

# What difference does Reach make?

Toxics Use Reduction Conference

May 7th 2009

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# How could Reach happen?

- looking backwards

- ✓ The old legislation didn't work
- ✓ Strong political commitment from Environment ministers / NGO
- ✓ Chemicals industry realised that their public image had to be improved
- ✓ Downstream users realised they would gain from more transparency more information
- ✓ Overuse of socio-economic consequence studies ex PCB

# Which were/are our expectations...and how did it turn out?

## Expectations

- ✓ Identify the 30 000 chemical substances (>1 ton) on the EU market
- ✓ Identify the uses of chemicals
- ✓ 25 000 high-volume registrations in 2010

## Turnout

- ✓ 150 000 chemical substances were pre-registered!
- ✓ 2.75 million pre-registrations done (exp 185 000)
- ✓ ??????

# Which were/are our expectations...and how did it turn out?

## **Expectations**

- ✓ More data produced
- ✓ More data available
- ✓ Down-stream information flow
- ✓ Consumer information on articles

## **Turnout**

- ✓ Industry very busy
- ✓ ECHA busy
- ✓ Down-stream information-frustration
- ✓ Disappointing so far..

# Unexpected turnouts

- ✓ Industry inventory and cupboard cleanup
- ✓ Chemical control issues made their way to the Management Boards in the chemical industry
- Akzo-Nobel cleaned out ca 40 substances
- Industry identifying their role in data-sharing, in import etc

# Which were/are our expectations...and how did it turn out?

## Expectations

- ✓ Efficient authorisation of substances of very high concern

## Turnout

- The processes are being formed successfully, but...
- The candidate list too short!
- Criteria for PBT, vPvB difficult to apply (revision contentious)

# Reach's results so far

- ✓ Confirmed our lack of knowledge about chemicals on the market!
- ✓ Industry cleaned up their cupboards!
- ✓ Knowledge about chemicals is building up rapidly!
- ✓ Market communication on chemicals has started!

# Is Reach enough?

- REACH provides a sound foundation, and knowledge from REACH will be used globally.
- Detailed legislation is not enough, industry has to implement its own precautionary policies/environmental management to reduce risks.
- Authorities can assist in this process by providing information gathered via REACH
- Chemicals in articles
- Low volume chemicals
- Safe handling of waste, recycling
- SAICM is important to implement chemicals management in the 3<sup>rd</sup> world. GHS is also a very valuable piece



# Will Reach lead us to Green Chemistry?

- It puts us on the right track...
- But does not take us all the way

