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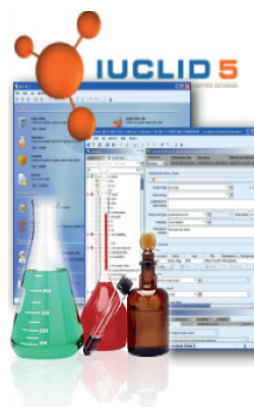
International Cooperation

The European Chemical Agency works together with peer agencies in different parts of the world to harmonise the chemicals management. ECHA also supports countries adopting chemicals safety legislation akin to REACH, CLP, Biocides and PIC Regulations.

OECD-RELATED WORK

The EU collaborates closely at the international level on the sound management of chemicals. The OECD is the main organisation steering this work. The OECD Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Programme has played a major role in promoting global harmonisation by providing commonly accepted approaches, methods and IT tools available for sound chemicals management.

ECHA's role is to provide scientific and technical support to the European Commission in its contributions to the OECD, especially in areas linked to the activities of its Task Force on Hazard Assessment. The Agency is further involved in the IUCLID Expert Group Panel and provides important input to the development of the QSAR Toolbox and eChemPortal. In addition, ECHA participates in elaborating harmonised templates, as well as in pesticide and biocide activities.

MULTILATERAL WORK ON CHEMICAL SAFETY

The Agency's international cooperation also relates to the EU commitments for the sound management of chemicals under multilateral agreements under the auspices of the United Nations. These include the Stockholm Convention (POPs), Rotterdam Convention (PIC), International Conference on Chemicals Management (SAICM), Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and WHO International Programme on Chemicals Safety (IPCS) as well as the UN's work on Globally Harmonised System of classification and labelling.

SUPPORT TO EU EXTERNAL RELATIONS POLICIES

The European Union's enlargement policy and the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) include dedicated measures to foster interaction between specific groups of third countries and EU agencies.

An ICCM-3 meeting participant studies the ECHA website at the Agency's information stand in Nairobi.
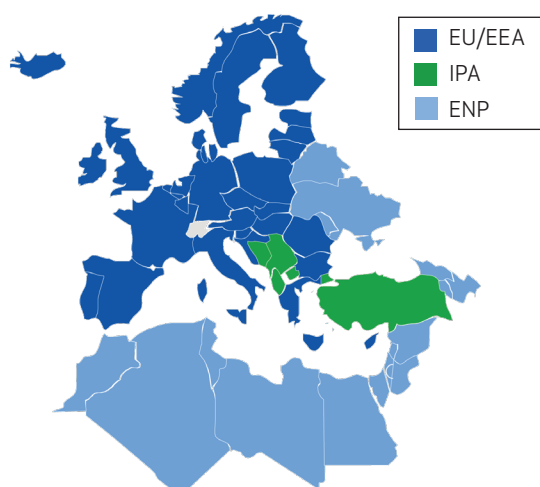

The ECHA-Canada Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 2010.

Whereas the first policy addresses the candidate countries and potential candidates for EU accession, ENP is directed towards engaging 16 countries at the immediate external borders of the Union. ECHA has contributed to both policy areas with regard to the approximation, application and enforcement of EU legislation.

COOPERATION WITH PEER AGENCIES

The Agency has cooperation agreements with regulatory agencies in four countries: Australia, Canada, Japan and the United States of America. The agreements were concluded in 2010/11. Activities are focused on exchanging information, best practice and scientific knowledge.

The EU and European Economic Area (EEA) countries that have implemented REACH & CLP and the beneficiaries of the Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) and European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP).

AWARENESS RAISING OUTSIDE THE EU

Non-EU audiences, both authorities and industry, regularly request ECHA to host visits and to deliver explanatory presentations on the EU regulations and ECHA's related work. The Agency is selective in accepting visitor groups and even more selective on invitations to speak in third countries. Priority is given to the authorities in countries that are revising their chemicals legislation and events which can reach a large and relevant key audience. Presentations take part at the Agency's premises in Helsinki, at events in third countries or in some cases via video link.

It is worth mentioning that most activities of ECHA have international relevance. Around the globe, users can benefit from the extensive information available on the ECHA website, especially from the dissemination of information on chemicals (C&L Inventory and data on registered substances). The fact that many of ECHA's publications are available in 23 languages makes the material easily accessible to audiences far beyond the EU.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

echa.europa.eu/international