



EU Environment Report

May 2012

CHEMICALS

Council of Ministers endorses new regulations on biocides

On 10 May 2012, the Council of Ministers endorsed new regulations seeking to minimise environmental and health risks of biocidal products. These products include insecticides, disinfectants and repellents, but not medicines or agricultural pesticides. The rules were originally agreed to under a deal struck by Members of Parliament last November and subsequently approved in January this year. The deal provides for an EU authorisation system which will be introduced from 2013 to 2020 and will require the labelling of certain products, such as anti-bacterial kitchen tops, and will ban the most dangerous chemicals. In addition, the new rules will recognise the potential threat of nanomaterials. The new regulations will apply from 1 September 2013.

The press release is available here:

http://consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/130111.pdf

New SVHC submissions from Sweden and Germany

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has revealed that Germany and Sweden plan to recommend eight new substances of very high concern (SVHCs) for the REACH candidate list this summer. Germany is preparing information on four perfluorinated acids which are classified as persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT). Sweden's notifications feature cadmium and two cadmium-related compounds, in addition to methoxy acetic acid. Currently, the candidate list includes 73 substances, with 13 more under consideration.

Registry of current SVHC intentions: <http://echa.europa.eu/registry-of-current-svhc-intentions>

Parliament adopts chemicals legislative resolution

On 10 May 2012, the European Parliament adopted a resolution at first reading on the Commission's proposal for a recast of regulation EC 689/2008 of 17 June 2008 regarding the export and import of dangerous chemicals. The recast was necessary to coordinate definitions spelled out in REACH. In the resolution, the Parliament approved amendments requiring that if a destination country does not respond within 60 days to a request for its prior informed consent to imports of such chemicals, importation may proceed provided that the substance is "licensed, registered or authorised" in the destination country.

[European Parliament: Texts adopted \(part 3, page 115\) \(10 May 2012\)](#)

In this issue...

Chemicals

Council of Ministers endorses new regulations on biocides

New SVHC submissions from Sweden and Germany

Parliament adopts chemicals legislative resolution

Climate Change

Late ETS plans trigger Commission infringement action

China and India miss ETS deadline to submit airline emissions data

Commission adopts ETS state aid rules

Commission consulting on EU Adaptation Strategy

Energy

EU and China form urbanisation partnership

Pollution

Parliament and Member States agree on new sulphur limits in marine fuels

The Months Ahead

Workshops & Conferences

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.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Late ETS plans trigger Commission infringement action

The European Commission has initiated infringement proceedings against Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Spain and Italy for failing to submit allocation plans for the next phase of the EU emissions trading scheme (ETS) on time. Member States were required to submit drafts of their plans, called national implementation measures (NIMs) by 30 September last year. Upon receiving Member States' NIMs, the Commission will determine whether revisions will be required.

China and India miss ETS deadline to submit airline emissions data

Ten airline companies -- eight Chinese and two Indian -- may face penalties for having missed a March deadline to submit emissions data for 2011, as stipulated under the EU emissions trading scheme. While China and India have instructed their national airlines not to comply with the EU ETS, Climate Commissioner Connie Hedegaard reported that overall the level of compliance was very high, with more than 1,200 airlines -- including airlines from anti-ETS nations -- reporting emissions figures. Non-compliant airlines, which represent less than 3% of emissions, will be receiving letters from Member States extending the data submission deadline to 15 June of this year.

The press release from the Commission may be found here:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/12/477&>

Commission adopts ETS state aid rules

On 22 May, the Commission announced the adoption of a framework under which Member States can offer state aid to electro-intensive sectors, such as steel and aluminium producers, that are expected to face higher energy costs due to the reform of the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) taking effect in 2013. The guidelines have been put in place to ensure that national measures support a system that preserves the EU's goal of decarbonising the economy, and levels the playing field for competitors in the EU. Other sectors eligible for compensation include: aluminium, copper, fertilisers, steel, paper, cotton, chemicals, and some plastics. Some Member States have voiced concerns over imbalances in the market on grounds that it is up to individual states to interpret the guidelines and decide whether to take advantage of them.

Press release from the Commission available here:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/12/498&>

Commission consulting on EU Adaptation Strategy

The European Commission's DG Climate has opened a consultation on the development of a comprehensive strategy on adaptation to climate change, seeking additional information in preparation of the EU Adaptation Strategy which is due next year. Key topics on which the consultation seeks views include the risks of climate change, identifying those populations most vulnerable to temperature increases, and extreme weather. The consultation follows a 2009 white paper on adaptation and closes 20 August 2012.

Information on how to participate in the consultation can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/consultations/0015/index_en.htm

ENERGY

EU and China form urbanisation partnership

On 3 May 2012, EU and Chinese officials met in Brussels to agree on an

urbanisation partnership that will extend opportunities for European business in sectors such as sustainable urban development and green transportation. The partnership will also work to deepen cooperation on energy security, electricity markets, and address common priorities such as climate change. The EU and China are currently working together on smart grids and energy efficiency. Further cooperation on energy security will “*further enhance dialogue on climate change-related domestic policies and share experiences on specific climate legislation.*”

More detailed information can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/international/bilateral_cooperation/china/china_en.htm

POLLUTION

Parliament and Member States agree on new sulphur limits in marine fuels

On 15 May 2012, the European Parliament, Member States, and the European Commission reached a deal on new air pollution limits for ships, which was approved by Member State diplomats the following day. The agreement is still awaiting final approval from the Commission, and limits sulphur content in marine fuels to 0.1% beginning in 2015, a requirement falling in line with the International Maritime Organization’s Marpol Convention. This requirement would apply to all ships in sulphur emissions control areas (SECAs), which include the English Channel, North and Baltic Seas. The shipping industry has voiced concerns over whether there will be enough low-sulphur fuel available by 2020, an issue the Commission may consider when it assesses the potential impact of imposing a 0.1% limit (as required under the agreement).

For further information, click here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/transport/ships.htm>

The Months Ahead

11 – 13 June

Essentials of gas trading and risk, London, UK

<http://www.iff-training.com/essentials-of-gas-trading-and-risk-training-course/128/>

12 June

Renewable Energy World Europe 2012, Cologne, Germany

<http://www.eubusiness.com/topics/energy/renewable-energy.2012>

12 – 14 June

POWER-GEN Europe, Cologne, Germany

<http://www.powergeneurope.com>

13 – 15 June

Energy markets and energy derivatives, London, UK

<http://www.informaglobalevents.com/event/energy-markets-and-energy-derivatives-training-course>

14 – 15 June

WORLD CLIMATE 2012: World Conference on Climate Change and Humanity, Vienna, Austria

<http://www.vienna-conference.com/worldclimate/index.html>

19 June

Cost-Saving Energy Efficiencies Conference, London, UK

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

19 – 20 June

Nuclear Industry Forum, London, UK

<http://tinyurl.com/dx8qutw>

19 – 20 June

5th Annual Balkan Energy Finance Forum 2012, Belgrade, Serbia

http://www.eeevents.co.uk/balkan_energy_finance_forum_2012/

24 – 29 June

Biogenic Hydrocarbons & the Atmosphere — Reaching across Scales: From the Molecule to the Globe, Lewiston, Maine, US

<http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2012&program=biogenic>

25 – 27 June

Power and Energy Systems, Naples, Italy

<http://www.iasted.org/conferences/home-775.html>

25 – 28 June

Comparative Climatology of Terrestrial Planets, Boulder, Colorado, US

<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/climatology2012/>

26 – 27 June

REACH: Legal Implications & Supply Chain Strategies 2012, Brussels, Belgium

<http://www.informaglobalevents.com/event/reach-legal-implications-and-supply-chain-strategies-conference-2012-brussels>

1 – 6 July

The 7th Conference on Sustainable Development of Energy, Water and Environment Systems – SDEWES Conference Ohrid 2012, Ohrid, Macedonia

<http://www.ohrid2012.sdewes.org/>

2 – 4 July

1st International Conference on Environmental and Economic Impact on Sustainable Development, New Forest, Hampshire, UK

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/12-conferences/environmental-impact-2012.html>

3 – 5 July

11th Global Conference: Environmental Justice and Global Citizenship, Oxford, UK

<http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/critical-issues/ethos/environmental-justice-and-global-citizenship/call-for-papers/>

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