

Annual exchange of views with the Forum Chair

63rd Meeting of the Management Board 23 September 2021

Key messages

- The Forum continues to follow up its enforcement priorities for the years 2019-2023
- The Management Board is invited to:
 - o take note of the realisation of these priorities and
 - o provide steer to the Forum in preparing its work for the coming years to implement its mandate effectively and efficiently.

Background

This document outlines the key messages that the Forum Chair will bring for discussion with the Management Board.

Forum's work is guided by high level enforcement priorities 2019-2023. The Chair's presentation will brief the Management Board on the Forum's key outputs and developments under these priorities from the last year. The briefing will focus on recent and upcoming results of projects. The results of the project on treated articles (BEF-1) published in December 2020 show that that over one third (36%) of treated articles had inadequate labelling with basic information often missing. The upcoming results of the project on control of online sales (REF-8) show very high levels of non-compliance among the controlled products, such as lack of required information on hazards or articles found to be in breach of conditions of restrictions. Around 80% of products controlled were found to be non-compliant. The controls in the project were carefully targeted for most efficient use of enforcement resources so these results reflect the outcome of enforcement action rather give than an overview of the average market situation. Still, these results indicate major compliance issues in e-commerce as well as the need for continued and coordinated enforcement.

The Forum Chair will also give a brief update on the progress of the REACH Review 2017 Actions 13(2) related to reporting of enforcement activities and the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic ultimately had on the Forum deliverables.

Enforcement is a relevant element in the Commission's Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS) which calls for stronger enforcement and zero tolerance for non-compliance with chemicals legislations. The Commission is working on preparing its implementation and while the Forum is not directly involved in these preparations, it could play a vital role in reaching many of the enforcement-related ambitions of the CSS.

The Forum Chair would welcome an exchange of views with the Management Board regarding how it can best ensure its continued successful work under its current mandate and at the same time prepare itself to support the implementation of the CSS.

Rationale

The Forum Chair seeks to inform the Management Board on the progress with enforcement priorities. The purpose of exchange views on the CSS is twofold:

- to consider how Forum could support enforcement-related ambitions of the CSS; and
- for the Forum Chair to consider the Management Board's feedback for future activities and prepare her intervention in the meeting of the CSS High Level Roundtable planned for November 2021.

Attachments:

N/A

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