

# Welcome

## Webinar: Call for evidence on restriction preparation for aromatic brominated flame retardants

29 January 2026

Adam Elwan  
Communications  
European Chemicals Agency





## What you can expect today

- Introduction to the REACH restriction process
- Background and scope of the mandate
- How to participate in the consultation

# Q&A

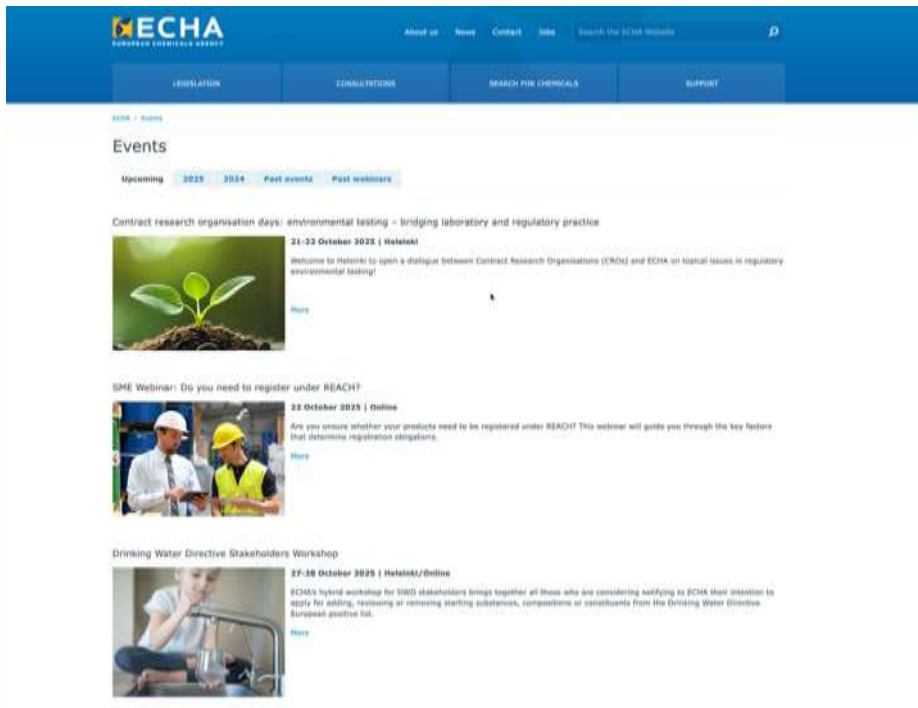


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- Presentations
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# Programme



Time	Topic	Speaker
11:00	Welcome	Adam Elwan, ECHA
11:05	Introduction to the REACH restriction process	Marta Salo, ECHA
11:15	Mandate background and scope	Jesus Vazquez-Rodriguez, ECHA
11:30	How to participate in the consultation	Nina Lazic, ECHA
11:45	Conclusions	Adam Elwan, ECHA
11:50 – 13:00	Webinar Q&A open for answering remaining questions.	

# Thank you

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# Introduction to the REACH restriction process

Webinar: Call for evidence on restriction preparation for aromatic brominated flame retardants

29 January 2026

Marta Salo  
Risk Management Unit (D3)  
European Chemicals Agency



# Introduction – why we are here (1)

→ **Mandate:** ECHA received a **request** from European Commission to prepare:

1. A **restriction proposal** on certain non-polymeric aromatic brominated flame retardants (ABFRs)
2. An **investigation report** focusing on organophosphorus flame retardants and potential alternatives to certain non-polymeric ABFRs

→ **Call for evidence:** ECHA is gathering **relevant information** from **stakeholders**:

1. Use of ABFRs
2. Likely response to restriction
3. Impacts of restriction





# Introduction – why we are here (2)

- Webinar aims to: **(i)** introduce restriction process and timelines, **(ii)** inform stakeholders about mandate specifics and how ECHA plans to approach it, and **(iii)** guide stakeholders on how to contribute to call for evidence



# What is a REACH restriction?

- Regulatory tool for protecting human health and environment from risks posed by chemicals
  - When a risk is not adequately controlled, and
  - Where action is required at Union level
- Usually **limits or bans** manufacture, placing on market or use of one or more substances - on their own, in a mixture or in an article
- Alternatively, can set out **specific conditions** such as technical measures, limits or labelling requirements
- Can be proposed by EU countries or ECHA, by request from European Commission



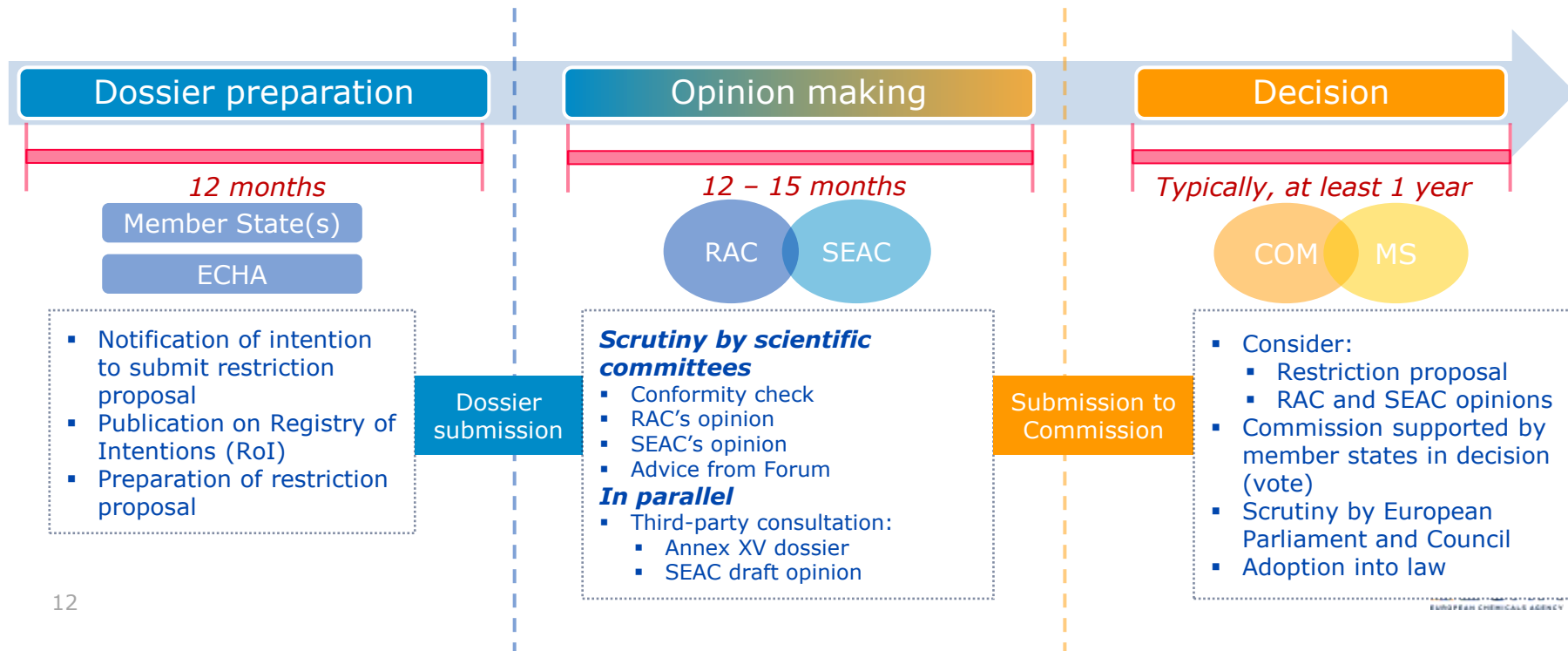
# Restriction proposal preparation: **Content and aim**

- 12 months to prepare **Annex XV dossier**
- Contents of dossier:
  - Proposal – targeted substance(s) and conditions
  - Information on hazards, exposure and risk
  - Justification for action at EU level
  - Available information on alternatives
  - Socio-economic impact analysis
  - Information on stakeholder consultation
- Must demonstrate restriction is **most appropriate** regulatory risk management measure to address identified risk



# Restriction process

[echa.europa.eu/restriction-process](https://echa.europa.eu/restriction-process)



# Where are we today?

December  
2025

**Commission mandate** to prepare a **restriction proposal** on certain non-polymeric ABFRs and an **investigation report** on organophosphorus flame retardants (OPFRs) and potential alternatives to certain NP-ABFRs

21 Jan. – 18  
March 2026

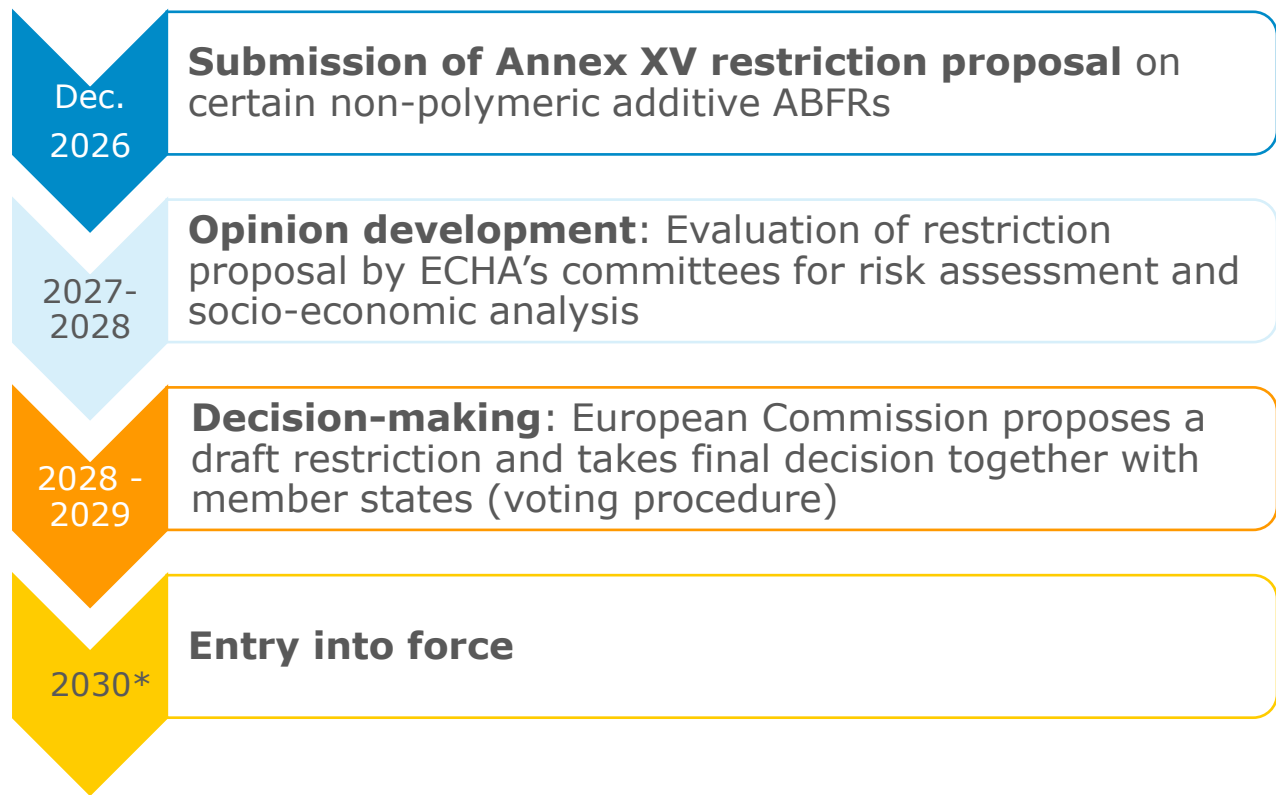
**Call for evidence** to gather information for restriction proposal and investigation report



Jan. 2025 –  
June 2026

*Ongoing in parallel: data collection, analysis -> drafting of **restriction dossier** (and investigation report)*

# What happens next?



# Opinion development

## Evaluation by committees

- ECHA's scientific committees:
  - Independent experts nominated by member states
- Risk Assessment Committee (RAC)
  - Focuses on hazards, exposure, risks and risk reduction
  - Delivers opinion within **9 months**

*Is the suggested restriction appropriate in **reducing risk** to human health or environment?*
- Socio-Economic Analysis Committee (SEAC)
  - Focuses on analysis of alternatives and socio-economic impacts
  - Delivers opinion within **12 months**

*What are the socio-economic impacts of suggested restriction and is restriction **proportionate** to risk?*



# Thank you

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# Mandate background and scope

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29 January 2026

Jesus Vazquez-Rodriguez, ECHA  
Risk Management Unit (D3)  
European Chemicals Agency



Background

# Background

2021  
2022

**ECHA assessed several groups of BFRs and OPFRs (assessment of regulatory needs)**

2023

**Regulatory strategy for flame retardants**

- General concern for ABFRs due to known or potential PBT/vPvB
- Further preparatory work needed before restriction dossier could be developed

2024

**Investigation report on ABFRs**

- Non-polymeric additive ABFRs pose a higher burden
- Waste from EEE, construction and textile products is a key contributor to release
- Potential alternatives available. Several groups of OPFRs may be regrettable alternatives

2025

**Mandates for:**

- Restriction proposal for certain ABFRs, and
- Investigation report on OPFRs and other potential alternatives to ABFRs

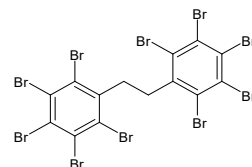
Restriction dossier on certain  
non-polymeric additive ABFRs

# Substances in scope of mandate

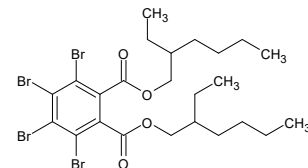
- Three SVHC substances and any substance containing these SVHCs at or above 0.1% (w/w)

EC No.	CAS No.	Substance
284-366-9	84852-53-9	DBDPE
247-426-5	26040-51-7	TBPH
253-692-3	37853-59-1	BTBPE
700-158-7	1092834-40-6	Brominated 1,1'-ethane-1,2-diylbisbenzene
428-050-2	-	Reaction mass of TBPH and EHTBB

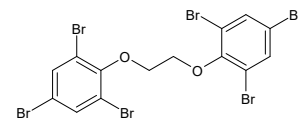
SVHC



DBDPE



TBPH



BTBPE

- Important: call for evidence covers more non-polymeric additive ABRs as mandate may be expanded (next slide)

# Substances in scope of mandate **may change**

- ECHA tasked to prepare two interim reports
  1. **PBT/vPvB assessment of other ABFRs**  
Is available information sufficient to conclude on PBT/vPvB properties of ABFRs other than those specifically mentioned in mandate?
  2. **Feasibility assessment** to restrict any other non-polymeric ABFR that could be subject to harmonised classification as PBT or vPvB (“**dynamic link**” clause)
- Based on interim reports: Commission may decide to amend mandate
- Restriction may be based on one or several chemical group definitions



# Product types in scope of mandate

Three product types:

- Electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) in scope of RoHS
- Construction products as defined by Construction Products Regulation
- Textile products as defined in Textiles Regulation



# Investigation report on OPFRs and potential alternatives to certain NP-ABFRs



# Investigation report - Deliverables (1)

- **First part of report**  
(due in December 2026)
  - **Substances in scope:** identified alternatives for ABFRs in scope of restriction mandate
  - **Purpose:** to inform about risk of regrettable substitution
  - **Content:**
    - Hazard assessment, release/exposure assessment and risk assessment
    - Technical and economical feasibility
- Report will support ECHA's committees in their assessment of the restriction dossier on ABFRs



# Investigation report - Deliverables (2)

## → **Second part of report** (due in December 2027)

- **Substances in scope:** all organophosphorus flame retardants (OPFRs)
- **Purpose:** to provide further information on hazard and risk properties of OPFRs and their current and potential future uses
- **Content:**
  - Information on hazards, uses, emissions and risks
  - Impact of possible restriction on waste management and recycling

## → **Not in scope of call for evidence**

## → **Not in scope of current webinar**



# Approach to restriction preparation

# Approach to restriction preparation

## Three different restriction options considered

### Restriction option 1

- Total of 5 substances (group A) considered restricted

### Restriction option 2

- Broader group of substances considered restricted
- Group includes the five substances above and additional 19 substances (group B) identified in investigation report on ABFRs as non-polymeric additives with potential PBT/vPvB hazard

### Restriction option 3

- Substances in group A considered restricted
- Substances in group B receiving a harmonised classification as PBT/vPvB according to the CLP Regulation will be automatically restricted

Restriction options foresee a ban on placing on market of EEE, construction and textile products containing substances in scope above 0.1 % by weight



# Thank you

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# How to participate in the consultation

Webinar: Call for evidence on  
restriction preparation for aromatic  
brominated flame retardants

29 January 2026

Nina Lazic  
Risk Management Unit (D4)  
European Chemicals Agency



# Outline

- Introduction to the survey
- Recommendations for answering
- Survey questions

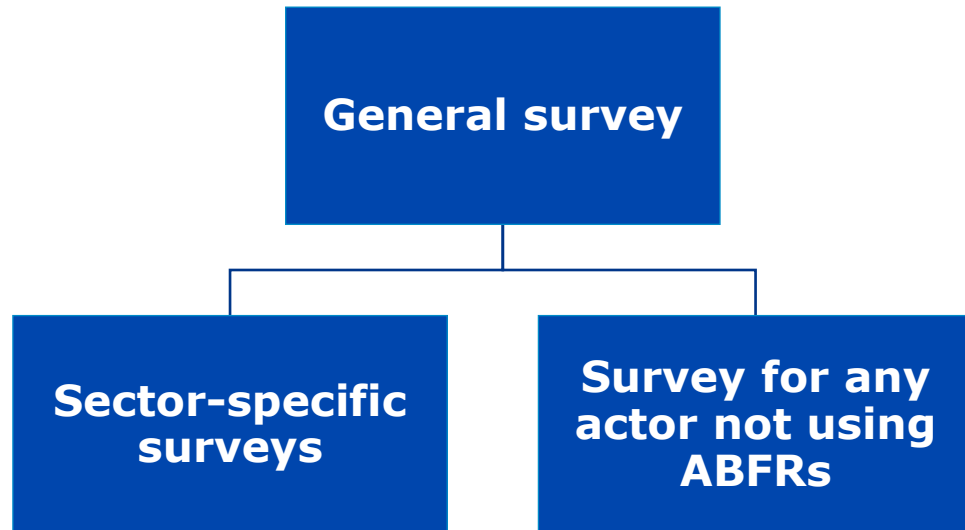


# Introduction to the survey



# Survey tool and structure

- **EU Survey:**  
European Commission's official survey tool
- [EUSurvey - About](#)



# Survey purpose and targeted audience

- **Purpose:** gather information on impacts of three restriction options being assessed by ECHA
- **Audience:**
  - Manufacturers of polymer compounds and/or composites for electrical and electronic equipment (EEE)
  - Manufacturers of construction products, as well parts and materials for construction products
  - Formulators of mixtures for coating of textiles
  - Any actor having information on possible impacts of restriction (NGOs, academic institutions, suppliers of flame retardants, etc.)
- **Information sought**
  - Primarily on socio-economic impacts



# Recommendations for answering

# Recommendations for answering (1)

- Provide realistic information
- Back up choices with additional information
- Only non-confidential information via EU Survey
- Possibility to complement your submission with confidential information using a specific webform
- Attachments cannot be submitted via EU survey (only using a specific webform)
- Possibility to save draft responses





## Recommendations for answering (2)

- If you operate in different sectors, submit separate responses
- Survey mostly structured as multiple-choice questions (+ free text boxes)
- Prepare to consult your colleagues when responding (e.g. from R&D department, finance, etc.)
- Survey takes ~ 40 minutes (once relevant information for responses has been gathered)

# Survey questions



## Steps to follow

- Review information on the landing page
- Indicate whether you are:
  - A downstream user, an industry association representing some users of ABFRs), or
  - An actor not using ABFRs (e.g. NGO, supplier of flame retardants, importer, academic institution, citizen, etc.)

# Background information

- General information on you and your activity
- Country of domicile
- Email (in case of follow-up)
- For companies:
  - Size, turnover





# Questions on use of ABFRs

- Identity of ABFRs you use
- Concentration
- Tonnage of ABFRs
- Product type
- Possibility to respond that you do not use any of the listed ABFRs





## Restriction options (1) - substances

We ask your reaction in the restriction scenario

1. Option 1 includes five ABFRs
2. Option 2 includes 24 ABFRs (including the five ABFRs)
3. Option 3: five ABFRs + specific clause (any ABFRs will automatically be restricted if found to meet harmonised classification as PBT or vPvB (CLP Regulation, No 1272/2008))



## Restriction options (2) – products

### Common to all options

- Ban on placing on market of EEE, textile products and construction products containing ABFRs in a concentration equal or greater than 0.1%
- Assumed entry into force: **January 2030**
- Assumed transition period: **18 months**

# Question on likely response to restriction option 1

→ Option to select from three possible responses:

1. Full substitution scenario (or in a very large share)
2. Partial substitution scenario
3. No substitution scenario (or in a very small share)

Selection of scenario to direct you to questions on impacts



# Questions on the impacts

## 1. Full substitution scenario

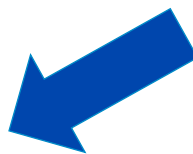
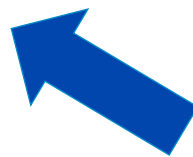
- Alternatives likely to be used (selection of groups/substances)
- Substitution costs and other impacts (e.g. on process and final products)

## 2. No substitution scenario

- Reasons for considering substitution not possible
- Impacts (e.g. profit/job losses)
- Factors that would make substitution possible (e.g. a transition period of a certain length)

## 3. Partial substitution

Questions common to both FULL substitution and NO substitution scenario



# Questions on impacts of restriction option 2 (1)

- Actors that respond to this part:
1. Those that completed survey for restriction option 1 (i.e. those using at least one of five ABFRs)
  2. Those that use at least one of 19 ABFRs (but none from group of five)



# Questions on impacts of restriction option 2 (2)

- Questions for those that filled in survey for restriction option 1:
  - Extent to which impacts of restriction option 2 differ from restriction option 1
  - Different options to be selected and information to be provided only in relation to the selected option
- Questions for those that did not fill in survey for restriction option 1 (not using any of five ABFRs):
  - Content of questions same as for restriction option 1



# Questions on the impacts of restriction option 3

- Appears in survey once responses for restriction option 2 provided
- Important considerations:
  - Assume high chance some (or all) substances belonging to group of 19 will be classified within next 10 years
  - Information to be submitted, only if impacts expected to differ compared to restriction option 2





# Questions for actors not using ABFRs

Possibility to submit information on different topics:

- Hazard of ABFRs
- Emissions
- Volumes
- Alternatives
- Benefits of the restriction
- Possible negative impacts of restriction
  - + specific questions for importers
  - + specific questions for actors exporting products to European Economic Area



# Important final considerations



Uncertainty of responses: order-of-magnitude estimates acceptable. Giving an estimate with explicit margin of error preferable to omitting information



Strong recommendation to respond to structured survey (instead of using webform) as this allows data treatment/analysis



Importance of your participation

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# Conclusions

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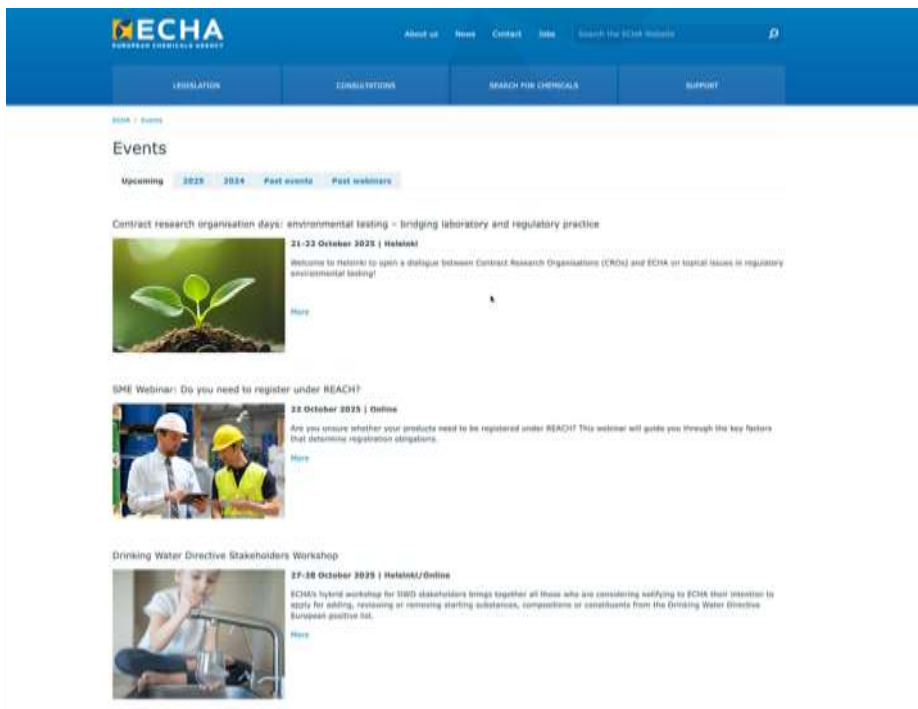


# Conclusions

- REACH restriction: protects health and environment from chemical risks
- Process: dossier, scientific review, stakeholder input
- Restrictions: can ban or limit substances, set conditions
- Commission may amend mandate based on interim reports
- Submit evidence and feedback via EU Survey
- Survey covers ABFR use, impacts, and socio-economic factors
- Guidance provided for clear, realistic responses; confidential info can be submitted separately



# Material available



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