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Editorial

No 2 - September/October 2008

ECHA Welcomes Stakeholders to first Meeting Day in Helsinki

The end of the pre-registering period for phase-in substances only few weeks away, ECHA hosts its first Stakeholder day in Helsinki on October 10. About 320 stakeholder representatives from the EU and around the world will come to Helsinki to learn more about the latest developments of REACH implementation and to engage in lively dialogue with the Agency representatives during this day.

Dialogue with stakeholders is important for ECHA for which transparency is a core value. 'Efficiency in operations, transparency in procedures' is a slogan which well reflects ECHA's management philosophy. It is valuable for ECHA to hear stakeholder views on its work. ECHA is committed to listen to its partners and to communicate with them openly and in the spirit of collaboration.

An opportunity to meet a large number of stakeholders face-to-face will be something that the Agency plans to repeat annually. We will collect experiences and feedback from this first event and use them when we develop the contents of the next meeting day. This second meeting day will take place in conjunction with the Helsinki Chemicals Forum (HCF). Linking these two conferences will give an opportunity for stakeholders to attend both events 'back-to-back'. Moreover, the themes addressed in the Forum will provide a more general global policy context for the work of the Agency.

ECHA management and staff are sincerely looking forward to these stakeholder events. Let's hope that they establish a genuine tradition which benefits both the stakeholders and the Agency in the months and years to come! - See you in Helsinki!

Juhani Sormunen



Autumn view over the Old Church Park taken from the Agency building.

From the ED's Office

ECHA Management Board elects New Chair

The Management Board elected **Dr Thomas Jakl** (AT) as new Chair. Mr Jakl heads the Chemicals Policy Department of the Austrian Ministry of Environment.



He has a broad experience of chemicals policy at the European and international level. Inter alia he has been head of the Austrian delegation in the negotiation process on the REACH Regulation and involved in the finalisation of

SAICM (UN Strategic Approach on International Chemicals Management) during Austria's EU Presidency.

For more information see [Management Board](#)

Database on Experts supporting ECHA

In July 2008, ECHA invited EU Member States and representations of the EFTA states Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein as well as Stakeholder organisations to identify experts to support ECHA. These experts should be qualified to provide the Member States and the institutions of the Community with the best possible scientific and technical advice on chemicals. By the end of August, ECHA had received 670 identifications from 12 Member States and 28 Stakeholder organisations. The so far identified experts will be asked to register their relevant details at ECHA's expert database. From this data base ECHA will select suitable experts for the various tasks in the forthcoming years, including drafting guidance updates and working with ECHA's Committees. The database will be open for new experts at any time.

ED's Scientific Advisor and Two New Unit Heads appointed

The Executive Director has appointed Mr Derek Knight as the ED's Senior Scientific Advisor. He started at ECHA on 16 September. Also the following successful candidates have been appointed for the Head of Unit posts of the Agency:

Head of Unit for Evaluation (Unit B1):

Mr Jörg Lebsanft

Head of Unit for Risk Management (Unit B2):

Mr Jack de Bruijn



Mr Jörg Lebsanft is German and has been serving as Senior Scientific Officer at the European Chemicals Agency since November 2007. His previous employment was with the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety in Bonn, Germany.

Mr Derek Knight is British and was working as Director of Regulatory Affairs in SafePharm Laboratories Ltd based in Derbyshire, UK, before joining ECHA. During his career Mr Knight has gained professional expertise in safety assessments of chemicals and biocides as well as regulatory schemes. He has a broad understanding of the regulation of chemicals from the perspective of the various interested parties. He is especially experienced in approaches to hazard and risk assessment using non-standard data.



Mr Jack de Bruijn is Dutch and has been serving as Head of Unit for the Unit of Procedures Testing at the European Chemicals Agency since September 2007. His previous employment was with the European Chemicals Bureau (ECB) of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Italy where he was the REACH Action leader.

Board of Appeal

A call for expression of interest for the Chair, the legal member and alternate and additional technical members will be published in the Official Journal and ECHA webpage in early October.

At its meeting in September, the Management Board appointed an alternate Chair and a list of additional and alternate legal members.

A technically qualified member was appointed by the Management Board already in its meeting in June 2008.

Implementation of the Work Programme 2008

The Executive Director informed the Board of the state of implementation of the Agency's current Work Programme. He explained, in particular, which activities had been re-prioritised over the year due to delays in putting in place REACH-IT and the establishment of interim procedures ensuring the effective functioning of the REACH processes. This led to some delays, for example, in the capacity

building for evaluation, the work on priority setting, screening and reporting tools or the finalisation of SOP. In addition, PPORD notifications could be evaluated only to a limited degree and a report on guidance experience had to be postponed. ECHA declared that it will strive to catch up with these activities in 2009.

Adoption of Work Programme 2009 and the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2009-2012

The Management Board discussed and adopted ECHA's annual Work Programme 2009 and the 1st Multi-Annual Work Programme. Board members welcomed in particular the Multi-Annual Work Programme and congratulated the Executive Director for having produced a solid strategy document for ECHA's first years of operations. Among the most intensively discussed aspects of the documents were ECHA's support to create a platform for liaising Member States in preparing Annex XV dossiers for the identification of SVHC, the number of proposals expected for the first update of the candidate

list, ECHA's possible involvement in a revised biocide legislation and in the assessment of substances on nano-scale and the new budget estimates for 2009 which are lower than those reported with the draft budget in February. The Board instructed the Executive Director to submit both programmes to the Member States, the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council and have them published. Once translated, the Multi-Annual Programme will be published on ECHA's web site with the possibility for interested parties to submit comments which will be taken into account when updating the document in 2009.

News on *REACH* and ECHA

Substances of Very High Concern

In October ECHA, after the agreement of the Member State Committee, will publish the first Candidate list of substances for eventual inclusion in the list of substances requiring authorisation (Annex XIV of the REACH Regulation).

The next step will be for ECHA to make its first recommendation of priority substances to be included in the list of substances subject to authorisation, after a public consultation.

What are substances of very high concern?

Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) have intrinsic hazardous properties which may have very serious and often irreversible effects on humans and the environment.

To be considered as a potential substance of very high concern, a substance needs to be identified as either:

- Carcinogenic, Mutagenic or toxic for Reproduction (CMR), meeting the criteria for classification in category 1 or 2 in accordance with Directive 67/548/EEC
- Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic (PBT) or very Persistent and very Bioaccumulative (vPvB) according to the criteria in Annex XIII of the REACH Regulation
- Identified, on a case-by-case basis, when there is scientific evidence, as causing probable serious effects to human health or the environment at an equivalent level of concern as those above (e.g. endocrine disruptors)

For updated information on SVHC and the Candidate list, consult the ECHA website <http://www.echa.europa.eu>

Observers from EEA-EFTA Countries

The Board decided in accordance with its Rules of Procedures to admit observers from Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein to its meetings after these States have implemented the REACH legislation by inclusion into the EEA Agreement on 5 June 2008. Once the EEA-EFTA states have formally appointed regular members to the Board, these representatives will fully participate at the work of the Board, without voting rights.

Rules on Transparency regarding the Safety of Substances

The Management Board adopted a set of rules on transparency. These will ensure the availability to the public of regulatory, scientific and technical information concerning the safety of substances. In line with the requirements of the REACH regulation, the rules were adopted after consultation of the Commission, which had granted its agreement subject to certain modifications of the text.

ECHA Code of Conduct for Stakeholder Observers

The new ECHA Code of Conduct for observers will be applied at all meetings of ECHA Committees, the Forum and other networks of ECHA.

Based on the Code of Conduct for observers, each invited stakeholder organisation is asked to nominate for each body concerned one permanent observer who can be accompanied by an expert on the topic(s) of discussion. Stakeholder organisations can thereby contribute to the technical and scientific debate while ensuring continuity. The rules also explain how these observers can submit documents to committees and get access to the documents circulated by the Secretariat and the members while maintaining confidentiality. Executive Director Geert Dancet welcomes this code and stresses that "the presence of observers from stakeholder organisations at meetings of Agency bodies and networks will contribute to the transparency and openness of decision-making under REACH and support the information flow between the Agency and the stakeholder organisations".

The [Code of Conduct](#) in full is available on the ECHA website

Events

ECHA's First Stakeholders' Day on 10 October 2008

ECHA is organising its first stakeholders' day in co-operation with the European Commission on 10 October at Finlandia Hall in Helsinki. Registration for the event was closed on 19 September. Around 320 participants are expected to attend.

The participants represent equally industry associations and organisations, importers and manufacturers, downstream users, public bodies and NGO's from all over Europe and overseas. Also a balance between geographic areas represented was accomplished.

Webstreaming of the event will be provided by the European Commission and can be accessed free of charge via the ECHA website.

For further information, see
[ECHA Events](#)

The First Global Helsinki Chemicals Forum to be held in May 2009

The first Helsinki Chemicals Forum assembles on 27-29 May 2009 at the Helsinki Fair Centre. This annually arranged forum is expected to bring together players in the chemical sector from Europe and around the world: experts, researchers, political decision-makers, civil servants, representatives from industry, consumers and organisations.

The mission of the forum is to open up dialogue between various interest groups and policy players. It aims to influence the future of the chemical industry and research and the themes in debate. The organiser of the forum is the Chemicals Forum Association. The European Chemicals Agency, City of Helsinki, the Chemical Industry Federation of Finland and the University of Helsinki are partners in this project.

For more information, see
<http://www.helsinkichemforum.eu>

Interview: Christel Musset

In ECHA, new procedures and IT tools are constantly being introduced at a fast pace with the timetable set by REACH. Christel Musset, the new Director of Directorate for Registration & IT Tools, works on the backbone of REACH operations leading the development of these tools and processes. Her target is to contribute to worldwide access to information on properties of chemicals and their effects on health and environment.

A year ago, Christel Musset came to ECHA from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy. She has been involved in the implementation of REACH since 2004 and was one of the seconded officials who decided to apply for a permanent position in the Agency.



Christel Musset, the surgeon on REACH backbone, is extremely satisfied with her challenging and rewarding job. Photo by ECHA.

"I find my job extremely interesting and challenging. As Director for Registration & IT Tools, I have the responsibility for the registration processes. I am also in charge of all the IT tools that are developed for supporting these processes," Musset explains.

"The REACH operations are supported by three big IT systems. REACH-IT is the backbone for the Agency and the Member State Competent Authorities and allows them to follow the work done on REACH. With IUCLID5, industry can prepare and submit dossiers to the Agency. In October, we start the development of a third tool for the preparation of chemical safety assessments and chemical safety reports."

Challenges and business as usual

A new release of REACH-IT is currently being tested. "This version will introduce automatic electronic submission. Companies can then submit their dossiers automatically to ECHA," Christel Musset says.

"A great challenge will be to replace our manual procedures by the IT system. A large amount of data has been stored in temporary storage, and we have to put it back into the IT system.

The challenge is to replace in an extremely cautious way a manual system working very well and efficiently by an automated system which is under test. We are now evaluating which would be the best time for the transition."

"The Agency also has to provide by 1 December 2008 a registration number for all substances notified under the former "New Chemicals" legislation. A new functionality in REACH-IT enables us to distribute the registration numbers to the owners of these notifications," Musset explains.

On the horizon, some business-wide challenges are approaching. "We need to be ready to publish the list of pre-registered substances in January 2009 and to handle the big peak of about 20,000 registration dossiers for high production volume chemicals that we are going to receive 2010."

According to Christel Musset, submissions are generally running according to expectations. "With the first dossiers we received, there were quality problems, especially the information submitted was not sufficient."

ECHA reacted fast by providing user manuals and ad hoc tools with which companies can verify on their own premises whether their dossiers contain sufficient information.

Pre-registration deadline soon

Pre-registration will continue until 1 December 2008. The previously expected total number of pre-registrations has already been reached.

"Since the end of July, we have opened the bulk pre-registration which enables pre-registration of several substances at the same time. Since then, the number of pre-registration has increased drastically."

"ECHA expected to have around 30,000 substances pre-registered, which corresponds to 150,000 pre-registrations. We have now* reached the number of 35,000 pre-registered substances and have more than 130,000 pre-registrations."

"We have in our current statistics 300,000* pre-registrations, as some companies pre-registered the complete EINECS inventory."

"The ECHA IT system can hold the situation, but think about the effects this has on the workability of the SIEFs."

"When the companies are going to share data in the SIEFs, there will be other participants which have no intention to register and no data on their substance."

"In addition, for a company pre-registering the entire inventory participation in the SIEFs may become unmanageable because of the amount of resulting communication", Musset stresses.

"There are provisions in the legislation for late pre-registrants, for the case where you start manufacturing or importing substances above one ton per year for the first time. Companies should also consider this option in their pre-registration strategy," Christel Musset emphasises.

Precise identification is vital

Companies should identify their substances carefully. "If you have no EINECS number, no CAS number, it is very important to use international standards – we recommend the IUPAC - to indicate the name of the substance, to be able to share data with the others."

"In case of doubt, companies should contact the Member State Competent Authority or their trade organisation", Musset recommends.

"Based on the information received from the companies, the Agency needs to see whether we have in our database previous registrants, in particular those having done notification under the former legislation. We are very careful and do not put companies in contact if we think that the substances concerned are not the same."

Confidentiality is treated with highest priority in ECHA. "There is a procedure in place to guarantee that, and we are really extremely cautious," Musset stresses.

Working for data availability

Christel Musset has already given thought to what should happen with data in future.

"We have started to think about data availability, about how we could make the most of the information we receive from companies."

"Over the last five years I have contributed to a number of projects at an international level to make information on properties of chemicals available to the public. Everything we build in ECHA has to make sense in this global perspective."

"The overall strategy of Directorate C is to be able to collect information, treat this information and to disseminate this information in the most effective and understandable way."

Interview: ECHA Communications

Agency Bodies

SEA Workshop with Case Studies

The restriction procedure under the REACH Regulation will address unacceptable risks to human health and the environment arising from manufacture, placing on the market or use of chemical substances.

Authorities (Member State or ECHA on behalf of the European Commission) proposing a substance to be restricted on a Community-wide basis need to demonstrate that the substance poses a risk and to justify that the proposed restriction reduces the identified risks and is the most appropriate measure. The socio-economic impacts are an important factor in these justifications, in particular, as regards the effectiveness of the measures.

The Agency will organize a workshop 21-22 October 2008, focusing on the application of socio-economic analysis as part of restriction proposals. Up to 100 participants come from authorities from the EU, the US and Canada, stakeholders (industry, NGOs) as well as the members of Committees for Risk Assessment (RAC) and Socio-economic Analysis (SEAC). The workshop intends to build a com-

mon understanding on how to prepare a high-quality and proportionate restriction proposal, corresponding to the requirements of the REACH Regulation.

The Workshop will discuss the lessons learned from different example cases and a variety of topics related to the socio-economic analysis. These are, for example REACH process leading to the adoption of a restriction, analysis of socio-economic aspects of restrictions in the EU and elsewhere; and the estimation of health and environmental benefits and costs of restrictions.

The next meeting of SEAC will take place back-to-back with the SEA workshop on 22 - 23 October. Stakeholder observers have been invited to attend the meeting. The presentations and other workshop material, including proceedings, will be made available through the web.

ECHA takes over the Varma Insurance Company Building

At the beginning of September the European Chemicals Agency expanded its working premises as the owner of the building, Varma Insurance Company, moved to its new office premises. Now the ECHA staff is spread over four floors. Varma's move brought many changes to the working environment of ECHA: all the necessary services such as security, cleaning, cafeteria and utilities, previously managed in cooperation with Varma, have been re-allocated.

The construction of the conference centre in the basement of the building continues according to plans.



ECHA Member State Committee's 3rd Meeting

ECHA Member State Committee (MSC) agreed at its third meeting, held on 3-4 September, that its working procedures will be published on ECHA website for transparency.

The Committee endorsed a Code of Conduct for observers. The Code will be applied at all meetings of ECHA Committees, the Forum and other networks of ECHA.

At its next meeting on 7-9 October, the MSC will address the first candidates for the list of substances of very high concern for authorisation. The Committee decided to seek agreement in a written procedure and at its meeting.

EU Member States' competent authorities have so far submitted 16 Annex XV dossiers on identification of substances of very high concern which were subject to public consultation in July and August.

Guidance

Two new Guidance Documents now available online

Two further guidance documents were handed over by the European Commission to ECHA and published on the Guidance website, http://echa.europa.eu/reach_en.asp on 12 August 2008.

Guidance on inclusion of substances in Annex XIV describes how the authorities (the Agency in co-operation with the Member States Competent Authorities and the European Commission) will include substances of very high concern in the authorisation system and how interested parties will be consulted (e.g. general public, NGO's, industry). Information is given on the procedure to include such substances in the Candidate List. Furthermore, the document elaborates what should be included in the dossier that accompanies each recommendation of a substance of very high concern for inclusion in Annex XIV.

Guidance on priority setting for evaluation describes the different priority setting methods developed to prioritise registration dossiers for checking their compliance with the REACH Regulation and for the evaluation of the enclosed testing proposals. The document also informs on the workflows required to prioritise dossiers and gives guidance on the practical application of the prioritisation methods.

What is Risk Communication about?

Risk communication should be a continuous interactive process allowing two-way exchange of information about actual and perceived risks between those potentially exposed to the risks and those in charge of regulating and managing exposure to it.

Communication from authorities and institutions about risk should express information about the nature of risks in an understandable way. This should allow people to put the risks into context and make informed decisions on which risks they are prepared to accept and which they should avoid or try to reduce.

For their part, institutions and authorities should gather information on the concerns of the public and address them with appropriate information and activities, including – if necessary – initiation of additional risk management measures.

Feedback on Guidance

In the summer the ECHA Unit Helpdesk and Guidance carried out a first systematic collection of feedback on the published guidance documents. Feedback is received on a web form for comments on guidance currently in use to fulfil REACH requirements (http://echa.europa.eu/reach/feedbackguidance_en.asp). Also, feedback will be collected from national helpdesks, and an analysis was carried out on the type and content of questions received at the ECHA helpdesk. It is assumed that the questions received at the helpdesks indicate where industry companies do not find suitable answers in the existing guidance. Two initial conclusions can be drawn so far from this analysis: Firstly, ECHA will need to increase its efforts to make the informa-

tion content of the guidance documents better accessible to the users. This includes supply of tools supporting easy navigation within and between the documents, restructuring of the related websites and publication of "lighter" versions of complex guidance documents. Secondly, from the content perspective, it is obvious that (i) most questions received so far relate to guidance on articles and in particular to the registration and communication requirements and to borderline cases; (ii) many other questions deal with registration requirements, the only representative and the scope of REACH. Therefore an update of the corresponding guidance documents seems appropriate.

Agency Networks

Risk Communication Network established

The Risk Communication Network (RCN), a voluntary network of national authorities and ECHA, was officially established at a meeting at Helsinki Fair Centre on 8-9 September 2008.

ECHA had invited EU Member States and EEA States to Helsinki to discuss the "mission and modus operandi" of the network, with the view to provide a platform for exchange of experience and best practices on communication to the general public about risks and safe use of chemicals.

According to Article 123 of REACH, the Agency shall provide guidance for the communication of information on the risks and safe use of chemical substances, with a view to coordinating Member States in these activities. The Member States shall inform the general public about the risks arising from substances where this is considered necessary for the protection of human health or the environment.

The Member State representatives informed the meeting about the organisation of risk communication in the field of chemicals in their countries.

REHCORN - 6th Meeting

'Hot topics' were identified at the 6th meeting of the REACH Helpdesk Correspondents Network early September. The participants from national helpdesks of the Member States, Norway and Iceland, an observer from helpdesk of Turkey and industry associations reported on the most asked questions: borderline cases between articles and preparations, IUCLID 5 installation problems, scope of Annex IV and V of REACH or issues relating to only representatives. The meeting reconfirmed, that identifying and publishing frequently asked questions is very important in harmonising the implementation of REACH throughout Europe. [The FAQ document](#) can be found at the ECHA webpage .

The Executive Director of ECHA announced that the aim of the Agency is to achieve the common goal of a high coherence in risk communication. Through cooperation and networking, ECHA and the Member States can support each other in defining and implementing communication approaches, ensuring communication at the right time and in the most appropriate manner. The network can give mutual benefit to all, to meet general public information needs. In particular he highlighted ECHA's dialogue with its stakeholders, concluding his presentation by summarising the future challenges of ECHA and the MSCAs in the field of communication of the risks of chemicals.

The mission and modus operandi were endorsed. The network will also be invited to contribute to the development of a guidance document on risk communication, as required by Article 123 of the REACH Regulation. A working group was created to define the exact scope of the network.

The next meeting of the RCN will be held in Helsinki in spring 2009.

Timely solutions to open issues (difficult issues to answer by quoting the REACH Regulation or the Guidance documents) are needed to serve the industry in the best possible way. REHCORN forwarded four such issues for the 5th Meeting of the Competent Authorities for discussion in order to enable ECHA to publish the FAQs related to them. REHCORN also decided to identify and forward questions related to the enforcement of REACH to be discussed in the next Forum meeting in December 2008. The meeting also recognised the important role of industry helpdesks in implementing REACH and decided to explore how to better involve the industry observers in REHCORN processes.

REACH-IT and Statistics

Company Sign up and Pre-registrations

By 29 September 2008, 10 730 companies had signed up in REACH-IT and created 402 854 pre-registrations.

For substances which are pre-registered by chemical names or other names, ECHA strongly recommends the use of internationally recognised nomenclature such as IUPAC or CAS. Trade names and internal company codes should be avoided as these names are not internationally recognised or used. In addition, it is encouraged to indicate the names in the English language. Consistent use of the guidance for identification and naming of substances is needed to ensure that potential registrants can be grouped in the same pre-SIEF. ECHA recognises that some companies may have difficulties in pre-registering their substances properly. Where possible, ECHA contacts these pre-registrants and give them the possibility to re-submit the information in a correct manner.

Submissions via the temporary submission procedures

By 29 September 2008, ECHA had received 366 PPORD notification dossiers, 324 inquiries, 20 regular registrations (15 of which were initial submissions) and 67 registrations for intermediates (52 of which were initial submissions). Many of these dossiers could not be processed further because of incorrect information (e.g. missing submission form or inconsistent dossier identification).

Statistics on the numbers of dossiers which could be accepted for further processing are provided in the table below, together with a list of the most common reasons.

In addition to industry dossiers, ECHA has also received from Member States 16 proposals for identification of Substances of Very High Concern and 4 proposals for harmonised Classification and Labelling.

Of the 324 inquiry dossiers submitted, 252 were accepted for assessment. 76 of these resulted in the issue of an inquiry number and, where relevant, details of other potential and previous registrants and (robust) study summaries for the same substance. Those inquiries that could not be processed were due to the dossier not containing all of the information required by Article 26(1) of the REACH Regulation and/or the information being insufficient to allow ECHA to verify the substance identity. In order to improve the rate of successful inquiry submissions ECHA has prepared a [Q&A document on the inquiry process](#). In addition an inquiry dossier preliminary check tool will also shortly be available on our website.

ECHA urges all companies to carefully follow the data submission manuals on the REACH-IT pages of the ECHA website http://echa.europa.eu/reachit_en.asp

Information Request to ECHA

The ECHA Helpdesk has provided advice and assistance to manufacturers and importers since 1 June 2007.

Initially the Agency operated a single web application form for all types of enquiries. Now it has developed specific web forms for each of the services of direct interest of companies (REACH, REACH-IT, IUCLID 5, specific submission to ECHA, general enquiry and feedback on ECHA website). All [information request forms](#) are available on our website.

ECHA Information service which is responsible for answering enquiries on general information (e.g. translation matters, ECHA organisation, publications and plans, requests for visits and interviews etc.), had received 3611 enquiries by September 2008.

In order to provide the best service for those customers that have obligations requiring immediate action, ECHA Information service kindly reminds enquirers to select the most appropriate subject option of the question when filling in an information request form.

Technical Completeness Check

The outcome of the technical completeness check has shown that the quality of the dossiers submitted has improved a little since the publication of the 'Data Submission Manual 5: How to Complete a Technical Dossier for Registrations and PPORD Notifications' on 1st of July 2008. In addition, on 14 August 2008 ECHA published on the IUCLID 5 website an IT tool to offer companies the possibility to check on their own the completeness of their PPORD notifications before submitting them to ECHA. For August alone, 169 downloads of the tool have been executed.

Whereas before only one in three dossiers contained sufficient information, currently two out of three new PPORD dossiers pass the technical completeness criteria. The main missing information elements are related to the chemical identity and the composition of the substance.

For those dossiers where more information was requested (both PPORD and registration dossiers), the updates that were provided by the applicants were in 98% of the cases sufficient to meet the technical completeness criteria.

Dossier Submissions

29/09/2008 03:45:07

	Submissions	Accepted for processing	Passing the TCC	Complete dossiers	# substances (only for Annex XV)
Annex XV C&L	7	4	n/a	n/a	4
Annex XV SVHC	36	20	n/a	n/a	16
Inquiry	324	252	n/a	76	n/a
Intermediates on-site	29 (22)	18	8	7	n/a
Intermediates transported	38 (30)	25	12	8	n/a
PPORD notification	366 (268)	248	151	136	n/a
Registration dossier	20 (15)	7	3	3	n/a
TOTAL	820	574	174	230	

* Accepted for processing: number of dossiers containing the necessary information for processing them, i.e. perform a completeness check. Examples of dossiers not accepted for processing are: dossiers without submission form, submission form not filled in correctly, information mismatch between the submission form and the IUCLID 5 dossier, company not signed up in REACH IT, same dossier submitted twice, no substance information, etc.

() Figures between brackets indicate the number of Initial Submission (i.e. excluding updates).

European Schooling Up and Running in Helsinki

European Schooling Helsinki (ESH) started its first school year this autumn. On 18 August, the school welcomed its 28 pupils to the multicultural and multilingual learning environment. Launching of this new concept of European schooling in Finland was demanding as everything had to be built up from scratch. But according to the director, *Mr Teijo Koljonen*, the school start was smooth: "Most of the plans were met and challenges were countered."



The ESH is a so-called associated European School maintained by the Finnish government. The school is seeking accreditation into the European Schools' network which is expected to happen in the near future.

The organisation of the school follows the European Schools' structure and the allocation of lessons is mostly consistent with the European Schools. "There are some minor deviations", says Mr Koljonen, "instead of religion or ethics we provide religious education and unlike other European Schools, health education is compulsory from and information and communication technology (ICT) in the third year of secondary cycle. We also operate according to the Finnish school year calendar."

The school has three language sections, English, Finnish and French. Instruction is given in the two-year nursery cycle, starting at the age of four, in the five-year primary cycle and in the seven-year secondary cycle. The last two years of secondary cycle will come into operation from 2010 when the school will be accredited to deliver the European Baccalaureate (EB) as a final examination. At the moment the 28 pupils are enrolled into the English (21 pupils) and French (7 pupils) section of the school, in the nursery, primary and the two first years of the secondary cycle.

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info@echa.europa.eu

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 the publication.

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Living in Helsinki - Kevin Pollard

I come from Edinburgh in Scotland. Before arriving to Finland and ECHA, where I've been working already for one year, I got in touch with REACH while working for the European Chemicals Bureau in Ispra, Italy, as a REACH trainee.

In the past, my background (plant sciences and agriculture) and work experience in agrochemical research opened me the doors to about eight years of work for the UK's Competent Authority where I was responsible for implementing of legislation related to pesticides and doing assessment of the data on environmental fate and behaviour of plant protection products' active



*Kevin Pollard finds the local culture in Helsinki somewhat similar to the Scottish.
Photo by ECHA Communications*

substances. This job gave me a keen interest to work more at the European level, and that was one of the reasons I applied first for a REACH traineeship, and later, together with the experience gained at the European Chemicals Bureau – for the job at ECHA.

Here at ECHA I am team leader for registration and data sharing. On a daily basis, my task is to coordinate the work of a sub-

stantial team of people who are currently responsible for the dossiers submission via temporary submission procedures, development of guidance and manuals for industry, ongoing testing of REACH-IT and other issues related to registration and data sharing.

I did not know much about Finland when I came here but I have been to Helsinki couple of times before and I liked already this city, situated at the very north, north-east of the European Union.

My moving to Helsinki was very easy. We had a good help provided by the City of Helsinki; besides that, people speak English well here; there are many websites for finding relevant information about Finland, life in Helsinki, possible accommodation etc. So far I did not find any aspects that could make life in Helsinki difficult.

I really appreciate the scale of this city. Helsinki is big enough; there are many things going on, many sights to see, a wide variety of cultural events, and some great bars. I enjoy staying in Finland, since the local culture is quite similar to the Scottish one, so I feel very much at home. It is worth adding that the different language and some additional elements of the Finnish culture make my stay here both familiar and exotic.

The things I like most in Helsinki are the people and the culture, also - architecture. I live near the centre of the city and have a good chance to enjoy different styles of the buildings. I am looking forward to having my own apartment here at a nice place in Helsinki.

Interview: ECHA Communications

The Yacht. Photo by Kevin Pollard

