



European Commission



Enterprise Directorate-General

Environment Directorate-General

Stakeholder meeting 21 November 2003 REACH

# The environmental and health benefits

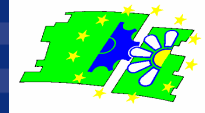
Enterprise DG  
Environment DG

# Benefits of REACH



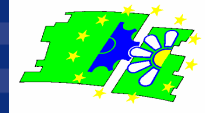
- Environmental benefits
- Health benefits
- Problems with analysis
- Illustrative scenario of health benefits

## Types of Benefits: Environment



- Improved control of persistent bio-accumulative and toxic substances
- Benefits for air, water, soil, buildings and biodiversity
- Number of examples of individual cases of wildlife being damaged eg endocrine disruption
- Partial monitoring

## Types of Benefits: Health



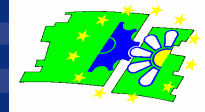
- Chemicals linked to respiratory and bladder cancers, mesothelioma, skin disorders, respiratory diseases, eye disorders, asthma etc
- Epidemiological difficulties: frequently not enough information to be clear about causality (eg cocktail effects, multi-causal etc)
- Occupational impacts and public health impacts

## Problems with analysis



- Knowledge gaps about intrinsic properties and exposure – 70% of new substances have **one or more** dangerous properties
- Identifying marginal impacts separately from legacy of the past
- Aggregation and monetisation both difficult
- Benefits are product of additional costs through risk reduction measures taken after a socio-economic assessment (safety-valve to balance costs and benefits)

## Illustration of potential health benefits



- World Bank – 0.6 to 2.5% of disease burden due to agro-industrial chemicals and chemical pollution from diffuse sources
- Assume 1% of disease due to chemicals
- Assume 10% of this figure is tackled by REACH
- So, 0.1% effectiveness (equivalent to 4,500 mortalities avoided per year due to REACH)
- Use value of statistical life of €1m
- Assume latency period of 10 years and 20 years of benefits
- Health benefits of €50 billion