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## **What is the fate of ethanol in the EU?**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Ethanol is a fundamental raw material that is widely used in the chemical industry. Ethanol has many applications in household and industrial products, ranging from biocides, solvent mixtures, cleaners, insect repellents to air fresheners and fragrances. In addition, ethanol is a vital ingredient in critical public health sectors including healthcare and sanitisation products (e.g., hand sanitisers).*

*There is currently a discussion led by the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) and some EU member states to classify ethanol as carcinogenic and reproductive toxic (both in category 1) which could result in a de facto ban on its use in the EU in all the above product areas.*

*Such a potential classification will have far-reaching and unprecedented consequences for multiple chemical sectors with no obvious viable alternative available.*

*This presentation will give an update on the latest developments under the EU Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR) process and further details on the upcoming public consultations and ECHA decision points.*

### **KEY WORDS**

*Ethanol, BPR, European Chemical Agency, ECHA, carcinogenic, reproductive, toxic*

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Dr Gary Bowman is Chair of the RACI Industrial Chemistry Division and has also held senior global positions in the chemicals manufacturing industry for over 30 years, covering areas such as Innovation, New Product Development, Research and Development and Regulatory Affairs. Gary is an advocate for risk-based regulation to support the safe use of chemicals present in everyday products by consumers.

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