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## Sixth Stakeholders Day Participants Interviews

### Interview of Gaelle Avon, Regional Chamber of Commerce, France

**Gaelle Avon works for the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Lower Normandy, France. She is a chemical engineer by education and works as a Technology advisor for small and medium sized (SME) companies, to help them with substances of very high concern (SVHC) or with substances that present a risk for human health or the environment.**

1. *You help SMEs to find alternative solutions to the use of hazardous substances. How do you work in practice?*

Usually the SMEs come to me to see whether their substances fall under any regulation. If they do, I help them to substitute those substances. For example, I had one SME company that came to me with a chromic acid substance which was used in a process and we replaced it with another, less harmful process. You can't just substitute one substance with another, you have to look at the whole process to be able to find the best solutions.

2. *What are you most looking forward to most today at the ECHA Stakeholders' Day?*

I would like to find other people who are doing the same thing as I am! I don't think there are many. But I would really like to find a colleague who gives assistance to SMEs and to be able to exchange practices for the benefit of the SMEs.

3. *In general, what do you think are the greatest challenges for the SMEs?*

The main challenge for the SMEs is the change from what they know to the new regulations, which they know fairly little about.

4. *What are your expectations from ECHA?*

We now have all this data on substances of very high concern, which might fall under restriction or authorisation. And you know that at some point you won't be able to use these substances. But there is no solution for what you can do afterwards, how you can move forward. For SMEs there is a lack of information about the consequences of authorisation or restriction. I would really like ECHA to set up assistance for SMEs in relation to that.

