



EuSalt General Assembly 2015 – Coming Soon!

‘Today or Tomorrow: Salt gives a pulse to life’

On 4th and 5th June 2015, EuSalt will hold its General Assembly in Salzburg (Austria).

The event will tackle the promises salt holds, not only for our present daily life, but also for the future. A series of three workshops will be organised on Thursday 4th June tackling the sector’s roadmap for the future and policy ambitions for a ‘circular economy’. In this respect, the following issues will be tackled as sources of challenges as much as opportunities for the salt industry’s role in a changing society: energy efficiency, innovation, social responsibility, safety.

The workshops will gather speakers from various horizons (European Commission, Umicore, the salt industry, research institutes) for moderated debates on the above-mentioned topics.

We are looking forward to elaborate and discuss together how the salt industry envisages its future.

We thank our sponsors for their support:



Biocides

- 59th meeting of Member States representatives
- ARCHE Workshop

Environment

- CEN/TC 164
- Eels Regulation

Industry

- BAT on Mining Waste
- Resource Efficiency
- European Minerals Day 2015

Miscellaneous

- Country of Origin Labelling
- Revision of the EU ETS
- REFIT of the General Food Law
- 'What's Up' in the EU?

Publications & Upcoming Events

Biocides

59th Meeting of Member States Representatives

On the occasion of the 59th meeting of representatives of Member States' Competent Authorities on the implementation of the Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR – Regulation (EU) No 528/2012), the issue of in-situ generation and precursors to active substances was addressed. Member states expressed concern that many biocidal products currently available on the EU market do not comply with the requirements of the BPR and that this proportion would increase as of 1st September 2015, i.e. the deadline for registration of a wide spectrum of active substances and biocidal products.

Several Associations including, EuSalt, AquaEurope and UEAPME (the European Association representing SMEs) also shared their concerns with the Commission regarding compliance and the burden imposed on sector by the registration and authorisation processes. This constraint weighs heavily on SMEs, particularly. As far as in-situ generated active substances are concerned, precursors to the substance(s) shall be registered with ECHA (or the national authority) by 1st September 2015 according to art. 95 of the BPR. This applies to salt as precursor to active chlorine generated from sodium chloride by electrolysis (see entry 939 of the review programme).

ARCHE Workshop on Biocides and Consortia

On 17th March, ARCHE-Consulting organised a workshop on the setting-up and management of consortium for the registration and authorisation of biocidal products. EuSalt

In view of the concerns stated above, Member states and the European Commission discussed the possibility of a “period of grace” (until 2018) for non-compliant products that would be on the market after 1st September 2015. The Commission document suggested that the first months after that date could be used to raise awareness among non-compliant companies of their obligations and to issue warnings rather than imposing immediate penalties. In case of non-compliance, enforcement authorities could issue a warning and require a proof of compliance to be provided within the six months. In addition, biocidal products consisting of precursors for the in-situ generation of active substances would benefit from specific treatment as the regulatory approach applying to those was clarified only recently. For this specific situation it is suggested to start control activities only after the date by which applications shall have been submitted and validated for the approval of systems subject to the transitional measures established by Article 93 of the BPR or by those stemming from Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 1062/2014. This point, however, was not approved and will be discussed at the next CA-meeting in May 2015.

shared the experience of the salt industry that is currently in the process of establishing such a consortium for the registration of sodium chloride for water disinfection purposes.

Environment

CEN/TC 164 on 'Water Supply'

The European Centre for Normalisation (CEN) is carrying out a consultation for sending the draft revised standard prEN 937 on "Chemicals used for the treatment of water intended for human consumption – Chlorine" to voting (unique acceptance procedure).

The aim of the draft is to harmonise the standard as follows:

- By deleting references to Directives 67/548/EEC and 98/8/EC, and

- By amending section 6.2. (dealing with labelling in accordance with EU legislation), thus stating that 'Chlorine used for treatment of water intended for human consumption is applied as a biocidal product. Therefore additional labelling requirements according to Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 shall be applied'.

Deadline for comments on the draft is **23rd April 2015**.

Eels Regulation Requirements

The European Commission has recently made recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the Eel Regulation (EC) 1100/2007 (see [implementation report](#)) as follows:

'Non-fishing anthropogenic mortality factors include hydropower and pumping stations, habitat loss or degradation, pollution, diseases and parasites. More attention should be given to management measures related to these non-fishing anthropogenic mortality factors, the majority of which has only partially been implemented by Member States.'

The intention of the regulation is to recover the European eel stock. However, some Member States seem to offer deeper and proactive approaches to the regulation than others. Namely, the UK Environment Agency has issued a Regulatory Position Statement setting out the rules for the UK, which involve screening abstraction points above 20 m³/day (for cooling water and brine processes). The best practice supported is a screen aperture size of 2 mm. Those requirements are very specific and might affect salt producing facilities.

Industry

Best Available Techniques (BAT) on Mining Waste

As the consultation is still ongoing regarding the revision of the BAT on mining waste, some EuSalt member companies have been contacted by their national authority – mostly in relation to their potash activities – to answer the questionnaire.

Even upon being contacted, companies are in no obligation to consent to participate in the test phase. Should they agree to do so, however, EuSalt calls for its members to inform the association about their decision and position on the matter.

Resource efficiency

Members of the Non-Energy Extractive Industry Panel (NEEIP) have coalesced in a Resource Efficiency Ad Hoc Alliance. This alliance aims to inform decision-makers about the economic importance of access to resources, and the interconnection between raw materials extraction and resource efficiency. In this view, various sector organisations composing the NEEIP – ACEA, Cembureau, Cerame-Unie, Euro-Alliages, Eurofer, Eurogypsum, Euromines, Euroroc, EuSalt, EXCA, IMA-Europe, and UEPG – have coordinated their communication on this very issue and in light of the expected new ‘circular economy’ package.

The circular economy communication that was presented in 2014 entailed the development of a lead indicator intended to measure resource efficiency. However, with the establishment of the new European Commission and the objective to cut red tape, the package was withdrawn and is expected to be redrafted and published by the end of the year.



In a proactive effort, the alliance aims to restate the importance of raw materials inputs, on the one hand, and the limits of circular economy, on the other hand. Safety and quality values, which the European industry abides by, invites to a precautionary approach to the extent to which materials may be reused. Recycling is already part of industrial activities and is largely applied by the different sectors along the value chains. Therefore, a coherent policy approach, both identifying the potentials and risk-based, is necessary in order to sustain EU competitiveness, growth and job markets.

Read the letter [here](#).

European Minerals Days 2015

For its next edition, the European Minerals Days is expanding and reaching out to other regions of the world, namely North America and Asia. The aim of the event is to raise awareness about the importance of minerals in our daily lives – to the economy and society. In so doing, the event provides an opportunity to improve the perception of the extractive industry.

The event will take place in two episodes:

- Open Day weekend (25-27th September 2015) at company site level: Companies are invited to open their doors to the public (or target groups, for instance schools);
- The EU event at the European Parliament (exhibition and debate) (first week of December 2015).

Moreover, communication campaigns aiming to engage with the public will be organised. More information will be provided at a later stage.



Miscellaneous

Mandatory Country of Origin Labelling

The European Commission is still expected to publish the Report on mandatory country of origin labelling (COOL) for unprocessed foods, single ingredients, and ingredients

representing more than 50% of a food in the coming weeks. This publication has been delayed since the establishment of the Juncker Commission in November 2015.

EU Consultations

EuSalt has taken part in two EU consultations in March 2015:

1. Consultation on the revision of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme post-2020: On behalf of the salt industry, EuSalt

has restated the need for a fair system that does not hamper on competitiveness. The industry agrees that investments in innovation and the further promotion of energy and resource efficiency is conducive to

competitiveness. However, the policy and legislative framework need to allow for such investments to take place. Regulatory predictability is key, and so is the value chain approach in this regard and when considering exposure to a risk of carbon leakage.

2. Consultation of the fitness check (REFIT) of the General Food law:

Although the consultation considerably focused on food safety and hygiene, EuSalt voiced the need for more evidence-based regulatory, especially with regard to 'regulation by information' (labelling, claims, and so forth).

What's Up in the EU

Jyrki Katainen's Speech on the 'Drivers of Growth in the EU Economy'

On 17th March 2015, the European Commission's Vice-Commissioner for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness gave a speech at the College of Europe where he confirmed the Commission's commitment to engage with structural reforms in view of creating an improved environment for investments. To that end, he advanced better regulation and decisions taken by "real experts, not politicians" as key elements. Furthermore, to foster economic recovery, a

'capital markets union' will be designed to 'open up alternative sources of finance for European companies'.

Create new jobs and eco recovery w/o weighing on national eco and deepening debt.

"Capital Markets Union" designed to open up "alternative sources of finance for European companies".

Publications

- Trade and Investment Barriers Report, 5th edition
- Foreign Economic Report (2014). BDI. N°4
- Minutes of the EuSalt Technical Committee and De-icing meetings (EuSalt members only)
- NaCl Bulletin: L'Essentiel de l'information scientifique sur le sel (2015). Comité des Salines de France, n°5, March.

EuSalt Meetings

- 5-6 May EuSalt Safety WG Meeting (Compass Minerals, UK)
- 3 June Liaison Committee Meeting (Salzburg)
- 3-5 June EuSalt General Assembly 2015 (Salzburg)

Upcoming Events

14 Apr.	Workshop on Resource Efficiency Indicators	5-6 May	CEN/TC 337 WG 1 on De-Icing Standard (Berlin)
23 Apr.	EPCA Negotiation Training	21 May	Ecofys event: 'Carbon Markets are there to boost carbon innovation'
27 Apr.	NEEIP Meeting	26-27 May	CEN/TC 337 WG1 on De-Icing (Berlin)
28 Apr.	CEPS Event: IMF Fiscal Monitor: 'Fiscal Policies for Sustainable Growth'	3-5 Jun.	EuSalt General Assembly (Salzburg)
5-6 May	EuSalt Safety Working Group Meeting (Compass Minerals, UK)	30 Jun.-3 Jul.	Food Expo (Milan)

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