

ECHA's Committees – information for Member State authorities

June 2026



Purpose



Note: This slide set is intentionally comprehensive — you can pick and choose the sections most relevant to your needs.

These slide set supports Member State authorities in identifying, nominating and appointing members, advisers and experts to the ECHA Committees.

It explains the Committees' roles and evolving tasks and shows where, why and how Member States can contribute.

It also supports timely nominations and appointments and ensures that the right expertise is available to jointly implement European chemicals safety legislation.

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The EU's approach to chemical safety

The EU's approach to chemical safety



Companies

Provide information
proving their
chemicals are safe



ECHA and national authorities

- Check the information
- Identify harmful chemicals
- Propose ways to regulate harmful chemicals
- Do checks (national authorities)



Commission and Member states

Take final decisions to
regulate chemicals

ECHA supports EU policy

→ Environment and health, workers and consumers



→ Single market for chemicals

→ Competitiveness and innovation



→ Promotion of non-animal methods

EU measures for chemical safety

Based on independent scientific opinions and decisions



Requests/proposals
by the Commission
and the Member
States

ECHA scientific
opinions and
decisions

Policymakers
decide

Impact

What ECHA does

What is an EU decentralised agency?



Established by EU legislation, adopted by the European Parliament and Member States



Carries out specific technical, scientific and administrative tasks defined under EU law



Supports Member States, the European Commission and EU institutions in implementing policies



Provides independent expertise, data and advice for decision-making

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in a nutshell



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

Facts and figures:



2007

Established in Helsinki



~650

Statutory staff



EUR ~150m

2026 budget

Expert bodies & networks:



4

Scientific committees



3

Expert groups



Forum

EU enforcement
coordination



National Authority
Networks



Board of
Appeal

ECHA's tasks: Chemical legislations

Chemicals and substances



REACH - registration, evaluation, authorisation & restriction
Classification, labelling & packaging (CLP)
Biocidal products
Persistent Organic Pollutants
Prior Informed Consent
Detergents & surfactants

Health & safety



Drinking Water
Cross-border health threats
Toys safety
Medical devices

Environment & sustainability



Waste Framework
Packaging & packaging waste
Batteries
Industrial emissions
Environmental action programme
Hazardous substances in electrical & electronic equipment (RoHS)
Water Framework, Groundwater and Environmental Quality Standards Directive
End-of-life Vehicles Regulation

Data & digital



Common data platform on chemicals

What ECHA's Committees do
– focus on RAC and SEAC

Where Member States can contribute



→ Committee for Risk Assessment, RAC

- Prepares opinions on the hazards and risks chemicals pose to human health and the environment.



→ Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis, SEAC

- Prepares opinions on the economic and social impacts of proposed measures for chemical safety.



→ Biocidal Products Committee, BPC

- Prepares opinions on biocidal active substances and EU-wide biocidal product authorisations.



→ Member State Committee, MSC

- Supports decisions under various processes of the REACH Regulation (dossier and substance evaluation, identification of substances of very high concern).

In build-up phase: Expert pool to support RAC and SEAC

- Purpose: targeted support to RAC and SEAC
 - Provide specialised input and support rapporteurs
 - Includes experts put forward by Member States or selected by ECHA (open call)
 - Names to be listed publicly on ECHA's website
 - Experts contribute on a case-by-case basis
 - Support (not replace) Committee members, no role in adoption of opinions
- Member States authorities contribute by putting forward experts

Committee for Risk Assessment, RAC

→ RAC prepares scientific opinions on **hazards and risks** substances' to human health and the environment for:



REACH applications for authorisation to use substances of very high concern



REACH restrictions



Harmonised classification and labelling under Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation



Occupational Exposure Limits (OEL) under Carcinogens & Chemical Agents Directives

→ Upcoming tasks:



Drinking Water
Water Framework
Groundwater
Environmental Quality Standards



Batteries



Packaging and packaging waste



Restriction of hazardous substances, RoHS



Toy safety



End-of-life vehicles

Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis, SEAC

- SEAC prepares scientific opinions related to the **socio-economic impacts** of possible regulatory actions for:



REACH applications for authorisation to use substances of very high concern (SVHC)



REACH restrictions

→ Upcoming tasks:



Batteries



Packaging and packaging waste



Restriction of hazardous substances, RoHS



Toy safety



End-of-life vehicles



Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in waste



Water Framework, Groundwater, Environmental Quality Standards

RAC and SEAC tasks

Main type of work	REACH restr.	REACH auth.	CLH	OEL	Batteries	RoHS	ELV	Packaging	Toys	Drinking water	Water protection*	POPs in waste
Restrictions (bans) of substances	☒				☒	☒	☒	☒				
Requests for exemptions/ derogations from substance bans		☒				☒	☒		☒			
Setting limit values				☒					☒	☒	☒	☒
Identifying chemical hazards			☒									

* Water Framework, Ground Water and Environmental Quality Standards Directives



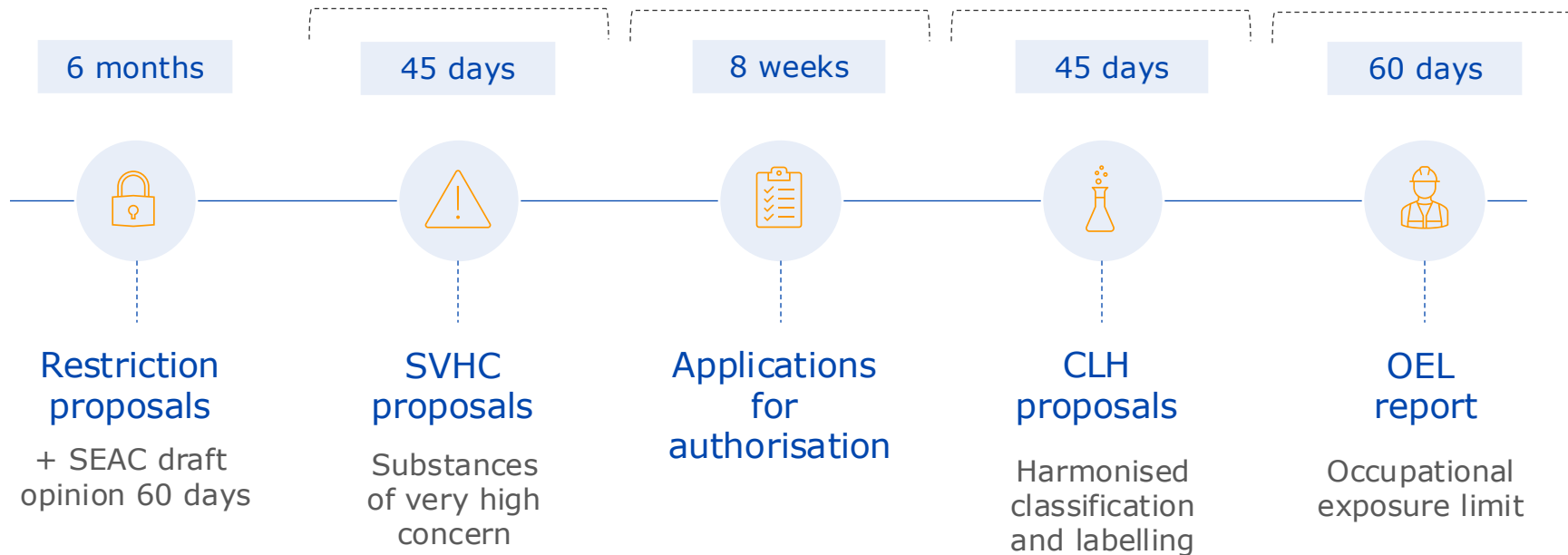
CLH = harmonised classification and labelling
 OEL = occupational exposure limits
 RoHS = restriction of hazardous substances in electronic equipment
 ELV = end-of-life vehicles
 POPs = persistent organic pollutants

Committee work is transparent

- Committees' opinions and working procedures are **public**:
 - Meeting agendas, minutes and meeting calendar
 - Final opinions and supporting documents
 - Committees' responses to consultation comments
- Members' names, qualifications and declarations of interest are **public**
- Stakeholders may be invited to attend meetings as **observers**
 - Industry, NGOs, trade associations, trade unions
 - Third countries (EEA-EFTA)
 - International organisations (OECD)



Committee opinions consider consultation input



RAC and SEAC opinions support decision-making

- Transparent, independent, high-quality and fit-for-purpose
- Designed to **support decision-making** by Commission and Member States (comitology), focusing on relevant information
- **Complete**, covering all key aspects in a pragmatic way
- **Conclusive**, where the available evidence allows, and clearly indicating when evidence is insufficient
- **Clear**, with well-explained and understandable reasoning
- **Concise**

Why ECHA Committees matter

Working together for chemical safety

Member States play a key role



The EU chemical safety regulatory system relies on expertise from Member States through the Committees



EU regulatory demand is growing, with more decisions requiring scientific assessment



ECHA's work is expanding beyond REACH and CLP into new policy areas

New and expanding tasks



New policy areas include: batteries, packaging, end-of-life vehicles, toys, water protection and others



Workload is increasing: more cases, more diversity, more complexity

Role of Member States authorities

- Nominate or appoint persons with relevant expertise to become Committee **members**
- **Support** Committee members with working time and expertise (advisors)
- Appoint **experts** to serve on the working groups and Committees
- Ensure members and experts are highly **qualified** and fulfil the ECHA **independence requirements**
- **Propose** EU level hazard and risk management **measures**, which are assessed by ECHA Committees
- Scrutinise Commission decisions on chemical safety, which are supported by ECHA opinions (**comitology**)



Why engage in Committee work?



→ Shape EU chemical safety decisions

- Contribute to scientific opinions supporting decisions with EU-wide impact on health and environmental protection



→ Gain early regulatory insight

- Access upcoming cases, regulatory developments and scientific discussions



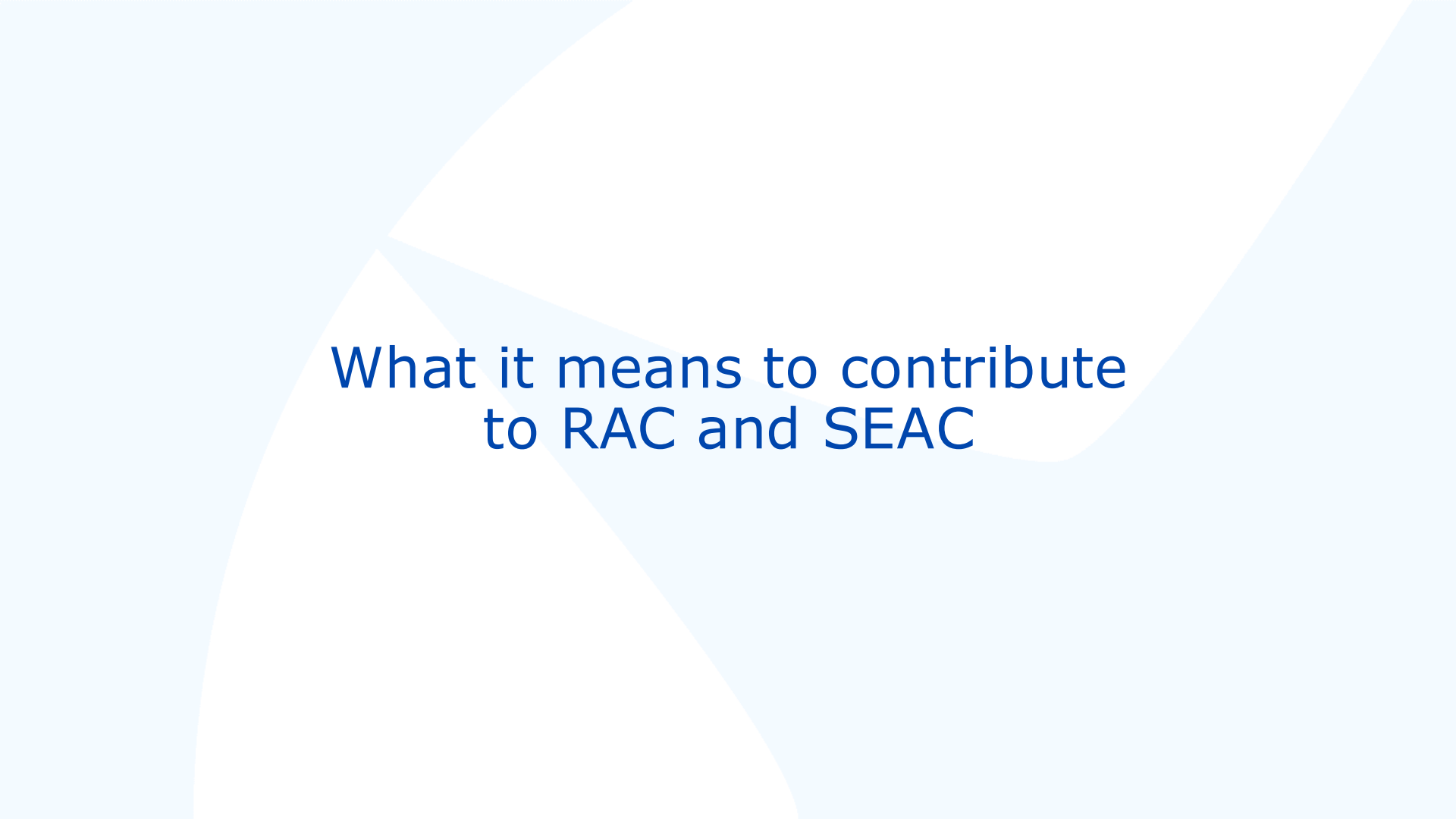
→ Build national expertise

- Strengthen scientific and regulatory capacity



→ Connect with EU experts and networks

- Engage with experts across Member States and at EU level



What it means to contribute
to RAC and SEAC

RAC and SEAC membership - overview



One or two members per Member State, plus up to five co-opted members without voting rights (appointed by the Committees).



Nominated by EU/EEA countries and appointed by ECHA's Management Board.



Membership lasts for three years and is renewable.

Members act in their personal capacity as independent scientists.



Annual written declaration of interests and confidentiality is required.



Contributors keep their place of employment (often in national authorities); Committee work is part of their working time (typically $\geq 50\%$ time for members).



Costs from meeting participation are reimbursed. Rapporteurs' authorities receive financial compensation (payment) for the work.

How RAC and SEAC members contribute

At meetings:

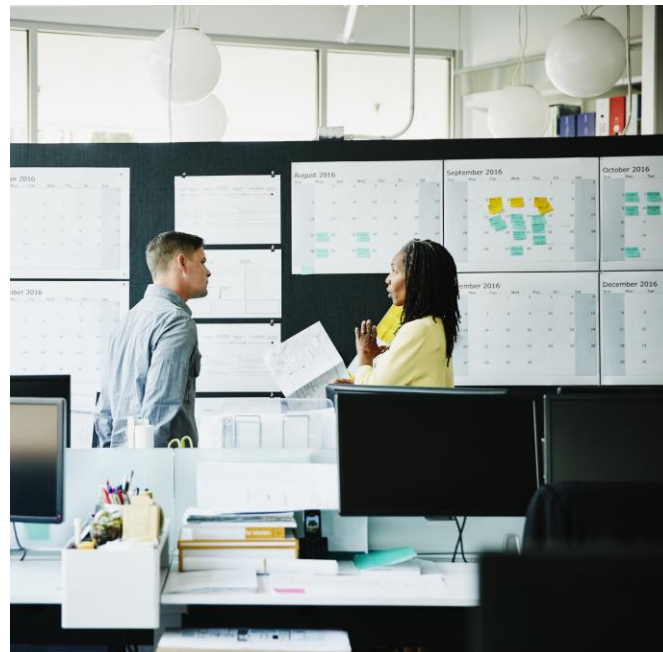
- Participate actively in the RAC/SEAC discussions.
- Prepare and contribute to the debate.
- Join in *ad hoc* meetings on substances during meetings – your view will be appreciated.
- Volunteer as **rapporteur** for a draft opinion.

Between meetings:

- Carry out the **rapporteur drafting tasks** for allocated cases, with support from the ECHA case team.
- Provide **written comments** during consultations on drafts from other rapporteurs.
- Participate in **working groups** directly or designate an advisor for this purpose.

RAC and SEAC advisers

- **Advisers** participate in Committee meetings or working groups **alongside members** and provide scientific, technical or regulatory advice
- Members can appoint their advisors
 - Advisers often work in Member State authorities



How to contribute effectively in the Committees

- Apply scientific knowledge in a regulatory context
- Provide clear written input and analysis
- Meet deadlines across multiple cases
- Contribute to discussions online or in person and help build agreement
- Work effectively in English
- ECHA Secretariat supports analysis and drafting, but Committee members remain fully responsible for the opinions and their scientific content

RAC scientific competencies

→ **Current:**

- REACH exposure scenarios
- Risk management measures (practicability and effectiveness)
- Human health: toxicology, biomonitoring, occupational health
- Environment: ecotoxicology, fate and behaviour, PBT/POP assessment
- Physico-chemical properties

→ **Future:**

- Battery technologies (chemical and technical understanding)
- Chemicals at end-of-life and waste stage
- Life-cycle analysis
- Experience with EU water legislation (WFD, EQS, Groundwater)



SEAC scientific competencies

→ **Current:**

- Analysis of technical and economic feasibility of alternatives
- Knowledge about substitution of substances of concern, such as SVHCs
- Economics, in particular welfare, public sector, environmental or health economics
- Methodologies analysing costs and benefits of regulation

→ **Future**

- Technical expertise in different types of battery technologies
- Expertise in dealing with the waste stage of chemicals
- Life-cycle analysis



Independence of RAC and SEAC members

- RAC and SEAC members are **independent** scientists acting in their personal capacity.
- They do not take instructions from any authority or individual, be it from the:
 - Nominating Member State
 - ECHA Secretariat
 - Stakeholder organisations
- Opinions are based **solely** on scientific and technical arguments.



Conflicts of interest prevention and management

- Essential for the **credibility and trust** in Committee outputs
- Addresses **all types** of conflicts of interest (actual, perceived and potential)
- Members **must not have**:
 - Current or recent (past 2 years) roles in industry, consultancies, interest groups in ECHA's regulatory areas
 - Major financial interests in ECHA's regulatory areas
- Members and contributors **declare their interests** and update it annually – this declaration is published on ECHA's website
- Meeting participants must also declare any relevant interests linked to specific agenda items

Payments

- Committee **members, experts and advisers** from Member State authorities are not paid by ECHA for their work
- Authorities employing members who act as **rapporteurs** in certain areas receive payment to compensate for a part of the rapporteur work
- **Invited experts and co-opted members** are paid by ECHA for their contribution
- In case of in-person **meetings**, ECHA covers travel and accommodation costs

Why take part in an ECHA Committee?

- Work at the intersection of science and policy in the EU
 - Apply expertise to support decisions on health and environmental protection
- Work on real cases with tangible impact
 - Address complex, real-world challenges with visible results
- Collaborate across Europe
 - Work with experts from different disciplines and Member States
- Develop professionally
 - Build regulatory, scientific and analytical experience

Key messages



→ Member States and ECHA jointly implement EU chemicals safety legislation

- Scientific Committees are a central pillar of this system



→ Member State expertise and contribution are essential for the Committees

- Committees are designed to rely on expertise from Member States to deliver independent scientific opinions
- Members, advisers, experts and the future pool play complementary roles
- Timely nominations and sustained engagement are key



→ Engagement brings clear benefits for Member States and members

- Being part of the opinion-making supporting EU decisions, early regulatory insights, EU-wide networking and strengthened national expertise



→ Contact ECHA in case of questions

Have questions?

ECHA Committees secretariat

committees-secretariat@echa.europa.eu

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Annex

This annex provides additional background and practical details supporting the main content.

It includes further information on RAC and SEAC work areas, how to participate, governance requirements and financial arrangements.

The annex is for reference and can be used by Member State authorities as needed to support national engagement and outreach, including when presenting ECHA's work, the Committees or new policy areas.

Annex: Contents

1. RAC and SEAC work areas
2. Conflicts of interest prevention and management – requirements for members, advisers and experts
3. Details on financial arrangements
4. Links for further reading

RAC and SEAC's work areas

Restrictions under REACH



Basis

Proposal by EU/EEA Member State(s) or ECHA Secretariat at Commission's request (DG GROW, DG ENV)



Consultation



ECHA scientific advice

RAC: Gives an opinion as to whether the suggested restrictions are appropriate in reducing the risk to human health or the environment.

SEAC: Gives an opinion related to the socio-economic impacts of the proposed restriction. Process includes an additional consultation on SEAC's *draft* opinion.



Decision

In **comitology** ([REACH Committee](#)) by European Commission together with EU Member States.

Scrutiny by European Parliament and Council.

REACH authorisation



Basis

Company applications for authorisation to use substances of very high concern on the REACH Authorisation List.



Consultation



ECHA scientific advice

RAC: Gives an opinion on the risks associated with the use of a substance.

SEAC: Gives an opinion on the socio-economic factors and the availability, suitability and technical feasibility of alternatives.



Decision

In **comitology** ([REACH Committee](#)) by European Commission together with EU Member States.

Scrutiny by European Parliament and Council.

Harmonised classification and labelling, CLH



Basis

Proposal to harmonise the classification and labelling of a substance at EU level by Member States, companies or by ECHA Secretariat at Commission's request.



Consultation



ECHA scientific advice

RAC: Gives an opinion on the hazard classification of substances and their potential harmonisation at EU level.

SEAC: No role for SEAC.



Decision

Delegated act adopted by Commission, assisted by the Competent Authorities for the REACH and CLP ([CARACAL](#)), and with consultation of stakeholders.

Scrutiny by European Parliament and Council.

Occupational exposure limits, OELs



Basis

Commission (DG EMPL) decides which substances need new or updated OELs, based on discussions in the tripartite Working Party on Chemicals (Commission, Member States, employers, workers).

ECHA's recommendation, at Commission's request, on selected substances.



Consultation



ECHA scientific advice

RAC: Gives its scientific opinions on occupational exposure limits proposed by ECHA Secretariat.

SEAC: No role for SEAC.



Decision

Working Party on Chemicals prepares a draft opinion on the proposed occupational exposure limit and its Advisory Committee on Safety and Health adopts it.

The Commission adopts the legislative proposal, which undergoes the ordinary legislative procedure by the European Parliament and Council.

Drinking water



Basis

Companies' applications to be included or to remain in the four EU's positive lists of substances, compositions and constituents that are allowed in the manufacture of materials that come into contact with drinking water.



Consultation



ECHA scientific advice

RAC: Gives an opinion on the safety of substances used in materials that come into contact with drinking water.

SEAC: No role for SEAC.



Decision

In **comitology** ([DWD Committee](#)) by European Commission together with EU Member States.

Scrutiny by European Parliament and Council.

Update of the EU's positive lists (EUPL).

Batteries, packaging, RoHS and ELV restrictions



Basis

Proposal by EU Member State(s) or ECHA Secretariat at Commission's request



Consultation



ECHA scientific advice

RAC: Gives an opinion as to whether the suggested restrictions are appropriate in reducing the risk to human health or the environment

SEAC: Gives an opinion related to the socio-economic impacts of the proposed restriction. Process includes an additional consultation on SEAC's *draft* opinion.



Decision

In **comitology** by European Commission together with EU Member States.

Scrutiny by European Parliament and Council.

Requests for exemptions from restrictions – RoHS



Basis

Companies' exemption requests from substance restrictions or for changes (such as renewal or revocation) to existing exemptions.



Consultation



ECHA scientific advice

RAC: Involvement is limited to new exemptions or cases where the justification in the exemption request requires it.

SEAC: Gives an opinion on whether the criteria for granting an exemption are met, or whether substitution is likely to be more negative for environment, health and safety.



Decision

In **comitology** by European Commission together with EU Member States.

Scrutiny by European Parliament and Council.

Requests for exemptions from restrictions – ELV



Basis

Proposal by ECHA Secretariat, at Commission's request, to amend the exemptions from existing restrictions on lead, mercury, cadmium or hexavalent chromium.



Consultation



ECHA scientific advice

RAC: No role for RAC.

SEAC: Gives an opinion on whether the use is unavoidable, socio-economic benefits outweigh the risks, and no suitable alternatives or technologies are available.



Decision

In **comitology** by European Commission together with EU Member States.

Scrutiny by European Parliament and Council.

Requests for derogations from substance bans - toys



Basis

Companies' derogation requests to use banned substances in toys.



Consultation



ECHA scientific advice

RAC: Assesses the substance's safety in toys, considering overall exposure from all sources, and the vulnerability of children.

SEAC: Gives an opinion related to suitable alternative substances or technical alternatives.



Decision

In **comitology** by European Commission together with EU Member States.

Scrutiny by European Parliament and Council.

Toys – limit values



Basis

Proposal by ECHA, at Commission's request, to review/set limit values for substances in toys (migration limits).



Consultation



ECHA scientific advice

RAC: Gives an opinion on the limit value.

SEAC: No role for SEAC.



Decision

In **comitology** by European Commission together with EU Member States.

Scrutiny by European Parliament and Council.

POPs in waste – limit values



Basis

Report and proposal by ECHA, at Commission's request, on the human health, environmental and socio-economic impacts of introducing or modifying concentration limit values for waste streams.



Consultation



ECHA scientific advice

RAC: No role for RAC.

SEAC: Gives an opinion on the report and the proposed concentration limit values.



Decision

In **comitology** by European Commission together with EU Member States.

Scrutiny by European Parliament and Council.

Water protection



Basis

Proposal by ECHA Secretariat for (environmental) quality standard ((E)QS) values, based on its own priority-setting.



Consultation



ECHA scientific advice

RAC: Gives an opinion on the risk assessment included in the (E)QS value proposal.

SEAC: Gives an opinion on the impact assessment of the (E)QS value proposal.



Decision

Ordinary legislative procedure (OLP) used to formally update the directives.

Under the OLP, the European Parliament and the Council jointly adopt legislation based on a proposal from the European Commission.

Conflicts of interest prevention and management

- requirements for members, advisers
and experts

Conflicts of interest (CoI) prevention and management

- CoI prevention and management is a duty in ECHA's founding regulation
- CoI rules are put in place by ECHA's Management Board, composed of Member States, European Commission and stakeholders
 - [Policy](#) for the Prevention and Management of potential Conflicts of Interest at ECHA;
 - [Procedure](#) on Prevention and Management of Conflicts of Interest (actual, potential and perceived) for members of ECHA bodies – the same rules apply to all Committees

CoI – requirements for members

1. No current employment in chemical company or interest group;
2. No current membership of governance body or permanent scientific advisory body of chemical company or interest group;
3. No current consultancy or advisory work for chemical companies or interest group;
4. No significant investments [above EUR 10 000] in chemical companies;
5. No employment or membership of governance board or permanent scientific advisory body of chemical company or interest group during past 2 years, if general CoI that would lead to multiple exclusions from decision-making;
6. For key ECHA staff, no close family ties to other key positions

Financial arrangements

Overview of payments in RAC and SEAC

Category	Paid	Not paid
Committee members and alternates nominated by MS	- Travel expenses (for physical meetings) - Rapporteur work via fee transfer paid to MS authority (see next slide)	Remuneration to members for Committee work (they remain employed by the MS authority)
Advisers accompanying members nominated by MS		Remuneration for Committee work in support of a member (they remain employed by the MS authority)
Experts appointed by MS	Travel expenses (for physical meetings)	Remuneration for Committee work (they remain employed by the MS authority)
Co-opted Committee members (no link to MS)	- Travel expenses (for physical meetings) - Remuneration for rapporteur work - Remuneration for time worked for Committee	Salary (not employed by ECHA)
Other experts (no link to MS)	- Travel expenses (for physical meetings) - Remuneration for time worked for Committee	Salary (not employed by ECHA)

- The financial rules are set by ECHA's Management Board, in agreement with the Commission, following the provisions of REACH and the REACH Fee Regulation.
- They will be reviewed following the entry into force of the ECHA Basic Regulation.

Payments to MS for rapporteurship in RAC and SEAC

Type of opinion	Payment for rapporteur work to MS authority employing the Committee member
REACH Restriction	• Yes
REACH Application for Authorisation	• Yes
Harmonised Classification and Labelling	• No
Occupational Exposure Limits (only RAC)	• Yes
Drinking Water Directive (from 2027) (only RAC)	• No
Other / future legislations	• No

- The [current level of transfers to MS](#) is decided by ECHA's Management Board, subject to a positive opinion of the Commission.
- The system of payments for rapporteur work will be revised following the entry in force of the ECHA Basic Regulation.

Links for further reading

Links for further reading

- [CoI factsheet](#) and [independence page](#)
- Management Board decisions on payments
 - [Fee transfers to MS](#)
 - [Remuneration of co-opted members and experts](#)
- [Rules for reimbursement of travel costs](#)
- [General principle and guidance for Committee members](#)
- [Committee webpages](#)
- [ECHA about us](#)



Questions? Contact ECHA

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