



*Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development
The Chair*

26.2.2024

Mr Pascal Canfin,
Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
Brussels

Subject: Opinion on Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EC) No 178/2002, (EC) No 401/2009, (EU) 2017/745 and (EU) 2019/1021 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the re-attribution of scientific and technical tasks and improving cooperation among Union agencies in the area of chemicals (COM) 2023/0783 – C9-0447/2023 – 2023/0455(COD))

Dear Mr Canfin,

Under the procedure referred to above, the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development has been asked to submit an opinion to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. At its meeting of 24 January 2024, the committee decided to issue an opinion in the form of a letter.

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development decided, after the vote on the opinion of 19 March 2024 call on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following considerations in view of the adoption of its report on the Commission proposal in question.

Yours sincerely,

Norbert Lins

- **General Principle**

AGRI Committee welcomes ‘one substance – one hazard assessment’ principle in order to better use the resources of the Union’s agencies and scientific bodies, and avoid duplication of efforts; call to pay special attention to reducing overlaps between legal frameworks, and between tasks allocated to the European Chemicals Agency, the European Food Safety Agency and the European Medicines Agency.

- **Level of centralisation:**

AGRI Committee points out that the re-attribution of work should not result in a single agency being responsible for the risk evaluation of all chemicals. The regulations must clearly set out the responsibilities of each agency.

- **Expertise**

AGRI committee stresses that reattributing tasks should be done based on the existing expertise available in the agencies to ensure that the agency receiving the task benefits from the necessary expertise. It should be ensured that valuable expertise acquired by existing bodies is preserved. Expertise in risk assessment under the different regulations should stay with those agencies currently responsible for them. Each Agency is best positioned to lead and carry out specific assessments because of their extensive experience in product-specific matters, e.g., EFSA for food use.

- **Resources**

AGRI committee insists that the new tasks for the agencies must be accompanied by the required resources. Re-attributing work should not lead to an agency or a committee being unable to manage the workload and jeopardise the quality of the work.

- **Tasks to re-attribute**

AGRI committee suggests that the ECHA should be involved in hazard assessments as part of the assessment of food contact materials, and EFSA should be involved in risk assessments. It will be essential indeed that this re-attribution of competences be accompanied with the necessary accountability, confidentiality, transparency and resources.

- **Impact assessment**

AGRI committee supports the carry out of an impact assessment on the “one substance one assessment” initiative to ensure that possible impacts on businesses are duly considered and that businesses are involved in the initiative since its beginning. Companies will need to be extremely vigilant to safeguard their legal rights as the proposals here considered have repercussions in the decision making process. In particular, the proposal to require companies and laboratories to notify ECHA of any studies being conducted for regulatory purposes will need to be fully assessed to ensure it does not lead to unintended detrimental effects on the fundamental rights of companies and laboratories to carry out their business.

**ANNEX: ENTITIES OR PERSONS
FROM WHOM THE RAPPORTEUR HAS RECEIVED INPUT**

The rapporteur declares under his exclusive responsibility that he did not receive input from any entity or person to be mentioned in this Annex pursuant to Article 8 of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure.