

ITALY



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

ITALY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON

'The right to science in the context of toxic substances'

March 2021

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Further to your query, we are in a position to provide the following remarks, for your information only:

1. The Italian Constitution explicitly recognizes the importance of science in the following three articles:

Art 9: The Republic promotes the development of culture and scientific and technical research. The Republic protects the landscape and the historical and artistic heritage of the nation.

Art. 33: Art and science are free and their teaching is free. The Republic dictates general rules on education and establishes state schools for all orders and degrees. Entities and private individuals have the right to establish schools and educational institutes, free of charge for the State. The law, in establishing the rights and obligations of non-state schools that demand parity, must ensure full freedom for them and their pupils an educational treatment equivalent to that of pupils in state schools...

Art. 59: ... The President of the Republic can appoint as Senator five citizens who have illustrated their homeland for outstanding merits in the social, scientific, artistic and literary fields.

2. Italy promotes the research and progress for the environment protection also through the creation the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale), established by law (Decree no. 112 of 25 June 2008, converted into Law no. 133 (with amendments) on 21 August 2008). The Institute works with numerous European and international environmental scientific and technical institutes and organizations, in the implementation of its institutional mandate and in cooperation with the Ministry for the Ecological Transition, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Ministry of University and Research.
3. Italy works in cooperation with the European Union and the other Member States to ensure that all the restrictions on substances and products put into the market have sound scientific bases. As a reference you can see <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008R1272> and <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=celex%3A32006R1907>
4. Italy encourages and supports the efforts of developing countries to promote environmental protection and the promotion of sustainable development. In this regard, Italy's commitment is realized through:
 - Bilateral collaboration programs, especially with the countries most vulnerable to climate change;
 - Multilateral cooperation programs, by supporting multilateral development banks and international funds;
 - Agreements with international organizations, partnerships and multilateral coalitions.

5. As a member of the European Union Italy is involved in the development of the new agreement that will replace the SAiCM, where one of the main discussion points regards the best way to address the interface between science and policy in a sound manner.
6. With reference to the REACH regulation, Italy has developed specific websites where citizens can find information on the upcoming measures on the limitation or the restriction of specific substances and they can send, in a transparent way their comment.