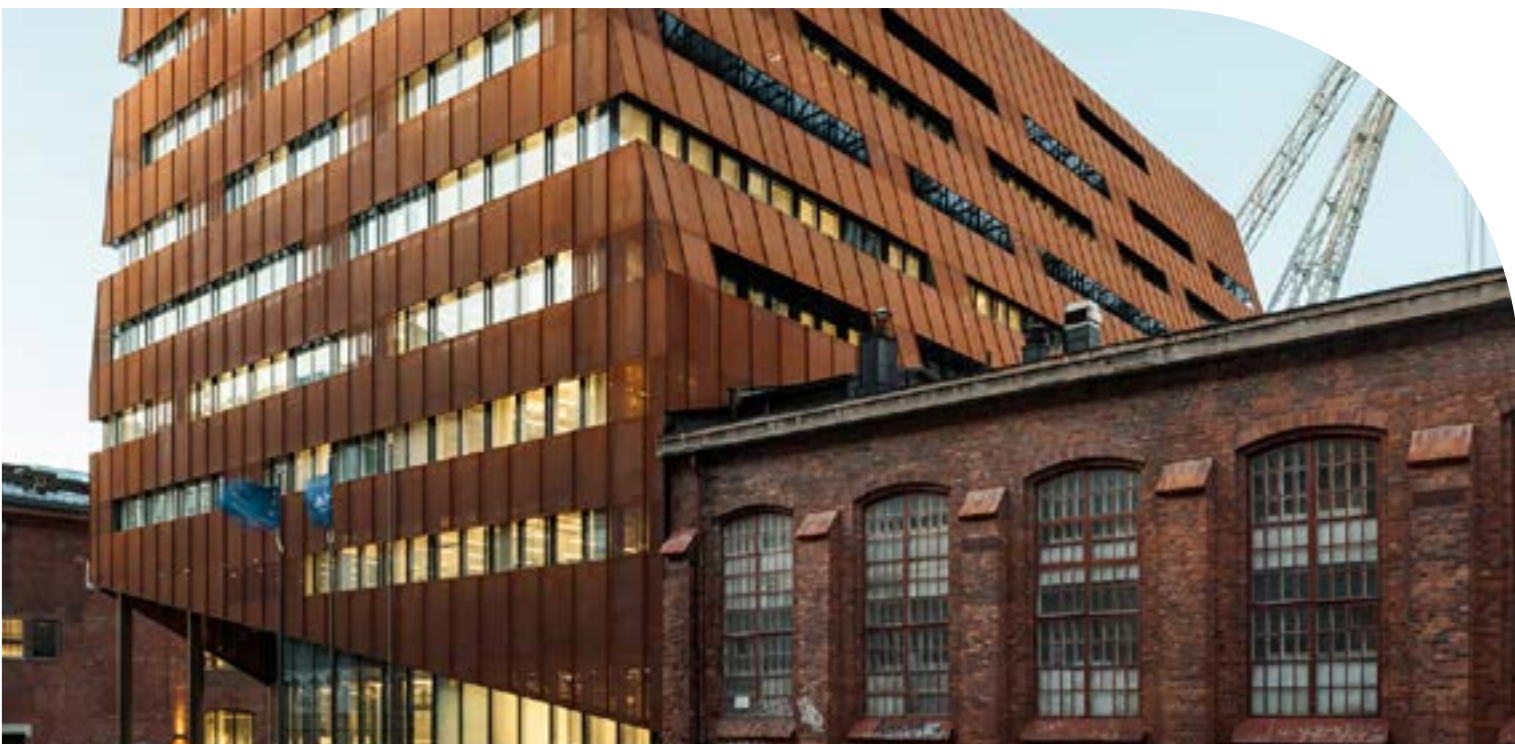


ECHA – Strategy Statement 2024-2028





Introduction

The European Union is committed to a high level of protection of health and environment, alongside the promotion of green, digital and sustainable growth. We, as an EU agency, are playing our part, together with the Commission and Member State authorities, in delivering the EU's ambitious goals on chemical safety and in contributing to tackling the triple challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. We also facilitate the transition to a toxic free environment, protecting the future of those living and working in the EU for generations to come. Over the coming strategy period, we are therefore facing a widening of our legal mandate, as a result of the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability as well as the broader policy development under the EU Green deal and other relevant initiatives.

Notwithstanding all these policy changes, we, through the implementation of our legal mandate, will maintain our focus on protection of health and the environment and on enabling the free circulation of substances on the internal market, while enhancing competitiveness and innovation and promoting alternatives to animal testing.

We will also prepare for and implement new tasks and responsibilities. In this regard, we will keep as a high priority the focus on transparency, independence and high quality of our outputs in particular for scientific opinions and decisions. We also need to ensure that industry and particularly SMEs are provided with the necessary tools, advice and support to meet their legal obligations.

As the EU's chemicals agency, we aim to build on the expertise, competence, experience, data and knowledge we have gained since we were established in 2007. We also recognise that while ECHA has a central role in chemical safety, now more than ever, we need to co-operate and work closely with the Commission, Member States, agencies and stakeholders. By this, we aim to focus our collective efforts and actions to deliver outcomes that are tangible and impactful and that contribute to increasing public trust. More broadly, we will need to contribute to advancing scientific knowledge and data that contribute to delivering chemical safety now and in the future.

For ECHA to continue to deliver on current and future EU goals, we need to invest in our people and organisation. We value our staff and all members of ECHA's bodies for their competence and expertise. We will also need to deliver our wider mandate within our current complex financial, budgetary, and resourcing models. We therefore aim to have in place the right information, processes, IT systems and tools to help not only our people to maximise their potential but also ensure our partners and stakeholders can too.

The vision, goals and objectives set out here will be delivered through our annual work programmes as well as our multi-annual work programmes. We look forward to working with our staff, partners and stakeholders in delivering our strategy over the coming years.

Paul Krajnik
Chair of the Management Board

Sharon McGuinness
Executive Director

Our Legal Basis

Legislation

Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)

Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation (CLP)

Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR)

EU Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Regulation

EU Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulation

Waste Framework Directive (SCIP database)

Drinking Water Directive

8th Environmental Action Programme

Cross-border Health Threats Regulation

Batteries Regulation

Tasks under grant, cooperation, service level and other agreements

EU Observatory for Nanomaterials (EUON)

EU Chemicals Legislation Finder (EUCLEF)

Occupational Exposure Limits (OELs)

Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) – support to accession countries

IUCLID for EFSA

Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals (PARC)

Our Mandate



Carry out technical, scientific, and administrative tasks related to the implementation of the EU's chemicals legislation and policy



Provide transparent, independent and high-quality scientific opinions and decisions, which shall serve as the basis for the drafting and adoption of Union measures



Collaborate and partner with EU bodies and Institutions, Member State authorities, as well as third countries and international organisations



Provide tools, advice, and support to industry, with a particular focus on SMEs, in fulfilling their duties under chemical legislation



Ensure that relevant, reliable, and objective information is available for the public and interested parties



Our purpose

We protect health and the environment through our work for chemical safety



Our Vision

Chemical safety through science, collaboration and knowledge

Our Values



Integrity

We earn trust by being accountable and delivering our mandate in a fair, consistent, and independent manner. We uphold the highest professional, financial, governance, and ethical standards.



Transparency

We make our opinions and decisions in an open, understandable and accessible way. We communicate clearly, courteously, and respectfully. We are open to engaging and embracing diverse perspectives and are inclusive in how we work. We welcome feedback.



Collaboration

We work closely with our EU and Member State partners and institutions to deliver our shared goals and priorities. We consult and cooperate with stakeholders. We listen, engage, and consult with each other.

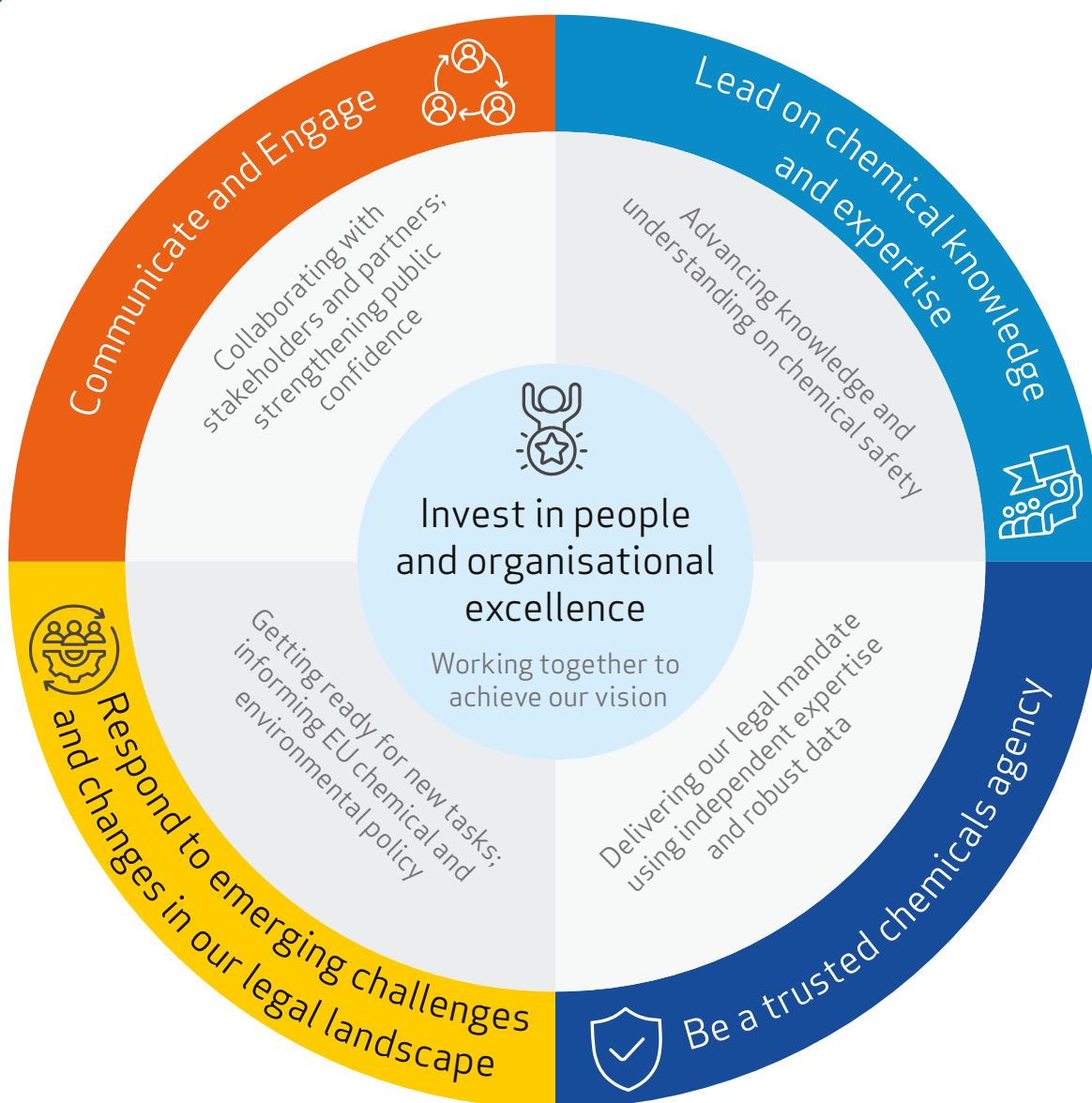


Innovation

We continuously review and respond to changing circumstances. We analyse and use data and best available evidence to inform and deliver our mandate. We exploit synergies and are open to adapting operations using new technologies and ways of working.



Our goals





Be a trusted chemicals agency

Delivering our legal mandate using independent expertise and robust data

Priorities

Deliver transparent, independent, and high-quality scientific advice, opinions, and decisions as required under our legal mandate.

Enhance decision and policy making through optimal use of data, knowledge, and competence.

Facilitate the prioritisation and co-ordination of regulatory actions on substances and groups of substances with the Commission, EU agencies and Member State Authorities.

What we want to achieve

We want to:

- Engage actively with Member States to ensure scientific committees are fully resourced with the necessary expertise and experience
- Review and adapt as necessary committee processes, assessments and structures to ensure workability of operation and delivery of transparent, independent and high-quality outputs
- Foster cross-committee collaboration and continuous learning to enhance scientific expertise and experience
- Ensure that committee members understand and meet their obligations for independence and transparency

We want to:

- Collect, assess and evaluate data on chemicals and scientifically process them for regulatory action
- Make data findable, accessible, interoperable, shared, secure and reusable for the Agency and its stakeholders
- Ensure that non-confidential data is made available swiftly and transparently
- Maximise the potential of the data held in the Agency for wider EU goals on chemicals and environmental sustainability

We want to:

- Maximise the impact of the regulatory actions we take
- Build on the work done to-date on the Joint Evaluation Action plan, the Integrated Regulatory Strategy and the Restriction roadmap
- Prioritise our work on substances and groups of substances consistently across the Agency and in line with legal requirements
- Facilitate the coordination of actions with the Commission, EU agencies and Member State authorities to identify and prioritise regulatory responses for substances and groups of substances
- Ensure non-compliance with legal requirements is swiftly addressed by the Agency and its bodies or the relevant Member State authorities



Respond to emerging challenges and changes in our legal landscape

Getting ready for new tasks; informing EU chemical and environmental policy

Priorities

Implement new legal requirements using existing and new synergies and experience as necessary.

Work with relevant EU agencies and bodies to deliver Chemical Strategy for Sustainability (CSS) actions and objectives.

Provide scientific and technical advice on chemicals to EU policy makers.

What we want to achieve

We want to:

- Ensure the necessary resources, expertise, systems and processes are in place across the Agency to meet legal requirements that are assigned
- Engage with all relevant EU agencies, Member State authorities and stakeholder groups to align for successful implementation of new legal requirements
- Prepare and make available relevant guidance and advice tailored to needs of the different stakeholders

We want to:

- Provide support to the Commission on their implementation of the One Substance, One Assessment (1S1A) approach
- Work with EU institutions and relevant bodies to identify and deliver agreed actions on hazard and risk assessment of substances which require cross-Agency and EU response
- Establish procedures between the Agency and EU bodies to share competence and knowledge

We want to:

- Contribute data and advice, on request, to the Commission, European Parliament and the Council in support of wider EU policy development
- Communicate clearly how the data and knowledge we hold on chemicals is meeting EU legal and policy goals
- Provide inputs to relevant parties on the relevance and alignment of possible new tasks with the Agency's mandate and competence



Communicate and Engage

Collaborating with stakeholders and partners; strengthening public confidence

Priorities

Deepen our network of engagement with EU institutions and agencies and Member States.

Collaborate and provide tools, advice, and support to industry.

Promote awareness and understanding of ECHA's work to stakeholders representing workers, the public and the environment.

What we want to achieve

We want to:

- Have effective and impactful collaboration networks with Member State authorities to ensure we are aligned and consistent in delivering our shared legal mandate
- Partner with relevant EU agencies to maximise our regulatory outputs and enhance our respective responses on key environmental and health issues
- Deliver tools, support and advice to Member State authorities to enable them to deliver their regulatory obligations in a coherent and harmonised manner
- Enhance the dialogue with EU institutions to help frame ECHA's overall contribution and priorities

We want to:

- Provide IT tools for industry that are modular, interoperable, and easy to use
- Engage and collaborate with industry to understand their requirements and how our tools, advice and support are meeting their needs
- Pay particular attention to addressing the needs of SMEs

We want to:

- Enhance the publication of clear and understandable information tailored to the needs of the different groups and areas of interest
- Engage and collaborate with civil society organisations to understand their requirements and how our supports and advice are meeting their needs
- Target relevant communication channels to connect with the different interest groups



Lead on chemical knowledge and expertise

Advancing knowledge and understanding on chemical safety

Priorities

Contribute proactively to expanding scientific and technical competence and knowledge on chemical safety.

Promote the development and use of alternative methods for the assessment of hazards and risks of chemicals.

Support the Commission to enhance engagement and synergies at international level.

What we want to achieve

We want to:

- Establish regular dialogues and networks with stakeholders to stimulate and promote knowledge sharing on new and emerging scientific and technical relevant areas
- Engage with the research community to articulate and contribute to regulatory research needs for chemicals
- Increase awareness of the data and knowledge we have available on chemicals to research and academic bodies
- Facilitate the development of scientific and technical competence of our wider stakeholders

We want to:

- Increase understanding, awareness and competence of how new approach methodologies (NAMs) can be used to regulate chemicals
- Contribute actively to the EU plans/roadmap to replacing animal testing
- Continue to collaborate with EU, international and academic partners on the development of alternatives to animal testing and their use for hazard and risk assessment

We want to:

- Support the Commission by providing training, capacity building and advice to countries developing chemical regulatory systems
- Continue to contribute to the OECD chemicals programme and to the work of multilateral fora such as the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)
- Deepen co-operation with international regulatory agencies to advance knowledge and expertise on chemical management



Invest in people and organisational excellence

Working together to achieve our vision

Priorities

Develop and empower our people for success.

Create optimal ways of working for the Agency, its bodies, its people, and the environment.

Adopt an IT delivery model that is cost-effective, streamlined, modular, interoperable, cloud based and centralised.

What we want to achieve

We want to:

- Implement our people strategy to enable individual and collective success
- Embed our values and behaviours in how we work with each other and our stakeholders and partners
- Promote wellbeing, health, and safety at work

We want to:

- Ensure that our organisational model is ready to support delivery of our current and future mandate
- Ensure our systems and processes enable us to deliver our shared goals and ambitions
- Progress actions to meet EU environmental and quality goals and targets
- Progress actions to meet EU equality and diversity goals

We want to:

- Improve organisation effectiveness through extended and enhanced use of digital, artificial intelligence and other advanced technologies
- Transform our end-to-end business processes to meet existing and new regulatory requirements whilst making full use of existing and new digital technologies
- Maintain a high focus on the security of our digital and data assets



Overall Strategy Outcomes

- Co-ordinated and prioritised regulatory actions on chemicals between the Commission, Member States and ECHA.
- Increased numbers of hazard identification or risk management outputs delivered for the decision-making process under relevant regulatory areas.
- Transparent, independent and high-quality opinions and decisions developed that contribute to the implementation of EU legislation and policy.
- Data that is reliable, findable, accessible, interoperable, shared, secure and reusable.
- Regulatory processes and IT tools streamlined and interoperable with high levels of user satisfaction and use.
- Stakeholders proactively engaged, involved, and satisfied with ECHA supports, tools and services.
- SME supports being easily accessible, used, and levels of satisfaction increased.
- ECHA's contribution to broader EU chemical and environmental policy goals recognised.
- Use of alternative and non-animal methods increased.
- An organisation that values its people and puts in place the processes, systems and tools to help them work, learn and succeed.