



Human and Environmental Risk Assessment on ingredients of household cleaning products

OBJECTIVES

HERA wants to illustrate that partnership between supplier and formulator companies and their representative groups can deliver validated safety information on the ingredients of household cleaning products by developing **ONE common risk assessment per substance**.

And by doing so, HERA supports a risk-based approach to Chemicals Legislation in the European Union.

BACKGROUND

Responding to an increasing demand from society for industry to be more transparent in sharing its data and decisions, the producers of household cleaning products, represented by **A.I.S.E.** (International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Products) and the suppliers of the raw materials to produce these products, represented by **Cefic** (European Chemical Industry Council) launched the HERA Project in 1999.

PRINCIPLES

- * **Partnership** between supplier and formulator companies and their representative groups.
- * Development of **open dialogue** with stakeholders.
- * **Transparency** in all its activities.
- * **No preconception** of the outcome of risk assessments.
- * Commitment to a **solid science-based** approach.
- * **Avoidance of unnecessary animal testing**.

HERA RISK ASSESSMENT CONCEPT

- * **Hazard and risk**
 - Hazard = intrinsic ability to cause adverse effect.
 - Risk = the probability that such effects will occur.
- * **HERA identifies** on ingredients of household cleaning products:
 - Potential environmental effects
 - Probable uses and discharges
 - Potential effects on human health
- * A **risk assessment** approach takes into account BOTH: the hazard and the probability to be exposed to it.
- * In addition, an **External Advisory Panel**, reviews the draft risk assessments.
- * HERA contributes to **risk management** decisions being taken by companies.

VALUE

- * To **business**: bring together the experts and provide reassurance that industry is behaving responsibly.
- * To **regulators**: provide a common industry response (one common risk assessment) and contribute to the successful implementation of REACH.
- * To **the general public**: communicate the outcome of risk assessments in an accessible and understandable format and benefit from the use of such assessments in the development of new and better products.

HERA AND REACH

A.I.S.E. and **Cefic** believe HERA is compatible with the EU Chemicals Policy, as the following topics coincide:

- * Industry taking responsibility for the safe use of chemicals
- * Partnership between manufacturers and downstream-users
- * Risk-based approach
- * Grouping of substances
- * Response to challenges on existing substances
- * International integration

ADRESSING RISK COMMUNICATION

Having set the goal of providing useful and transparent information on risk assessments, HERA contributes to overcoming the communication challenge «more and better communication on chemicals to consumers» by developing plain language summaries of its risk assessments.

Useful consumer insights and stakeholder input in the communication project were obtained in a Qualitative Market Research (Brussels, October 2003) and a European Stakeholder Workshop (Brussels, November 2003). HERA has developed «**CLEAN HOUSE, SAFE HOME**» aiming at delivering transparency and information about risk and safety to consumers.

A joint European initiative between A.I.S.E. and Cefic on Human and Environmental Risk Assessment



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PROGRESS

Regulators and the general public rightly demand greater transparency of information on the potential risks posed by ingredients of products used in the home.

HERA brings together producers of chemicals and formulators of finished products to provide such data.

HERA PHASES 1, 2 AND 3

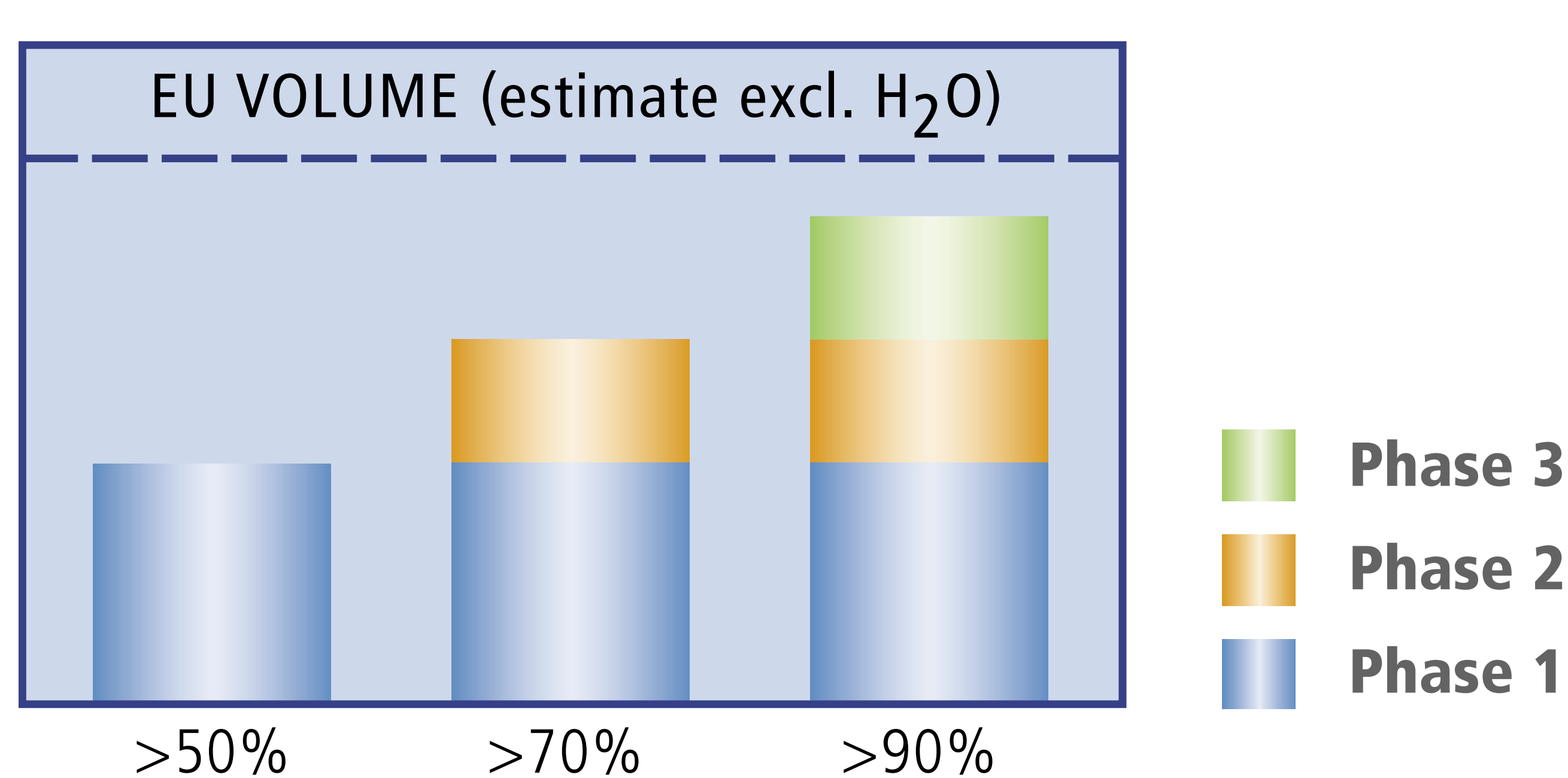
- * The **first phase** (1999 onwards) aimed at developing the methodology for the HERA risk assessments and began working on example substances.
- * During the **second phase** (2003 onwards), the HERA teams have been applying this methodology to a range of substances and subsequently, have produced a whole series of risk assessments.
- * A **third phase** (2004 onwards) was initiated in which HERA aims to finalise its work. By complementing the list of substances, it is expected that all important ranges of chemical ingredients and all exposure scenarios will be covered.

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Surfactants (anionic, cationic, amphoteric, nonionic) Alkyl Sulphates, LAS, Alcohol Ethoxy Sulphates, Ester Quats, Amine Oxides, Cocoamidopropylbetaine		
Perfume Ingredients Polycyclic Musk AHTN and HHCB, Hydroxycitronnellal, Isoeugenol		
Optical Brighteners FWA-5, FWA-1		
Soaps and Antifoams Fatty acid salts		
Zeolites and Ion Exchangers, Builders, Processing Aids, Anti-redeposition agents Zeolite A, Zeolite P and -X, Sodium Tripolyphosphate, Alkali Silicates, Boric Acid, Phosphonates, Sodium Carbonate, Citric Acid salts, Sodium Sulphate		
Bleach and Bleach Precursors, Persalts Sodium perborate (mono- and tetrahydrate), Sodium Percarbonate, TAED, Hydrogen Peroxide		
Enzymes Protease, Amylase, Cellulase, Lipase		
Solvents, Hydrotopes Isopropylalcohol, Xylene-, Cumene-, Toluene Sulphonates, Monoethanolamine, Diethyleneglycol n-Butylether, Propyleneglycol n-Butylether		

Risk Assessments published on the HERA website www.heraproject.com are marked thus.

PROGRESS

In total, HERA will assess approximately 250 CAS (*) numbers and cover over 30 chemical ingredient families. Those represent the great majority of ingredients used in household cleaning products in Europe.



STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Regular stakeholder consultations including annual workshops are being organised, in which participants are encouraged to contribute to HERA's ongoing development. Previous consultations included topics such as the scientific approach of HERA, its political relevance and more recently, a first attempt to communicate the outcome of its risk assessments in a consumer-friendly format. HERA's stakeholders are, among others: EU authorities, Member States, NGOs, Academia, Industry and the consumer himself.

WHERE HAS HERA CONTRIBUTED MOST?

- * How to work together in consortia
- * How to partner between Suppliers and Users of chemicals
- * How to gather and deal with data from companies
- * How to protect company data information while sharing results
- * How to run risk assessment in a timely fashion
- * How to practice «OSOR»
- * How to group chemicals for safety evaluation
- * How to transition from R-A's to Risk Management
- * How to involve stakeholders in the R-A process
- * How to communicate risk to different audiences

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