

# ECHA FINALLY ADOPTS OPINION ON ETHANOL AND SUPPORTS ITS APPROVAL IN DISINFECTANTS

A.I.S.E. press release

24 February 2026

**Brussels, 24 February 2026** – On 23 February 2026, the European Chemicals Agency’s (ECHA) Biocidal Products Committee (BPC) issued its opinion recommending the approval of ethanol for use in hand and general disinfectants under the EU Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR).

A.I.S.E. welcomes this positive and fundamental step. It demonstrates that Member States recognise ethanol’s indispensable role in infection prevention, along with its substantial socio-economic value for Europe’s healthcare systems, industries and daily life. This decision marks responsible progress on an issue that directly affects public health, consumer safety and supply chain resilience. Ethanol remains a cornerstone of hygiene across the EU; it is relied upon every day in hospitals, long-term care facilities, food production, workplaces and households. The BPC’s decision helps secure its continued availability under the BPR and supports the many sectors and professionals who depend on it to protect people’s health.

However, the process is not complete.

The BPC’s conclusion is a first step. The final decision now rests with the European Commission, which must adopt an Implementing Act that reflects the scientific findings and confirms ethanol’s approval as an active substance for biocidal uses.

Following this, the broader and more consequential debate on ethanol’s potential reclassification will shift into the EU Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) framework. As a result, ethanol remains exposed to regulatory uncertainty, and continued engagement from all affected sectors is critical to avoid disproportionate outcomes.

A.I.S.E. recognises and appreciates the significant mobilisation by associations, experts, industry stakeholders and partners behind the [#HandsUpForEthanol Joint Statement](#), which has now gathered 1,179 signatories. This collective effort has been vital in highlighting what is at stake for Europe’s hygiene infrastructure and public health systems.

Webinars, coordinated outreach, the Joint Statement and the #HandsUpForEthanol campaign have successfully engaged a broad community across sectors — momentum that must be sustained as the debate continues under the CLP framework.

A.I.S.E. remains fully committed to working constructively with EU institutions, national authorities and all partners to ensure that decisions concerning ethanol — both under the BPR and the upcoming CLP discussions — reflect science, practical experience and Europe’s public health needs.





**A.I.S.E. is the voice of the cleaning and hygiene products industry**

A.I.S.E. represents an industry that supplies essential detergents, cleaning and maintenance products, disinfectants and biocidal products for cleanliness and hygiene at home and in public spaces across Europe. Based in Brussels, the association has been the voice of the industry since 1952.

Membership includes 30 national associations across Europe, 19 corporate members, and 18 value chain partners, collectively representing a broad network of over 900 companies supplying household and professional cleaning and hygiene products and services. The A.I.S.E. network works with EU and national decision-makers to strengthen the Single Market through innovative, science-based solutions that ensure user safety, environmental protection, and regulatory compliance. [www.aise.eu](http://www.aise.eu)

**Contact:** Nicole Vaini, Head of EU Affairs [nicole.vaini@aise.eu](mailto:nicole.vaini@aise.eu)

