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ECHA | Newsletter

Welcome to the Stakeholders´ Day on 19 May!

ECHA
European Chemicals Agency

Supporting You

At the end of March, Vice-President Antonio Tajani, Industry and Entrepreneurship, and Commissioner for Environment Janez Potočnik visited ECHA together and stressed their joint support for the successful implementation of REACH and the Regulation for Classification, Labelling and Packaging. The Commissioners targeted their supportive message particulary to small and medium sized enterprises, recognising their need for special assistance. They also announced the breaking of deadlocks in the authorisation process and their intention to increase the number of Substances of Very High Concern on the Candidate List.

Last week, several Members of the European Parliament´s Environment Committee visited us and expressed their support for REACH and CLP and their desire to help us all make it a success. In their view, ECHA should get more resources to undertake the many tasks under REACH, CLP and biocides legislation.

These manifestations of support are especially important for companies. For you, the short-term effect of the new regulations is the need to comply quickly with challenging laws under difficult market conditions.

But also for ECHA it is important that all possible obstacles are removed as fast as possible. Therefore I am especially happy that it was possible to set up a Directors´ Coordination Group to deal with all difficult issues together with industry and the Commission. You can read about this group's recommendations on page 3.

With the first registration deadline on 30 November approaching, I encourage all companies to make progress urgently to rise to the challenge and comply in the best possible way that you can. In future you will be able to profit from increased information and insight and the facilitated market entry to new chemicals.

We are here to help you to meet your obligations. I warmly welcome all stakeholders and in particular the Lead Registrants to our next Stakeholders´ Day in Helsinki on 19 May.

May I also thank all our readers who responded to the Newsletter survey. Hopefully you can already see the difference. We will report more fully in the next issue.

"I encourage all companies to rise to the challenge to comply"

Geert Dancet,
Executive Director

In this Issue

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Disclaimer: The views presented in the Newsletter do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Chemicals Agency. All the links are up to date at the time of publication.

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The clock is ticking

The Directors´ Contact Group

Recommendations for Substance Information Exchange Forums

In January, ECHA, the European Commission and six industry associations set up a Directors´ Contact Group to find solutions to concerns on registering chemicals for the 2010 REACH deadline. On 8 April, the Group agreed to a number of recommendations for SIEFs to try to facilitate the registration process. In the following interview, ECHA's Director for Cooperation Andreas Herdina provides a summary of the main results of the work so far.

Andreas, which are the most important results of the Directors´ Contact Group to date?

The Contact Group has identified 27 issues to work on. Some solutions are already being implemented and all of them should be resolved by 1 June. Seven issues were prioritised as complex or as having widespread impact on industry´s efforts to fulfil their registration obligations.

On 8 April, the Contact Group agreed on a few recommendations relating to the practical functioning of the Substance Information Exchange Forums (SIEFs), and on how to handle late participants in the SIEFs.

The Group recommends open communication between Lead Registrants and the SIEF members regarding the planning for the submission of the registration dossiers.

It is also recommended that the SIEF should agree on a date after which discussions should to be frozen and further changes to the dossiers should only be considered for updating after submission. On the "freezing day", the SIEF should stop accepting previously dormant members; and should also stop discussions on the sameness of substance; on operational rules; on identifying data gaps and sharing existing data; on the classification and labelling of the substance; and on the finalising of the Chemical Safety Report if it has been prepared collectively. This would all help to ensure that the Lead Dossier can be submitted on time.

The Lead Registrants would be responsible for setting the freezing date, but this should be done in the context of their obligation to ensure that all SIEF members have enough time to provide others with studies and information. The Directors´ Contact Group recommends setting the freezing date for any of the above activities two months before the planned submission date.

Small and medium-sized enterprises working in SIEFs and consortia need support, and the Commission will encourage Member States to use all available structures to provide support to SMEs and in particular to ensure that national helpdesks have adequate resources.

If it is suspected that no manufacturing of a substance is taking place within the EU and it could be difficult to find a volunteer to take the Lead Registrant role, the Group will raise awareness in industry of the potential problems so that the market can react.

How about the survey on companies´ intentions to register?

According to the answers ECHA received to the survey directly or via trade associations, companies plan to register around 4500 substances by the 2010 deadline. As the ratio between the number of substances and the number of legal entities submitting dossiers is higher than once assumed, ECHA has not changed its estimates of the overall number of expected registration dossiers (28,000–35,000).

Industry associations will call again on Lead Registrants to identify themselves to ECHA as soon as possible, to reduce remaining uncertainties. ECHA has published a list of the substances due for registration in 2010 on its website to allow downstream users to assess whether it indicates an intended registration of the substances in which they are interested.

ECHA, the European Commission and six industry associations established the so-called Directors' Contact Group in January 2010 to identify and address issues of concern to registrants, to establish a survey on the preparedness of industry and other actors for registration and to resolve the most important issues considered to be relevant to secure the supply of high volume substances to downstream users.

The Contact Group brings together the industry associations CEFIC, Eurométaux, REACH Alliance, Concawe, FECC and UEAPME, two Directors of the European Commission with responsibility for REACH and ECHA´s Executive Director Geert Dancet. At ECHA, their work is supported by Directors Christel Musset and Andreas Herdina.

The industry associations represent the interests of registrants from specialised, large industry to small and medium-sized enterprises. Some questions discussed will also be relevant to downstream users and others not directly represented, but Director Andreas Herdina says that these users are in contact with the associations and can make their interests known in this way.

Electronic Invoicing

As of 25 March 2010, ECHA will *only* provide companies with invoices electronically via REACH-IT. Until now, ECHA has sent registrants paper invoices in addition to the electronic invoices, reminders and credit notes visible in REACH-IT.

ECHA received several requests from companies indicating a preference for receiving invoices in electronic form because the 'double' sending of invoices was leading to confusion.

As of 25 March onwards, a REACH-IT account is the only place an invoice can be viewed. Companies will be informed through an automatic message to their REACH-IT account that the invoice is available for downloading. The invoice can then be downloaded and viewed in PDF format. Similar automatic messages will notify companies of credit notes and invoice reminders.

The information filled into the "Billing company information" tab in REACH-IT is the information that will appear on the invoice.

REACH-IT 2.0 is live

The new REACH-IT (2.0) was released on 25 March. It includes many new features for industry such as group Classification and Labelling notifications, Legal Entity Change and Cease Manufacture declarations. In addition the manuals available on the ECHA website have been revised as a result of significant changes made to dossier submissions in the new release of REACH-IT. Completely new manuals have been published on Legal Entity Change and on Classification and Labelling.

Along with the new release of REACH-IT a new version of the Technical Completeness Check (TCC) plug-in was also launched. REACH-IT 2.0 only accepts dossiers created by IUCLID 5.2. This new version of the TCC tool is fully compatible with IUCLID 5.2 and allows registrants to verify the technical completeness of their dossier before submitting it to REACH-IT. Usage of this TCC tool has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of failed Technical Completeness Checks.

Review of Guidance

on requirements for substances in articles

In late spring 2008, and following its hand-over from the Commission, ECHA published on its website the Guidance on requirements for substances in articles. This guidance document explains and illustrates the provisions of the REACH Regulation that apply to substances in articles. It is aimed at:

- Persons responsible for REACH compliance within companies producing, importing and/or supplying articles in the European Economic Area (EEA), in particular purchasing, production and sales managers.
- Only Representatives of non-EEA companies producing and exporting articles to the EEA.
- Experts from industry associations and other stakeholder organisations informing companies about the requirements for substances in articles under REACH.

The guidance also makes reference to dissenting views from Member States (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany and Sweden) with regard to the application of the 0.1 % threshold (**http://guidance.echa.europa.eu/docs/guidance_document/dissenting_en.pdf**). This threshold is important regarding the notification and communication obligations companies may face and applies to the article as produced/imported.

After its publication, ECHA undertook to review the guidance as soon as possible in order to seek the broadest possible consensus. To this end, in November 2008 ECHA started to contract out the preparatory work required for such an update. The consultation process in relation to this revised Guidance on requirements for substances in articles was launched in 2009 and is still in progress. The first step of the consultation, i.e. with the Partner Expert Group (PEG), has been finalised. A PEG meeting took place on 20 November 2009 in a constructive atmosphere where all involved parties got the opportunity to explain their views. The consultations of both the Forum and the Member State Committee were carried out in parallel and are now close to completion. The last step of the consultation, with the CARACAL, will be launched in due course over the forthcoming months.

The revised guidance document has been restructured in order to make it more helpful for interested parties dealing with articles and provides more practical advice and examples based on the experience gained over the past two years. The document has been further improved and amended on the basis of the comments provided in the course of the consultation process. The revised document has not introduced new concepts or new interpretations but has clarified some unclear wording. Duplicate information relating to communication in the supply chain in the existing guidance has been removed and some new examples on borderline cases have been added to make the guidance more complete.

Similarly to what was expressed in the Guidance on requirements for substances in articles (version May 2008), the 0.1% threshold applies to the article as produced/imported. However, six EU Member States, as well as Norway, have informed ECHA that according to their view, the 0.1% threshold should apply only to components or homogeneous parts of articles.

A footnote was added to the Guidance on requirements for substances in articles in 2008 to inform companies that the enforcement authorities of these EU Member States may enforce this part of the REACH Regulation differently. ECHA and the Commission do not endorse the interpretation of the 0.1% threshold taken by the Member States with the dissenting views.

Visit by European Commission and European Parliament




Vice-President *Antonio Tajani (left) and Commissioner Janez Potočnik visited ECHA and also met the Finnish Minister of Migration and European Affairs, Astrid Thors. On 8 April, the EP´s Environment Committee paid its official visit to ECHA. Ms Mairead McGuinness (right) wanted to hear more about decision-making. More photographs:* **http://echa.europa.eu/news/images_en.asp**

On 25 March, Vice-President Antonio Tajani, Industry and Entrepreneurship, and Commissioner for the Environment Janez Potočnik visited ECHA. The Commissioners expressed their strong support for industry, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, in the fulfilment of their registration and notification obligations. They also underlined their support for ECHA and its staff, recognising especially the hard work done in the Agency from the very beginning.

The Commissioners informed ECHA´s management, stakeholders and staff about their agreement on the need for a substitution plan for the socio-economic route of the authorisation process. This agreement lifts a deadlock in the authorisation process. The Commissioners intend to have an additional 106 Substances of Very High Concern added to the Candidate List by 2012, and they have agreed on criteria for identifying substances as persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) or very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB). See the Commission´s website (**http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/360&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en**).

Stakeholders participating in the event greeted the Commissioners´ announcements but had special concerns such as the number of substances on the Candidate List and updates of guidance documents.

Environment Committee on visit

On 8 April, the representatives of the European Parliament´s Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety paid an official visit to ECHA. Members of Parliament Mr Jo Leinen, Chair of the Committee, Ms Satu Hassi, Ms Christa Klass, Mr Holger Krahmer, Ms Linda McAvan, Ms Jutta Haug, Ms Mairead McGuinness and ECHA´s new Management Board members nominated by the Parliament, Mr Guido Sacconi and Mr Hartmut Nassauer, were interested in hearing about the implementation of REACH and ECHA´s financial and staff resources. They also met with ECHA staff. Mr Leinen stressed to the staff that REACH is the corner stone in the EU´s environment policy and a model for the whole world. The European Parliament expects from ECHA high scientific capacity, independence, transparency and efficiency.

Learning by doing

"It is good for us to visit ECHA so that we can talk to the public about what this Agency does, its enormity", said Ms Mairead McGuinness, Member of the European Parliament and a substitute member of the Environment Committee, to the ECHA Newsletter."We are the world´s first, and this is also a huge challenge! It would be easier to follow and not make mistakes if somebody else was ahead of us. But unfortunately – or fortunately – we are the leaders, so we have to learn by doing, and perhaps by making mistakes."

She added that visiting ECHA also helped to understand what should be taken into account better in the future. "While we legislate and create agencies, we should fully anticipate the next steps and how the agency will evolve, what its difficulties will be and what you need to be very conscious of, like the front-loading of resources or dealing with stakeholders."

At the meeting with ECHA´s staff, Ms McGuinness asked about the independence of ECHA´s decisions and was satisfied with the answers given. "I think you are open and transparent," she said.

Ms McGuinness stressed that small and medium sized companies in particular often do not have the resources to be fully involved in REACH. "Many times their issues are not heard. But you have good structures in place in order to hear stakeholders."

Satu Hassi

Simple copy-pasting

25 March 2010 ECHA

(Commissioners´ visit to ECHA)

For Ms Satu Hassi, Member of the European Parliament and the contact person of the Environment Committee for ECHA, the REACH announcements of the Commissioners on 25 March in ECHA were big steps forward but not yet enough.

"The PBT criteria should have been cleared by December 2008. But I am very happy that this issue will be corrected," said Ms Hassi after the announcement. For her, the solution also the solution concerning substitution plans in the authorisation process is also only partial. "It is not yet clear when the first substances will be listed on Annex XIV, but here too I am curious to see what happens in reality."

"As regards the Candidate List, there are 500 substances, non-intermediates, which are known to meet the criteria of Substances of Very High Concern. It has been a joke that there were only 29 substances on that list, and this has completely diluted one important principle in REACH which is the consumer´s right to ask in the shop if there are hazardous chemicals in the product. This right is limited to the Candidate List substances. It is a big step forward that there will soon be 135 substances on the list, but I hope that the speed will accelerate rather than slow down.

I myself and many others expect that it is a simple copy-paste thing to add the substances that are known to be carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction, or persistent, bioaccumulative or toxic, or very persistent and very bioaccumulative, to the Candidate List. Copy-pasting was also done with the Cosmetics Directive. I still think that the procedure could be the same for the Candidate List. Compiling the list should be simple, with the next steps being more complicated.

Does my company have duties under REACH?

▸ Implementing the Regulation for Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) is a massive undertaking and with it comes many challenges for all concerned. For companies there can be many difficulties in understanding ***how*** or indeed ***if*** they are affected by REACH. One way in which registrants can find out their obligations under REACH is by using the Navigator.

The Navigator is an interactive tool allowing companies to find out easily what their obligations are under REACH by answering a few simple questions in relation to their substance. For any company coming to REACH for the first time, it can be a daunting prospect. Using the navigator tool can quickly give you an initial indication as to whether you have obligations under REACH. If you do, then it directs you to information with regard to these obligations. It can be used by anyone and although up until now it has only been available in English, as of 25 March 2010 it will be available in all 22 official languages. ECHA provides 20 translated versions while the Polish and French versions are provided by their Competent Authorities.

This tool is quite easy to use – it is a simple yes/no sequence of questions. Depending on your answers you will be directed to the appropriate guidance document or instructions.

How to find the Navigator:

- Go to the Guidance website **http://guidance.echa.europa.eu**
- Choose your language from the drop down menu on the right hand side of the screen
- Click the grey Navigator button at the top of the page
- Start by clicking on "**Start a new Navigator session"** in the "Use the Navigator" box

Acrylamide on the Candidate List

▸ On 30 March, ECHA added acrylamide (EC No 201-173-7 and CAS No 79-06-1) to the Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern for Authorisation. Companies dealing with acrylamide will need to check whether they have obligations resulting from the listing. A short summary of these obligations is available on ECHA´s website.

ECHA´s Member State Committee unanimously identified acrylamide as a substance of very high concern (SVHC) in December 2009. In January 2010, two chemical companies brought an action before the General Court of the European Union seeking the annulment of ECHA's decision to identify acrylamide as a SVHC. The two companies claim that acrylamide is an intermediate and, as such, not subject to the Authorisation Title under REACH, including inclusion on the Candidate List. The case was registered by the Court as Case T-1/10.

The inclusion of acrylamide in the Candidate List was temporarily suspended by the General Court of the European Union due to an application for interim measures in Case T-1/10 R requesting the suspension of the inclusion of acrylamide in the Candidate List. On 26 March 2010 the President of the General Court of the European Union dismissed the application for interim measures in Case T-1/10 R, ruling that the inclusion of acrylamide could be published. A non-confidential version of the Order is published at **http://curia.europa.eu/jurisp/cgi-bin/form.pl?lang=en** (search with case number T-1/10).

The main proceedings brought by the Applicants seeking the annulment of ECHA's decision to include acrylamide in the Candidate List will continue.

Summary of the obligations linked to the Candidate List:
http://echa.europa.eu/chem_data/authorisation_process/candidate_list_obligations_en.asp

Authorisation process:
http://echa.europa.eu/chem_data/authorisation_process_en.asp

Mr Richard Bishop,
Chair of the Forum:

See Forum documents at **http://www.echa.europa.eu/about/organisation/forum_en.asp**

Inspector Richard Bishop, Chair of the Forum for Exchange of Information on Enforcement, is also in charge of REACH enforcement across the UK. He says that the vast majority of companies want to comply with REACH.

Mr Bishop, how is enforcement progressing in the Member States *

Enforcement is progressing very favourably. Our first project, REACH-EN-FORCE 1 in 2009, resulted in inspections in nearly 1600 companies across 25 European countries. It focused on registration and safety data sheet duties of manufacturers and importers. The Forum will publish the factual report soon. The amount of inspections exceeded my expectations, and I would like to thank all those involved.

The next project will focus on formulators, although we will discuss further projects at our May meeting. We also currently have Working Groups looking into cooperation with customs authorities, electronic information exchange systems for enforcement, access to REACH-IT and enforceability of restrictions. We will also hold an enforcement workshop with our stakeholders in May.

Are companies aware of their obligations?

REACH has been very heavily publicised, and great efforts have been made by authorities, stakeholders and trade associations. Still, not every company will know their obligations. But I believe that any company that tries to keep up to date with legislative developments will certainly have heard about REACH, and will be able to find a lot of information and advice.

Do all countries participate in your projects?

The vast majority participated in the first project, and I expect the same with the second one. Smaller projects might involve less countries in cases where the subject matter is not as directly relevant to all.

* In this case the expression Member States includes the EEA countries Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstain.

Are the customs authorities involved in enforcement?

According to a Forum survey, most Member States have not designated their customs authorities REACH enforcing authorities. Our working group is now considering further steps and preparing guidance for customs authorities on how to check compliance with central REACH requirements. If the customs authorities have not been designated REACH enforcing authorities, other enforcing authorities need to ensure that goods in contravention are not imported.

So the enforcement regime differs from country to country?

The Member States are responsible for devising and implementing their own enforcement regimes, but we have a common enforcement strategy, minimum criteria for REACH inspections and coordinated enforcement projects. While the enforcement regimes do differ, the enforcement approach is becoming very coordinated.

How about the Only Representatives?

They are under active consideration (they were subject to inspection in the REACH-EN-FORCE1 project, for instance). A concern are the "mailbox companies" which pre-registered many substances in a particular country but do not appear to be physically present.

Will the inspectors soon have access to REACH-IT?

A system called RIPE will provide inspectors with access to much information from REACH-IT without having to go through their competent authority. The lead is with ECHA, and RIPE should go live in December.

Which challenges do you see in the near future?

REACH is such a broad-ranging Regulation – it is relevant to occupational health and safety, environmental protection, public health and consumer protection and it places duties on the vast majority of companies across Europe. To ensure coordination, cooperation and exchange of information between potentially hundreds of regulatory authorities is a challenge. It is also very important that industry is engaged and enthusiastic and will comply by itself as far as possible, without regulatory intervention. This means there must also be good communication and cooperation both up and down supply chains. The biggest challenges immediately ahead will be the 2010 registration deadline and enforcement of the provisions of the Regulation on Classification, Labelling and Packaging that will come into effect at the same time.

How did you get involved with REACH?

I previously worked as a general inspector for the Health and Safety Executive, the principal occupational health and safety regulator in Great Britain. An opportunity arose to move to this more specialised area, and I now work for the UK REACH Competent Authority, overseeing REACH enforcement across the UK. This role includes coordinating the liaison between the UK enforcement authorities.

What is your personal impression as inspector?

I have already visited a very wide range of companies with duties under REACH. One of the impressions you are left with is how broad a piece of legislation this is and how many areas it potentially can apply to.

I have been greatly encouraged by the desire to comply by the vast majority of companies. So I am very positive about the enforcement situation. I see a willingness and desire to comply.

Competent network with a variety of services

This year is a very important and challenging one for the registrants of phase-in substances, with the first registration deadline being 30 November 2010 and the CLP notification deadline 3 January 2011. It is estimated that over 25,000 registration dossiers will be submitted to ECHA. With so many dossiers being prepared, ECHA receives a large number of questions from companies all over Europe. Doris Thiemann, team leader of the ECHA Helpdesk says that the National Helpdesks and ECHA are well prepared to provide a variety of services for industry in 2010.

"ECHA´s customer service, with the ECHA Helpdesk as its backbone, consists of several different elements which are aimed to provide registrants and notifiers with harmonised, transparent and high-quality information," says Doris Thiemann. She is team leader of the ECHA Helpdesk and was one of the first employees to join the Agency. With over ten years of experience with REACH, Doris has been a key figure in the planning and establishing of the ECHA Helpdesk. Due to her unique background, her colleagues and friends have given her the nickname "Mrs Helpdesk".

Doris says that in addition to the Helpdesk services, ECHA also offers workshops and other expert advice in order to help companies. The Stakeholders' Day on 19 May will allow Lead Registrants to discuss detailed questions in one-to-one sessions with ECHA staff. In addition, ECHA is delivering a series of webinars for Lead Registrants. They provide key information and hands-on advice as to how to successfully prepare and submit a registration dossier.

ECHA has also opened an online Discussion Forum for Lead Registrants where they can share best practice. ECHA will additionally provide an outbound phone service for companies during 2010, the approach being to target those companies with a particular need and then contact them by phone.

Doris knows that industry would prefer to have a more individual and tailor-made service and a hotline for companies wishing to contact ECHA directly. But according to her, a hotline would almost certainly become overcrowded with straightforward questions that could be answered by email and would probably not resolve the problem faced by companies requiring individual advice for complex problems. For many of the straightforward issues that are regularly encountered the quickest way to respond remains the use of standard replies by email. Doris stresses that there are many ways in which companies can contact ECHA, through email, during webinars or any other means.

Member Registrants – a shared responsibility

While ECHA is targeting significant resources towards this particular customer service, it also continues to provide support to the National REACH and CLP Helpdesks which assist Member Registrants and those facing the Classification and Labelling deadline of 3 January 2011. Doris notes that a big step forward was taken as early as January 2007 when a network of all National REACH Helpdesks was established. Currently a fully functional network exists, called HelpNet. Its ultimate goal is to work together and provide harmonised answers for companies on a European level. The HelpNet has included the National CLP Helpdesks since October 2009.

ECHA organises frequent training sessions for National Helpdesks, such as hands-on training for the IT-tools used by industry. Since 2009, National Helpdesks have been regularly visited as part of an exchange program.

ECHA has also invited the National Helpdesks to four webinars on 28 and 29 April. The webinars focus on Member Registrants and cover how to identify the required information for registration, how to report this information in a IUCLID dossier and how then to submit it to the Agency via REACH-IT. The webinars will be published on the ECHA website and distributed more widely by each National Helpdesk.

Doris says that thanks to the support given by the HelpNet Secretariat in ECHA, the National Helpdesks are now fully prepared for the upcoming deadlines faced by industry in 2010 and 2011.

Doris Thiemann *is happy to know that a competent network of Helpdesks is there to assist companies preparing for the 2010 and 2011 deadlines.*

ECHA´s Stakeholders´ Day 19 May 2010

Individual assistance for Lead Registrants in special sessions

ECHA´s Stakeholders´ Day on 19 May is dedicated to providing information and guidance on the registration of substances and on classification and labelling notifications. Additionally, during the one-to-one sessions, Lead Registrants will receive detailed answers to their individual registration or notification questions. These individual meetings with ECHA experts must be booked in advance when registering for the event on ECHA´s website.

The programme of the fourth Stakeholders' Day is divided into three plenary sessions, each followed by a question and answer session:

Tips and tools for Registration and C&L notification: ECHA will provide an update on the state of play of the new CLP regulation and stakeholders will receive an overview of the latest developments concerning IT tools for C&L notifications and the Chemical Safety Reporting (CSR) tool, Chesar.

Feedback from Registration and Evaluation: ECHA will present the current state of play of the registration, evaluation and compliance check processes.

Dissemination: ECHA staff and industry representatives will discuss the information on registered chemicals that is published on the ECHA website and its value to industry.

Invaluable guidance *at ECHA´s Stakeholders´ Day.*

In parallel with the last plenary session, Lead Registrants and candidate Lead Registrants will have the opportunity to meet ECHA experts in one-to-one sessions and discuss in detail the problems they are facing in the preparation of joint registrations and C&L notifications. Questions should focus on the following topics: *Substance Identification, Classification and Labelling, Data Sharing and Dissemination, Business Rules, Technical Completeness Checks, Information Requirements* and *Chemical Safety Reports.*

The one-to-one slots, each lasting up to 20 minutes, will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Participants who wish to have such a meeting with ECHA staff should send their questions in advance when registering for the event. More than 100 one-to-one slots will be available.

Many of the more frequently asked questions will be dealt with in ECHA´s webinars prior to the Stakeholders´ Day, and ECHA would like to stress that the one-to-one sessions are an excellent opportunity to ask very detailed questions concerning individual registration dossiers.

You can register for the Stakeholders' Day via the Events section of the ECHA website. Participation in the event is free of charge. The venue can host 500 participants.

The Day is open to all, but it is particularly relevant for those companies who have registration and notification deadlines in 2010/2011. Industry associations, other companies, national authorities, NGOs, third country representatives and the media are also cordially invited to participate.

http://echa.europa.eu/news/events/4rd_stakeholders_day_en.asp

The Second Global Helsinki Chemicals Forum 20–21 May 2010

Helsinki will host two major chemical related events this May. The second global **Helsinki Chemicals Forum (HCF)** will take place on the **20–21 May 2010** at the Helsinki Exhibition and Convention Centre and ECHA´s 4th Stakeholders' Day will take place on the 19 May at the same venue.

The first HCF turned out to be a great success and was attended by delegates from all over the world. In 2010 the HCF will focus on four new, challenging themes related to chemicals policy and chemistry as a science:

- Chemical Regulation – Global Challenges;
- Chemical Policies – Emerging Economies;
- Competitiveness – Financial Constraints;
- Green Chemistry – Solution Provider?

The keynote speakers of the event will be President Martti Ahtisaari, the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Professor Paul J Crutzen, the 1995 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry.

New Head of Corporate Services Unit

Ms Vivien Loxton has been appointed as the Head of Unit for the new Corporate Services Unit. She is British but lived in Spain for over 20 years before moving to Finland. Since November 2008, she has been the Finance and Contracts Officer at ECHA.

Before joining ECHA, Vivien worked at OHIM, the EU trade mark and designs agency in Alicante, for over 13 years. At OHIM, she gained a wide range of experience in areas such as meetings and missions management, space management, documentation and archives, business continuity management, internal communication, technical cooperation projects, financial management, etc. and occupied various posts including Resources and Project Manager, Head of Financial Control Sector and Legal Officer.

Outside of ECHA, Vivien's main hobby is her large family of four kids aged between 12 and 21, two dogs, a chipmunk, several fish and a horse!

New Head of Human Resources

Mr Jens Debus has been appointed as ECHA's new Head of Unit – Human Resources. Mr Debus has 20 years experience in all aspects of international human resources management, having worked and lived in several countries. He started his professional career as a recruitment officer with the United Nations in Mexico City and Vienna, followed by HR consultancy work in Latin America & Africa and more than five years in a fast moving consumer goods company in Central & Eastern Europe.

As the Head of Human Resources Expatriate Management at the European aircraft manufacturer Airbus, Mr Debus was based in Hamburg and Toulouse and managed all international assignments. Prior to joining ECHA, he held the position of Head of Human Resources for TNS Europe, one of the leading market research companies.

Mr Debus was born in Hamburg in Germany. He is married with two grown up children and he enjoys people & cultures, travelling, running and ballroom dancing.

From the ECHA Management Board

At its 17th meeting on 4–5 March 2010, the Management Board approved the draft budget and establishment plan for 2011.

The total budget proposal amounts to € 107.800.000, representing an increase of 25% compared to 2010. It is planned that ECHA will be fee financed in 2011 and not receive a subsidy from the European Union. For REACH and CLP activities, thirty new temporary agents are foreseen in the establishment plan in the areas of evaluation, authorisation and the provision of scientific advice. The draft budget also foresees a limited EU subsidy and staffing for preparatory activities for the new EU biocides legislation currently in preparation.

The Board also adopted the multi-annual staff policy plan 2011–2013 and endorsed the publication of the draft multi-annual work programme 2011–2013 on the ECHA webpage. All interested parties are invited to submit comments on the programme until 9 May 2010.

Helmut De Vos (BE) and Arwyn Davies (UK) were formally appointed to the Board as of December 2009, taking the place of Marc Leemans and John Roberts.

Guido Sacconi and Hartmut Nassauer have been nominated as independent persons appointed by the European Parliament to the Board for four years as from March 2010.

ECHA Recruitment: http://echa.europa.eu/opportunities_en.asp

Statistics on dossiers *in different phases*

After a dossier has been uploaded, REACH-IT performs various process steps. This overall processing of a dossier can be divided into two parts, namely pre-processing and processing.

The pre-processing is obligatory for all dossier types and includes the virus scan, file format and business rules validation steps. The business rules verifications step checks if dossiers submitted contain all relevant information to be able to further process the dossier. The Data Submission Manual part 4 (How to pass business rule verification), available on the ECHA website, can be used as a business rule navigator to help registrants in creating their dossier.

During the processing, a technical completeness check (TCC) and a financial completeness check are made, and they result in an overall completeness check, issuing of a reference number and the sending of a decision to inform the company of the outcome.

The data provided is no longer reported by the submission date but by the number of dossiers undergoing pre-processing or processing during the given period.

The first part of the statistics report on dossiers that have gone through the pre-processing procedure and the second part is on dossiers that have reached the end of the processing procedure. Data is provided for the following dossier types; inquiries, registration of on-site isolated intermediates (OSII), registration of transported isolated intermediates (TII), 'standard' registrations, product and process oriented research and development notifications (PPORD) and classification and labelling notifications (C&L). Inquiries and C&L notification dossiers do not undergo a TCC under Article 20 of REACH and are thus not included in the processing data.

The dossiers that have passed the pre-processing stage are also provided by country. Tables providing yearly information include the number of dossiers (pre-)processed up to the refresh date indicated above the tables. The dossiers taken into account in the pre-processing table and in the processing table are not necessarily the same dossiers and therefore numbers can not be compared.

I PRE-PROCESSING

Dossiers accepted for processing in 2010

	1.Inquiry	2.OSII	3.TII	4.Reg	5.PPORD	6.C&L	Sum:
Germany	76	43	89	115	19	162	504
The Netherlands	27	1	8	37	6	38	117
Belgium	14	1	18	21	5	39	98
United Kingdom	35		14	28	4	13	94
Spain	16	5	26	12		31	90
France	29	8	13	23	3	4	80
Italy	24	2	11	7	5	1	50
Ireland	22	4	5	1	3		35
Sweden	9	2	7		2		20
Finland	4	1	1	11		1	18
Luxembourg	7			8			15
Austria	2		2	2	2		8
Norway				4			4
Slovakia		2		1	1		4
Denmark	1			2			3
Hungary	2			1			3
Malta			3				3
Cyprus				2			2
Czech Republic				1		1	2
Poland	1			1			2
Portugal				1			1
Romania				1			1

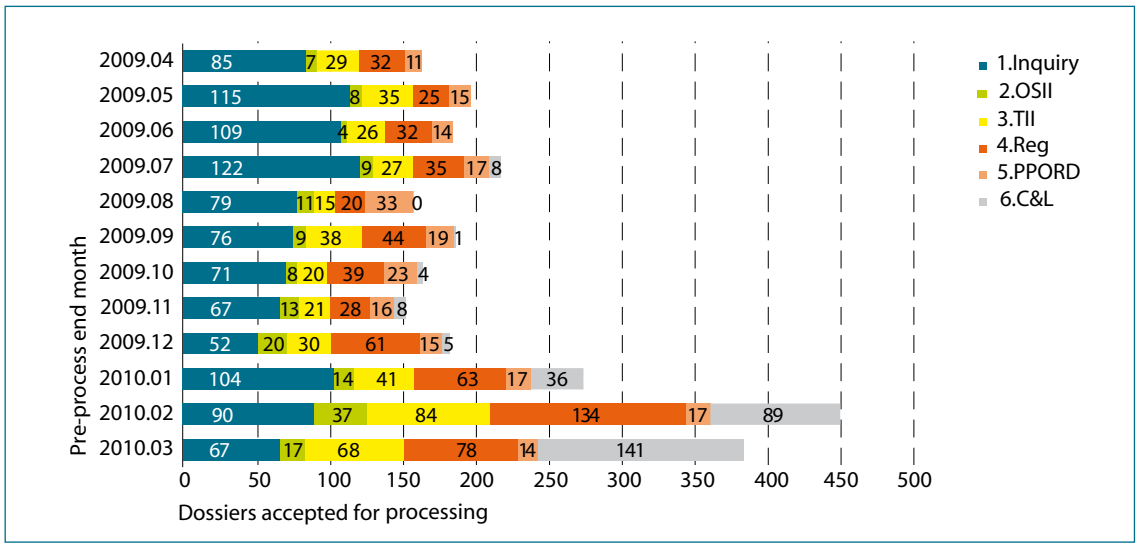
Refresh date: 07 April 2010

Year	Dossier Type	Accepted for Processing
2009	1.Inquiry	1034
	2.OSII	110
	3.TII	284
	4.Reg	362
	5.PPORD	226
	6.C&L	26
	Sum:	**2042**

Year	Dossier Type	Accepted for Processing
2010	1.Inquiry	269
	2.OSII	69
	3.TII	197
	4.Reg	279
	5.PPORD	50
	6.C&L	290
	Sum:	**1154**

Refresh date: 07 April 2010

NOTE: Yearly table includes all dossiers until the report refresh date.



II PROCESSING

Processed dossiers:

Year	Dossier Type	Accepted	TCC Processing failure %
2009	2.OSII	84	22 %
	3.TII	194	31 %
	4.Reg	211	41 %
	5.PPORD	210	4 %
	Sum:	**699**	**27 %**

Year	Dossier Type	Accepted	TCC Processing failure %
2010	2.OSII	55	8 %
	3.TII	162	12 %
	4.Reg	222	10 %
	5.PPORD	45	0 %
	Sum:	**484**	**9 %**

Refresh date: 07 April 2010

Month	Dossier Type	Accepted	TCC Processing failure %
2010.01	2.OSII	5	29 %
	3.TII	16	27 %
	4.Reg	42	11 %
	5.PPORD	7	0 %
	Sum:	**70**	**16 %**

Month	Dossier Type	Accepted	TCC Processing failure %
2010.02	2.OSII	19	5 %
	3.TII	38	16 %
	4.Reg	75	9 %
	5.PPORD	17	0 %
	Sum:	**149**	**9 %**

Month	Dossier Type	Accepted	TCC Processing failure %
2010.03	2.OSII	29	6 %
	3.TII	94	9 %
	4.Reg	96	10 %
	5.PPORD	21	0 %
	Sum:	**240**	**8 %**

NOTE: TCC processing failure (%) is the number of dossiers that failed TCC during this period divided by the number of dossiers that underwent TCC during this period.