

EEB Conference European Chemicals Policy Reform – from Emotions to Facts

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Panel debate: REACH – an EU election issue

Statement

Dr. Gabriela Fleischer

Policy Officer Environment

Federation of German Consumer Organisations (vzbv)

Five facts why REACH is an important EU election issue

1. Chemicals are part of the everyday life of 450 million citizens in the EU with 25 member states. We use hundreds of products containing chemicals e.g. clothes, cosmetics, detergents, toys, vehicles, food day-to-day .
2. We know that there are still hazardous chemicals in everyday products e.g. DEHP in plastic toys or leather furniture or brominated flame-retardants in computers and printers.
3. We know that for some hazardous chemicals e.g. DEHP health risks already have to be taken into account for parts of the general population.
4. There is a lack of information about chemicals in products especially about hazardous chemicals in articles. The nonexistent labeling of hazardous chemicals in articles denies consumer choice.
5. According to a study by vzbv consumers want to have more information about product attributes especially those which interfere with health safety.

REACH is an important instrument to improve consumer rights of 450 million citizens. But the EU Chemicals legislation proposal has to take more consumers' interests into account (higher standards for the protection of human health and the environment and increased transparency).