



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 20 March 2013**

**7664/13**

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**NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat  
to: Delegations

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Subject: REACH  
Roadmap on the Substances of Very High Concern  
- Note from the Danish, Dutch, German, Swedish and Belgian delegations

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Delegations will find annexed a note submitted jointly by the Danish, Dutch, German, Swedish and Belgian delegations on the above subject which will be dealt with under "any other business" at the Environment Council meeting on 21 March 2013.

**REACH****Call for support to the Roadmap on the Substances of Very High Concern  
- Note from the Danish, Dutch, German, Swedish and Belgian delegations -****Introduction**

1. The REACH and CLP Regulations provide for a better protection of health and environment by imposing obligations on industry to ensure that their chemical substances are produced, used and disposed of safely and by providing instruments for authorities to regulate the production, marketing and use. Available instruments include, a.o., harmonisation of classification & labelling, inclusion in the authorisation scheme and imposing restrictions.
2. The overall aim of the authorisation scheme is to ensure the good functioning of the internal market while assuring that the risks from Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) are properly controlled and that these substances are progressively replaced by suitable alternatives where these are economically and technically viable. It is at the discretion of the Member States and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) on behalf of the Commission to propose substances for inclusion on the Candidate List for eventual inclusion in the Authorisation List (Annex XIV) of substances for authorisation.
3. By the end of 2012, 138 substances were included in the Candidate List. With the aim of ensuring a steady progress in developing the Candidate list and that priority is given to those substances that presumably are of highest concern, the Commission in collaboration with ECHA and the Member States has developed a Roadmap for the identification and inclusion in the Candidate List by 2020 of all relevant Substances of Very High Concern<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> doc. 5867/13

4. The Roadmap builds on the approach on conducting Risk Management Option (RMO) analyses in which available information will be analysed to determine whether a regulatory action is required under REACH (authorization, restriction or evaluation) or other specific legislation, incl. harmonised classification, and if regulatory action is warranted, which action that is most appropriate.
5. The successful fulfilment of the Roadmap will require increased collaboration and sharing of the work between the Member States, the Commission and ECHA. The Commission and ECHA have committed to continuing their provision of assistance and coordination and to share their experiences with Member States.

### **Way forward**

6. By raising this issue, Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden and Belgium wish to express their firm support to the Commission initiative and we encourage other Member States to do the same and to share the work in the coming years. We are willing to contribute significantly to analysing possible Risk Management Options for all prioritised substances and, where relevant, prepare appropriate proposals for regulatory action. This should ensure that all relevant Substances of Very High Concern are included in the Candidate List by 2020.