

Towards 2020: Making Chemicals Safer

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FOURTH REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

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Overview EU Chemicals Legislation

■ Horizontal

- REACH
- Classification Labelling and Packaging (CLP)

■ Product specific

- Hazardous waste
- Electrical and electronic waste
- Mercury
- Pesticides
- Biocides
- Cosmetics
- Toys

■ International Treaties

- Stockholm Convention (Persistent Organic Pollutants)
- Rotterdam Convention (Prior Informed Consent)
- Basel Convention (Shipments of hazardous waste)

Legislation Before REACH: Main Problems

- **Data gaps:**
 - 86% of High Production Volume Chemicals have less than base set data
- **Burden of proof was on public authorities**
 - Risk assessment procedure too slow
- **Downstream Users not involved**
 - Actual uses of chemicals remain unknown
- **System inefficient**
 - Myriad of directives and regulations
- **Administrative burden for new chemicals**
 - Prevented innovation

REACH: solutions

- **Data gaps:**

- Registration and creation of data bank

- **Burden of proof was on public authorities**

- Now on industry

- **Downstream Users not involved**

- Information about safe use will be passed on “up and down” the supply chain

- **System inefficient**

- REACH (and CLP) incorporate and streamline legacy of earlier legislation

- **Administrative burden for new chemicals**

- No registration duty for low volume chemicals

REACH – key elements

- Registration of all substances manufactured or imported ≥ 1 tonne/yr
- Evaluation
- Authorisation for substances of very high concern
- Restrictions - the safety net (Community wide action)
- Agency to efficiently manage system

Focus on priorities:

Substances with high volumes and those of greatest concern!

Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation (CLP)

- Incorporates UN GHS into Community law
- 1355 pages of legislation!
- Completes REACH
- Very similar to the former system
 - Principle of self-classification
 - Mechanism to harmonise
 - New hazard symbols
- In force since 20 January 2009

European Commission financial aid for safer chemicals management

- Total amount committed between 2003-2008:
 - €18,550,000 *
- Including:
 - €280,000 to support mercury actions UNEP
 - €600,000 for SAICM secretariat and outreach
 - €4,350,000 for SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund

(*EU Member States also contribute bilaterally)

Thank you for your Attention !

