

## **SAICM Progress Report for the period 2017-2022 (Serbia)**

### **Chemicals Management System in Serbia**

Republic of Serbia has harmonized its national legislation related to chemicals management with EU legislation. Therefore, Serbian chemicals management system was established based on the provisions of the following EU legal acts:

1. REACH (Regulation 1907/2006);
2. Classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP Regulation 1272/2008)
3. Recast POPs Regulation (Regulation EU on POPs No. 2019/1021)
4. Regulation (EU) No 649/2012 on export and import of hazardous chemicals (PIC Regulation)
5. Biocidal Products (Regulation EU 528/2012)
6. Council Directive 1987/217/EEC of 19 March 1987 on the prevention and reduction of environmental pollution by asbestos
7. 2004/42/CE VOC in Paints Directive

These EU legal acts was taken over in the national legislation mainly through two laws and their sublegal acts:

1. Law on Chemicals
2. Law on Biocidal Products

Beside above mentioned EU-harmonized national legislation in the field of chemicals and biocidal products, Republic of Serbia has national provisions in the Law on Chemicals related to following topics:

- Integrated Chemicals Register
- Permits for placing on the market of Particular Hazardous Chemicals (mostly chemicals classified as CMR, Acute Toxic and Skin Corrosive chemicals)

Based on the above listed national legislation, Republic of Serbia has established the chemicals sound management system. Through the regularory measures of banns and restriction of manufacturing, placing on the market and use of Chemicals, chemicals which represent unacceptable risk for human health and environment were banned or severely restricted at the Serbian market in order to protect consumers and their health from exposure of these hazardous chemicals.

### **Lead in Paints**

According to the national chemical's legislation, lead compounds are prohibited for placing on the market, or using, as substances or in mixtures, where the substance or mixture is intended for use as paint. These provisions related to bans and restrictions of lead in paints were entered intro force in 2012 in the Republic of Serbia. Ministry of Environmental Protection has conducted training on enforcement related to bans and restrictions, classification and labelling of paints including provision related to bans of lead in paints. According to data from the National Chemicals Registry, in the Republic of Serbia has not identified any paint containing

lead. This result was presented at the Regional CEE and CAR SAICM Workshop on the Establishment of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova (2016).

Additionally, Representative of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia has elected as the Member of the project steering committee of the SAICM Global GEF 9771 Project on “Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under SAICM.

### **Hazardous Pesticides Regulation**

Manufacturing, placing on the market and use of Pesticides is regulated by two main national laws in the Republic of Serbia and their sublegal acts:

1. Law on Plant Protection Products (Competent Authority is the Ministry in charge of Agriculture)
2. Law on Biocidal Products (Competent Authority is the Ministry in charge of Environmental Protection)

All active substances which represent unacceptable risk for human health and environment are banned in the Republic of Serbia. Only substances from the List of approved substances in the PPP and List of approved substances in BPs can be used in pesticides from the Serbian market.

Regarding highly hazardous pesticides cooperation with relevant authorities was achieved in order to prevent illegal trade in carbofuran.

### **Endocrine Disruptors Chemicals**

According to the provision of the Rulebook on Bans and Restriction of Manufacture, Placing on the Market and Use of Chemicals, many of Endocrine Disruptors Chemicals listed at the Annex I of this Rulebook are prohibited or severely restricted in the Republic of Serbia (such as Phthalates in toys and Articles for general use), including new POPs chemicals such as Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) in recycling articles. Within the project „Strengthening the synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions at the national level in the Republic of Serbia“, Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia in cooperation with UNDP has developed the Manual on techniques and methods for identification and separation of waste containing Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) intended for e-waste recyclers and conducted training for recyclers on methods from separation of PBDEs from e-waste streams.

### **Phthalates and Bis-phenol A**

Due to identified high risk of children exposure of Bis-phenol A, Ministry of Environmental Protection in cooperation with Ministry of Health prepared the regulatory measure on bans of PC-Articles containing Bis-phenol A for children feeding. Additional, in the spirit of good cooperation between the health and environmental sector, joint inspection campaign regarding control of bans and restrictions of phthalates in articles was conducted. It was included a survey for retailers of particular articles, followed by laboratory analysis of the purchased articles.

Based on the results of the campaign, extraordinary inspection's controls were conducted. The articles containing non-allowed concentration of phthalates (>0.1%) were removed from the market and further production and distribution was banned.

## **COOPERATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS**

### **Cooperation with Industrial associations**

Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia has active cooperation with the Serbian Chamber of Commerce based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed between two parties. Therefore, Ministry of Environmental Protection in cooperation with Chemical Industry Association within the SCC organizes the stakeholder days with different sector of industries regarding education and sharing information related to risk of use of SVHC (substances of very high concern), Endocrine Disruptors Chemicals in their production process, available safer alternatives, new upcoming bans of restrictions of new hazardous chemicals including POPs candidates. There is also thematic workshops related to implementation of the EU legal acts related to chemicals managements such as REACH, CLP, PIC and POPs Regulations.

### **Cooperation with Health Sector**

Ministry of Environmental Protection has actively participated in the project of the Ministry of Health and Institute for Public Health of the Serbia "Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut". Chemicals Road Map for chemicals management in the public health sector was prepared together with Ministry of Health and National Public Health Institute as well as Draft National Program for Health and Environment in line with Ostrava Declaration. As one of the last activities, the Ministry of Environmental Protection has actively participated in development of the Action Plan for Health Security for period 2023-2025.

## **SAICM RELATED PROJECTS**

In the period 2015 – 2023, Ministry in charge of Environmental Protection has realized and supported many projects related to strengthening of chemicals and waste sound management system in Serbia. Please find below detailed information regarding conducted projects and achieved project outcomes related to chemicals and waste sound management.

### **SAICM The Quick Start Programme project "Capacity Building and Strategic Partnerships for Chemicals Safety in the Republic of Serbia"**

Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia in cooperation with UNDP and NGOs has realized SAICM The Quick Start Programme project "Capacity Building and Strategic Partnerships for Chemicals Safety in the Republic of Serbia" which was strengthened capacities and collaboration of competent authorities in charge of chemicals management, human health and consumers' protection, civil society organizations and other stakeholders. It has enabled better implementation of legislation on chemicals and raised the public awareness. A project campaign, "The fight to know" was undertaken in the country to exercise consumer's right to be informed regarding presence of substances of very high concern in articles. It included a survey for retailers of particular articles, followed by laboratory analysis of the purchased articles. Based on the results of the campaign, extraordinary inspection's controls were conducted. The articles containing non-allowed concentration of phthalates (>0.1%) were removed from the market and further production and distribution was banned. One of

distributers, whose article contained non-allowed concentration of phthalates, informed the consumers through his webpage about the hazards posed by the article and the possibility to return it.

### **Minamata Initial Assessment in the Republic of Serbia**

Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia in cooperation with UNDP funded by GEF has realized the project „Minamata Initial Assessment in the Republic of Serbia“. Project outcomes were development of National Mercury Profile and Mercury Initial Assessment Report, Brochure for persons who may be exposed to mercury in their professional work and Brochure for the population.

### **Strengthening the synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions at the national level in the Republic of Serbia**

Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia in cooperation with UNDP funded by UNEP Special Programme has realized the project „Strengthening the synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions at the national level in the Republic of Serbia“. Project goal were:

- Building institutional capacities of the Government of Serbia and strengthen synergies between the BRS and Minamata Conventions
  - Strengthening the cooperation between government departments and agencies, industry (recycling sector in particular), civil society organizations and academia in the field of chemicals management
- Improving fulfilment of reporting requirements under the BRS and Minamata Conventions, and further harmonization with EU Acquis
- Focus on vulnerable and marginalized groups
  - specifically related to awareness raising activities and more effective and systematic inclusion of those groups in the waste management sector
- Establishment of a National Coordination Mechanism which will provide legal and technical arrangements for a coordinated and synergistic approach to the management of chemicals and waste.

### **Project outcomes:**

1. Development of relevant enabling policy environment for synergistic implementation of the BRS and Minamata conventions
  - Establishment of National Coordination Mechanism for improved implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions

- one of the main tasks of the National Coordination Mechanism would be to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of implementation of the conventions, including relevant action plans and other documents for better reporting under Conventions

➤ Policy framework for enabling synergies in implementation of Conventions established

- relevant documents developed: legal framework for management of the construction and demolition waste (BC), Guidance for customs including notification procedures (BRS), Guidance for recycling industry regarding identification and separation of PBDEs from the e-waste, Recommendations for Minamata Convention ratification, Final regulatory action for successful implementation of Rotterdam Convention improved, National Programme for BRS&M synergies with 2 specific goals - waste & chemicals conventions and joint reporting.

2. Establishment of the efficient information system on data collection for national reporting

➤ The system acts as supporting tool for national focal points for the conventions to respond to the reporting requirements of each of the conventions

- in the context of data provision and gathering, transparency and compliance with other reporting obligations in the field of chemical and waste management.

3. Capacity building, awareness raising activities and trainings for improvement of the synergistic approach to chemicals and waste management in Serbia

- knowledge sharing and awareness raising activities conducted for different target groups:

- Policy makers
- Industry
- Business
- Civil Society Organizations
- Academia

- specific attention was given to the vulnerable and marginalized groups mainly included in waste management sector

- Informative brochure was prepared and disseminated
- Train the Trainers Programme was prepared and 1-day training for young Roma volunteers organized.

In July 2019 within the 6-day UNDP-UNCHR programme for Local initiatives for improved social inclusion of young Roma o training was focused on waste management and recycling in Serbia, including the status of individual collectors of secondary raw materials, hazardous chemicals in waste and occupational safety o upon training young Roma were included in information sharing among Roma community with the focus on collectors of secondary raw materials and their families o Informative brochure is further disseminated during awareness raising workshops for collectors of secondary raw materials in Southern Serbia.

More than 200 individual collectors of secondary raw materials were informed on hazardous chemicals in waste.

3000 brochures were disseminated in 30 towns and municipalities in Serbia.

The brochures were disseminated from home to home, to the local waste disposal landfills (13 legal and illegal) as well as among city landfills(5), covering more than 15000 people.

### **UNITAR Project “Support for the ratification of the Minamata Convention in Serbia”**

Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia in cooperation with UNITAR has realized the project „Support for the ratification of the Minamata Convention in Serbia”. The overall aim of the project is to support the Government of Serbia to ratify the Minamata Convention and gain a greater understanding of key chemicals management topics. Under this project, following project outcomes were achieved:

- Developed Cost-benefit study for ratification of the Minamata convention on mercury in Serbia;
- Legislative framework review for harmonization of national legislation with requirements prescribed in the Minamata convention.
- Prepared Draft Law on ratification of the Minamata convention on mercury