



Brussels, 16 April 2026

Press Statement: COSMED, EFEO and IFEAT call for safeguards for SCCS independence in the ECHA Basic Regulation proposal

COSMED, the European Federation of Essential Oils (EFEO) and the International Federation of Essential Oils and Aroma Trades (IFEAT) support the core objective of the ECHA Basic Regulation proposal, which aims to establish a more coherent legal framework and strengthen the governance of the Agency.

With regard to the Scientific Committee for Consumer Safety (SCCS), COSMED, EFEO and IFEAT support its integration into ECHA as a stand-alone committee, provided that its independence, specific expertise, and capacity to deliver timely scientific opinions, particularly under the Cosmetics Regulation, are fully preserved.

For that reason, the associations deeply regret that the proposal does not retain the principle of appointing an independent Chair from among SCCS members. We are convinced that this unnecessary change will undermine the long-term integrity and scientific independence of the committee. This could even create conflict of interest within ECHA and the decisions adopted by its different committees.

We hope that robust and clear internal rules will preserve the SCCS' independence and unique scientific expertise, the current way of working should not be disrupted by the re-allocation to ECHA. Unlike other ECHA committees (such as RAC, SEAC or BPC), SCCS members are not nominated by national competent authorities, which justifies maintaining a governance model whereby the Chair should continue to be a SCCS member, elected by its peers.

About COSMED

COSMED is the French cosmetic association for SMEs, a non-profit seeking association with more than 1000 members, in France and Europe. COSMED is recognised by the French authorities as the representative body for the cosmetics industry in France. COSMED sit at the European Commission as the voice of cosmetic SMEs. COSMED is involved in the development of cosmetic regulations, as well as in national and international standardisation bodies to contributes to the development of a regulatory framework for the marketing of safe and effective cosmetic products.

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About EFEO

The European Federation of Essential Oils (EFEO) is committed to raising awareness among policymakers, regulators, and authorities regarding essential oils and their derivatives. EFEO advocates for a comprehensive understanding of their uses, cultural and economic importance, and the potential impact of legislative and regulatory measures on the sector.

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About IFEAT

The International Federation of Essential Oils and Aroma Trades – is a trade association founded in 1977. It represents the interests of companies involved in the production, processing, trading and manufacturing of the many thousands of ingredients used in flavours, fragrances and aromatherapy. Among our activities, we aim to raise awareness among political stakeholders on what essential oils and their derivatives are, how they are used, the cultural and economic significance of the sector.

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