

A proportionate approach to the regulation of the particles based on the latest science

The Particles Platform Workshop, titled "A Proportionate approach to the regulation of particles based on the latest science" was held on 2 October 2025 in Brussels and online and covered the latest scientific and regulatory developments concerning particles, with a particular focus on defining and categorising "poorly soluble low toxicity particles" (PSLTs) and their broader health and regulatory implications. The Workshop highlighted a number of scientific and regulatory challenges and gaps related to particulate materials including in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) test guidelines, the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (UN GHS), particularly related to classification as specific target organ toxicity – repeated exposure (STOT RE) and the high sensitivity of rat lungs to particles compared to humans, see Workshop Summary.

As a follow up, the Particles Platform Partners recommend the establishment of an ECHA Expert Group with experts from ECHA, the Commission, member states, academia, industry and other stakeholders to address the scientific and regulatory challenges related to particles including the following aspects:

- Targeted update of OECD guidance document 39 for inhalation of particles and the guidance values for STOT RE in the UN GHS
- How to apply the outcome of inhalation studies on rats for human health assessment
- The use of new approach methodologies (NAMs) including *in vitro* and *in silico* models for hazard assessment of particles
- Updating the ECHA Guidance on CLP for particle-related aspects such as lung overload in rat inhalation studies
- Follow the developments of the ECHA PSLT scoping project for occupational exposure limit values (OEL) and provide feedback to ensure an integrated approach