



EU Environment Report

February 2012

CHEMICALS

Public inventory of chemical hazard information launched

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has launched a searchable online inventory with hazard information on more than 100,000 substances. The information was collected under the classification, labelling and packaging (CLP) regulation. The idea is that the inventory should list the classification of all the chemical substances used in the EU to allow identification of chemicals which may be hazardous to health or to the environment. The ECHA has warned that the inventory is based on self-classifications, and that it has not verified all of the notifications. The Public C&L Inventory does not contain contact details of notifiers or registrants.

The inventory can be accessed here:

<http://echa.europa.eu/web/quest/regulations/clp/cl-inventory>

Proposal for stricter controls on water pollutants

On 31 January, the European Commission put forward a proposal to add fifteen new chemicals to a list of so-called "priority" substances. These substances include six pesticides, three biocides, perfluorooctane sulphonates (PFOS), flame retardant HBCDD, dioxins and PCBs, and three pharmaceutical substances. The legislation aims at the progressive reduction of discharges, emissions and losses of priority substances. If the proposal were to become law, it would also introduce stricter environmental quality standards for certain priority substances. The proposal has now passed to the European Parliament and the Council, where its provisions will be debated and may be amended.

The proposed Directive is available here:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-dangersub/pdf/com_2011_876.pdf

New chemicals added to REACH restrictions and authorisation lists

This month, a number of borates, nickel compounds and petrol derivatives have been added to the REACH restrictions list. This means that detergent makers will need to cut their use of borates by June 2013. REACH restrictions limit the manufacture, placing on the market or use of a substance.

In addition, eight more chemicals have been added to the REACH authorisation list, including Diisobutyl phthalate (DIBP), lead chromate and Tris (2-chloroethyl) phosphate (TCEP). Companies wishing to use substances on the list must send an application to the ECHA requesting authorisation for specified uses.

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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.

A complete list of substances added to the Restriction list is available here: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:037:0001:0049:EN:PDF>

CLIMATE CHANGE

European Parliament committee votes to set aside ETS allowances

On 28 February, the European Parliament's energy committee voted on proposed changes to the EU Energy Efficiency Directive. In particular, they voted to set aside EU emissions trading scheme (ETS) allowances. Setting aside ETS allowances would enable the commission to intervene in the scheme to drive up low prices and take measures "which may include withholding of the necessary amount of allowances". In addition, the energy committee voted to introduce binding national energy efficiency targets for 2020, going against the Commission's proposal for non-binding targets. The full parliament is due to vote on the draft resolution at the end of March 2012.

The Parliament press release is available here: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/pressroom/content/20120227IPR39335/html/Energy>

WASTE

EU end-of-waste criteria proposed for glass

The EU Joint Research Centre ("JRC") has recommended end-of-waste criteria for glass. This will determine when glass collected and treated for recycling should stop being classed as waste. According to the EU's Waste legislation, materials should cease to be categorised as waste under certain conditions, particularly when there is an existing market or demand for the material and the use is lawful and will not have an overall environmental impact or impact on human health. According to the European Commission, the draft criteria are due to be adopted in May.

The JRC report is available here: <http://ftp.jrc.es/EURdoc/JRC68281.pdf>

OTHER

French support for legislation clarifying the precautionary principle

On 3 February, French MPs in the Assemblée Nationale supported proposals from Philippe Tourtelier and Alain Gest for legislation to clarify the meaning of the "precautionary principle". It has been noted that the precautionary principle, enshrined in the French constitution, is often misused. The precautionary principle is also often invoked in EU law, particularly in relation to regulation of the environment, health and consumer protection.

The proposal (in French) is available here: <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/13/propositions/pion4008.asp>

The Month Ahead

MARCH

5 March

CEPS Task Force on "Which economic model for a water-efficient Europe?", Brussels, Belgium

<http://www.ceps.eu/taskforce/which-economic-model-water-efficient-europe>

5-6 March

European Chemicals Policy – REACH, Brussels, Belgium
<http://www.informaglobalevents.com/event/REACH2012>

8 March

Conference on Renewable Energy Law 2012: Market Design and System Transformation for a Renewable Energy Future, Brussels, Belgium
<http://www.lexxion.de/en/verlagsprogramm-konferenzen/anstehende-konferenzen/conference-on-renewable-energy-law-2012.html>

15 March

Policy Dialogue: Green trade v. green protectionism – which will prevail?, Brussels, Belgium
www.epc.eu

15-16 March

European Chemical Manufacturing Masters 2012, Berlin, Germany
http://business-masters.econique.com/overview_chemical_manufacturing0.html

19-20 March

European Nuclear Forum, Brussels, Belgium
http://marketforce.eu.com/Conferences/eunuclear12/?utm_source=conferencealerts.com&utm_medium=CA_ad&utm_campaign=eunuclear12_CA_ad

19-20 March

Non-Conventional Gas & Oil, London, UK
<http://www.informaglobalevents.com/appdata/downloads/non-conventional-gas-and-oil//NonConventionalGasOil.pdf>

20 March

The 2nd Annual European Raw Materials Conference, Brussels, Belgium
www.rawmaterials-conference.eu

20-21 March

19th Annual Packaging Waste and Sustainability Forum: Moving towards a Resource Efficient Society, Brussels, Belgium
<http://packagingwaste.agraevents.com/>

20-21 March

Water & Environment 2012, London, UK
<http://www.ciwem.org/events/annual-conference.aspx>

20-22 March

Progress in Nuclear Energy and Education, London, United Kingdom
<http://www.progressnuclearenergy.com/>

21-22 March

Oil and Gas Communications, London, UK
<http://www.smi-online.co.uk/events/overview.asp?is=5&ref=3775>

22 March

CEPS Carbon Market Forum: New Market Mechanisms under the AWG-LCA, Brussels, Belgium
<http://www.ceps.eu/taskforce/ceps-carbon-market-forum-new-market-mechanisms-under-awg-lca>

22-23 March

Energy Summit 2012, London, UK
<http://www.cbcbglobal.org/events/details/energy-summit-2012>

23 March

Britcham EU Committee Business Lunch with Mr Pavel Misiga, Head of Unit, Sustainable Production & Consumption, DG ENVI Brussels, Belgium
<http://www.regonline.co.uk/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1052712>

27-28 March

Smart Energy Management World Europe 2012, London, UK

<http://www.terrapinn.com/2012/smart-energy-management-world-europe/>

28-29 March

Cooperation for Waste Issues: 9th International Conference, Kharkiv, Ukraine

http://waste.ua/cooperation/index_en.html

28-30 March

South-East European Conference and Exhibition: SAVE the Planet - Waste Management, Recycling, Environment, Sofia, Bulgaria

<http://www.eco.viaexpo.com/en/conference>

29-30 March

Essentials of Power Trading, London, UK

http://www.informaglobalevents.com/appdata/downloads/essentials-of-power-trading-training-course//Essentials_of_Power_Trading.pdf

29-31 March

CEP® Clean Energy & Passive House 2012, Stuttgart, Germany

<http://www.cep-expo.de/kongress.html?&L=1>

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