

Directors' Contact Group

DCG3/Directors meeting/1/Communiqué/2017
27 November 2017

Communiqué

On 27 November 2017, the Directors' Contact Group (DCG) convened to address issues of relevance to the 2018 REACH Registration deadline.

The DCG is highly conscious that the deadline of 31 May 2018 is drawing closer by the day. The DCG noted with concern indications that some supply chains risk disruption by registrants refraining from submitting dossiers for expected registrations of certain substances, as they lack an overview of their suppliers' intention to register.

In this light, the Directors issued a "Recommendation to clearly communicate REACH 2018 registration intentions"; the DCG emphasised the importance that all registrants of substances make their intention to submit their registration dossiers for 2018 clearly known.

The DCG requested ECHA to publish this recommendation on the DCG webpages of the ECHA website.

The DCG recognises that ensuring the safe manufacture and use of chemical substances requires considerable investment, also for substituting hazardous chemicals. The DCG therefore deemed it useful to issue a Fact Sheet on "Access to EU finance" with a view to helping companies, in particular SMEs, identify potential sources of EU-funded financial support. The DCG requested its members to raise awareness for this Fact Sheet. It requested ECHA to publish this Fact Sheet on the ECHA website.

In light of developments, the DCG formally revoked its DCG document on "fair, transparent and non-discriminatory cost-sharing in SIEFs" in view of the Implementing Regulation of 5 January 2016 and requested ECHA to remove it from the DCG webpages on the ECHA website, directing readers to the regulation and ECHA's Guidance on Data Sharing, instead.

The DCG Directors also discussed a draft "Recommendation on a pragmatic approach for allowing 2018 SME registrants to access data and the joint submission with reasonable effort". They decided to reconvene on 15 December with a view to finding a solution.

The DCG noted that numerous potential registrants for the 2018 REACH registration deadline had enquired about the continued validity of the solutions that the DCG established for companies in exceptional situations in 2010 and 2013. The DCG will review these solutions at its meeting of 15 December 2017 with a view to agreeing on solutions to remain valid for the 2018 REACH Registration deadline and become available at ECHA's REACH Stakeholders' Day on 31 January 2018. For now, however, the DCG strongly recommends to all potential registrants for the 2018 REACH Registration deadline to focus on getting their dossier submissions ready by the deadline and to downstream users to enquire whether their suppliers of mixtures and substances will do so.

Finally, the DCG emphasised that SMEs can benefit from ECHA's new IT Cloud Services.