



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA

Federal Office of Public Health FOPH
Notification authority for chemicals

Mr Geert Dancet
Executive Director
European Chemicals Agency
Annankatu 18, P.O. Box 400
FI-00121 Helsinki, Finland

Your reference: D(2017)3445
Reference no. /File no.: 449.0000-1/98
Our reference: FAV
Contact person: Pierre Favre
Bern, 22 December 2017

Subject: Exchange of Letters on scientific and technical cooperation

Dear Mr Dancet,

Referring to your letter of 19 December 2017, which reads as follows:

I refer to our previous contacts on this matter and suggest the following as a basis for the scientific and technical cooperation between the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and the Swiss Notification Authority for Chemicals. The cooperation would be, on our side, on such matters that are within ECHA's remit of managing the implementation of the European Union's REACH and CLP Regulations. Whereas Switzerland's participation in ECHA's Biocides-related work is guided by the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on mutual recognition in relation to conformity assessment (MRA) as well as a formal invitation expressed by ECHA's Management Board, this Exchange of Letters solely formalises scientific and technical contacts in a structured way, without opening any pathway to the participation of Switzerland in ECHA's REACH or CLP-mandated work. Therefore, this collaboration excludes Switzerland for participation in the scientific committees of ECHA.

Each side should nominate a contact person as a focal point for our scientific and technical cooperation. Matters of mutual scientific or technical importance and relevance will be identified during video-conferences that could be held twice per calendar year to steer the collaboration and contacts between experts. For ECHA, Jenny Holmqvist, International Affairs Officer will be the contact person.

The experts, at this juncture, should concentrate on exchanging views on the scientific and technical issues related to the assessment of chemicals, their risk management, safety aspects of manufactured nanomaterials as well as occupational exposure models and limits.

Federal Office of Public Health FOPH
Schwarzenburgstrasse 157, 3003 Bern, Switzerland

If you agree to the foregoing by replying in writing and by nominating a contact person, the present letter and your letter in reply shall constitute the founding basis for conducting the scientific and technical cooperation between our two authorities.

I am pleased to convey you that we welcome a strengthening of the scientific and technical cooperation with ECHA. The aim and scope of the cooperation described in your letter of 19 December 2017 corresponds to the intentions of the Swiss Notification Authority for Chemicals and, together with the present letter in reply, constitutes the founding basis for conducting the scientific and technical cooperation between ECHA and the Swiss Notification Authority for Chemicals.

Further to your request, the Swiss Notification Authority for Chemicals nominates Mr. Pierre Favre as contact person for this cooperation with ECHA.

I would appreciate if our first video conference could still be held during the first quarter of 2018, so that our experts can lay down the cooperation areas of mutual scientific or technical interest over the years to come.

Sincerely yours,



Pierre Favre
Head of the Notification Authority for Chemicals