



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND SMES

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENVIRONMENT

EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY

Brussels,
GROW.F1/AEA/nt
grow.f.1(2024)5121684

Their Excellencies
The Deputy Permanent
Representatives of the Member
States to the European Union

Sent by email only

Subject: Nomination of members to Committees for Risk Assessment and Socio-economic Analysis under the REACH Regulation

Your Excellency,

We are writing to address a matter of importance concerning the implementation of our European chemicals legislation, which falls under the remit of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). Effective implementation is essential for a greener, safer, and more competitive Europe. It ensures the highest protection against hazardous chemicals and fosters innovation across Member States, as well as a unified European approach to chemicals safety. ECHA plays a pivotal role in these processes and relies on the work of its committees and working groups, in particular the Committees for Risk Assessment (RAC) and Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC).

These Committees are pillars of scientific scrutiny and evaluation within the EU's regulatory framework for chemicals. They deliver transparent, independent, and high-quality scientific opinions, providing a solid basis for decision-making, contributing to the protection of human health and the environment, and enabling the free circulation of chemicals on the internal market. Their role is crucial in regulating chemicals with direct impact on citizens' daily life and health ⁽¹⁾ and in maintaining the competitiveness of European industries, by ensuring that the implementation of regulations is consistent, scientifically robust and economically viable.

We would like to flag the current challenges these committees are facing, in regard to their functioning and resourcing. The tasks assigned to them over time, and particularly since 2020, have been increasing in complexity and scope, necessitating a diverse array of expertise and sufficient capacity.

⁽¹⁾ for example [bisphenols](#), [lead](#), [glyphosate](#), chemicals in [tattoo inks](#), [microplastics](#) and the current proposed ban on Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances ([PFAS](#)).

According to the EU REACH Regulation² Committee members are nominated by Member States, who are required to provide support and technical assistance to the members of the committees. But ECHA is currently confronted with a historically low level of committees' membership. Some Member States have not nominated members to these committees. It is therefore imperative to address this situation, which poses significant challenges to the committees' ability to fulfil their mandates. In recent years, ECHA's Management Board, which includes members representing all EU Member States, as well as the heads of Member States' competent authorities have expressed strong concerns in this respect.

Some measures have been taken to enhance the Committees' efficacy and workability, including increasing membership and the adequacy of compensation for the authorities employing the committee members. But despite these joint efforts that the Commission has undertaken with ECHA, the continued effectiveness of the committees hinges upon the active engagement and support of Member States.

We are extending our thank you for your valuable contribution to date. At the same time, we kindly ask all Member States to nominate two candidates per committee, ensure adequate support for such nominations, and that candidates possess the requisite qualifications, expertise and working time, to serve as effective and active members. ECHA stands ready to assist Member States in identifying suitable nominees for RAC and SEAC, as well as to support members as they carry out their role. Your commitment and contribution would significantly contribute to the sustainability of the EU's regulatory framework for chemicals, the protection of health and the environment, as well as well to the sustainable competitiveness of the European chemicals industry.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your positive response.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

(e-sign)
Kerstin Jorna
Director-General
DG Internal Market,
Industry, Entrepreneurship
and SMEs

(e-sign)
Florika Fink-Hooijer
Director-General
DG Environment

(e-sign)
Sharon Mc Guinness
Executive Director
European Chemicals Agency

Attachment: RAC and SEAC membership per country and extract from the REACH Regulation

Copies: Members of the Management Board

² Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006.

Attachment: RAC and SEAC membership per country

Country	RAC	SEAC
Austria	2 members	1 member
Belgium	1 member	1 member
Bulgaria	2 members	-
Croatia	2 members	1 member
Cyprus	1 member	2 members
Czechia	1 member	-
Denmark	2 members	1 member
Estonia	-	1 member
Finland	2 members	1 member
France	2 members	2 members
Germany	2 members	2 members
Greece	2 members	1 member
Hungary	1 member	1 member
Iceland	-	-
Ireland	1 member	1 member
Italy	2 members	2 members
Latvia	2 members	1 member
Liechtenstein	-	-
Lithuania	2 members	2 members
Luxembourg	2 members	1 member
Malta	-	-
Netherlands	2 members	2 members
Norway	2 members	1 member
Poland	2 members	-
Portugal	1 member	1 member

Country	RAC	SEAC
Romania	1 member	-
Slovak Republic	1 member	-
Slovenia	2 members	2 members
Spain	2 members	2 members
Sweden	2 members	1 member

Article 85 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH):

“1. Each Member State may nominate candidates to membership of the Committee for Risk Assessment. The Executive Director shall establish a list of the nominees, which shall be published on the Agency's website, without prejudice to Article 88(1). The Management Board shall appoint the members of the Committee from this list, including at least one member but not more than two from the nominees of each Member State that has nominated candidates. Members shall be appointed for their role and experience in performing the tasks specified in Article 77(3).”

2. Each Member State may nominate candidates to membership of the Committee for Socio-economic Analysis. The Executive Director shall establish a list of the nominees, which shall be published on the Agency's website, without prejudice to Article 88(1). The Management Board shall appoint the members of the Committee from this list, including at least one member but not more than two from the nominees of each Member State that has nominated candidates. Members shall be appointed for their role and experience in performing the tasks specified in Article 77(3).”