

Accredited Stakeholder Workshop

Proceedings
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Workshop Proceedings – Accredited Stakeholder Workshop 2012

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1 Summary

Accredited Stakeholder Workshops are a platform for strategic discussions between ECHA and its Accredited Stakeholder Organisations and for collecting stakeholders' input to the Agency's work plans and future priorities. The workshop has now been arranged for the second time.

This year the workshop had three main topics: two of ECHA's strategic objectives and cooperation through Committees. The first two topics were chosen because of their strategic importance for the Multi-Annual Work Programme which is currently being prepared, and the third following input from last year's workshop.

Recommendations regarding the strategic objectives will be taken into account in the drafting of the Multi-Annual Work Programme, and recommendations concerning Committee work will be discussed with the Committee Secretariats and communicated to the Committee chairs.

2 Participants

The workshop was attended by 21 Accredited Stakeholder Organisations, representing the following sectors: industry (15), NGOs (4), academia (1) and social partners (1).

ECHA was represented by four Directors: Geert Dancet, Executive Director; Christel Musset, Director of Registration; Jack de Bruijn, Director of Risk Assessment and Leena Ylä-Mononen, Director of Evaluation and the Head of Unit for Committees Secretariat Pilar Rodriguez-Iglesias. Additionally, ECHA's Communications Unit staff were present for facilitating the breakout sessions and taking care of the practical arrangements.

A list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

3 Concept

The aim of the Workshop is to provide a forum for strategic discussions between ECHA and the Accredited Stakeholder Organisations, which represent the key interest groups for the chemicals legislations administered by ECHA.

Themes of the workshop reflect the topical strategic priorities as well as issues raised by the stakeholders. The workshop includes updates from ECHA, but the main focus is in interactive discussions between the participants. The discussions take place in small groups, including, to the extent possible, participants from the various sectors.

This year the workshop had a plenary session in the morning, followed by three parallel breakout sessions and another joint session in the afternoon. Key recommendations from the breakout sessions were reported to the plenary by three stakeholder rapporteurs.

The agenda is attached as Annex 2.

4 Topics

Accredited Stakeholder Workshop 2012 covered the following key topics:

- Strategic objective I: Improving the quality of data
- Strategic objective II: Using data intelligently for better chemicals management
- Cooperation through Committees

The first two topics were discussed in connection to the drafting of the Multi-Annual Work Programme for 2014-2018. The workshop provided the stakeholders with an opportunity to give input for this strategic document in the presence of the Directors responsible for the content.

The third topic was selected on the basis of feedback received after last year's workshop. Many of the stakeholders considered cooperation with Committees as a key area of interest and indicated that more discussion would be appreciated. The Head of Unit for the Committees Secretariat participated in the discussion.

In addition, there was an update on the new Biocidal Products Regulation. ECHA's approach for engagement with its Accredited Stakeholder Organisations will also apply for Biocides. Accredited Stakeholder Organisations will have an important role in participating in scientific discussions, preparing Guidance and in informing their members about issues related to the Regulation. ECHA will ask Accredited Stakeholder Organisations to indicate their interest in cooperation within the field of Biocides in late 2012—early 2013.

ECHA also presented a follow-up on activities discussed in last year's workshop. Stakeholders indicated several areas with further development needs, and ECHA has been working on many of them. ECHA has, for example, launched a compliance check strategy to improve the quality of data, published information on substances to be registered by 31 May 2013, and included functionalities in IUCLID 5.4 to allow more information of substances in the registration dossiers. Exchange Network on Exposure Scenarios has been established and Guidance updated to include nanomaterials. ECHA has also provided additional support for SMEs through webinars, events and information material. Cooperation with Accredited Stakeholder Organisations has been enforced by introducing a bi-monthly Stakeholder update, which ensures that information is available to all Accredited Stakeholder Organisations and contributes to effective communication by compiling key information to a single document. Some joint communications initiatives have also been implemented during the year.

5 Workshop recommendations

Each of the breakout groups focused in one of the key topics. With representatives from different sectors in all breakout groups, reflections were made from several viewpoints. This provided a good overview of the concerns and key questions related to each of the topics. At the end of the session, the groups concluded with shared recommendations which were put forward and will be recorded as key recommendations for future actions. These recommendations were presented by stakeholder rapporteurs and further discussed in the plenary session.

Group 1: Improving the quality of data submitted

Shared recommendations:

- Further support and share best practice by Accredited Stakeholders;
- Optimise and synchronise IT tools, including a new functionality to flag changes in order to inform downstream users;
- Synchronising regulatory deadlines and updates of IT tools, deadline management;
- Best practices on how to communicate in the supply chain, for example through workshops;
- Continue the Expert Network on Exposure Scenarios (ENES), which can significantly improve the quality of dossiers;
- Educational promotion of alternative methods. Process should be improved on how to disseminate new information to laboratories, for example;
- Clearer vision, goals, deadlines;
- Strong decisions from ECHA when needed but make a difference in processes depending on the situation:
 - a) if changes in regulation, give time,
 - b) if non-compliance, act with strong decisions.

It was also noted that reaching out to companies who do not attend events arranged by ECHA or the Accredited Stakeholder Organisations is a key challenge for improving the quality of data. This target audience includes companies situated outside Europe as well as companies which are not organised through the industry associations. Additionally, communication to the supply chain and to downstream users was considered important. It was noted that linking to ECHA's pages from the stakeholders' websites should be the first step.

The group also acknowledged that registration is an on-going process (registrant's which have been issued with a registration number may be expected to update their dossier sometime in the future), that poor quality information at the outset increases the probability of an ECHA decision requesting the registrant to update their dossier (ECHA decisions are taken on on-going basis, but ultimately the responsibility is for the registrant to be ahead, to take the initiative to update their dossier before ECHA requests them to do so) and that although REACH has been designed to be an adaptive and flexible framework, there is the need for industry to prepare itself for a long-term relationship with ECHA.

Group 2: Using data intelligently for better chemicals management

Shared recommendations:

- Transparent communication on the scientific approach in order to select substances for regulatory risk management and to create more predictability;
- Clearly explain what information is essential during public consultations;
- Safety information relating to recycled substances should be free and available for everyone handling those substances;
- Explain clearly the different interactions:
 - a) within REACH, and
 - b) between REACH and other legislation;
- Complement IT algorithmic screening with human intervention more efficiently, in an iterative manner;
- Reflect on how and when to introduce new scientific methods in the regulatory decision-making processes. e.g. on endocrine disruptors, genomics, nanomaterials.

The basic concerns of the group were around transparency and predictability. They therefore emphasised communicating early, simply and regularly to enable stakeholders to plan ahead and prepare to make the best and most effective use of their time.

Group 3: Cooperating with ECHA through the Committees

Shared recommendations:

- Criteria for confidential business information (CBI) should be defined and reasons should be given when information is considered confidential;
- Opinions of RAC/SEAC should be driven by scientific considerations and political considerations should not play a role;
- Guidance is needed on how to provide meaningful input through public consultation. The guidance should not be too prescriptive to allow input from different perspectives;
- Registry of intent to include justifications to allow stakeholder contributions;
- Early communication of Committee meeting dates and agenda. This would ensure appropriate participation to relevant topics discussed at Committee meetings;
- Avoid public consultations during the summer and Christmas breaks, which make it difficult for stakeholders to provide input. There should also be as much time as possible for providing input.

A request was also made to allow regular attendance of some sector specific observers for a defined period of time. It was also requested to allow the presence of experts in the meetings where final decisions are taken, especially in the context of CLP decisions.

6 Joint initiatives

During the afternoon's optional working session, several areas were discussed where joint initiatives between ECHA and the Accredited Stakeholder Organisations could be beneficial. The key challenge was considered to be in reaching out to all relevant target audiences, who do not follow either ECHA's or the Accredited Stakeholder Organisations' channels. Additionally, further action in relation to awareness-raising on the safe use of chemicals among the civil society, communications activities to improve the quality of data and further development of engagement with ECHA's Accredited Stakeholder Organisations were considered important.

A full list of the discussed ideas is presented in Annex 3.

7 Follow-up

Input received during the workshop will be taken into account in the drafting of the first draft of the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2014-2018. ECHA's Management Board will endorse the draft MAWP in March 2013. A public consultation in 23 languages will be organised during summer 2013, and the adoption of the final MAWP 2014-2018 is scheduled for September 2013.

Recommendations related to Committee work will be discussed with the Committees Secretariat and given to Committee chairs.

Suggestions for joint initiatives will be considered by ECHA's Communications Unit. Given the available time and resources, ECHA will suggest a list of priorities for 2013 and send it

for stakeholders to comment.

All communication on the follow-up activities will be channelled through the Stakeholder update, which is sent bi-monthly to the heads of organisations, nominated contact persons and communications officers of all Accredited Stakeholder Organisations.

Annex 1 List of participants

	Organisation	Name	Last name	Job title
1.	<u>International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Products</u> AISE	Sophie	Mathieu	REACH issue manager
2.	<u>European Chemical Industry Council</u> Cefic	Erwin	Anny	Director REACH / Chemicals Policy
3.	<u>The European Cement Association</u> CEMBUREAU	Siemon	Van Brempt	Health & Safety Officer
4.	<u>European Committee for Surface Treatment</u> CETS	Berthold	Sessler	President
5.	ClientEarth	Rosemary	Simpson	Health and Environment Intern
6.	<u>The oil companies' European organisation for environment, health and safety in refining and distribution</u> CONCAWE	Francisco	Del Castillo	Technical Coordinator Petroleum Products
7.	<u>European Coalition to End Animal Experiments</u> ECEAE	Katy	Taylor	Senior Science Adviser
8.	<u>European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals</u> ECETOC	Christa	Hennes	Health Sciences Manager
9.	<u>European Environmental Bureau</u> EEB	Tatiana	Santos	Senior Policy Officer
10.	<u>European Tyre and Rubber Manufacturers' Association</u> ETRMA	LEAH	Charpentier	REACH Coordinator
11.	<u>European Trade Union Institute</u> ETUI	Aida	Ponce Del Castillo	Researcher
12.	European Plastics Converters EuPC	Walter	Claes	Director HSE
13.	Eurogroup for Animals	Kirsty	Reid	Policy Officer-research animals
14.	European Metal Trade and Recycling Federation EUROMETREC	Eric	Johnson	European Affairs Officer
15.	European Aerosol Federation FEA	Alain	D'haese	Secretary General
16.	<u>European Association of Chemical</u>		Roblot	

	<u>Distributors</u> FECC	Ophélie		HSE Manager
17.	<u>European Industrial Minerals Association</u> IMA-Europe	Claire	Lanne	Adviser Chemicals Policy
18.	IMA-Europe	Florence	Lumen	REACH Adviser
19.	Nanotechnology Industries Association NIA	David	Carlander	Director of Advocacy
20.	Only Representatives Organization ORO	Richard	Roden	Executive Committee Member
21.	<u>European Engineering Industries Association</u> Orgalime	Anne-Claire	Rasselet	Adviser

Annex 2 Agenda

Working together for the strategic priorities

Workshop for ECHA's Accredited Stakeholder Organisations

- Time: 22 November 2012
 Venue: European Commission, DG Enterprise, Breydel building, Room 12/A
- 09:15 Registration
- 09:30 **Opening and follow-up from the 2011 workshop**
Geert Dancet, Executive Director
- 09:40 **ECHA Update on upcoming issues**
- Multi-Annual Work Programme 2014-2018
Christel Musset, Director for Registration
 - Stakeholder involvement in Biocides
Pilar Rodriguez Iglesias, Head of Unit, Committees Secretariat
- 10:15 **Questions and answers**
- 10:30 Coffee
- 10:50 **Breakout group discussions**
- Group 1: Maximising the availability of high quality data to enable the safe manufacture and use of chemicals**
ECHA participant: Leena Ylä-Mononen, Director for Evaluation
- Group 2: Mobilising authorities to use data intelligently to identify and address chemicals of concern**
ECHA participant: Jack de Bruijn, Director for Risk Management
- Group 3: Cooperating with ECHA through the Committees**
ECHA participant: Pilar Rodriguez Iglesias, Head of Unit, Committees Secretariat
- 12:20 Lunch
- 13:20 **Joint discussion on the breakout group topics**
 Recommendations from the breakout groups by stakeholder rapporteurs
- 14:20 **Issues raised by stakeholders**
 Open for other topics that participants would like to discuss with ECHA
- 15:00 **Closing remarks and next steps**, *Geert Dancet, Executive Director, ECHA*
- 15:15 Coffee
- 15:30 **Optional: Working session on joint initiatives**
 Several ideas for joint initiatives were discussed in the 2011 workshop. Those interested in discussing this opportunity, are welcome to discuss the approach with us.
- 16:30 End of workshop

Annex 3 Ideas for joint initiatives

The following ideas were discussed in the session on possible joint initiatives:

Reaching the unreachable:

- Communicating clearly that registration is not the end of the process;
- Awareness raising through tax authorities;
- Engaging national associations, which often work closely with small companies;
- Engaging local governments, who should enforce the message on the obligation to register.

Awareness raising on the safe use of chemicals among civil society:

- Further developing the "Chemicals in our life" web page;
- Promoting safe use of products and mixtures through general media;
- The new toy regulation to be implemented by June 2013. Implications for SiA as the presence of SVHCs to be communicated to consumers.

Improving the quality of data:

- CEO workshop to raise awareness among top level management about REACH obligations;
- Campaign for improving the quality of data, e.g. raising awareness on the withdrawal of registration numbers, improving the quality of nanomaterial registrations;
- Developing key messages for improving the quality of dossiers;
- More focus on local and national enforcement.

Further develop engagement of Accredited Stakeholder Organisations:

- ECHA briefing day for Accredited Stakeholder Organisations;
- More predictability and forewarning about REACH processes;
- Virtual communicators network to improve predictability;
- Regular meetings with NGOs;
- Higher visibility for NGO opinions in Stakeholders' Day and other large scale events.

Annex 4 Participant feedback report

This feedback report covers feedback and comments received from participants attending the Second Accredited Stakeholder Workshop which took place on 23 November 2012 in Brussels. The workshop is a strategic platform for discussion between ECHA and its currently 64 Accredited Stakeholder Organisations.

Frequency and format of events

Generally participants appreciated the format and found the content to be suitably balanced between too general and too detailed. They also felt that the information presented was particularly useful for those Accredited Stakeholders that are not involved daily with ECHA's work. The presence of ECHA's Directors was felt as an important aspect and according to one participant even "crucial to the success of the workshop". Brussels as a location was also welcomed as it facilitates participation.

The session focussing on joint initiatives was found to give a useful overview of potential joint initiatives and areas of collaboration. Participants welcomed the informal, yet professional nature of the session as a channel for open dialogue about achieving common goals. Participants highlighted the need for an open follow-up of the possible joint actions to ensure they are taken into account where possible.

Some future suggestions relating to format included more specific questions from ECHA directed at the interests of the different participants in order to further engage them, potentially in a question and answer setting. In this regard, the opportunity for participants to send topics of interest to ECHA ahead of the workshop was suggested.

A further recommendation was to invite a greater number of environmental organisations into the discussions for future workshops although ECHA already invites all of its Accredited Stakeholder Organisations.

ECHA received a lot of support for organising the event annually with 64% supporting the idea.

Topics for future events

Some topic suggestions for the next event included Forum proceedings and enforcement, outcomes and lessons learned from REACH 2013, how to further improve human health and the environment as well as communication in the supply chain. Several other topics were also suggested and are available in question 5 below).

Breakout groups

Overall the breakout groups received very high scores and the facilitation method, discussion topics and facilitators were very much appreciated.

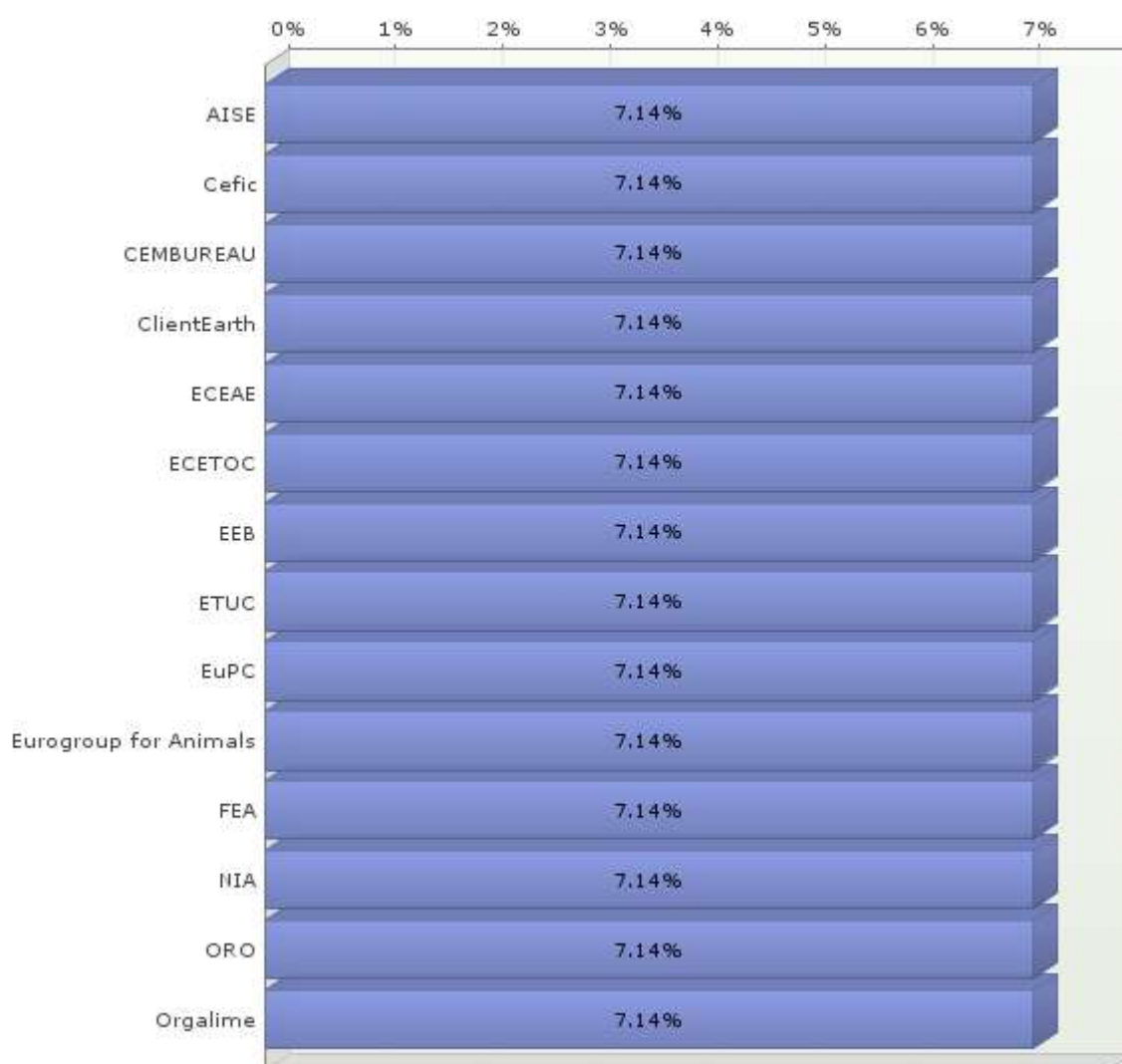
Further suggestions included an even smaller number of people per breakout group to make it easier to discuss, clarify and focus the group discussion as well as more time for the groups. Some felt that the questions presented by the facilitators at the beginning of the breakout groups should have been visible to participants to remind them the main focus of the discussion. Also some concerns were raised as to whether the definitions of some of the concepts received a common understanding (such as what exactly was meant by "dossier quality") and it was felt that a short definition of the key concepts may have helped.

For some, the topics of the breakout groups were too general and due to several individual perspectives and issues, could have focussed more on specific priority topics for Accredited Stakeholders.

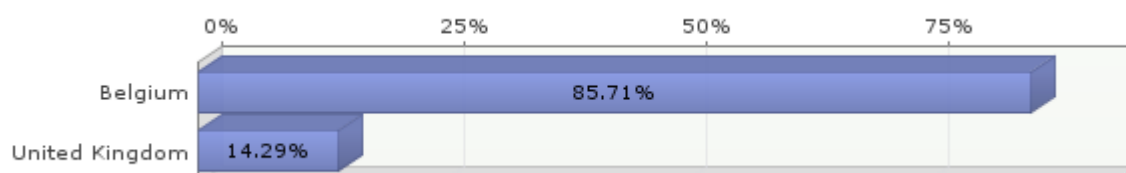
Perception and overall satisfaction

Regarding perception, participants felt that ECHA was particularly open to dialogue with nearly 65% who strongly agreed. When asked if ECHA was committed to achieving our strategic objectives, an overwhelming 72% strongly agreed. The overall score for the event has 100% of participants at satisfactory or above with 85% rating it as very good or excellent.

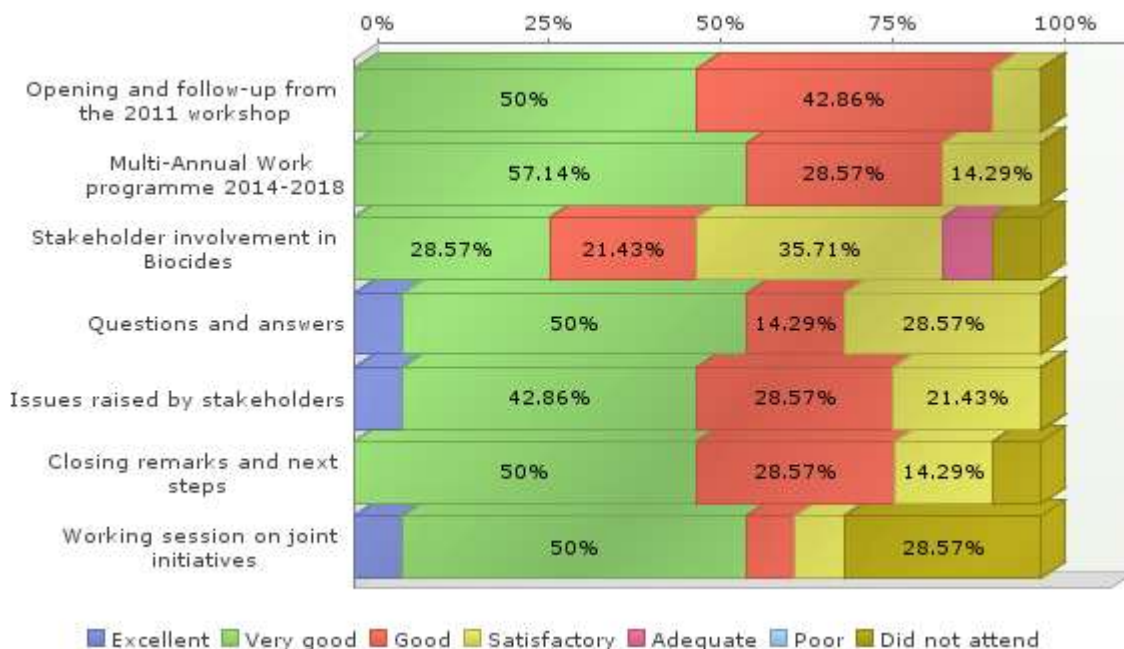
1. Organisation



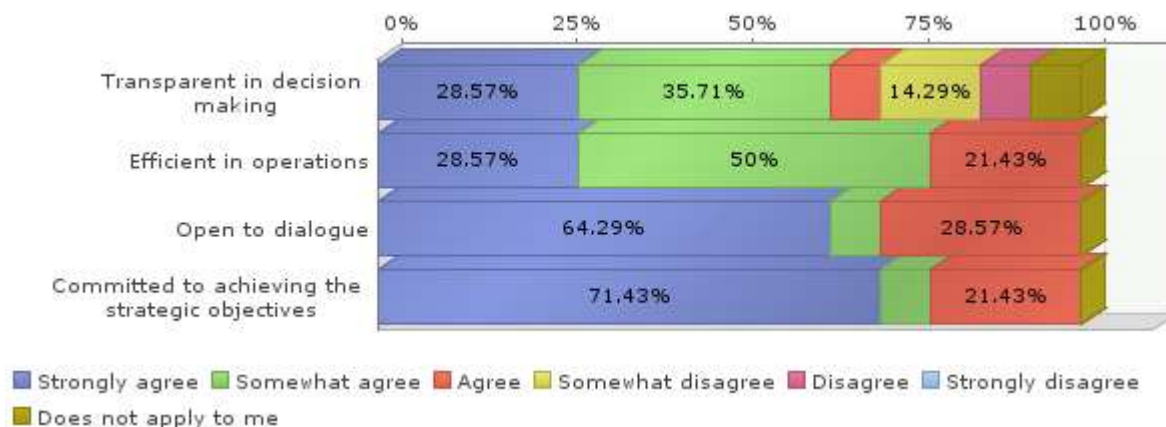
2. Country



3. Rate the content of the plenary session.



4. What was your perception of ECHA after the workshop?



5. Suggest in order of importance, 3 topics that you would like to see addressed during the next Accredited Stakeholder Workshop. (Topics have been grouped into appropriate sections by ECHA)

ECHA updates

- 2013 registration deadline
- Priority issues for the year
- IT tools update

Safety of chemicals

- How to better protect human health and environment
- How to improve the usability of the information about substances
- Awareness campaigns for citizens

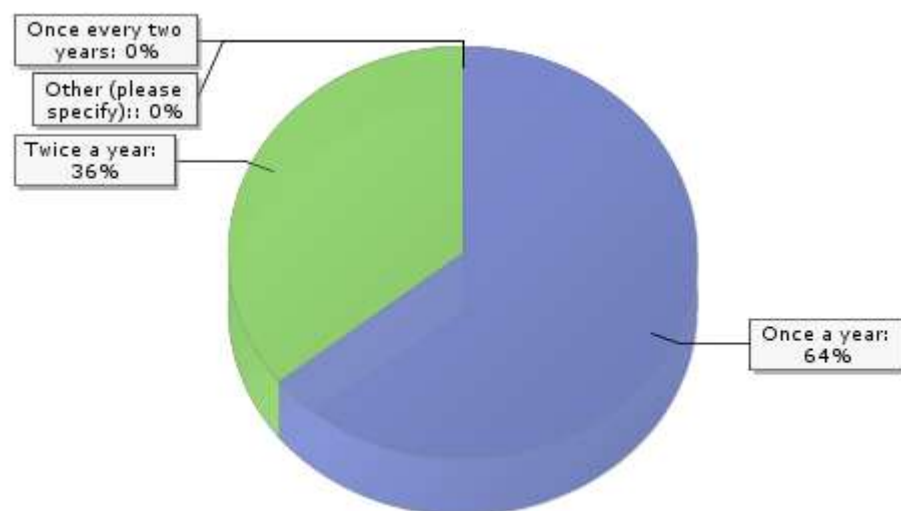
Horizontal topics

- Coordination with other legislations: biocides, endocrine disrupters and nanotechnology
- Dissemination database to reduce animal testing/ alternatives to animal testing
- How to promote innovation (green chemistry) and substitution

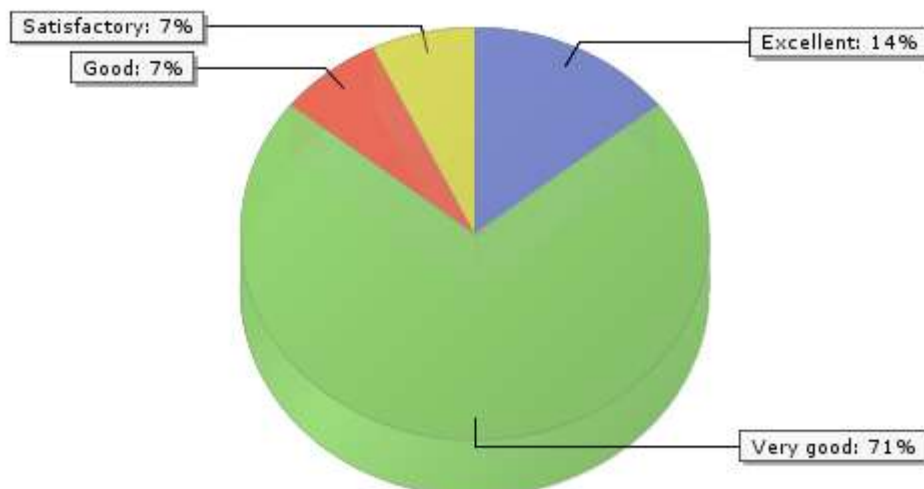
ECHA processes

- Biocides
- Role of ECHA in SVHC identification and authorisation
- When industry should expect a strong decision from ECHA and the role of the Board of Appeal
- Explanation of transparency in decision making process.
- SME support
- Substitution of chemicals
- Proceedings of the Forum
- How can ECHA facilitate communication in the supply chain
- Feedback on topics discussed at Member State committee
- User friendliness of ECHA web site

6. In your opinion, how often should a workshop for Accredited Stakeholder Organisations be organised?

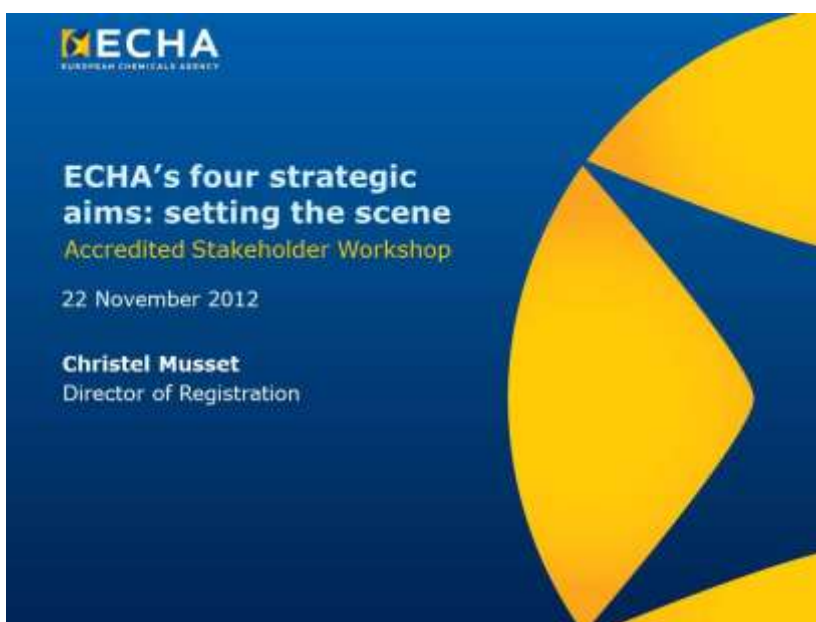


7. Give your overall rating for the Accredited Stakeholder Workshop.



Annex 4 Presentations

Click a presentation to view it.





**Stakeholder engagement
in biocides at ECHA**
Accredited Stakeholder Workshop

22 November 2012

Pilar Rodríguez Iglesias
Head of Unit, Committees Secretariat
(ECHA)



**Working session on
joint initiatives**
Accredited Stakeholder Workshop

22 November 2012

Lindsay Jackson
Head of Unit, Communications (ECHA)





Closing remarks
Accredited Stakeholder Workshop

22 November 2012

Geert Dancet
ECHA Executive Director



**Breakout groups:
Shared recommendations**
Accredited Stakeholder Workshop

22 November 2012

