



EU Environment Report

March 2013

CHEMICALS

European Chemicals Agency consults on ten new substances for REACH candidate list

On 4 March, the European Chemicals Agency (“ECHA”) opened a consultation on whether ten substances should be included in the REACH candidate list. If approved, substances on the candidate list can be classified as Substances of Very High Concern (“SVHCs”), meaning that suppliers and retailers must provide information on safe use to consumers who request it. The substances currently under consultation include cadmium, cadmium oxide, Dipentyl phthalate (“DPP”) and the non-stick coating precursors perfluorooctanoic acid (“PFOA”) and ammonium perfluorooctanoate (“AFPO”). The deadline for commenting is 18 April 2013.

The consultation is available via the following link:
<http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/proposals-to-identify-substances-of-very-high-concern>

European Food Safety Authority publishes its 2013 work plan

On 1 March, the European Food Safety Authority (“EFSA”) published its work plan for 2013. The work plan outlines EFSA’s activities for the year ahead, which includes a full risk assessment of aspartame, a full risk assessment of bisphenol A and guidance on the risk assessment for pesticides and bees.

The 2013 Work Plan is available via the following link:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/corporate/doc/wp13.pdf>

European Food Safety Authority publishes opinion on endocrine disruptors

On 20 March, EFSA’s Scientific Committee published its opinion on the scientific criteria for the identification of endocrine disruptors and on the appropriateness of existing test methods for assessing the effects of these substances on human health and the environment. The opinion concludes that risk assessments would be the best way to decide how to deal with endocrine disruptors. According to the Scientific Committee, levels of concern should be determined both by the risk assessment and by the protection goals set in risk management.

The opinion is available via the following link:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/3132.pdf>

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This newsletter briefly describes EU environment developments.

Due to the general nature of its content, this newsletter is not and should not be regarded as legal advice.

For more information on these and other topics related to environmental law, please contact:

Jacquelyn MacLennan
 Partner, Brussels
jmaclennan@whitecase.com

CLIMATE CHANGE

EU agrees on ETS enforcement moratorium for non-European flights

On 12 March, the European Parliament and Member States in the Council agreed on a legislative proposal to delay enforcement of the EU's Emissions Trading System ("ETS") for international flights to and from Europe. The purpose of the delay is to allow more time for international negotiations on a global market-based approach to regulating greenhouse gases from aviation. This so-called "stop the clock" agreement is expected to be formally approved by the Parliament in April and shortly thereafter by the Council. The European Commissioner for Climate Action, Connie Hedegaard, has made it clear that if the international negotiations fail to make sufficient progress, the EU ETS legislation would be applied in full to all flights to and from non-European countries from 1 January 2014 onwards.

The press release is available via the following link: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-12-854_en.htm

Commission to release new 2030 targets for climate and energy this year

On 27 March, the EU's energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger announced that the European Commission is planning to publish a new climate and energy package by the end of 2013. The package is set to contain new targets for 2030. To this end, the Commission has adopted a Green Paper entitled, "A 2030 framework for climate and energy policies". It has launched a public consultation which is open to Member States, other EU institutions and stakeholders until 2 July. According to the Commission, the feedback gathered from the consultation will feed into its ongoing preparations of the new climate and energy package.

The Green Paper and consultation are available via the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/green_paper_2030_en.htm

ENERGY LABELLING

EU updates rules on the Energy Star programme for office equipment

On 6 March, Regulation 174/2013 was published in the EU's official journal, which updates the EU rules implementing the Energy Star programme. The Energy Star programme is based on a 2001 agreement between the USA and the EU on voluntary energy-efficiency labelling for office equipment. The EU and the US signed a renewed version of the agreement on 10 December 2012 and 18 January 2013, as the previous agreement had expired. The new Regulation implements the agreed updates in the EU. Amongst other things, it also clarifies the respective obligations in the EU for the Member States and the Commission for the enforcement of the Energy Star Programme.

Regulation 174/2013 and the related agreements are available via the following link: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:063:SOM:EN:HTML>

PRODUCTS

Commission approves light-emitting diodes as eco-innovation for passenger cars

On 13 March, the Commission adopted a decision approving the use of light-emitting diodes ("LEDs") as an innovative technology for reducing CO₂ emissions from passenger cars. The decision was based on an application submitted by Audi AG for LEDs in the low beam headlamps, the high beam headlamps and the license plate lamp of an M1 vehicle. The Commission found that the technology fulfils the conditions and criteria of Regulation 443/2009, which sets emission performance standards for new passenger cars. The Regulation is part of the EU's approach to reduce CO₂ emissions from light-duty vehicles.

The Decision is available via the following link: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:070:0007:0010:EN:PDF>

Commission updates type-approval legislation for vehicles fitted with eco-innovations

On 7 March, the Commission adopted a new Regulation which amends the existing EU legislation on type-approval of light passenger and commercial vehicles, to take account of innovative emission control technologies. The new Regulation amends the models of the relevant documents used in the type-approval process. It aims to ensure that approval authorities have adequate data for certifying vehicles fitted with eco-innovations and that total CO₂ savings are entered into the certificate of conformity.

Regulation (EU) No 195/2013 is available via the following link:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:065:0001:0012:EN:PDF>

The Months Ahead

7 – 11 April

Decommissioning Challenges – Industrial Reality and Prospects, Avignon, France
<http://www.environmental-expert.com/events/decommissioning-challenges-industrial-reality-and-prospects-13434>

8 – 12 April

19th Group Exhibit Hydrogen + Fuel Cells at Hannover Messe 2013, Hanover, Germany
<http://www.environmental-expert.com/events/19th-group-exhibit-hydrogen-fuel-cells-at-hannover-messe-2013-13277>

10 – 11 April

Water & Environment 2013: CIWEM's Annual Conference, London, UK
<http://www.ciwem.org/events/annual-conference.aspx>

10 – 12 April

WasteECo-2013 Cooperation for Waste Issues: Exhibition and Conference, Kharkiv, Ukraine
<http://www.environmental-expert.com/events/wasteeco-2013-cooperation-for-waste-issues-exhibition-and-conference-13825>

11 April

Introduction to International Compliance Seminar, Stratford-upon-Avon, UK
<http://www.environmental-expert.com/events/introduction-to-international-compliance-seminar-11-april-2013-13766>

15 April

Moving towards linking the EU and Australian Emissions Trading Schemes, Brussels, Belgium
<http://www.ceps.eu/event/moving-towards-linking-eu-and-australian-emissions-trading-schemes>

16 April

EU Energy Conference on Shale Gas, Brussels, Belgium
<http://www.brusselslegal.com/conferences/display/177/www.shalegasconference.eu>

16 – 18 April

5th International Conference On Fuel Cells - Fundamentals & Development of Fuel Cells, Karlsruhe, Germany
<http://www.environmental-expert.com/events/5th-international-conference-on-fuel-cells-fundamentals-development-of-fuel-cells-13136>

15 – 20 April

Molecular Bioenergetics Of Cyanobacteria: Shaping The Environment, Pultusk, Poland

<http://www.esf.org/activities/esf-conferences/details/2013/confdetail409.html>

19 April

CLEER Workshop: EU environmental norms and third countries: the EU as a global role model?, The Hague, The Netherlands

<http://www.asser.nl/events.aspx?id=341>

22 – 23 April

4th European Conference on Renewable Heating and Cooling, Dublin, Ireland

<http://www.environmental-expert.com/events/4th-european-conference-on-renewable-heating-and-cooling-13984>

22 – 24 April

Food and Environment 2013, Budapest, Hungary

<http://www.environmental-expert.com/events/food-and-environment-2013-13500>

23 April

Access to Justice in Environmental Matters - Meeting with Ms. Wenning, Director of DG ENV Legal Affairs & Cohesion, Brussels, Belgium

<http://www.amchameu.eu/membersevents/tabid/159/vw/3/itemid/887/d/20130423/default.aspx>

23 – 25 April

The 6th Energy Storage Forum – Europe 2013, Berlin, Germany

<http://www.energystorageforum.com/>

23 – 25 April

Gas Week 2013, Brussels, Belgium

<http://www.gasnaturally.eu/gas-week-2013/overview>

23 – 25 April

Environmental Health Risk 2013, Budapest, Hungary

<http://www.environmental-expert.com/events/environmental-health-risk-2013-13501>

26 April

CCS policy and the implementation of NER300, Brussels, Belgium

<http://www.regonline.co.uk/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1209907>

29 April – 3 May

Climate Change: Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation 2013, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

<http://www.environmental-expert.com/events/climate-change-vulnerability-impacts-and-adaptation-2013-13326>

5 – 8 May

International Conference on Environment and Electrical Engineering, Wroclaw, Poland

<http://eeeic.eu/>

13 – 16 May

8th Annual International Symposium on Environment, Athens, Greece

<http://www.atiner.gr/environment.htm>

13 – 17 May

Energy, Trading, Derivatives & Risk Management, Dorking, London, UK

www.iff-energy.com

16 – 18 May

Cappadocia Series: International Energy Economics and Policy, Nevsehir, Cappadocia, Turkey

<http://energy.nevsehir.edu.tr/en/main-page>

19 May

2013 3rd International Conference on Environment and Industrial Innovation – ICEII 2013, Copenhagen, Denmark

<http://www.iceii.org/>

27 – 30 May

Impacts World 2013, Potsdam, Germany

<http://www.climate-impacts-2013.org/>

29 – 31 May

Save the PLANET: 4th Conference and Exhibition On Waste Management, Recycling, Environment for South-East Europe, Sofia , Bulgaria

<http://www.environmental-expert.com/events/save-the-planet-4th-conference-and-exhibition-on-waste-management-recycling-environment-for-south-ea-12789>

29 – 31 May

9th SEE Congress & Exhibition on Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy (EE & RE), Sofia , Bulgaria

<http://www.environmental-expert.com/events/9th-see-congress-exhibition-on-energy-efficiency-renewable-energy-ee-re-12790>

30 May

Water Risk & Finance 2013, London, UK

<http://www.environmental-finance.com/events/view/64>

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White & Case LLP
Avocats-Advocaten
62 rue de la Loi – Wetstraat 62
B-1040 Brussels
Belgium

+32 (0)2 219 16 20

www.whitecase.com

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