

Executive Summaries FEICA Priorities



December 2022

FEICA has prepared Executive Summaries treating as priorities certain initiatives of the European Commission. Each Executive Summary describes the current situation and the issues involved regarding the initiative, notes the status, and the timeline and next steps to be taken, and lists the main players and relevant FEICA activities. Thus, these Executive Summaries serve all stakeholders as invaluable sources of information regarding key initiatives of the Commission and regarding FEICA's efforts to promote the best interests of the adhesives and sealants industry.



'REACH Revision – Polymers' registration'

The 'REACH Revision – Polymers' registration' Executive Summary concerns the status of the European Commission's ongoing efforts to regulate polymers, an issue of great importance to the adhesives and sealants industry. The Summary covers the four current areas of work, criteria for identifying polymers that would have to be registered, and two current options for notification requirements for polymers.

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'Reform of the restriction and authorisation process: Essential use concept'

This Executive Summary treats the essential use concept, which the European Commission intends to apply to all relevant risk-management legislation. The concept now centres on regulating substances in terms of their societal function regarding human health and safety. Some benefits are anticipated, for example, the speeding up of the authorisation process, and clarity for stakeholders concerning chemical safety and sustainability.

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'Reform of the restriction and authorisation process: The Generic Risk Management Approach'

The European Commission's proposal to extend the Generic Risk Management Approach (GRA) is considered in this Executive Summary. The approach involves the automatic triggering of management measures based on hazard. The Summary covers the scope of products that could be included in the GRA, as well as the application of the approach to professionals.

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'Green Claims Initiative'

The Executive Summary 'Green Claims Initiative' focuses on the issue of obtaining trustworthy information regarding the environmental effects of products through the reduction of false green claims made by companies ('green washing'). The European Commission intends to require companies to verify their environmental claims through the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) and the Organisation Environmental Footprint (OEF).

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'New Design Requirements and Consumer Rights for Electronics'

This Executive Summary centres on the European Commission's legislative initiative regarding new requirements concerning electronics. Specifically, the initiative involves mobile phones and tablets, and computers and computer servers. It is significant that the Commission is considering including a repairability score for phones and tablets in the implementing measures (This methodology is considered in another Executive Summary).

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'Repairability scope for smartphones and tablets'

The Executive Summary deals with the European Commission's proposal for a product repairability score for phones and tablets. This score, in terms of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) methodology, considers the rate to which various priority parts could be repaired or upgraded. According to the JRC, too, adhesives, as fasteners, are included in the parameters for calculating a repairability score.

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'Sustainable Products Initiative: Digital Product Passports'

The Executive Summary 'Sustainable Products Initiative: Digital Products Passports' considers digital product passports (DPPs), instruments that would combine a product identifier, collected data regarding the product, and a physical connection between product and data. Two considerations in the Summary regarding the DPP are why the DPP should be adopted, and what data are to be collected for what products.

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'Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive: Revision of essential requirements'

This Executive Summary on the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive concerns the European Commission's review of requirements for packaging to ensure that it is reusable or recyclable. The Summary outlines, in this regard, the main issues to be confronted. The Summary also lists key measures concerning enhancing reuse and furthering recycling: recyclability, recycled content, reuse and waste prevention.

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'Revision of Food Contact Materials (FCM) Legislation'

This Executive Summary takes up the matter of the European Commission's intent to revise legislation related to food contact material (FCM). The Summary lists main problems that have been identified as well as policy options the Commission envisions will provide solutions. For stakeholders, the public in general and Member States, food contact materials are a point of concern.

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'Mixture Assessment Factor'

The 'Mixture Assessment Factor' (MAF) Executive Summary concerns the application of a factor when a substance's regulatory threshold is determined, a factor to ensure protection against the harmful effects of mixtures of chemicals. There are two options for the application: (1) use of the factor in assessing the safety of all chemicals, and (2) use of the factor in terms of the likelihood that a substance in a mixture will prove unsafe. FEICA finds a blanket application of the factor unacceptable.

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'Chemicals Use and Exposure'

This Executive Summary deals with the European Commission's intent to revise and specify requirements for obtaining information on the use of and exposure to chemicals. There are four main options, two establishing requirements for registrants of raw materials, and two focussing on downstream users of hazardous substances. While Member States seem for the most part to support the EU's endeavour, some misgivings and criticisms have arisen.

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'Construction Products Regulation'

The 'Construction Products Regulation' Executive Summary considers the background to and eventual publication of the proposal for the revision of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR). The proposal remains centered on the use of essential characteristics as the way of expressing the performance of construction products, and on the provision of harmonised rules on the CE marking of products. The proposal of the Commission also introduces a number of additional significant innovations.

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