

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3348/08

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to the Commission

Subject: Review of the Biocides Directive - problems for SMEs

Is the Commission aware of the major difficulties experienced by SMEs under the terms of Directive 98/8/EC¹ on the placing of biocidal products on the market?

Such problems include the prohibitively high fees charged by the national competent authorities, access to the necessary supplier data, excessive costs for putting together evaluation dossiers and problems surrounding data protection, which is too weak.

Can the Commission detail how it will explicitly ensure that in the revision process the voice of SMEs can be heard without being drowned out by the voices of the larger multinationals, and whether it would consider adopting a REACH-style approach to authorisations of biocidal products, including SME discounts and centralised fees?

¹ OJ L 123, 24.4.1998, p. 1.