

Helsinki, 8 February 2019

Subject: Important information about the UK's withdrawal from the EU

Dear Accredited Stakeholder,

I am addressing you as one of ECHA's Accredited Stakeholder Organisations representing industry.

On behalf of our Agency, I seek your association's support in helping companies that are either members or within the outreach of your organisation to prepare for the withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU).

The UK's withdrawal will take effect on 30 March 2019, 0000 hours CET (29 March 2019, 11 p.m. UK time). Should the draft Withdrawal Agreement that the EU and the UK Government agreed upon, and which the European Council endorsed in 2018, be ratified by both sides, a transition (implementation) period until 31 December 2020 would apply. However, the ratification of this Agreement is at this stage not certain, which requires all economic operators to consider a disorderly exit at the end of March as default, and take appropriate preparatory steps to mitigate the risks for their businesses.

Our Agency has, since September 2017, published and repeatedly updated advisory Questions and Answers to support companies in their preparations for the UK withdrawal. These [Q&As](#) are accessible on our webpages. The landing page provides access to specific advice according to companies' roles in the supply chain. Ultimately, companies can also seek clarification by [submitting an enquiry](#) to ECHA's helpdesk.

ECHA has always endeavoured to provide companies with the best-available information, at any time, as well as with predictable and stable advice. From the outset, our advice has been geared to the UKs' withdrawal from the EU taking effect on 30 March 2019. However, we have also made it clear that we would amend our advice in accordance with the Withdrawal Agreement, should it be ratified.

We have therefore now launched dedicated information activities to urge companies to prepare for the UK withdrawal in good time for 30 March. These activities include news alerts published on the ECHA website, social media postings and targeted e-mails sent to registrants based in the UK.

I would appreciate if you could encourage the member companies of your association as well as those following your activities more generally to pay special attention to our information on the UK's withdrawal. If such companies do not act in time, they risk losing access to the EU-27/EEA market after 29 March 2019. This deadline is approaching fast. Companies based in the EU-27 and EEA will also need to take action to accommodate the effects of the UK withdrawal.

We are therefore engaging all partners and using all channels to spread our advice and information. I trust that we can rely on your support and wish to thank you in advance for your help in propagating our recommendations to companies. Please feel free to supply the link to

our dedicated webpages to your members and to make use of the banner on the ECHA website for the same purpose.

I remain available for any follow-up query that you may have.

Sincerely yours,



Jukka Malm
Deputy Executive Director