EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 13.11.2025
C(2025) 7756 final

Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Tweede Kamer for its own-initiative Opinion on the revision of the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Regulation EC 1907/2006.

Following the recently adopted Chemicals Industry Action Plan, co-led by Executive Vice-President Séjourné and Commissioner Roswall, the Commission intends to present a proposal for a targeted revision of the REACH Regulation, to simplify the rules and speed up the procedures for industry, taking into account competitiveness, safety, security and sustainability considerations, while ensuring a high level of protection of human health and the environment. This revision was included in the 2024-2029 European Commission political guidelines and confirmed in the Commission Work Programme 2025.

The Commission acknowledges the insights and recommendations articulated by the Tweede Kamer, especially regarding the need to simplify procedures while simultaneously setting more ambitious targets for human health and the environment. The Commission recognises the unique position of the Netherlands, with its significant chemical industry, and remains committed to ensuring that the revisions to the REACH Regulation support achieving all its objectives in a more efficient and effective way.

Like the Netherlands, the Commission has actively engaged in dialogue with stakeholders to inform the elaboration of the legislative proposal for the revision of the REACH Regulation, which is currently under preparation.

Mr Peter DE GROOT
Chair of the Committee
on Infrastructure and Water Management
Tweede Kamer
Postbus 20018
NL – 2500 EA DEN HAAG

cc: *Mr Martin BOSMA*
President of the Tweede Kamer
Postbus 20018
NL – 2500 EA DEN HAAG

In response to the more technical comments in the Tweede Kamer's Opinion, the Commission would like to refer to the attached annex.

The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Tweede Kamer and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

Maroš Šefčovič
Member of the Commission

Jessika Roswall
Member of the Commission

Annex

As regards the points to which the Tweede Kamer has drawn the Commission's particular attention, the Commission would like to make the following comments:

1. *The recommendation by the Tweede Kamer to expand the scope of the REACH revision is duly noted.*

   Regarding the concern on the overlap of REACH with other regulations, the revision would consider how to avoid any potential overlaps. The 'one substance, one assessment' approach[1] and the creation of a Common Data Platform on Chemicals would further enhance consistency across sectors such as plant protection, toys, and cosmetics, reducing regulatory burdens and steering, as far as applicable, towards harmonised chemical assessments.

   Concerning the significance of the Safe and Sustainable by Design framework[2], the Commission is committed to supporting innovation alongside regulatory measures through initiatives outlined in the European Chemicals Industry Action Plan[3]. This includes establishing EU Innovation and Substitution Hubs to accelerate the development of safer and more sustainable solutions and to explore collaborative approaches towards the substitution of targeted chemicals. These hubs would embed the Safe and Sustainable by Design principles, providing technical guidance from the early stages of innovation. Additionally, the Commission plans to adopt a revised Safe and Sustainable by Design framework to better support the innovation process.

   On animal testing and validation, the Commission is considering the update of information requirements with non-animal methods wherever they have been proven reliable for regulatory purposes. The Commission would continue to do so after this revision as soon as solutions are ripe to replace current animal-based requirements for regulatory purposes.

   Under the development of a Roadmap to phase out animal testing for chemical safety assessments, several concrete actions would be proposed and are already

---

1 Proposal for a Regulation establishing a common data platform on chemicals: Brussels, 7 December 2023, COM(2023) 779 final.

Proposal for a Regulation on the re-attribution of scientific and technical tasks and improving cooperation among Union agencies in the area of chemicals: Brussels, 7 December 2023, COM(2023) 779 final.

Proposal for a Directive on the re-attribution of scientific and technical tasks to the European Chemicals Agency: Brussels, 7 December 2023, COM(2023) 781 final.

2 Commission Recommendation (EU) 2022/2510 of 8 December 2022 establishing a European assessment framework for 'safe and sustainable by design' chemicals and materials: C/2022/8854.

3 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of the Regions: A European Chemicals Industry Action Plan: Strasbourg, 8 July 2025, COM(2025) 530 final.

being worked on to accelerate the phasing out of animal testing under REACH as well as other legislations pertaining to chemical safety assessments.

2. *The Commission shares the Tweede Kamer's perspective on the need for expedited decision-making processes within REACH authorisation and restrictions, through their simplification and streamlining, while considering the ambition to ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment. Specifically, the Commission is considering changes to minimise the use of the authorisation route to situations where that makes most sense and to expand the use of restrictions. The Commission is also considering a better upfront preparation and prioritisation which will be supported by tools and systems that are to come from the implementation of the 'one substance, one assessment' concept to allow faster and more efficient decision-making, create more clarity and enhance predictability for companies and speed up protection of human health and the environment.*

3. *The Commission acknowledges the importance of robust enforcement and compliance mechanisms within REACH and is considering the option to revoke a registration number in case of persistent incompliance or an expiry of the technical dossier. The Commission is exploring ways to strengthen and support controls systems in the Member States, as well as ways to facilitate border controls by customs, with the overall aim of strongly deterring economic operators from sending non-compliant goods into the European Union or importing them into the European Union, hence hurting the European Union market, consumers and businesses.*

4. *The Commission is considering increased information requirements to allow the identification of endocrine disruptors, while trying to find a balanced approach to doing so that does not hamper innovation in Europe.*

5. *The Commission values the Dutch proposals and efforts to improve the use of New Approach Methodologies. In alignment with the Tweede Kamer's recommendation, the Commission is prioritising the promotion of New Approach Methodologies for chemical safety assessments. The obligation to apply non-animal methods or adaptations to in vivo testing whenever possible is already a requirement under the current REACH text. The Commission intends to update Annex XI in order to give more clarity on how adaptation options can best be applied and would consider the introduction of some methods of the New Approach Methodologies for the revision proposal. Going forward, the Commission would continue to update the information requirements via amendments to technical progress as it has done before. That legal foundation is already present in the REACH Regulation and will continue to be respected.*

6. *Enhancing the development, adoption, and validation of testing methods aligns with the Commission's strategic goals. This topic forms a core part of the recommendations under the Commission roadmap towards phasing out animal testing for chemical safety assessments, where concrete actions would be*

proposed for the development of required methods for regulatory needs and a more coordinated validation process. Next to the roadmap, the Commission is also committed to collaborating with the Netherlands in the efforts of establishing a European test method development and validation strategy.

The Commission values the Tweede Kamer's insights and continues to engage with stakeholders to ensure that the revised REACH regulation fosters a high level of protection while enhancing industry competitiveness.