

# REACH, a positive impact for workers' health and the economy



Tony Musu

European Trade Union Confederation

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# Overview:

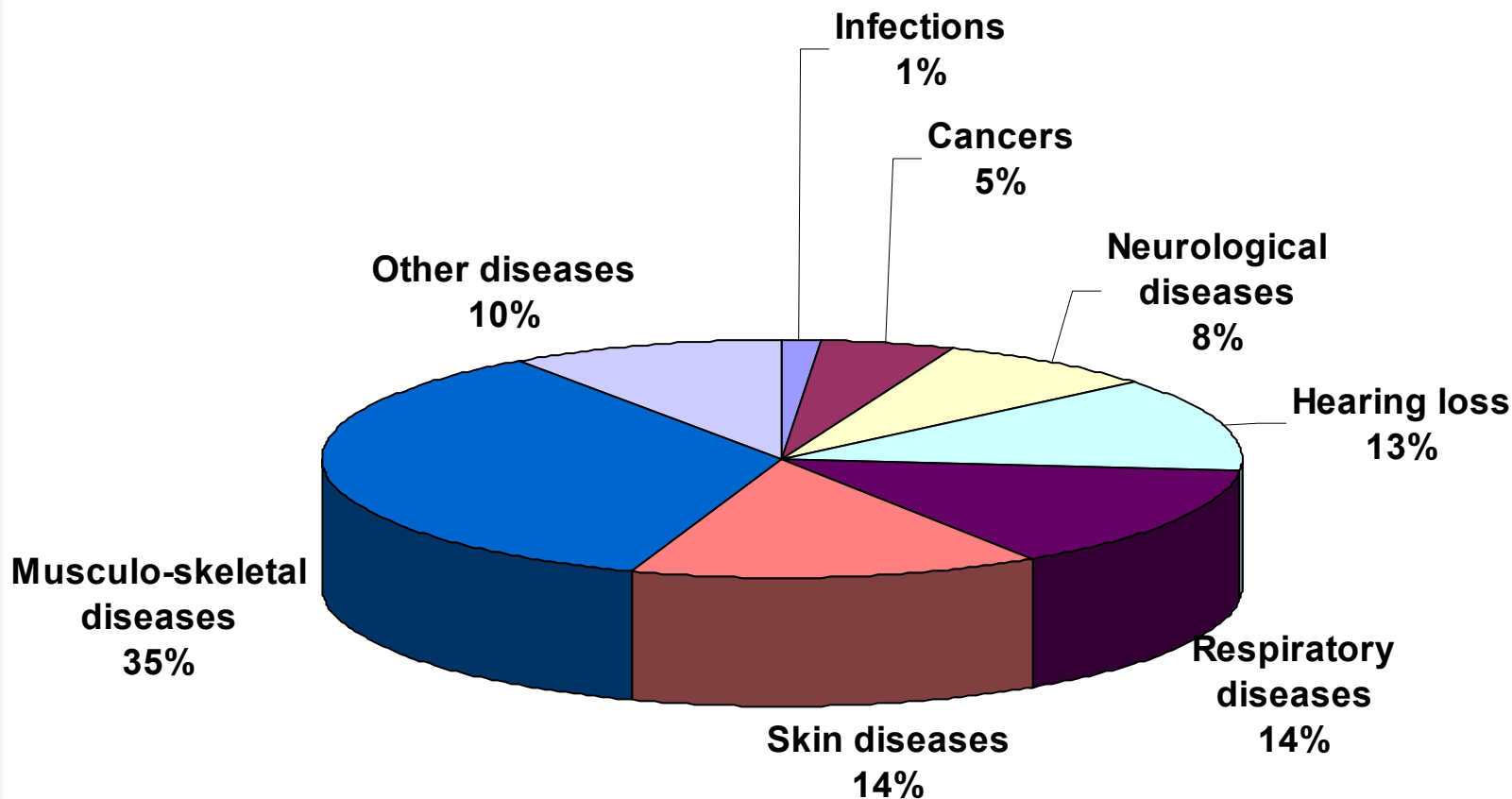
1. Chemicals and occupational diseases in EU-15
2. What REACH could bring ?
3. Occupational health benefits from REACH ?
4. Conclusions



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# Recognised Occupational diseases in Europe in 2001



Source: EODS Eurostat, 2004

# How many are chemicals-related ?

<b>Occupational diseases</b>	<b>% linked to chemicals exposure</b>	<b>% amongst all recognised diseases</b>	<b>% chemicals related amongst all recg. diseases</b>
<b>Cancers</b>	<b>86 %</b>	<b>5 %</b>	<b>4.3 %</b>
<b>Neurological diseases</b>	<b>2 %</b>	<b>8 %</b>	<b>0.2 %</b>
<b>Respiratory diseases</b>	<b>40 %*</b>	<b>14 %</b>	<b>5.6 %</b>
<b>Skin diseases</b>	<b>88 %*</b>	<b>14 %</b>	<b>12.3 %</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>22.4 %</b>

(\*) RPA study, 2003



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# Current legal situation for workers' protection:

- Directive 98/24: Chemical agents
- Directive 90/394: Carcinogens

## *Employers are under the obligation:*

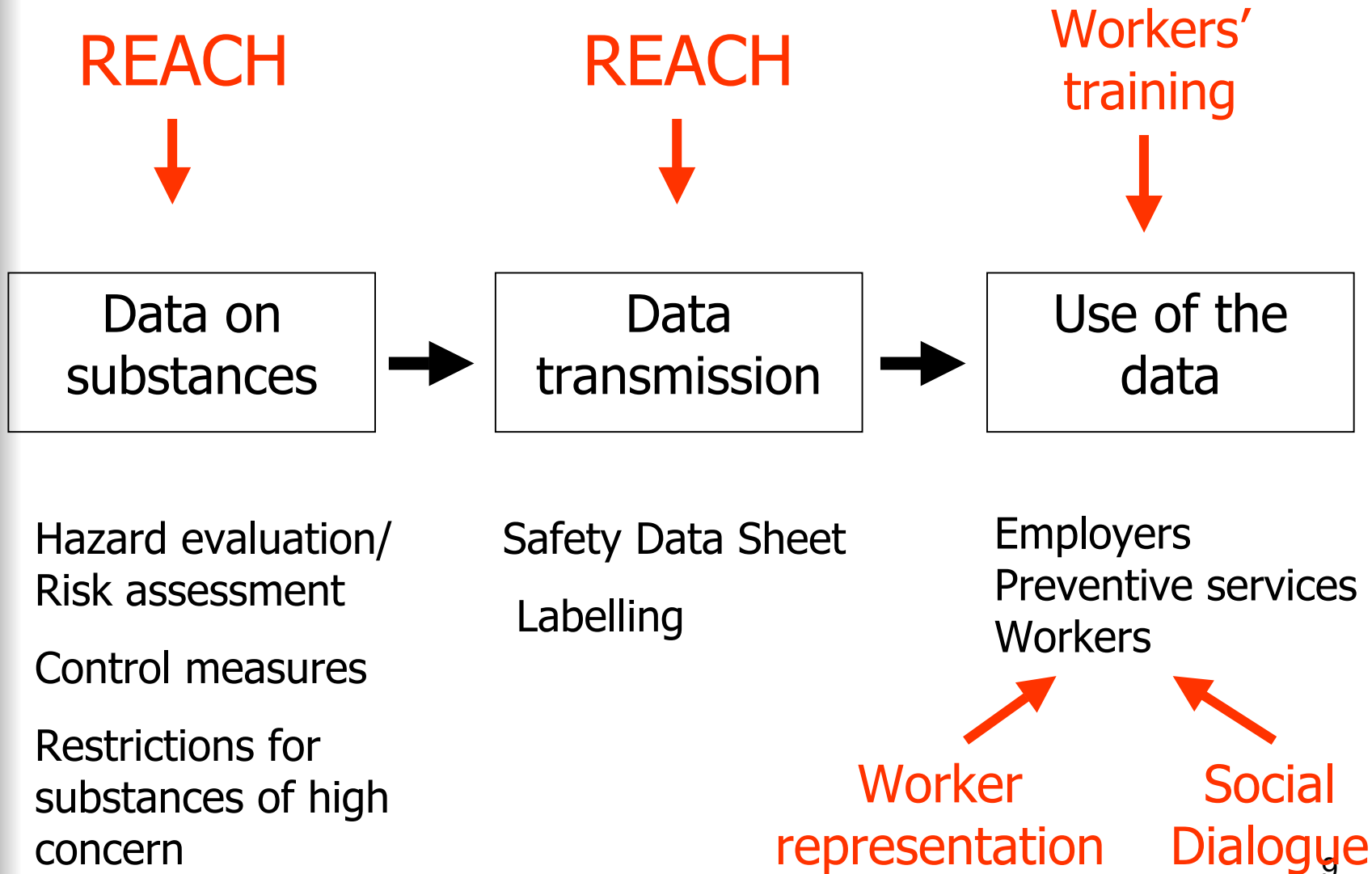
- to carry out a risk assessment
- to take the necessary preventive and protective measures



# The problems:

- Labelling of 1/3 of preparations on the market and 40 % of Safety Data Sheets do not comply with the regulations (ECLIPS, 2004)
- Many SMEs unaware that SDS exist
- Employers can only fulfil their obligations if aware of hazards & risks
- Complete data for only 3000 substances
- Gap in knowledge

# Data : where everything starts





REACH will improve the efficiency of the workers protection legislation, by:

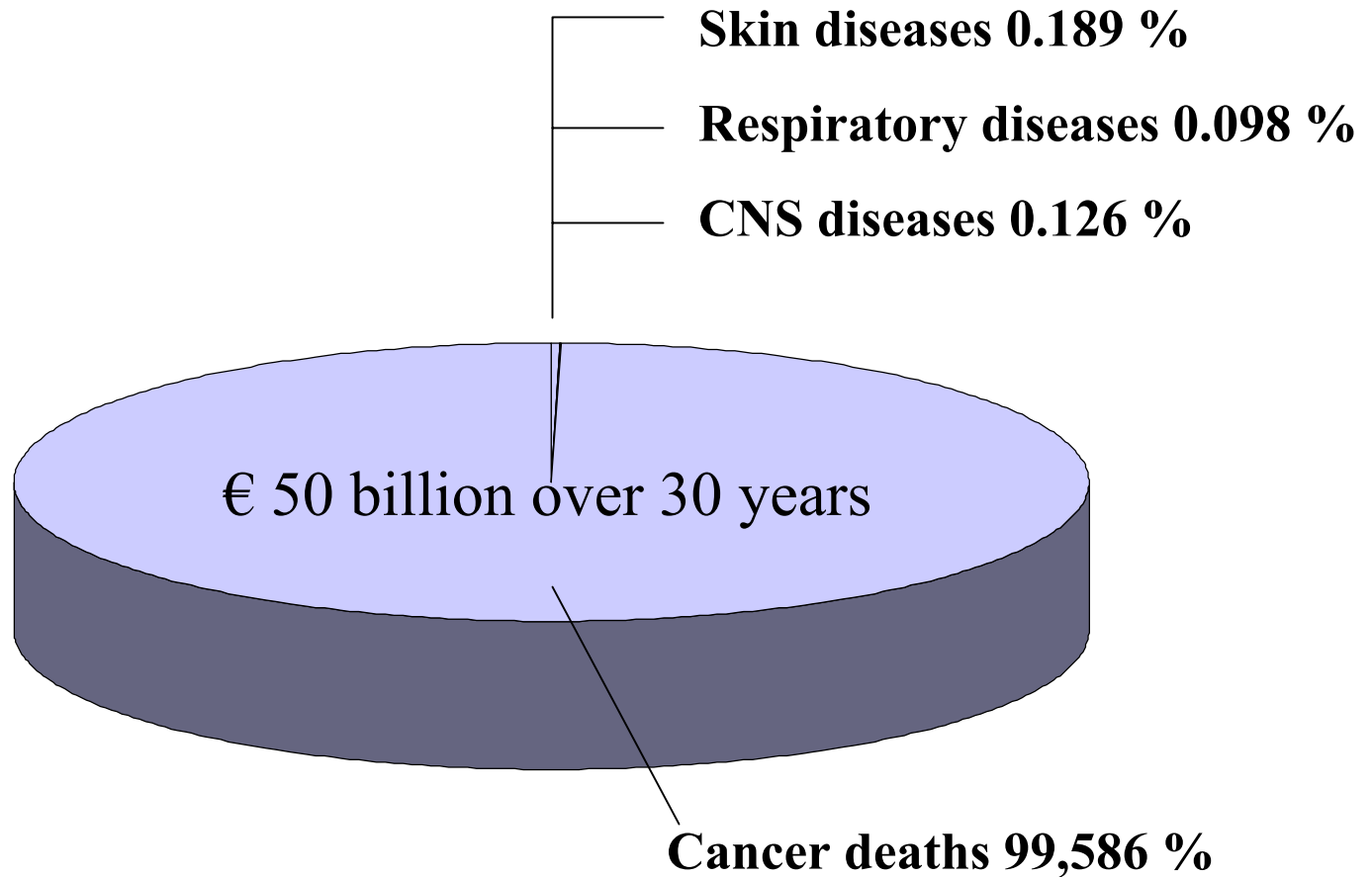
- providing missing information on their properties
- enforcing the efficient distribution of information through the supply chain
- encouraging the substitution of the most harmful substances via restrictive and authorisation procedures



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# Economic value of the future diseases avoided as a result of REACH ?



Source: RPA study, 2003

# Underdeclaration not taken into account in the RPA study:

	RPA study (estimation of recognised cases/year)*	LFS (self-reported cases/ year)*
Skin diseases	18 000	200 000 (x 11)
Respiratory diseases	17 000	600 000 (x 35)

\* In the EU-15

# Estimated benefits for « real » number of cases:

Assumption: real nb of cases = half nb of self-reported cases

	<b>RPA benefits estimation (€ million)</b>	<b>Correction factor</b>	<b>Our estimation (€ million)</b>
Skin diseases	<b>100</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>550</b>
Respiratory diseases	<b>50</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>875</b>
Total			<b>1 425</b>



## 4. Conclusions:

- REACH direct costs: € 2.3 billion
- REACH indirect costs: € 2.8-5.2 billion
- REACH benefits for occupational skin and respiratory diseases **only** : € 1.425 billion
- REACH threat or opportunity ?



further info on:

<http://tutb.etuc.org>