

Achieving Non-Toxic Materials Flows

Chemicals - Products - Waste Interface

- Austrian Position (BMNT) -

Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference
20./21.2.2018 Brussels

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Definition

- **Substances of Concern (SoC)**: SVHC (REACH candidate list), substances restricted in articles (REACH XVII), substances prohibited (e.g. POPs), substances in specific sectorial/product legislation.
- **Legacy Substances**: substances legally produced in the past which are prohibited in the EU now and may be contained in recovered material today.

Note: SoC which are subject to REACH authorisation are managed differently than those prohibited

Statement 1

The main priority to achieve non-toxic material cycles is to gradually diminish the application of SoC in future materials and products through eco-design (Design for Reuse and Recycling)

Statement 2

Concerning the management of “legacy substances” already present in products on the market or in waste streams, the main objective is to identify and dispose them in environmentally sound final sinks, preferable in a state-of-the-art incineration with energy recovery.

Statement 3

In general, recovered materials should be subject to the same rules as virgin materials. For “legacy substances”, exceptions may apply but only for a limited period of time, on the basis of a profound reasoning and under well-defined conditions (e.g. closed loop).

Statement 4

A compulsory information system in the EU which informs waste managers and recovery operators about the presence of SoC, including those stemming from imported articles, would enable compliance of recycled material with relevant chemical and product related legislation.

Statement 5

It will be necessary to introduce an authorisation procedure for imported articles containing SoC in order to ensure level playing field between EU-produced and imported articles and to enable non-toxic material cycles.

Statement 6

Closer alignment of rules on hazard classification of chemicals (CLP) and wastes needs to take into consideration the complex characteristics of waste, the different scenarios of application of chemicals and waste and the implications of wastes rendering hazardous on waste treatment facilities.

THANK YOU

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