

## Joint cross-sector workshop on alternatives for skin sensitization testing and assessment

HELSINKI, April 23, 2015 – Today, the [Long-range Research Initiative programme](#) (LRI) of [Cefic](#), in co-operation with the European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing ([EPAA](#)) and [Cosmetics Europe](#), is organising a joint workshop to discuss the latest scientific developments in alternative approaches and strategies to animal testing in the skin sensitization area. Gathering experts from EU regulatory bodies, Member States, civil society, industry stakeholders and the media, the aim of the workshop is to investigate pragmatic solutions and make interim recommendations for *in vitro* alternatives that can deliver the same degree of human health protection currently afforded by the *in vivo* methods and can be accepted at a regulatory level. The workshop is being hosted by the [European Chemicals Agency](#) (ECHA) over two days.

As advocates of the [3Rs principle](#) to protect and improve animal welfare, Cefic-LRI, Cosmetics Europe and EPAA, have established a long-standing relationship across several sectors to move forward with alternative testing methods. This workshop, the last of four cross-sector workshops dedicated to the topic, is a clear demonstration our commitment to finding alternative testing strategies for skin sensitization in a regulatory context.

Dr Bruno Hubesch, Cefic-LRI programme manager said: “With [REACH 2018](#) approaching, several industry sectors need to carry out hazard identification and classification of their substances for successful and compliant registration”. Sharing practical experience about *in vitro* testing strategies for skin sensitization prediction and their limitations is essential if we want to bring safe products into the market and secure public health. “The success of this workshop will be gauged by the large number of high quality regulatory filings for REACH 2018 and the level of acceptance by the authorities”, concluded Hubesch.

ECHA has been very supportive along the way and has agreed to host the event back to back with its Member States Committee to maximise the participation of national authorities. A workshop summary report and a peer-reviewed article are expected to be the outcome of this workshop. Some proceedings will become publicly available on the organisers’ websites.

**For more information, contact:** Esther Agyeman-Budu, Cefic communication and emerging science policy manager, at [eab@cefic.be](mailto:eab@cefic.be) for Cefic-LRI’s involvement, and for ECHA’s involvement please contact Mikko Väänänen, ECHA Press Officer, at [Press@echa.europa.eu](mailto:Press@echa.europa.eu), and Jonathan Crozier, EPAA communication manager, for EPAA related matters, at [jonathan.crozier@epaaind.eu](mailto:jonathan.crozier@epaaind.eu).

### Note to editor:

The event background information and agenda can be downloaded [here](#).



### **About LRI**

The Long-range Research Initiative (LRI) is part of Cefic's voluntary initiatives to improve the Regulatory Framework of the chemical industry in Europe. Its mission is to identify and fill gaps in our understanding of the hazards posed by chemicals and to improve the methods available for assessing the associated risks. Further information is available on <http://www.cefic-lri.org/>

### **About EPAA**

EPAA is a Public-Private Partnership across seven industry sectors and between European Commission and Industry stakeholders. Launched in 2005, it gathers 36 companies, 7 European trade federations and 5 Directorates-General of the European Commission. Further information is available on [www.epaa.eu.com](http://www.epaa.eu.com)

### **About Cosmetics Europe**

Cosmetics Europe is the European trade association representing the interests of the cosmetics industry. Its membership consists of 27 national associations of the EU Member States and beyond, 16 major international companies, four supporting association members, four supporting corporate members and four correspondent members associated members. Cosmetics Europe represents more than 4,000 companies throughout the EU via the active representation of its member national associations. For more information about "Cosmetics Europe", please consult: [www.cosmeticseurope.eu](http://www.cosmeticseurope.eu)

### **About ECHA**

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) is the driving force among regulatory authorities in implementing the EU's groundbreaking chemicals legislation for the benefit of human health and the environment as well as for innovation and competitiveness. ECHA helps companies to comply with the legislation, advances the safe use of chemicals, provides information on chemicals and addresses chemicals of concern. Further information is available on <http://echa.europa.eu/>.