 1a: Preparations for REACH 2018 deadline
	Group 1b: Preparations for REACH 2018 deadline
	Group 2: Stakeholder involvement in Biocides
	Group 3: Nanomaterials
11:30	Coffee break
11:45	Joint discussion and a wrap-up of the breakout group discussions
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Facilitated discussion: ECHA's transparency policy
16:00	Closing remarks

Annex 3 - Feedback Summary

This feedback report presents feedback statistics and an analysis of open text comments received from 22 out of 40 workshop participants (55% response rate).

Overall satisfaction

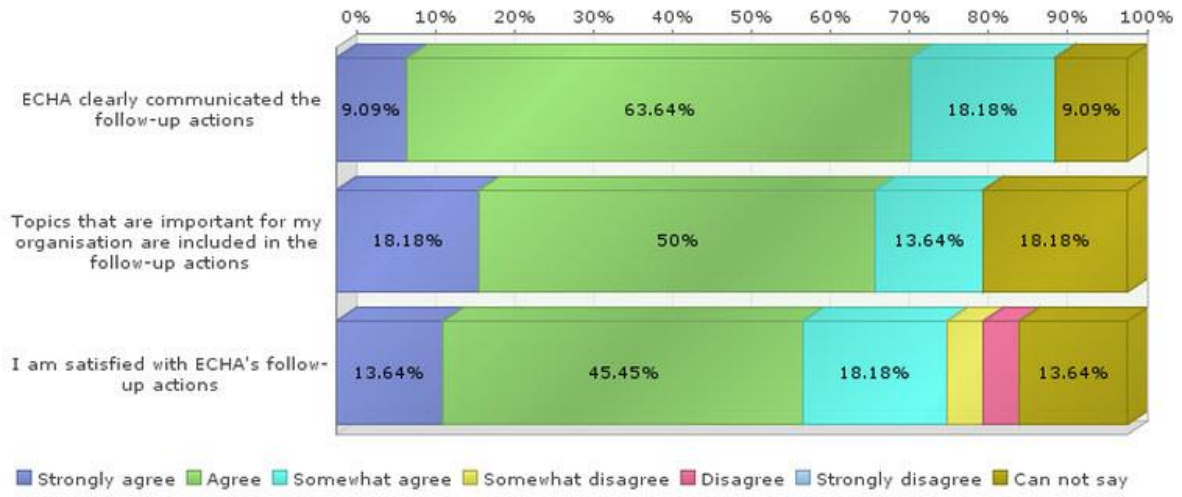


The overall score for the event has 96% of participants ranking it as either satisfactory or above, out of which 82% rate it as very good (55%) or good (27%).

Based on feedback received through the open text comments, respondents generally appreciated ECHA's efforts to seek stakeholders' views, good interaction throughout the day and acknowledged ECHA's openness to dialogue.

Respondents noted the challenge in providing for the needs of the many different interests represented at the workshop and suggested to consider focusing the discussion on more specific areas.

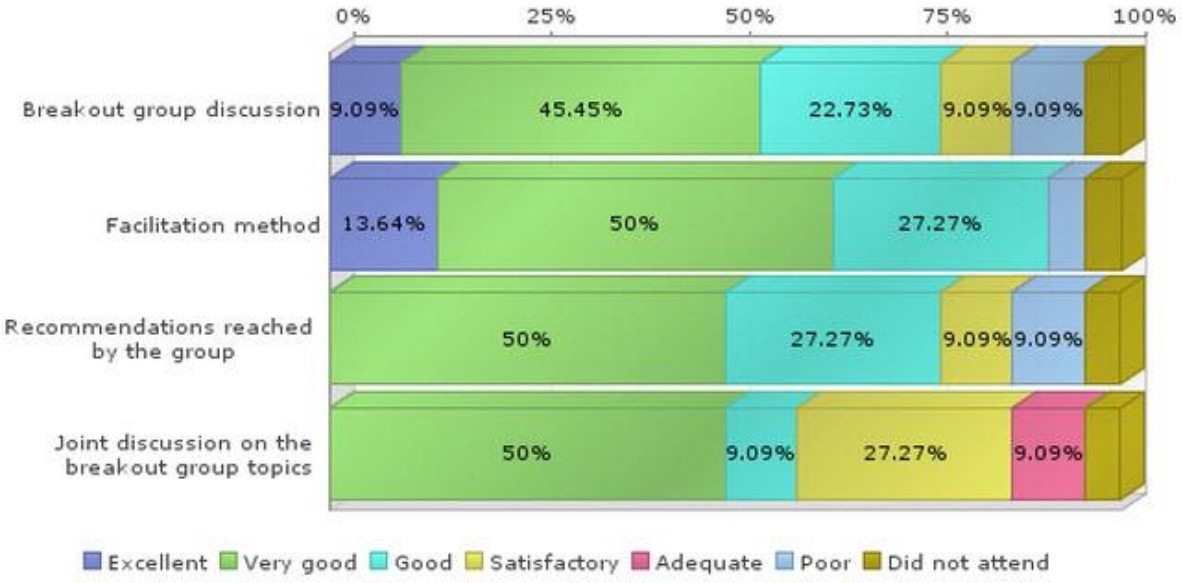
Follow-up from 2013



Respondents were satisfied about the communication of the follow-up actions with 73% ranking them above somewhat agree. They also felt that topics that are important for their organisation were included in the process with 68% above the somewhat agree mark. The overall satisfaction with the proposed actions received slightly lower scores with 59% ranking them above somewhat agree.

Based on the comments received in the open text answers, some participants felt that the follow-up process should involve the stakeholders at an earlier stage and give them the chance to comment on ECHA's follow-up actions. Some also felt that the time for reporting back on the follow-up actions was too long.

Breakout groups

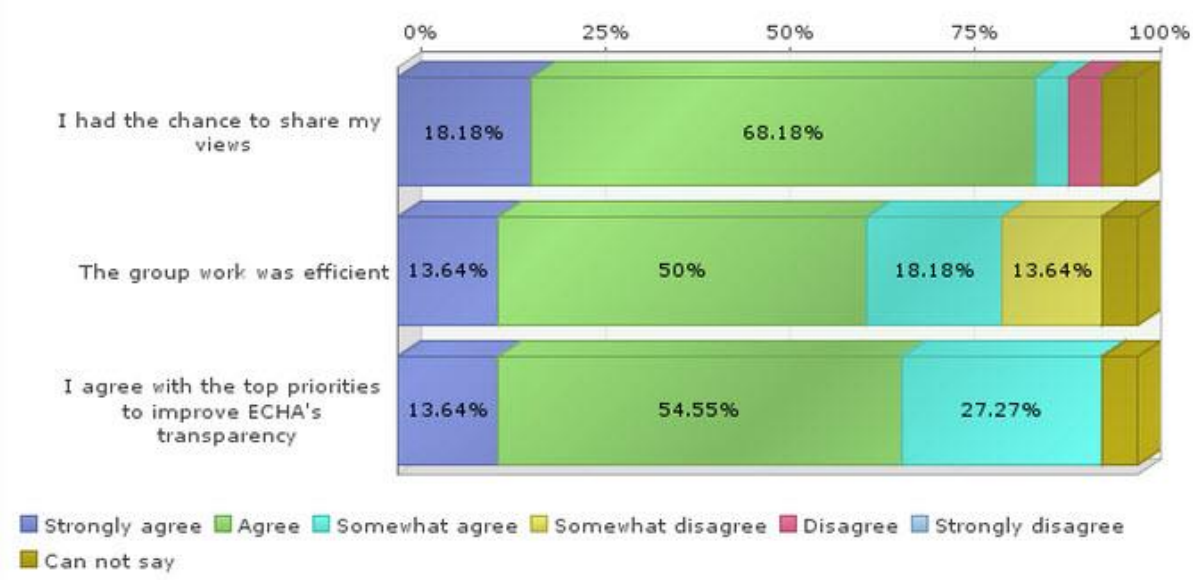


The facilitation methods were appreciated with 91% ranking them as good or above. The group discussions received the next best score with 77% ranking them as good or above.

Based on the comments received in the open text fields, some participants felt that although the facilitators did a good job, they could have benefited from more direction in the discussions. Participants also felt that the different perspectives, interests and levels of understanding of ECHA's work resulted in somewhat general discussions rather than focusing on what ECHA could do more.

Participants also suggested that the breakout sessions could be shorter (45 minutes) but that the joint discussions with everyone involved would merit more time for participants to better frame the context of their recommendations and already begin to propose solutions for ECHA to consider.

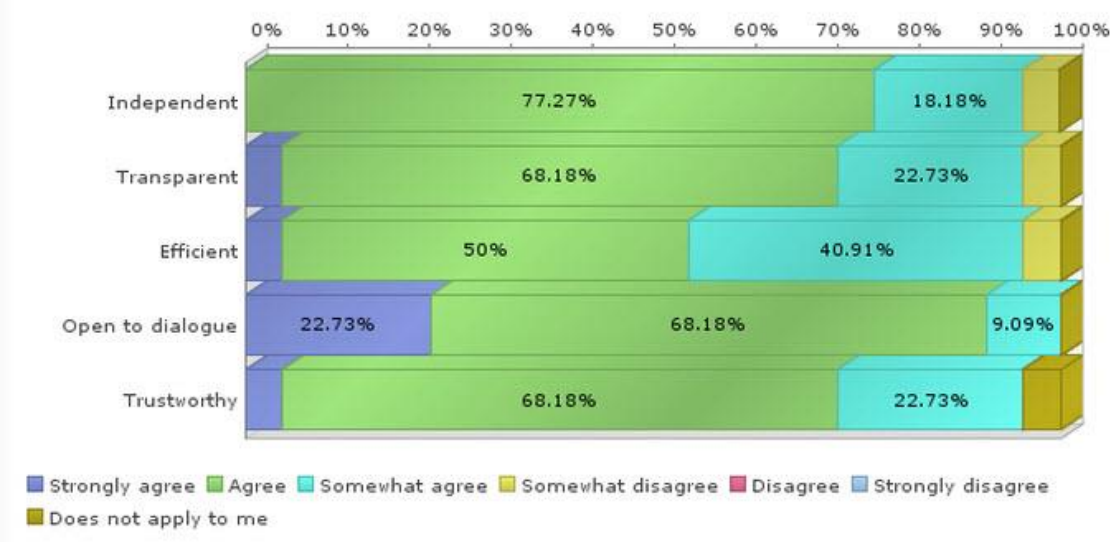
Discussion on ECHA's transparency policy



86% of participants either agreed or strongly agreed that they had the chance to share their views during the transparency policy discussion. 82% of participants felt that the group work was efficient and the majority (96%) agreed with the top priorities that were concluded in the discussions to improve ECHA's transparency. In the open text fields, participants expressed interest in following the process for finalising the transparency policy and requested for further guidance on how they could further influence the process and contribute to the content of the policy.

Perception

Regarding the perception of ECHA in terms of its corporate values, all values ranked very highly. Participants felt that ECHA was particularly open to dialogue with 91% who either agreed or strongly agreed.



Topics for future events

Respondents also gave suggestions for the topics of next year's strategic workshop. The suggestions with most support were the following:

- 2018 registration deadline (including subtopics: SMEs, SIEF issues, how to address registration 2018 for non-EU, need for IT updates by 2016 to cover early registrations, how to improve the dialogue between registrants and ECHA).
- Transparency (including how ECHA tracks/reports on outcomes from the work programme).
- CLP (including what happens after the deadline).
- Substances in articles.
- Substitution.
- Biocides.
- Alternative approaches to animal testing.
- Working with ECHA committees.
- Lessons learnt from authorisation.
- New approach to compliance checks.

Annex 4 Presentations

Click on the images to open the full presentation.