

Capacity building and collaboration through supply chain
substitution workshops in MS or EU level

**Substitution workshop in the framework of
the Eco Innovation Forum
Sofia, February 2018**

Ministry of Environment and Water

SUBSTITUTION WORKSHOP IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ECO INNOVATION FORUM

Bulgaria appreciates the initiatives and workshops related to ECHA's Substitution Strategy. We value promoting a mind-set and behavioural change within industry, towards sustainable and safer chemicals.

The Bulgarian Competent Authority has a preliminary approval to organize one-day substitution workshop in parallel with the Eco Innovation Forum to be held in Sofia in 05-06 February 2018.

Objective: Promoting the development and introduction of an environment-friendly and safe chemical technology, as well as collaboration among stakeholders.

Workshop participants:

- industry representatives (branch organizations)
- scientific academia
- regulatory authorities of the Member States, the EC and ECHA.

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Possible topics:

- Opportunities for technical support aimed at enterprises, including SMEs, in testing of identified potential alternatives of SVHCs
- Opportunities to provide European and national financial instruments for the development of research activities, eco-innovation and the development and deployment of new products, processes and technologies in enterprises to replace the highly hazardous chemicals identified by Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 (REACH)
- Promote public access to data provided by ECHA, used to make timely and informed decisions about the production and use of new chemicals - key information on the analysis of alternatives.
- Sharing good practices for finding substitutes for chemicals used in the industry (e.g. chrome platers)

ECHA'S STRATEGY TO PROMOTE THE SUBSTITUTION OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

It was made clear, for instance, that surface technologies based on hexavalent chromium will not be part of the future. From a safety point of view it is necessary to remove hazardous chemicals from consumers. However, removing hard chromium from technical application will introduce numerous material science problems and it will often be hard to find safe alternatives.

Due to the cost, the time requirements and the complexity of authorization, the industry is advised to collaborate along the relevant supply chains. Close and well organized cooperation of all concerned users of chromium trioxide - importers, formulators and platers - is key to achieving sound application documents and consistent information.

Hence, we expect that this workshop will provide a platform for participants throughout the supply chain to exchange views on possibilities for upcoming substitutions.

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Regarding the substitution workshop, we would need assistance on:

- inviting companies that have successfully substituted chromates to take part in the workshop;
- access to information about the existing financial instruments for support of initiatives related to substitution;
- contact details of EU stakeholders that might be interested in participation in the workshop;
- proposals for appropriate topics for the workshop.

Thank you for your attention!