

## Participation of international organisations in ECHA's work

43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Management Board 28-29 September 2016

<b>Item</b>	12
<b>Action</b>	For decision
<b>Status</b>	Final - Public

### Proposal

The Management Board is invited to

- approve the participation of United Nations sub-organisations, such as the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC; the specialised cancer agency of WHO), as observers in the work of ECHA, subject to agreement of the relevant Committee and for specific cases as appropriate; and to
- charge the ECHA Secretariat with seeking the agreement of the relevant Committees as to such participation and invite the observers as appropriate.

### Background

In the context of the pending procedure for the harmonised classification of the substance glyphosate, ECHA's opinion forming process (Risk Assessment Committee) would benefit from input of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) which has undertaken scientific work on this substance.

The REACH Regulation foresees that the Management Board may, in agreement with the relevant Committee or the Forum, invite representatives of international organisations with an interest in the field of chemicals regulation to participate as observers in the work of the Agency<sup>1</sup>.

For the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) the Management Board approved in 2008 the participation as observers in the work of ECHA<sup>2</sup>. Since then, OECD observers are invited, as appropriate, to Committee meetings.

### Rationale

IARC reviewed glyphosate in 2015 and concluded on its cancerogenic effect. The IARC review was referred to in comments submitted by interested parties in the context of the public consultation organised by ECHA. The Chairman of RAC considers it therefore as appropriate to invite a representative of IARC to the discussion on the case. This will contribute to a well-informed opinion forming process.

It can be anticipated that a similar situation may occur in the future, i.e. that the input from a sub-organisation of the United Nations (UN), such as the World Health Organisation, is relevant

<sup>1</sup> Art 107 of the REACH Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006

<sup>2</sup> See minutes of the meeting of the Management Board of April 2008 at [www.echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13608/mb\\_m\\_02\\_2008\\_meet\\_minut\\_23\\_24042008\\_20080722\\_en.pdf](http://www.echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13608/mb_m_02_2008_meet_minut_23_24042008_20080722_en.pdf)

for ECHA's work<sup>3</sup>. The ECHA Secretariat therefore suggests that the Management Board decides on the participation of UN organisations as observers in ECHA's work wherever appropriate, as it was done in 2008 for OECD.

### **Alternative options**

The Management Board could also decide that it is not appropriate to take a generic decision on observers from UN organisations and limit the invitation to IARC for the specific case of glyphosate. The Management Board could also decline to invite IARC to the specific discussions on this case. The Secretariat sees however a clear added value in having IARC present as observer in the specific discussion, and also in inviting UN organisations for other appropriate occasions without requiring in each case a specific Management Board decision. This follows the approach taken in 2008 for the OECD that led to well-functioning working arrangements.

### **Drawbacks**

There are no evident drawbacks linked to the proposal, in particular no budgetary implications since ECHA does not reimburse observers from International Organisations.

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<sup>3</sup> This could, for example include UNECE (the UN Economic Commission for Europe dealing with GHS issues), IMO (the International Maritime Organisation with expertise on maritime transport of chemicals), or ILO (the International Labour Organisation for issues in relation to worker protection).