3rd October 2025

Joint Position Paper

Cosmetics Europe/IFRA/EFEO/EFfCI

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Chemicals Agency and amending Regulations (EC) No 1907/2006, (EU) No 528/2012, (EU) No 649/2012 and (EU) 2019/1021

Maintain the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS) independence and expertise as a stand-alone ECHA committee, ensuring timely execution of the CPR-mandated cosmetics safety tasks

We welcome the European Commission's proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) (COM(2025) 386 final) and support its core aim of establishing a self-standing legal framework with stronger governance for the Agency. This will enable ECHA to fulfil its legal tasks and adapt to new responsibilities arising from adopted or planned Commission proposals[1], while responding effectively to new challenges and providing better support to the Commission, Member States and duty holders.

Particularly regarding the **Scientific Committee for Consumer Safety (SCCS)**, **we support its reallocation to the ECHA as a stand-alone Committee, preserving its independence and** unique **scientific expertise, and ensuring it can perform in a timely manner the tasks defined under or by the Cosmetic Products Regulation (CPR) on cosmetics safety**. This is a constructive step to streamline scientific and technical work under the EU chemicals framework and to align with the broader objectives of the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS) and the "One Substance, One Assessment" (OSOA) approach, improving the coherence and efficiency of data used in safety assessments.

[1] Such as the Common Data Platform for Chemicals Regulation (provisional agreement to be approved by the European Parliament's Plenary in October).

Recommendations to streamline the reallocation of the SCCS to ECHA

We provide hereafter our **key recommendations** focusing on the provisions concerning the reallocation of the SCCS to ECHA, specifically **Article 14** (Membership of the committees), **15** (Functioning of the committees), and **43** (Research and innovation).

1. Preserve SCCS independence and cosmetics safety focus

We fully support the proposal's commitment to preserving the SCCS's independence and its continued focus on the safety of substances used in cosmetic products. This is a critical safeguard to ensure the Committee continues to deliver high-quality, impartial scientific opinions tailored to the specificities of cosmetics safety. **Maintaining a dedicated independent scientific committee for cosmetics safety assessment will guarantee continued excellence** in evaluating cosmetic ingredients, thereby **supporting the CSS objectives** to streamline and optimise chemical substances review processes.

2. Ensure the SCCS Chairperson is elected from among its Members to preserve independence and enable a smooth transition

A stand-alone SCCS under ECHA can be a workable solution, provided its **current high-level unique expertise, Rules of Procedure (RoP), Notes of Guidance (NoG) and methodologies of the SCCS are preserved**, and the change is limited to transferring the SCCS Secretariat to ECHA.

However, **we recommend amending Article 15 to maintain the *status quo***: the **Chairperson should be elected from among SCCS Members**. Retaining this practice preserves scientific independence; sustains the productive, peer-led dynamic between the Chairperson and the Members; upholds high standards of scientific expertise and impartiality – especially in the context of cosmetics safety – and supports a smooth transition into the ECHA framework, ensuring continuity and stability in the SCCS work.

Furthermore, we recommend that the **interim/transition period** between the conclusion of the current SCCS mandate in 2026 and the integration of its budget into ECHA in 2028 **is clarified and detailed** to avoid operational uncertainties and that **the existing financing arrangements remain in place for as long as needed.**

3. Enhance SCCS Members selection by requiring nanomaterial safety expertise

We welcome the proposal's recognition of the high-level scientific expertise required to ensure the safety of cosmetic products (recital 17; Article 14(5)) and **we recommend explicitly adding 'safety assessment of nanomaterials' to Article 14(5) fields of expertise**, reflecting the SCCS mandate.

This addition is timely and necessary given the evolving scientific landscape. Including this field of expertise will ensure the SCCS is equipped to address the complexities of nanomaterials safety and maintains high standards of scientific evaluation[2].

[2] Currently the definition of nanomaterials in the Cosmetic Products Regulation (CPR) is less strict than the 2022 Commission's recommendation. If the CPR is updated to align with the Commission's recommendation, more ingredients will be classified as nanomaterials, requiring the industry to submit additional dossiers to justify their continued use. The SCCS has already developed dedicated guidelines for preparing safety dossiers on nanomaterials, highlighting the need for such expertise.

Promoting research and innovation and the use of Non-Animal Methods (NAMs)

ECHA will assist the European Commission and Member States in promoting the substitution of the most harmful chemicals with more sustainable alternative substances and technologies and **developing and implementing scientific methodologies – including animal free approaches –** for hazard, risk and socio-economic assessment of chemicals. Such assistance will include facilitation of information exchange as well as participation in and facilitation of relevant research, development, and innovation activities within the scope of the relevant Union sectoral legislation.

A clear commitment to strengthen and sustain SCCS expertise will accelerate **the development and use of Non-Animal Methods (NAMs)** for assessing the safety of cosmetic ingredients and products, expanding the database of non-animal methods and data. The **SCCS expertise in non-animal risk assessment** is essential to **uphold and implement the EU's animal testing ban**.

The transfer of the SCCS to ECHA presents an opportunity to reinforce ECHA's role in the application of NAMs as their regulatory uptake has increased as well as the Next Generation Risk Assessment (NGRA) approaches across the EU chemical framework, in line with the **European Commission's Roadmap towards phasing out animal testing** for chemical safety assessment. We firmly believe the time has come to work collaboratively to meet the expectations of European citizens: ensuring the safety and sustainability of chemicals without reliance on animal testing. Therefore, **we recommend amending Article 43** to strengthen and clarify the role of ECHA in promoting the regulatory acceptance and application of NAMs and Next Generation Risk Assessment (NGRA).

Conclusions

Cosmetics safety should be anchored in scientific excellence, independency, and transparency. Keeping a stand-alone SCCS within ECHA – composed of qualified cosmetics safety experts – will ensure robust, timely assessments using state-of-the art methodologies, including the use of alternative risk assessment methods (NAMs/NGRA). This model **enhances effectiveness and coherence in safety assessments** while strengthening ECHA's expertise in non-animal safety assessment.

Annex

Suggested amendments to the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Chemicals Agency and amending Regulations (EC) No 1907/2006, (EU) No 528/2012, (EU) No 649/2012 and (EU) 2019/1021

Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the European Chemicals Agency and amending Regulations (EC) No 1907/2006, (EU) No 528/2012, (EU) No 649/2012 and (EU) 2019/1021	
Recital 18	
The Management Board should adopt the rules of procedure of RAC, SEAC, MSC, BPC and SCCS, including the procedural arrangements for the Committees working groups. In order for the Commission to exercise its oversight, the Commission representatives in the Management Board should approve the rules of procedure, without compromising the independence of the Committees and their working groups.	The Management Board should adopt the rules of procedure of RAC, SEAC, MSC, BPC and SCCS, including the procedural arrangements for the Committees working groups. In order for the Commission to exercise its oversight, the Commission representatives in the Management Board should approve the rules of procedure, without compromising the independence of the Committees and their working groups **and ensure its correct implementation**.
Justification The addition of "**and ensure its correct implementation**" reinforces the Commission's role in safeguarding the integrity and consistency of ECHA's governance framework. While the independence of the Committees must be preserved, it is equally important that the Rules of Procedure (RoP), once adopted, are applied uniformly and transparently across all relevant bodies. This amendment: • Clarifies the Commission's oversight function, ensuring that its approval is not merely formal but includes a responsibility to monitor adherence to the agreed procedures. • Promotes accountability, particularly in the implementation of procedural safeguards that protect scientific rigour, stakeholder engagement, and transparency. • Supports legal certainty, by ensuring that procedural rules are not only adopted but also respected in practice, reducing the risk of inconsistent application or procedural drift. • Strengthens trust in the governance of ECHA by ensuring that the Commission can intervene if implementation deviates from the agreed framework, without interfering in the scientific independence of the Committees.	

Article 14 – Membership of the committees

5. The members of SCCS shall be appointed by the Management Board from a list of suitable candidates, established following a call for expression of interest launched by the Agency. The Management Board shall appoint members of SCCS based on the following criteria: (a) a high level of scientific expertise and experience in at least one of the following fields: (i) toxicology; (ii) medicine (with a focus on dermatology, epidemiology, and endocrinology); (iii) chemistry; (iv) exposure and risk assessment; (v) alternative testing methods, and emerging methodologies, including new approach methodologies and in vitro/ or in silico techniques; (vi) other relevant scientific disciplines related to the hazard and risk assessment of cosmetic ingredients; (b) independence and absence of conflicts of interest. The SCCS shall consist of maximum 20 members.	5. The members of SCCS shall be appointed by the Management Board from a list of suitable candidates, established following a call for expression of interest launched by the Agency. The Management Board shall appoint members of SCCS based on the following criteria: (a) a high level of scientific expertise and experience in at least one of the following fields: (i) toxicology; (ii) medicine (with a focus on dermatology, epidemiology, and endocrinology); (iii) chemistry; (iv) exposure ~~**and risk**~~ assessment; (v) alternative testing methods, and emerging methodologies, including new approach methodologies and in vitro/ or in silico techniques; (vi) **safety assessment of nanomaterials; (vii)** other relevant scientific disciplines related to the hazard and risk assessment of cosmetic ingredients; (b) independence and absence of conflicts of interest. The SCCS shall consist of maximum 20 members. **At least 2 members per each field of expertise have to be nominated.**

Justification

The addition of "**safety assessment of nanomaterials**" as a distinct criterion for appointing members to the SCCS is both timely and essential, given the evolving scientific and regulatory landscape of cosmetic ingredients.

Possible regulatory changes
The current nanomaterial definition is not aligned with the definition provided in the 2022 Commission's recommendation. The Commission's recommendation provides a stricter definition than the one currently set out in the Cosmetic Products Regulation (CPR). Hence should the definition in CPR be aligned with the Commission's recommendation, the industry will need to submit many nanomaterial dossiers to ensure continued use of ingredients that under the Commission's recommendation definition would be considered nanomaterials, while under the current CPR definition are not considered nanomaterials.

Scientific expertise
A specific set of expertise is required to properly assess safety dossiers on nanomaterials. In fact, the current SCCS even developed separate and specific guidelines to prepare safety dossier on nanomaterials.

Furthermore, it is suggested to delete the reference to risk assessment under point (iv) as this is already covered under point (vii) and due to the importance of having an expert specialised in the (internal) exposure assessment.

Lastly, nominating at least **two members per field of expertise** ensures that the working groups remain operational even if one member is unavailable. It promotes a diversity of perspectives, which is vital for balanced and robust discussions. This approach allows for sharing workload and specialisation, improves peer review and quality assurance, and aligns with best practice and

regulatory requirements for independence and transparency. Additionally, it supports succession planning by enabling mentoring and knowledge transfer, preserving expertise within the group.

Article 15 – Functioning of the committees

	(*NEW*) 7. Paragraph 6 shall not apply to the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety whose Chairperson shall be nominated by the SCCS from among its Members.

Justification

The amendment intends to maintain the status quo regarding the nomination/appointment of the SCCS Chairperson, for the reasons explained hereafter.

The SCCS is mandated to perform its tasks in compliance with the principles of scientific excellence, independence, confidentiality, commitment, and transparency, as set out in Articles 16-19 of the Commission Decision (EU) 2024/1514. These principles are fundamental to the credibility and effectiveness of the SCCS's scientific advice.
Maintaining the status quo in terms of Chairmanship election (i.e., Article 6 of Decision EU 2024/1514), where the Chairperson is elected from among the SCCS members, is vital to safeguard the committee's independence. In fact, a Chairperson elected from among the members is best placed to embody and promote this commitment, setting an example for conduct and active participation. An ECHA employee, by contrast, may face conflicting loyalties between ECHA's institutional interests and the SCCS' scientific mission. Furthermore, to ensure the continued effectiveness, scientific excellence, and independence of the SCCS, it is essential to focus on the strengths of the current system, particularly the constructive interaction between the SCCS Chairperson and its Members. This collaborative dynamic has been instrumental in maintaining high standards of scientific expertise and robust dialogue within the SCCS. Preserving these established ways of working is crucial, as they underpin the SCCS ability to deliver high-quality, impartial scientific opinions tailored to the specificities of cosmetics safety. Moreover, safeguarding the SCCS operational modalities will help ensure a seamless transition as the SCCS is integrated into the ECHA framework. By minimising unnecessary changes and maintaining continuity in procedures and interactions, the transition can proceed without disrupting the SCCS core functions or diminishing its scientific independence. This approach will also facilitate knowledge transfer and foster stability, both of which are vital for upholding the SCCS reputation as a pan-EU reference point for scientific risk assessment in cosmetics. In conclusion, a transition that builds on what is already working well, while preserving the SCCS's established practices, will best support the SCCS ongoing mission and ensure that its high standards are maintained throughout the integration process.

Finally, appointing an ECHA employee as Chairperson of RAC would ensure independence and avoid complexities related to balancing different interests as currently, RAC experts are nominated by Member States, and selecting a Chairperson from among these members may be politically sensitive. Conversely, for SCCS, experts are already selected directly through an open call for expressions of interest, and according to the proposal they will be appointed by the ECHA Management Board based on scientific expertise and independence. Therefore, maintaining the nomination of the SCCS Chairperson among its Members not only strengthens scientific independence but also preserves the SCCS current status quo, which is widely recognised for its effectiveness and scientific excellence/credibility. This approach minimises political sensitivities and ensures that the Chairperson is chosen solely on the basis of merit and scientific standing, thereby supporting the SCCS reputation for impartiality and high-quality scientific advice. Maintaining this distinction is crucial for upholding the integrity and operational excellence of the

various ECHA committees, while ensuring that the SCCS continues to function as a pan-EU reference point for scientific risk assessment in cosmetics.
For these reasons, we strongly recommend amending this article to require that the Chairperson of the SCCS is always nominated from among its members and is not an ECHA employee. This will preserve the SCCS independence, scientific excellence, and credibility, in line with the principles set out in Articles 16-19 of the Decision and the established practice of the committee.

Article 43 – Research and innovation

The Agency shall assist Member States and the Commission in promoting the substitution of the most harmful chemicals by safer and more sustainable alternative substances and technologies and in the development of relevant scientific methodologies, including animal free approaches, to assess hazards of chemicals as well as risks and socio-economic impacts of the use of chemicals. Such assistance shall include facilitation of information exchange as well as participation in and facilitation of relevant research, development, and innovation activities within the scope of the relevant Union sectoral legislation.	The Agency shall assist Member States and the Commission in promoting the substitution of the most harmful chemicals by safer and more sustainable alternative substances and technologies and in the development of relevant scientific methodologies, ~~including~~ **primarily focused on** animal free approaches, to assess hazards of chemicals as well as risks and socio-economic impacts of the use of chemicals. Such assistance shall include facilitation of information exchange as well as participation in and facilitation of relevant research, development, and innovation activities within the scope of the relevant Union sectoral legislation.

Justification

The proposed amendment reflects the EU's long-standing commitment to advancing ethical and scientifically robust alternatives to animal testing.

It strengthens the alignment of the ECHA Basic Regulation with key EU policy frameworks, including:

- The Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, which explicitly promotes the transition to non-animal testing methods.
- The Cosmetic Products Regulation (CPR), which prohibits animal testing for cosmetic products and ingredients.
- The growing body of scientific innovation in Non-Animal Methods (NAMs), including in vitro, in silico, and integrated testing strategies.

By prioritising animal-free approaches:

- The Agency will help accelerate the development and regulatory acceptance of human-relevant testing methods that offer mechanistically grounded, and scientifically advanced approaches to safety assessment.
- It ensures that research funding and methodological development are channelled towards technologies that support both safety and sustainability.
- It reinforces the EU's global leadership in ethical science and innovation, responding to public demand and industry readiness for animal-free safety assessment.

This amendment also provides clarity and direction for ECHA's role in supporting Member States and the Commission, ensuring that its assistance is not only broad but strategically targeted toward the most progressive and policy-aligned methodologies.

About the co-signatories:

Cosmetics Europe *is the European trade association for the cosmetics and personal care industry. Our members include cosmetics and personal care manufacturers, as well as associations representing our industry at national level across Europe. Through its network of active corporate and association members, Cosmetics Europe represents at least 80% of the European cosmetics industry in value, including more than 9,000 SMEs. Our sector covers a wide range of products and provides approximately 3 million direct and indirect jobs across the continent. Cosmetics Europe has been the voice of the cosmetics and personal care industry in Europe for more than 60 years. We work closely with policy makers to ensure that regulation is appropriate and effective, and we have an unrivalled knowledge of regulatory processes and how they impact our industry.*

IFRA *is the voice of the global fragrance industry, dedicated to the safe, responsible, and sustainable use of fragrance. Since its creation in 1973, IFRA has brought together global fragrance houses companies, national associations, and regional fragrance ingredient manufacturers or compounders committed to ensuring the safe use of fragrance ingredients, grounded in science and responsibility. IFRA represents fragrance producers, works with regulators and international partners, and supports sustainability and innovation across the value chain. IFRA operates through a science-based model of risk assessment. The IFRA Standards, developed in partnership with independent scientific experts, define safe use levels and applications for fragrance ingredients across a wide variety of consumer products.*

EFEO *is the European Federation of Essential Oils representing producers and traders of essential oils and related products within Europe. It is a non-profit organisation which has become a highly esteemed counterpart in the supply chain, for all topics relating to trade, production and use of natural essential oils.*

EFfCI *is the European Federation for Cosmetic Ingredients, a trade association that brings together European manufacturers of synthetic and natural ingredients for the cosmetics and personal care industry.*