

PRESS RELEASE

24 October 2018

Today's debate in European Parliament

VCI: Criticism of REACH registration dossiers is largely unfounded

The chemical-pharmaceutical industry works intensively on implementing the European chemicals regulation REACH. The quality of registration dossiers is a priority for VCI member companies. Currently voiced criticism of dossiers is excessive and largely unfounded. This is emphasised by the German chemical industry association VCI on the occasion of today's debate in the EU Parliament. VCI director-general Utz Tillmann states: "The chemical industry takes justified criticism of the content and form of REACH dossiers very seriously. For this reason, we once more invite German and European authorities to engage in an intensive dialogue, and we are hoping for a constructive exchange."

Animal testing is a controversial aspect: According to the REACH Regulation, tests on animals shall be undertaken only as a last resort. This is precisely what the companies are doing, so that they submit alternative information. The issue at stake is mainly about criticism from German public authorities. Since 2014, they have been carrying out a project to evaluate the quality of registration dossiers – where dossiers with alternative information were frequently not deemed "conforming". From the VCI's perspective, this distorts the overall picture of the evaluation.

Tillmann: "In their course of action, our member companies comply with the strict animal protection requirements of the REACH Regulation. Since the launch of the project, the VCI repeatedly offered to the competent authorities a cooperation for a joint learning process. It is deplorable that the talks did not bring a discussion of concrete points of criticism."

If the companies whose registration dossiers were examined had been involved in the evaluation project right from the start, misunderstandings about the allegations would have been clarified and there would have been a more objective assessment. Therefore, the VCI trusts that the German authorities will now approach the companies.

The VCI also took several other opportunities to underline that the submission of deliberately incomplete registration dossiers is unacceptable and calls for sanctions. Adequate rules are in place for the evaluation of dossiers, mandatory subsequent corrections by dossier submitters and sanctions for infringements. In Germany, these are regulated in the chemicals act and the sanctions ordinance.

As recently as in May 2018, at the end of the roughly 10-year REACH registration phase, the VCI had highlighted that the implementation of the chemicals regulation is far from complete. The workload for companies and competent authorities will remain high in the years to come.

The VCI represents the politico-economic interests of around 1,700 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 more than 90 percent of the chemical industry in Germany. In 2017 the German chemical industry realised sales of over 195 billion euros and employed ca. 453,000 staff.

Contact: VCI Press Department, phone: +49 69 2556-1496, E-Mail: presse@vci.de
<http://twitter.com/chemieverband> and <http://facebook.com/chemieverbandVCI>