

ECHA official partner of the “Roadmap on Carcinogens”

60th Meeting of the Management Board 16-17 December 2020

Key messages

The “Roadmap on Carcinogens”¹ is an initiative initiated and led by Member States to raise awareness of the risks arising from exposures to carcinogens in the workplace and develop and exchange good practices.

Since November 2019, ECHA participates to meetings organised under the Roadmap. In its meeting of September 2020 the Management Board noted that the Agency will sign up to the Roadmap as an official partner, with further information to be provided in the December Management Board meeting. In line with this, ECHA joined the “Roadmap on Carcinogens” as partner in November 2020 which reflects the Agency’s various contributions to the work on cancer prevention. This was accompanied with communication activities and launch of new webpages on preventing cancer².

This note provides further information on the initiative. The Roadmap strategy 2.0 covering the period 2020-2024 extends the scope of the previous period, with four main goals and a series of actions under each goal. Some of the actions fall under ECHA’s areas of interest, such as substitution.

Background

The Roadmap on Carcinogens was initiated in 2016 originally by six European organisations³. They committed to a voluntary action scheme to raise awareness of the risks arising from exposures to carcinogens in the workplace and develop and exchange solutions and good practices (Strategy 2016-2019, Roadmap on Carcinogens 1.0). Initiatives under the Roadmap intend to better support the implementation of the legal requirements and link the initiatives from all parties, authorities and social partners.

The covenant was renewed in 2019 under the leadership of the German Ministry for labour and Social Affairs and the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health as well as the four EU organisations. This led to develop a renewed strategy (Roadmap on Carcinogens 2.0) with refreshed goals and activities which will run until 2024.

The Roadmap 2.0 intends to add further goals (‘pillars’) to those under the first strategy and identify activities (‘challenges’) to reach these goals. The two new pillars proposed are: i) mobilise stakeholders and increase the involvement of relevant parties to multiply efforts throughout Europe and ii) target innovation to bridge the gap between research findings and businesses’ needs. Under each pillar a number of ‘challenges’ were selected. Each challenge is led by two organisations. See full description in Annex 1.

ECHA has started to participate to the Roadmap at the occasion of the conference held in Helsinki on 28-29 November 2019. A presentation was given on “ECHA contribution to the OSH Regulation”. In addition, ECHA has become an official partner of the Roadmap at the recent event ‘Stop Cancer at work’ held under the German Presidency in Dortmund on 9-10 November 2020. This was accompanied with communication activities, such as new webpages on

¹ <https://roadmaponcarcinogens.eu/about/the-roadmap/>

² <https://echa.europa.eu/hot-topics/preventing-cancer>

³ Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment; Austrian Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection; European Commission, EU Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), Business Europe and European Trade Union organisation (ETUC)

preventing cancer and social media messages.

ECHA's contribution will be mostly to provide information and advice as needed, for example in the challenges 'Better data' or 'Substitution strategies'. This is however a voluntary agreement and the level of contribution can be scoped in line with the available resources.

Participation to the Roadmap is a good opportunity to illustrate the relevance of ECHA's activities in the field of cancer prevention, either through the implementation of the integrated regulatory strategy which focuses on identifying substances of potential concern, including carcinogens, and on moving quickly to regulatory proposals or the OEL work where limit values will be requested for more substances in the coming years. This is also the occasion to show how the REACH and CLP knowledge base can support other regulatory areas and Commission initiatives such as the Europe's beating cancer plan.

Attachment:

- Annex 1: Strategy Roadmap on Carcinogens 2.0 – 2020-2024

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Annex 1 – Strategy Roadmap on Carcinogens 2.0 – 2020-2024

