

PRESS RELEASE

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*EU Commission publishes report on the „REACH Review“*

## VCI welcomes continuity in the implementation of the European chemicals regulation REACH

The EU Commission has presented a report on the experience acquired in REACH implementation – roughly 5 years after the entry into force of the European chemicals regulation REACH. Summing up, the Commission concludes that REACH functions well and delivers on all objectives that at present can be assessed. As matters stand at the moment, the Commission arrives at the conclusion that changes to the enacting terms of REACH will not be proposed.

Verband der Chemischen Industrie e.V. (VCI, the German chemical industry association) welcomes this result. Dr Gerd Romanowski – the VCI’s director of Science, Technical and Environmental Affairs – says: “The Commission report on the REACH Review brings legal certainty for the foreseeable future. Now chemical companies can continue to fully focus on REACH implementation, and they can benefit from the lessons learned.”

REACH obliges the companies to register with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in Helsinki all chemical substances that are manufactured or imported in Europe. This needs to be done by May 2018. Substances without registration can be neither manufactured nor imported or placed on the market. Currently, the second registration phase is running to 31 May 2013 for chemicals in volumes over 100 tonnes per annum. This will be followed by the last registration deadline 2018 for substances manufactured or imported in quantities of 1 tonne or more per year.

The registration deadlines 2013 and 2018 are of particular concern to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and specialty chemicals producers: because the registration costs for low volume chemicals are relatively high in proportion to their respective sales. This means that crucial times are still ahead in REACH implementation. Romanowksi explains: „Really well-founded statements on the functioning of REACH will be possible only after 2018. For example, this is when sufficient findings will become available on how the REACH Regulation impacts competitiveness and innovation in the chemical industry overall and especially in SMEs.”

*The VCI represents the politico-economic interests of some 1,650 German chemical companies and German subsidiaries of foreign businesses. For this purpose, the VCI is in contact with politicians, public authorities, other industries, science and media. The VCI stands for over 90 percent of the chemical industry in Germany. In 2012 the German chemical industry realized sales of more than 184 billion euros and employed ca. 437,000 staff.*

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