



European Commission

Status GHS Implementation in the European Community

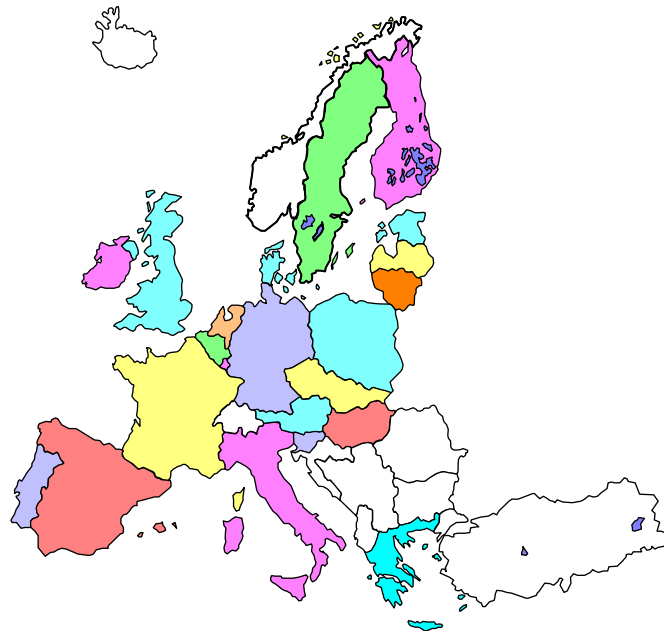
Analytical examination of the acquis
„Screening“ Croatia, Turkey
Brussels, 19 January 2006

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DG ENTR – G 1

Current EU System

Objective of current EU Chemicals Legislation

- ❖ High level of protection to health and environment
- ❖ Prevention of barriers to single European market



Current EU System

The current EU system on classification, packaging and labelling of chemicals has been developed over the last 40 years and is set out in three key instruments:

- ❖ the Dangerous Substances Directive (67/548/EEC);
- ❖ the Dangerous Preparations (i.e. mixtures of chemicals) Directive (1999/45/EC);
- ❖ the Safety Data Sheet Directive (91/155/EEC)

REACH links to C&L

REACH does NOT include CRITERIA for C&L

- ❖ it refers to the existing comprehensive system
 - ◆ Substance classification → Directive 67/548/EEC
 - ◆ Preparation classification → Directive 1999/45/EC
 - ◆ Safety Data Sheets → REACH Annex I a

GHS - EU Implementation

European Commission

- ❖ Explanatory memorandum to the amendment to Directive 67/548/EC, 29 October 2003 – 2003/0257(COD):
 - ◆ *“it is the intention of the Commission to propose the inclusion of the internationally agreed GHS into Community law as soon as possible”*
- ❖ and, more specifically:
 - ◆ *“the Commission will come forward with the necessary proposals for having it adopted at the same time as the final adoption of the REACH legislation”.*

GHS – Global Context

- ❖ Rio, **1992** – Chapter 19 of UNCED Agenda 21
- ❖ Development by IOMC, to end **2001**
- ❖ UN CETDG/GHS – agreed Dec **2002**
- ❖ UN ECOSOC – adopted July **2003**
- ❖ WSSD, Johannesburg **2002**– operational by **2008**

A Global Initiative

GHS - Context

- ❖ GHS is not legally binding but agreed to implement at WSSD
- ❖ GHS is a “top down” approach
- ❖ GHS provides common basis for classification and hazard communication for all the different target audiences including consumers, workers, transport and emergency responders
- ❖ GHS includes a “building block” approach to facilitate implementation
- ❖ GHS will not be completely “harmonised“ at first
- ❖ Increased harmonisation and improvement over time
- ❖ Living document, up-dates every 2 years

EU – GHS Comparison of Systems

- ❖ **GHS common system for transport and supply and use**
- ❖ **EU and GHS system of C&L conceptional similar covering the same structural elements**
 - ◆ Some criteria will change
- ❖ **GHS includes some options left to the discretion of legislators to decide extent of implementation**

GHS - EU Activities To Date

❖ **Technical consultation with EU MS and stakeholders**

❖ **Studies**

- ◆ GHS Implementation Study – differences between EU and GHS system

- ◆ http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/reach/ghs_en.htm

- ◆ Analysis of the impact of the adoption of the GHS started, final report expected end of March 2006
- ◆ Assessment on possible effects on downstream legislation ongoing

Responsibilities within Commission

❖ **Supply and use**

- ◆ Shared responsible for drafting the legislative proposal DG ENTERPRISE and ENVIRONMENT with support of the JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

❖ **Transport**

- ◆ COM Directorate responsible for implementing in transport, in the framework of the Directives on the transport of Dangerous Goods, to be updated in 2007 and 2009

Supply and Use

❖ **Regulatory Instrument**

- ◆ Self-standing Regulation
- ◆ Regulation based on Article 95 (total harmonisation within the EU)

❖ **Scope**

- ◆ Regulation for C&L of substances and mixtures including C&L of Plant Protection Products and Biocides

GHS – Timing of Implementation

❖ **Timing**

- ◆ Aim: entry into force at same time as REACH

❖ **Transitional period**

- ◆ For workability reason phased approach needed
 - ◆ first all substances then mixtures
 - ◆ dual system - existing C&L system and GHS system
- ◆ Short or long?

GHS – “Downstream” legislation

- ❖ **Many other areas in Community legislation depending on C&L,**
so called “downstream legislation” e.g. workers safety, Industrial Accidents (Seveso), consumer products etc.)
- ❖ **over 20 pieces of downstream legislation refer to classification either directly or indirectly**
 - ◆ careful analysis of possible effects ongoing
 - ◆ Most links are indirect references on which the implementation of GHS will have no significant impact
 - ◆ UNECE Convention on Industrial Accidents (Seveso) and Basel Convention (waste) under discussion to align with GHS criteria

GHS – Commission work plan

- ❖ **Drafting legal „body text“ by March 2006**
- ❖ **Drafting technical Annexes by March 2006**
- ❖ **Meeting with key stakeholders (MS, industry etc)
18 November 2005 in ISPRA, Italy**
- ❖ **Public internet consultation approx. end 1.Q. 2006**
- ❖ **Commission formal proposal approx. Summer
2006**



Thank you!

For further information, please, consult the website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/reach/ghs_en.htm