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PAGE 2: Part I – General Information about Respondents

Q1: Address

Contact name

Elisa Setién

Organisation/company

European Federation for Construction
Chemicals (EFCC)

Country

Belgium

Email Address

Q2: If you have a Transparency Register ID number, please provide it below. If your organisation is not registered, you have the opportunity to register now by following this link. If your entity responds without being registered, the Commission will consider its input as that of an individual/private person and, as such, will publish it separately.

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Q3: Received contributions may be published on the Commission's website, with the identity of the contributor. Please state your preference with regard to the publication of your contribution. Please note that regardless of the option chosen, your contribution may be subject to a request for access to documents under Regulation 1049/2001 on public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents. In such cases, the request will be assessed against the conditions set out in the Regulation and in accordance with applicable data protection rules.

My contribution may be published under the name indicated; I declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that prevent publication

Q4: We might need to contact you to clarify some of your answers. Please state your preference below:

I am available to be contacted

Q5: Please indicate whether you are replying to this questionnaire as:

An industry association

Q6: If a business or industry association, please indicate your field(s) of interest or activity(ies) - the letters in between brackets correspond to NACE codes [multiple choice]:

Manufacture of paints, varnishes and similar coatings, printing ink and mastics (C20.3)
,
Manufacture of other chemical products (C20.5),
Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products (C23)
,
Construction (F),
Other (please specify)
Manufacture of construction products (adhesives, sealants, waterproofing, mortars, additives and admixtures...)

Q7: For businesses, please indicate the size of your business:The definition of small and medium-sized enterprises depends on the staff headcount and either the annual turnover or the balance sheet of the company. Please consult the following website:
http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition/index_en.htm

Respondent skipped this question

Q8: Please indicate the level at which your organisation is active:

EU

PAGE 3: Part II – General Questions

Q9: How important is it in your view that there is chemical and chemical-related legislation* at EU-level in order to achieve the following objectives? (1 = not important; 5= very important)*This comprises the chemical-related provisions in all legislation within the scope of this fitness check. It encompasses legislation governing hazard identification and classification, as well as risk management measures, including chemical-related aspects of legislation on worker safety, transport, environmental protection, chemicals controls and supporting legislation, excluding REACH. The full list of legislation can be found here.The internal market of the European Union (EU) is a single market in which the goods, services, capital and persons can move freely across borders. One of the key objectives of chemical and chemical-related legislation is to have a single market for chemical substances and mixtures, as well as products containing chemicals.**

Protecting human health	4
Protecting the environment	4
Ensuring a well-functioning internal market**	3
Stimulating competitiveness and innovation	2

Q10: Do you think the EU chemical and chemical-related legislation has been effective in achieving the following objectives? (1= not effective, 5= very effective). Please only consider chemical-related provisions in the legislation.

Protecting human health	4
Protecting the environment	4
Ensuring a well-functioning internal market	3
Stimulating competitiveness and innovation	2

Q11: If you think the EU chemical and chemical-related legislation is not effective (1) or only somewhat (2,3) effective, please indicate what you believe are the main reasons for this limited effectiveness in the following table:

Protecting human health	No opinion or not applicable
Protecting the environment	No opinion or not applicable
Ensuring a well-functioning internal market	The legislation is not effectively implemented
Stimulating competitiveness and innovation	The legislation is not adapted to the issues at stake

Q12: To what extent do you consider that EU chemical and chemical-related legislation has had an added value above what could have been achieved through action at a national level? (1= no value, 5= a very high added value)

EU-level legislation adds value to national level action	5
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PAGE 4: Part III - Specific Questions

Q13: For businesses and industry associations - Please select the legislation that regulates or otherwise affects your sector's or your company's activities. For other stakeholders - Please select the legislation you are familiar with.

Classification, labelling and packaging (Regulation No (EC) 1272/2008)
,
Biocidal products (Regulation (EU) No 528/2012),
REACH, Annex XIII (Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006)
,
Inland transport of dangerous goods (Directive 2008/68/EC)
,
Chemical Agents (Directive 98/24/EC),
Asbestos (Directive 2009/148/EC),
Carcinogens and mutagens at work (Directive 2004/37/EC)
,
Young people at work (Directive 1994/33/EC) ,
Pregnant workers (Directive 1992/85/EEC) ,
Signs at work (Directive 92/58/EEC),
Industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) (Directive 2010/75/EU)
,
Waste framework (Directive 2008/98/EC) and List of Waste
,
Waste shipments (Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006) ,
Major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances (Seveso) (Directive 2012/18/EU)
,

Water Framework (Directive 2000/60/EC),

Packaging and Packaging Waste (Directive 94/62/EC)

,

Export and import of hazardous chemicals (Regulation No 649/2012)

,

Persistent organic pollutants (Regulation (EC) 850/2004)

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EU Ecolabel (Regulation (EC) 66/2010),

Drinking Water (Directive 98/83/EC),

General Product Safety (Directive 2001/95/EC),

Test methods (Regulation (EC) No 440/2008),

Good Laboratory Practice (Directives 2004/9/EC and 2004/10/EC)

,

Protection of animals used for scientific purposes (Directive 2010/63/EU)

,

Other (please specify)

Construction Products Regulation (includes reference to REACH in CPR Art. 6.5)

PAGE 5: Effectiveness

Q14: In the EU legislative framework for chemicals, risk management measures are, in some cases, determined directly based on the identified hazard using generic risk considerations (e.g. widespread exposure or exposure of vulnerable groups), which justify the automatic adoption of such measures. In other cases, the risk management measures are determined by a specific risk assessment that assesses the probability of adverse health and environmental effects resulting from the specific exposure scenarios associated with the proposed use(s) of the chemical. In your view, do you think EU chemical and chemical-related legislation should, in general:

a. Be more oriented towards specific risk assessments (i.e. differentiate more between chemicals depending on their use despite the possibility of prolonged discussions and implementation delays)

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If you answered a or b, please explain
Risk assessment is a key approach to determine how and under what conditions a chemical can be used safely. The risk associated with each chemical is dependent on the specific use for which it is intended, as well as the conditions for use (e.g. PPE). The Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR) is clearly mainly hazard-based, with a number of risk management responses based on the CLP, and assessments based on worst case scenarios, leading to assumptions that ultimately do not reflect reality. We believe that a risk assessment approach should be used also in the BPR (including exposure and mitigation measures). The Water Framework Directive (setting Environmental Quality standards), POPs, SEVESO III are other legislations mainly driven by hazard.

Q15: In your view, apart from the hazard and/or risk of a chemical substance or mixture, are all relevant considerations taken into account in regulatory decision making on risk management (e.g. whether there will be combined effects of chemicals, whether there are certain vulnerable groups, whether there will be impacts on jobs or on the competitiveness of EU industry, etc.)? Please explain your answer.

No,

If you answered no, please explain which considerations are not (sufficiently) taken into account and, if relevant, explain which legislation you are referring to.

The impacts on competitiveness and innovation are usually not considered in the regulatory decision making. Socio-economical analysis of substances approvals could and should be conducted more thoroughly. Cost-benefit analysis developed by the Commission seem not to be always taken into account when developing a legislation (e.g. CLP Article 45)

Q16: In your view, to what extent are the following elements of the overall EU legislative framework for chemicals satisfactory? (1= not satisfactory, 5= very satisfactory)

Transparency of procedures	5
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Speed with which hazards/risks are identified	3
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Speed with which identified risks are addressed	4
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Time to allow duty holders to adapt	3
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Predictability of the outcomes	1
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Stability of the legal framework	1
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Clarity of the legal texts	3
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Guidance documents and implementation support	3
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Effective implementation and enforcement across Member States	2
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Consistent implementation and enforcement across Member States	2
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Public awareness and outreach	3
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International collaboration and harmonisation	2
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Please explain your answers and list any other aspect you consider relevant. If you have specific legislation in mind, please specify it.

Rules in the form of technical and/or regulatory guides are constantly changing, as well as interpretation by the different national authorities, creating legal uncertain. The outcome of the processes have, both in timing and in results of the evaluations, a predictability lower than desirable (e.g. some biocidal dossiers were submitted over 10 years ago and still "under evaluation"). Enforcement accross Member States varies leading to market distorsions, and in general to an uneven playing field. The regional differences in the GHS implementation are also creating an uneven playing field worldwide, and certain competitive disadvantages of EU companies in the international market (e.g. USA has not implemented the environmental blocks of the GHS, while EU has).

Q17: In your view, to what extent are the following elements of risk management satisfactory? (1= not satisfactory, 5= very satisfactory)

Hazard identification criteria	5
Risk assessment and characterisation	4
Hazard and risk communication measures to consumers (e.g. labels, pictograms, etc.)	3
Hazard and risk communication measures to workers (e.g. labels, pictograms, safety data sheets etc.)	5
Risk management measures restricting or banning the use of chemicals	4
Risk management measures regulating the safe use of chemicals (e.g. packaging requirements or requirements for the use of personal protective equipment)	5

Q18: Safety data for chemicals is subject to quality requirements, notably Good Laboratory Practice (GLP), aimed at ensuring the reliability and reproducibility of the data. Do you consider these requirements to be appropriate?

Yes

PAGE 6: Efficiency

Q19: In your view, what are the most significant benefits generated for EU society by the EU chemical and chemical related legislation? (one or more answers possible)

Reducing the exposure of consumers and of citizens in general to toxic chemicals and, therefore, avoiding healthcare costs, lost productivity, etc.

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Reducing the exposure of workers to toxic chemicals and, therefore, avoiding healthcare costs, lost productivity, etc.

,

Reducing the damage to the environment and to ecosystems and, therefore, avoiding the costs of treating contaminated water, restoring impacted fisheries, cleaning-up of contaminated land, compensating for reduced crop pollinisation, etc.

Q20: In your view, what are the most significant costs incurred by EU society due to EU chemical and chemical related legislation? (one or more answers possible)

Costs for authorities at EU level ,

Costs for small and medium sized enterprises ,

Costs for large enterprises

Q21: In your view, do any of the following requirements in the legislative framework lead to significant costs for companies?

Classification requirements for substances and mixtures
,
Chemical labelling and packaging requirements ,
Risk management measures under the different legislation
,
Understanding and keeping up-to-date with changes in legal requirements
,
Training staff to ensure compliance with legal requirements
,
Inspections and administrative requirements ,
Other (please specify)
CLP Article 61(1) imposed change of colours of labels (2 colours to 3 colours-white, black, red) having a clear cost impact on those construction products sold in bags (e.g. cement). Submissions of the notifications under the CLP Article 45 also will have a clear cost impact, clearly disproportionate in the case of professional mixtures.

Q22: Are there specific requirements in the EU chemicals legislative framework which lead to particularly significant costs for authorities?

Yes,
If you answered yes, please indicate what these are. Member States need considerable human and financial resources, as well as very specific expertise, which is often lacking. These costs are usually being assumed by the EU citizens, and also partially charged back to industry through a fee system.

PAGE 7: Relevance

Q23: To what extent has the EU legislative framework for chemicals contributed to a reduction in the number and/or use of hazardous chemicals and/or their substitution with safer alternatives? (1= no contribution, 5= a large contribution)

Framework has led to a reduction in the number and/or use of hazardous chemicals and/or their substitution with safer alternatives 3

Q24: To what extent does the existing EU legislative framework sufficiently address emerging areas of concern, e.g. arising from advances in science and technology? (1= emerging areas of concern are not sufficiently addressed, 5 = emerging areas of concern are sufficiently addressed)

Novel areas of concern sufficiently addressed by framework 3

Please comment

Innovation in general, and substitution in particular, are not necessarily driven by regulatory requirements. The EU legal framework should enable new scientific discoveries and new test methods to continue.

PAGE 8: Coherence

Q25: Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements relating to the EU chemicals legislation framework overall

The EU chemicals legislation framework contains gaps and missing links	Agree
The EU chemicals legislation framework has overlaps	Agree
The EU chemicals legislation framework is internally inconsistent	Agree

Q26: Please indicate any incoherence (gaps or missing links, overlaps, inconsistencies etc.) between the different pieces of legislation which are under the scope of this fitness check. Please only consider aspects related to hazard identification, risk assessment and risk management of chemicals. The legislation covered by this fitness check can be found here.

Overlaps	Labelling requirements should be better integrated (e.g. CLP and BPR).
Inconsistencies	Labelling requirements under CLP and BPR

Q27: Please indicate any incoherence (gaps or missing links, overlaps, inconsistencies etc.) between legislation which are covered by this fitness check and any other legislation you consider relevant as regards the regulation and risk management of chemicals.

Construction Products Regulation link to REACH in CPR Article 6.5.
Overlaps also between Occupational Health Legislation and REACH

PAGE 9: Part IV: Specific questions on the CLP Regulation

Q28: CLP communicates hazards to workers and consumers through various label elements, including danger words, pictograms, hazard statements and precautionary statements. (1= not effective; 5= very effective)

To what extent are CLP labels effective in communicating hazards to workers?	5
To what extent are CLP labels effective in communicating hazards to consumers?	3

Q29: Do the hazard classes in the CLP Regulation cover all relevant hazards?

Environmental	Yes
Physical	Yes
Human health	Yes

Q30: How effective is the support to companies through formal guidance documents and national helpdesks? (1= not effective; 5= very effective)

Guidance documents	4
Helpdesks	2
Industry association guidance and materials	3
Other (training, conferences, etc.)	3
Please add further details as necessary	Implementation of the guidance varies across Member States, creating legal uncertainty.

Q31: To what extent is CLP enforced in a harmonised manner across Member States?

Enforcement is not harmonised across most Member States

Q32: To what extent are the current elements relating to the CLP classification criteria satisfactory? (1= not satisfactory; 5= very satisfactory)

Ease of implementation for duty holders	2
Appropriateness of classification criteria and methods for substances	4
Appropriateness of classification criteria and methods for mixtures	3
International harmonisation through the Globally Harmonised System (GHS)	3

If you answered 1, 2 or 3 and would like to provide further information, please explain your answer

The GHS is not being implemented in an harmonised way neither at International level (e.g. USA vs. EU) nor at EU level (with national legislation still existing).

Q33: CLP is revised on a regular basis through adaptations to technical progress. Do transitional periods allow sufficient time to implement new or revised classification criteria?

Transition period is too short,

Please elaborate if you answered that the transition period is too short or too long. Depends on the ATP, the transition period should be longer (e.g. for the ATPs incorporating the GHS into the EU system). An analysis of the international competitiveness implications should be made by the Commission before implementing the revisions of the GHS in EU (specially when other regions of the world are still implementing relatively "old" GHS versions)

Q34: To what extent are the current elements of the procedures for harmonised classification & labelling (CLH) satisfactory? (1= not satisfactory; 5= very satisfactory)

Transparency of the procedures	4
Involvement of stakeholders	2
Quality of scientific data and related information	4
Speed of the procedure	3

If you answered 1, 2 or 3 and would like to provide further information, please explain your answers

The continuous amount of information requests by the different pieces of EU legislation, make it virtually impossible for stakeholders to engage effectively in the consultations. The whole stakeholder engagement system should be reconsidered (e.g. envisaging less consultations on more substances at specific months in the year, instead of continuous publications of enquiries/consultations).

PAGE 10: Part V: Additional comments

Q35: In case you have any additional comments with relevance for this public consultation, please insert them here.

Respondent skipped this question
