

Date arrival : 14 September 2007.

Final date for comments : 14 December 2007.

Title Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, and amending Directive 67/548/EEC and Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006. Volume I: Proposal for a Regulation and Explanatory Memorandum, with 63 pages in English; Volumes II, III, IIIa and IIIb: Annexes I-VI with 155, 430, 515 and 940 pages respectively, in English (versions in French and German are also available at http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/ghs_en.htm).

Description of content The proposal incorporates into EU legislation the classification criteria and labelling rules agreed at UN level, the so called Globally Harmonised System of classification and labelling of chemicals (GHS). It will introduce UN GHS classification criteria, hazard symbols (pictograms) and labelling phrases, while taking account of elements which are part of the current EU legislation. In December 2002, the GHS was agreed by the UN Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (CETDG/GHS). It was formally adopted by UN ECOSOC in July 2003 and revised in 2005. In its Plan of Implementation, adopted in Johannesburg on 4 September 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development encouraged countries to implement the GHS as soon as possible, to have the system fully operational by 2008. The proposal for a Regulation requires companies to classify, label and package appropriately their substances and mixtures before placing them on the market. To this end it takes a fivefold approach. First, it harmonises the classification, labelling and packaging rules for substances and mixtures based on the GHS as well as the current EU system. Second and third, it obliges enterprises to classify their substances and mixtures themselves and to notify the classifications to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). Fourth, it establishes a list of harmonised classifications of substances classified at Community level in Annex VI. Fifth, it establishes a non-binding classification and labelling inventory, made up of all notifications and harmonised classifications referred to above and maintained by ECHA. The second point is a continuation of obligations under the current legislative Community acts, Directive 67/548/EEC (for substances) and Directive 1999/45/EC (for preparations) on enterprises to classify their substances and mixtures. The third to fifth points take over relevant provisions of the REACH Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006) regarding the notification of classifications to ECHA, the establishment of a list of harmonised classifications and the creation of a classification and labelling inventory which should provide guidance to companies in their efforts to agree on joint classifications for the same substance. The current legislative Community acts, Directive 67/548/EEC (for substances) and Directive 1999/45/EC (for preparations), shall be repealed with effect from 1 June 2015.

Objectives Protection of Human Health or Safety

Protection of Environment

Trade Facilitation

Fields of activity CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY

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