



COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT,
PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

- THE SECRETARIAT -

Strasbourg, 17 November 2005

BACKGROUND NOTE ON THE RESULTS OF THE VOTE ON THE PROPOSED NEW CHEMICALS LEGISLATION (REACH)

The main elements of the position of the European Parliament adopted today by 398 votes in favour, 148 against and 36 abstentions are the following:

On registration:

The compromise reached by the PSE, the EPP-ED and the ALDE groups was endorsed by plenary by 438 votes in favour, 144 against and 15 abstentions. This compromise is based on the following elements:

- ✓ Introduction of a targeted approach on data requirements for 1-10 tonnes chemicals (those having been identified by the impact assessment studies as being the ones for which costs of REACH implementation would be higher)
- ✓ Maintain, in all cases, the responsibility on industry to make available information on the hazards, risks, and risk reduction measures for chemicals ("burden of proof")
- ✓ Application of the above targeted approach only to existing substances; new substances continue to provide full safety data. Substances of high concern and substances dangerous to human health or environment which are used in consumer products also have to provide full sets of safety data.
- ✓ Introduction of the possibility of making additional tests, if this appears necessary
- ✓ Introduction of the possibility of omitting certain tests ("waiving") for the substances produced/imported between 10-100 tonnes when this is justified on the basis of certain criteria (to be fixed by the Commission in comitology)
- ✓ Introduction of the "One Substance, One Registration" (OSOR) approach to minimise costs, with an opt-out in specific conditions where it can be justified

On Authorisation:

The EP endorsed by 324 votes in favour, 263 against and 13 abstentions the approach of the Environment Committee which is based on the following elements:

- ✓ Consideration of available substitutes, innovation through time-limited authorisations (5 years), and certainty through a list of the most hazardous substances. Early registration of these chemicals.

On Substances in Articles:

The EP endorsed by 291 in favour, 290 against and 16 abstentions a slightly revised version of the approach adopted on this issue by the Environment Committee:

- ✓ Equal treatment of imported articles to those produced in the EU, through simple notification requirements for articles containing substances listed as being of very high concern, and by equal application of authorisation

For SMEs:

The EP endorsed the approach of the Environment Committee (supported also by IMCO and ITRE) seeking at providing:

- ✓ Helpdesks and additional guidance and tools to meet the obligations of the regulation

On the Agency:

The EP endorsed the approach of the Environment Committee (supported also by IMCO and ITRE) seeking at:

- ✓ Strengthening of the Agency role for evaluating dossiers and substances, while at the same time maximising the use of Member States' expertise on substance evaluation

On animal testing:

The EP endorsed the approach of the Environment Committee seeking at:

- ✓ Minimising animal testing through regular adaptation of testing methods and avoidance of duplication