



05 September 2023

Subject:

Call for urgent dialogue and a rethink regarding CLP Revision – 3 key aspects that will have a major negative impact on industry and the environment.

We, the signatories of 11 European associations representing producers, product formulators (downstream users), distributors and end users of chemicals, would like to express our strong concerns regarding the ongoing revision of the Regulation on Classification, Labelling and Packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP). While we acknowledge the importance of ensuring clear and concise information on product labels, we firmly believe that the impact of the changes proposed in the revised CLP regulation has been greatly underestimated in the Commission's impact assessment, especially with regard to minimum requirements for labelling.

**We want to bring your attention once again to the ban on environmental claims for any labelled mixtures classified as hazardous, the proposed requirement of a minimum font size of 1.4mm x-height for products under 3L (as well as applying different font sizes to different capacities), and the self-classification label update timelines of 6 months.**

1. **First**, the tabled amendment within the European Parliament to **prohibit environmental claims on mixtures** classified as hazardous or carrying supplemental labelling is very problematic<sup>1</sup>. This goes far beyond the scope of CLP, which should remain solely focused on hazard identification of chemicals and the associated classification, labelling and packaging. **Secondly**, environmental claims are already being addressed within the 'Circular Economy Action Plan', particularly by the 'Green Claims' Directive. Environmental claims and packaging sustainability rules must be regulated via their specific legislation to ensure legal certainty and coherence.

**For these reasons, we would like to call for the European Parliament to consider these facts, remove the references to 'environmental claims' in the CLP revision and examine these issues within the relevant legislation.**

2. **With regard to font size on labels**, we encourage our members to follow **ECHA's guidance of 1.2mm x-height<sup>2</sup>** as the minimum font size, as this has been proven to be easily readable and allows flexibility for smaller text on smaller packs, in particular those under 1L. This is also aligned

---

<sup>1</sup> COMPROMISE AMENDMENT 4 Draft report Maria Spyra (PE745.493v01-00) p12.

<sup>2</sup> ECHA (2021) Guidance on labelling and packaging in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008

with existing legislation covering food and tobacco products. This enables producers to use multiple languages on packs, allowing them to continue effectively communicating safety information as well as optimising sales and logistics. An increase in font size will have negative effects on the internal market. It will lead to more Stock Keeping Units (**SKUs**) due to fewer languages on packs, hindering the movement of goods in the EU, and will likely result in the destruction of products at the used-by deadline. The higher number of SKUs will also require additional storage locations and result in less efficient loading of trucks, thus leading to an environmentally undesirable increase in land use and transport kilometres. It will also require larger labels, potentially the more resource-intensive fold-out labels, and perhaps even larger packaging formats, coming into direct conflict with the goals of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation's (**PPWR**) objective to minimise packaging.

Despite assertions that font sizes of 1,2mm in x-height are illegible/ less legible than 1,4mm, a study commissioned by CEPE carried out by global experts in the field of vision science has shown that, on the contrary, **no difference was found in the legibility of font sizes between 1,2mm and 1,4mm at 30cm distance**, and only 1 out of 49 participants found a benefit with 1,4mm over 1,2mm at 60 cm reading distance. These statistically significant findings are extremely pertinent to the discussion on an appropriate font size for labelling.

**For these reasons, we would like to call for an amendment to the proposals of the European Parliament, Council, and Commission to consider these factors, to set a minimum font size x-height of 1,2mm across all capacities, and introduce a new category with a minimum font size of 1,0mm for packages under 1L. The CEPE-commissioned study has been included under Annex 1.**

**We also believe that the European Commission should consider pausing discussions to launch a full study regarding font sizes and other typographic variables and develop robust guidance regarding font sizes and legibility in conjunction with sectoral and typographic experts.**

- 3. Finally**, the new **6-month timeline for label updates** linked to an additional or increased self-classification (**Article 30**) will have a considerable impact across our industries and clash with the timeframes of a typical label change. The current requirement is to update labels without undue delay: in the case of certain labelling techniques, this can take up to 18 months due to the complexity of the process and the required communications up and down the supply chain. Additionally, 18 months is the normal transition period provided in Adaptation to Technical Progress (ATP) to CLP for harmonised classifications to become mandatory.

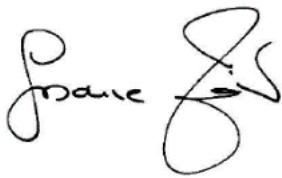
**In our opinion, there is no justification for inconsistency with other label update timelines**, and a timeline as short as 6 months will be almost impossible to meet for product redesign/rework/relabelling across the supply chain, creating scrappage, environmental waste and unnecessary transport of goods, which contradicts the objectives of the EU Green Deal.

**In conclusion**, our industries range from “downstream” industries such as detergents, aerosols, paints, inks, toners, pressroom chemicals, adhesives and sealants, construction chemicals, fragrances, cosmetics disinfectants, lubricants, and chemical distributors to Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Retail and home improvement, retail and wholesale, and flexible packaging manufacturers. As many of our companies are small and medium-sized, the proportional impact of these legislative proposals is significant for our members, which should be considered during future discussions.

As we provide millions of jobs across Europe and supply products that play a crucial role throughout the European economy, the fact that we have the same concerns should raise alarms.

**In order to prevent undue impact on these industries and the European economy, we urgently request substantial dialogue to minimise the negative outcomes of the current proposals. Our proposed amendments have been outlined in detail in Annex 2 of this letter.**

Signed by,



**Susanne Zänker**  
Director General – AISE



**Susan Danger**  
CEO, AmCham EU



**Marco Digiola**  
President – ATIEL



**Christel Davidson**  
Managing Director – CEPE



**Paula Diaz**  
Chair – DUCC



Downstream Users of Chemicals Co-ordination group

**John Herbert**  
Secretary General – EDRA



**Dr. Ing. Johan Breukelaar**  
Director General – EFCC



**Els Bedert**  
Director, Product Policy & Sustainability – Eurocommerce



**Alain D'haese**  
Secretary General - FEA



**Kristel Ons**  
Secretary General – FEICA



**Mattia Adani**  
President – UEIL

