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European Parliament votes to approve revision of chemicals rules

Brussels, 23 April 2024 – Cosmetics Europe and the International Fragrance Association (IFRA) today welcomed the European Parliament vote on the revision of the Regulation on the Classification, Labelling and Packing of chemicals (CLP). The vote confirms the text agreed between the colegislators and will help support the future of the natural ingredients used in cosmetics and fragrances.

"We are pleased that the trilogue negotiations have produced an agreement that puts to the fore the need for clear scientific grouping of substances for harmonized classification and labelling", said Aurelie Perrichet, Regional Director for Europe at IFRA. "It enhances legal certainty whilst making grouping a workable approach – which is important given how much group restrictions will likely affect the perfumer's palette".

The adoption of the revision of the CLP Regulation is among the final acts of this European Parliament, as this session is the last of the mandate, with parliamentarians heading off to pursue their respective reelection campaigns.

"The revised regulation also includes specific provisions for the classification rules of substances with more than one constituent ('MOCS') derived from plants or parts of plants", said John Chave, Director General of Cosmetics Europe. "This decision will support the future of the natural ingredients used in cosmetics and fragrances – helping to meet bio-economic, social and competitiveness goals".

The CLP revision was expected to be followed by the revision of the REACH Regulation as part of their wider inclusion in the EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability. However, the REACH rework will now be delayed until the next mandate – likely in line with the new political priorities of the newly-elected EU Institutions.

"We believe it is key that, following the example of the CLP, further changes to the cosmetics and chemicals legislation support competitiveness of the cosmetic and fragrance sectors while promoting sustainability of products", said Mr Chave.

"Boosting growth and competitiveness is in line with the recent draft conclusions of the Council of the EU and the widely supported Antwerp Declaration. Respectively, these call for a new European Competitiveness Deal and for a European Industrial Deal", concluded Ms Perrichet.

The International Fragrance Association, founded in 1973, represents the interests of the fragrance industry worldwide. IFRA comprises seven multinational Regular Members and 23 national associations in four global regions representing hundreds of small and medium-sized fragrance ingredient manufacturers, as well as supporting members. Its mission is to promote the safe and sustainable use of fragrance.

Fragrances are a key platform technology used by consumer goods companies – for fine fragrances, personal care and cosmetics products, household care and more.

IFRA's flagship safe use program, the IFRA Standards, applies safety management measures based on scientific assessment and the evaluations of an independent Expert Panel. The program is at the heart of the IFRA Code of Practice, which applies to all IFRA members globally, including members of IFRA's national associations. The Code also requires members to abide by local, national and international regulation, and to apply good manufacturing practices.

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