



# SKANSKA

## Press Release

### Skanska and Eureau urge Council to back Parliament position on REACH

**In an Open Letter on REACH, the new EU chemicals policy, Skanska, the global top 3 construction-company, and Eureau, the European association of drinking water and waste water operators, urge law-makers to strengthen the proposal in line with the outcome of the European Parliament Environment Committee vote on 10 October.**

**In the Open Letter, sent to all Trade, Industry and Environment Ministers of EU member states as well as to Members of the European Parliament, Eureau and Skanska recommend stricter rules on substitution and information in the supply-chain. They call for the replacement of the most hazardous chemicals whenever suitable, safer alternatives exist, and advocate an increased flow of information in the supply-chain, increased information provided to professional users and confirm the consumer's right to know.**

Noel Morrin, Senior Vice President Sustainability of Skanska explains:

*The buildings Skanska constructs will be used for decades. However, in our production we use branded products containing many different molecules from many different sources. This fact places barriers to communication in the supply-chain as a brand name does not necessarily say much about the chemicals it contains.*

*Skanska needs REACH to improve transparency on chemicals, i.e. stricter information requirements throughout the supply chain. This way, we can early in our purchasing process identify the higher risk materials in favour of more benign materials that provide higher protection of our workforce and the public.*

*By the time a product containing a hazardous substance gets into the hands of the workforce it is already in most cases too late to identify and manage the risks. The screening has to be done upstream, long before a substance ever reaches our workforce.*

Adds Mauro d'Ascenzi, President of Eureau:

*We need a strong REACH to facilitate sustainable provision of the essential services we offer European citizens. Chemicals used in modern-day society enter the sewer systems from households and their consumer products, from consumer- services, industrial discharges, or simply through rain-water. Non-bio-degradable chemical substances coming to the waste water treatment plants from cities are in many cases not possible to treat.*

*There is a clear need to control chemical substances at source, both for sustainable waste water treatment and for sustainable drinking water production. An authorisation for the use of the most hazardous chemicals should only be granted if no safer alternatives are available and social economic advantages outweigh the risk, as the European Parliament proposes.*

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