

# Presentation of Mr. Tony Musu

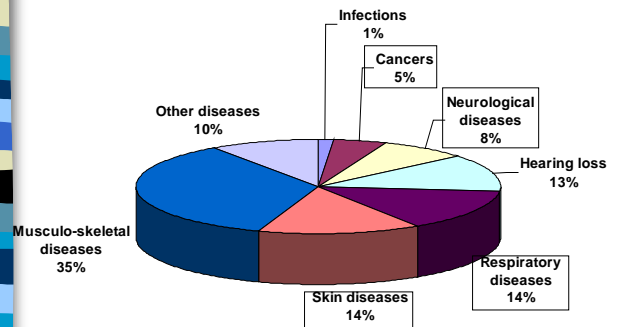
## A Trade Union perspective on REACH

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European Trade Union Confederation  
REACH made easy – EEB/FoEE/Chemical Reaction  
Brussels, January 17-18, 2005

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## Recognised Occupational diseases in Europe in 2001



Source: EODS Eurostat, 2004

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## How many are chemicals-related ?

Occupational diseases	% linked to chemicals exposure	% amongst all recognised diseases	% chemicals related amongst all recog. diseases
Cancers	4 – 90* %	5 %	0.2 - 4.5* %
Neurological diseases	2 %	8 %	0.2 %
Respiratory diseases	36 – 89* %	14 %	5.0 – 12.5* %
Skin diseases	88 %	14 %	12.3 %
<b>Total</b>			<b>~ 18% to 30* %</b>

(\*): including chemical dust

Source: extrapolated from EODS Eurostat, 2004

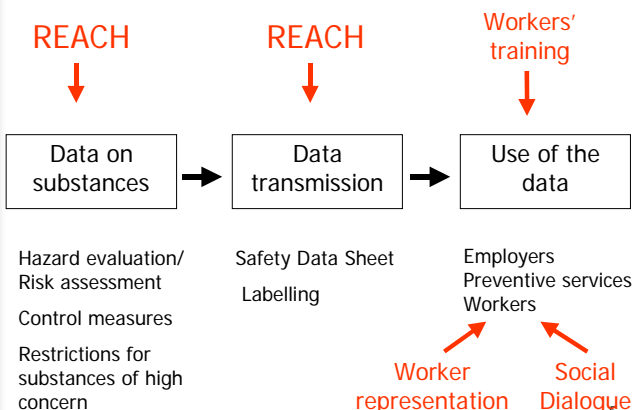
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## Health Benefits from REACH ?

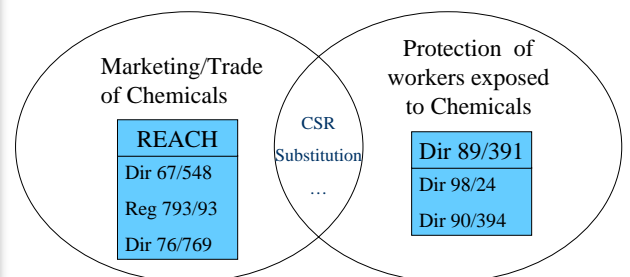
- Some of the chemicals-related occupational diseases are linked to unknown effects from these chemicals
- Information on health effects from chemicals will lead to reduction of exposure and prevention of illness

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## Data : where everything starts



## Two co-existing legislations :



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REACH will improve the efficiency of the workers protection legislation, by:

- providing missing information on their properties
- enforcing the efficient distribution of information through the supply chain
- encouraging the substitution of the most harmful substances via restrictive and authorisation procedures


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ETUC demands:

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- Reintroduction of a Duty of Care
  - Registration:
    - CSR for all registered substances
    - more data in the 1-10 t range (acute toxicity, biodegradability tests)
  - Evaluation:
    - minimum nb of dossiers checked for compliance by MS
  - Authorisation, only if : (consistency with Worker legislation)
    - alternative do not exist
    - socio-economic advantages > risks to human and environment
    - adequately controlled

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ETUC demands (2):

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- Authorisation for strong skin and respiratory sensitisers
  - Consistency between REACH and Workers protection legislation
    - Substitution principle ( Carcinogens directive)

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ETUC actions:

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- REACH leaflet for european workers
  - Participation in CEFIC/UNICE further IA
  - IA study on Occupational Health benefits
    - Focus on occupational skin and respiratory diseases
  - Study on the other European policies
    - proposals to help REACH work better (Research, Training...)
  - Conference on REACH–Brussels, 11-12 March 05
    - «A constructive contribution from the Trade Unions »

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further info on:

<http://tutb.etuc.org>

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