

A transparent EU chemicals policy: a joint statement by environment and animal protection groups.

Supported by: EEB, European Coalition to End Animal Experiments, FoE, Greenpeace and WWF

We are calling for an open and accountable chemicals policy, which ensures that:

- duplicate animal testing* does not take place
- the public and downstream users are given a right to know what chemicals they are using or are exposed to;
- all stakeholders can participate in the system.

We demand that legislation stipulates that:

1. Industry is required to publicise and make available all existing animal test data in their possession or control. Penalties must be in place for companies failing to meet this requirement. Relevant human exposure data is also made public. [We recognise that companies wishing to rely on data owned by other companies should compensate the latter (with a binding arbitration mechanism if the amount cannot be agreed)]
2. Test plans must be submitted for a 120 day public comment period in which data can be brought forward by other stakeholders or submitted by industry, and after which test plans can be modified.
3. The following data is publicly accessible for all registered substances:
 - results of hazard assessments with their quality statement (including peer review, good laboratory practice, all test data, relevant human exposure data, and the responsible authority);
 - intended uses and emission scenarios;
 - substance volumes on the EU market, with a break-down of types of use;
 - a list of producers and importers;
 - an indication of the volume of the substance not covered by the intended uses;
 - the safety data sheet and risk assessments.
4. Industry has a general duty to provide information, on request, on the presence or absence of specific hazardous or potentially hazardous substances in articles or preparations, where hazardous substances are those subject to classification and labeling legislation and potentially hazardous substances are those for which there is published scientific research indicating a potential hazard.
5. All articles containing substances of very high concern must be labelled with a clear simple warning, which includes a contact address (e.g. a web site) to enable access to further information, such as that in points 3 and 4 above.

* Duplicate animal testing is testing which takes place where a company does not have access to relevant animal data which has already been generated by another company.