BEUC is proud of its members
BEUC and chemicals

• We work to safeguard consumers against chemicals of concern

• Our chemicals work is focused on
  • **Consumer products**, *e.g.* cosmetics, toys, food packaging, textiles, ...

  • **Chemicals of (particular) concern**, *e.g.* CMRs, EDCs, (skin) sensitizers

• **The consumers’ right to know**
An example to set the scene

One in three soaps for washing dishes by hand tested by Forbrugerrådet Tænk (our Danish member) contained allergenic preservatives, such as Methylisothiazolinone (MI)

Details @ kemi.taenk.dk/bliv-groennere/check-your-dishwashing-soap-allergenic-preservatives
Consumers are concerned...

More than **four in five** Europeans (84 percent) report concerns about chemicals in everyday products (up from 43 percent in 2014)

Concerns across the EU, esp. in Southern and Eastern Europe

**Sources**: Special Eurobarometer 468 ‘Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment’ (2017)
Special Eurobarometer 416 ‘Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment’ (2014)
“legislation preventing the presence of toxic substances in products (where possible) is scattered, neither systematic nor consistent and applies only to very few substances, articles and uses, often with many exemptions”

Where rules do exist, enforcement is often weak and patchy
Juncker Commission
Consumer performance check

VERY BAD
- Endocrine disruptors
- Copyright in the Digital Single Market

BAD
- Online sales of tangible goods
- Investment Court System
- Audiovisual Media Services Directive

MEDIUM
- Electricity Directive
- European Electronic Communications Code
- Wholesale roaming markets
Consumer priorities for the 2019 European Parliament elections
2019, a changing political landscape

- **May 2019**, a new European Parliament
- **November 2019**, a new College of Commissioners

→ **Opportunity for a revitalized EU agenda on harmful chemicals** – but we need to push for it, together!
**Fragrance allergens**

26 specific substances must be declared in cosmetics (and detergents), or about 1 per cent

2012 SCCS opinion: improve transparency for an additional 62 substances

December 2018: Commission roadmap outlines 3 options
  1. Do nothing (unacceptable!)
  2. ‘On-pack’ labelling
  3. E-labelling (unfair and unrealistic)

Next step: open public consultation (May 2019) + stakeholder interviews

SCCS also considered ‘contact allergens in animals’ and ‘likely contact allergens’ + ‘Established fragrance contact allergens of special concern’ → not mentioned by the Commission...

NB. Implementing directive amending the Toy Safety Directive
Empowering consumers

Kemiluppen

✓ 10,000+ products

✓ 280,000 downloads

✓ 6,000,000 scans (there are 5.5m Danes)

Learn more @ kemi.taenk.dk/bliv-groennere/kemiluppen-tjek-din-personlige-pleje-uoensket-kemi
Empowering consumers

QuelCosmetic

- Launch March 2018
- 700,000 downloads
- 6,000,000 scans

Learn more @ www.quechoisir.org/application-mobile-quelcosmetic-n52804/
The EU Ecolabel

**Designed for greener and healthier consumer choices**, *e.g.* the ecolabel cannot be awarded to detergents which contain substances that may cause allergy or asthma symptoms or breathing difficulties if inhaled.

The Ecolabel pushes manufacturers to go the extra mile; hazardous substances must, whenever technically possible, be substituted with safer alternatives.

Some 40,000 products and services across 30 categories, incl. paints, shampoos, baby clothes and cleaning products.
Thank you for your attention!

www.beuc.eu
safety@beuc.eu