

Your Voice In Europe: ROADMAP feedback for Analysis of the interface between chemicals, products and waste legislation and identification of policy options

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Related document: Analysis of the interface between chemicals, products and waste legislation and identification of policy options

Feedback:

Better cooperation along the value chain

• *Eco-design strategies are needed to move towards toxic-free material cycles. The long-term goal should be to achieve toxic-free material cycles but this should start at the initial design stage where products enter the material cycle for the first time. As long as hazardous substances can be placed on the market legally by manufacturers of virgin raw materials, recycling companies have to deal with them.*

• *Better cooperation between manufacturers and the waste management sector is needed. A manufacturer of the original product knows the content of the substances used in the product; this information is later needed also in the recycling stage. Recyclers have to deal with heterogeneous input material. As well, manufacturers and product designers should have easy access to the information on how and how well different materials can be recycled, so that this information can be used in the product design stage. So, it is essential that the information is efficiently shared with the actors in different stages of the value chain. The use of digital solutions for improved information flows should be applied in the first place.*

The recycling should be viewed in wider scope, not only putting efforts to rise the recycling degree of certain waste streams:

• *High quality recycling is crucial and it should be made sure that treatment options respect the waste hierarchy; however, if recycling gets too complex and costly, more waste will go to energy recovery and other treatments. Sometimes it needs to be decided on a case-by-case basis whether it is more adequate to substitute problematic substances for recycling or to incinerate those wastes.*

• *Waste policy should not be discussed in isolation of other policy areas such as climate and energy policies. For example, now in European heating industry is encouraged to burn biofuels to reach the climate targets; consequently, in some cases virgin wood or wood wastes from forestry are used. However, at the same time, the national recycling targets of*

construction and demolition waste may prevent the incineration of wood waste. This is the case in Finland, where most of the single family-houses are made of wood.

Lead by a correct risk assessment hazardous materials can be allowed as input material for recycling:

- Hazardous wastes can and should be recycled, if possible, considering the hazardous properties they have, just like the hazardous chemicals. For instance, waste containing substances of concern should be allowed as input if their presence maintains or enhances the specified functionality of the recycled material; provided that they are risk assessed to ensure that their bio-availability is such that they pose a minimal risk to the environment or human health.*

- The hazardous classification is solely a hazard classification of the intrinsic properties of the waste. The risk assessment follows the further use/treatment of the waste.*

- It is also important to take into account a risk-based assessment when developing EU waste classification methodologies as they have a strong impact on the recyclability of waste.*

REACH procedure for secondary raw materials needs further improvements

- Compliance with REACH is more constraining for recyclers than for manufacturers of virgin substances/articles. The EC needs to address the issue of REACH authorisation for recyclers. Even though, authorisation periods granted for SVHC's under Annex XIV may be sufficient for producers to find substitutes for these virgin materials, these periods are relatively short for recyclers.*

- By complying with the EoW criteria, compost and digestate would receive a product status. However, according to Article 2.7(b) of the REACH Regulation, substances covered by Annex V of this Regulation where, among others, compost is listed, are exempted from the registration requirements, evaluation and downstream user provisions. The situation with digestate is unclear and needs further clarifications.*

Feedback file:

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