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Environment

Biocidal Products Regulation: Pre-Consortium for Sodium Chloride



The Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR) (EU) [No 528/2012](#) that applies since 1st September 2013 foresees that all substances containing or generating an 'active substance' – i.e. 'substances or micro-organisms that have an action on or against harmful organisms' – shall be registered and authorised by the national competent authority or the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in order to keep being marketed and used within the EU. Salt is concerned as it is used to generate active chlorine via electrolysis for water disinfection, e.g. swimming pool water.

Consequently and in accordance with art. 95 of the BPR, sodium chloride intended for biocidal purposes needs to be registered with ECHA by 1st September 2015. For this purpose, EuSalt aims to launch a consortium, with the assistance of ReachCentrum and ARCHE Consulting, so as to gather interested parties for the registration and authorisation of sodium chloride. The latter require acquiring information about the active substance associated with salt, and for which parties to the consortium shall buy a letter of access, individually. The cost of the whole procedure is to be distributed among the parties, thus significantly reducing the financial burden on individual companies, including on SMEs.

We are currently instigating the pre-consortium phase that will prepare the joint dossier for the registration of sodium chloride as a biocidal product, on the one hand; and already organise the grouping of companies interested in the next step, i.e. the authorisation procedure. In parallel, members to the consortium will need to submit a dossier individually, in order to be listed as registered supplier of salt for biocidal purposes for the product-types 1 to 5, and 11 (see Annex V to the BPR). This includes salt used for the disinfection of swimming pool water.

The signing of the pre-consortium agreement will take place in early March 2015, once the cost of the letters of access is known. Therefore, it is still time for companies (salt manufacturers or importers, but also electrolysis device manufacturers and users of salt for biocidal purposes) to join the pre-consortium and state their interest. To do so, please contact both Ms. Leondina Della Pietra (lpd@reachcentrum.eu) and the EuSalt secretariat (sandrine.lauret@eusalt.com).

Next steps and provisional agenda:

- Letter of Access Negotiation (with Aqualution, Eurochlor, and the European Commission): 24th February 2015,
- Data collection: March 2015,
- Signing of the pre-consortium agreement: early March 2015,
- Submission of the dossier to ECHA: 30th May 2015.

European Parliament Committees

On 21st-22nd January, the European Parliament's committees on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), and Industry, Transport and Energy (ITRE) discussed a variety of issues. The ENVI committee held a public hearing on the Waste Legislative Package. Despite the withdrawal of the European Commission's Circular Economy package, the European Parliament deemed important to address the issue of waste management and recycling. Participants called on for a high level of environmental standards in Europe as the Commission is to submit a new Waste proposal by the end of 2015. The importance of waste management as a resource was restated as a 'key driver for both economic growth and environmental protection' (CEEP).

Market Stability Reserve – Fixing the EU ETS

In the context of EU Climate policy, MEPs discussed the European Commission (EC) proposal for establishing a Market Stability reserve ('the reserve'). Impairments in the functioning of the EU Emission Trading System, where the supply of free carbon emission allowances significantly exceed the demand, have led the carbon price to drop. This is perceived as counterproductive in view of the EU objective to reduce carbon emissions by 20% in 2020 and to boost innovation for better energy and resource efficiency.

In order to fix this problem and provide new incentives to industry to invest in low-carbon technologies, the EC proposed to establish the reserve to manage the amount of free allowances available on the carbon market, thus allowing to raise and maintain a high

carbon price. In addition to the reserve, she intends to retrieve 900 million free allowances from the market ('back-loading'). Unlike back-loading, the reserve is to be implemented as of 2021.

However, several contentious points have marked the debates between the European Parliament and the Council, as well as among MEPs, namely:

- The competitiveness of the EU industry,
- The 'carbon leakage' protection and the case of free allowances post-2020,
- Back-loading: some MEPs favour temporarily withdrawing those allowances and re-introducing them into the market at a later stage, while others support a permanent withdrawal, and
- The starting date of the reserve: a group of MEPs and some Member States are in favour of an earlier start of the reserve, i.e. 2017 instead of 2021.

The votes in ITRE committee led to the rejection of the [opinion report](#), drafted by MEP Antonio Tajani and that supported an earlier starting date. The ENVI committee ([report](#) and [amendments](#)) is left to shape the EP position in view of the vote in committee and in plenary. Amendments submitted in the ENVI committee support a more ambitious proposal and a deep reform of the EU ETS that would be less indulgent in its approach to carbon leakage.

Next steps:

- Environment Council discussions: 6th February 2015,
- EP ENVI Committee vote: 24th February 2015,
- EP Plenary vote: to be announced.

Industry

Best Available Techniques (BAT) on Mining Waste

The European Commission/Joint Research Centre (JRC) is in the process of reviewing the 2009 BAT document on the management of waste from extractive industries. The revision extends the scope of the BAT to include all raw materials, thus covering salt mines that have a waste disposal facility – waste backfilling is not

concerned. For this purpose a questionnaire has been circulated to some industrial sectors as of January 2015. Sectors are to answer the questionnaire if they are contacted by their national competent authority or the JRC and if they are part of the test phase.

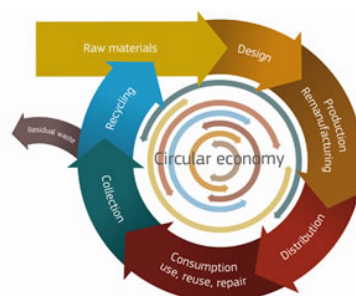
European Minerals Days 2015

The European Minerals Days (EMD) Steering Committee met on 20th January to kick-off the organisation of the 2015 edition of the event and the communication surrounding it. The new edition will focus on issues that matter to the extractive industry: safety, biodiversity, Europe's competitiveness, and regional development. In order to enhance public awareness about raw materials and their link with the aforementioned themes, the EMD 2015 will be structured around:

- An EU Event (December 2015): An exhibition will be organised in Brussels,
- 'Open days' at national level (September 2015): Companies are invited to open their doors to the public. The link between the different national events will be through the safety awareness campaign and the student challenge that will aim to connect the public to the mining experience.

Circular Economy Package

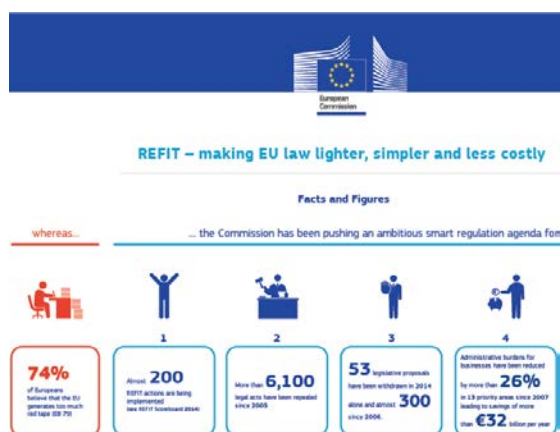
The European Commission withdrew the communication on a Circular Economy that was proposed by the previous Environment Commissioner, Janez Potocnik. It intends to make a new, 'more ambitious', proposal by the end of 2015. At a European Parliament ENVI committee meeting in January 2015, Director-General, Karl Falkenberg, gave some indications on the direction that the new package was to take. In particular, he emphasised the importance of product design in achieving a circular economy – i.e. an economy generating growth and jobs while strongly relying on recycling and minimising its negative impact on the environment. In



addition, the new package will bring the focus on individual needs of Member States. Respecting the 'diversity of Member States' is perceived as essential for the package to be effectively implemented.

Food

REFIT of the General Food Law



On 3rd February 2015, the European Commission DG Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) launched a stakeholder consultation for the fitness check of the General Food Law (GFL) ([Regulation \(EC\) No 178/2002](#)). The evaluation of the GFL will be carried out by the Food Chain Evaluation Consortium (FCEC) and Agra CEAS Consulting. It targets national authorities, as well as a variety of stakeholders involved in the supply chains of food and feed.

The survey aims to collect data in order to evaluate if the GFL is 'effective and efficient and provides added value to stakeholders'. The consultation addresses provisions of the GFL, as well as secondary legislation derived from the GFL, such as:

Sustainable diets

The Barilla Centre for Food and Nutrition organised a breakfast session on 28th January at the European Parliament on 'Sustainable Diets: Good for you, Good for the environment'. The open debate was chaired by MEP Giovanni La Via - Chair of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

- Food hygiene
- Novel Foods, GMOs, Contaminants,
- Addition of vitamins, minerals and other substances to foods,
- Food labelling,
- Feed additives, hygiene, and labelling, and so on.

For this purpose, Agra CEAS is launching an online survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GFL-StakeholdersOnlineSurvey>). **Associations** – not individual companies – that are active at EU and/or national levels are invited to provide their views. A separate consultation will cover companies and SMEs. The **deadline for comments is 27th March 2015**.

The consultation provides an opportunity for the salt sector to emphasise the need for a well-functioning, coherent regulatory framework that does not put unnecessary burden on industry. As far as salt is concerned, salt fortification with micro-nutrients addresses a health concern, namely the impact of nutrient deficiencies on the European population. Therefore, EuSalt will participate in the consultation and encourages national salt associations to contribute, as well.

and included institutional speakers as Mr Michael Flueh – Acting Director, Safety of the Food Chain, DG Health and Food Safety. The debate covered the implementation of sustainable diets across Europe moving towards an EU-wide sustainable food system policy.

Salt Issues

EuSalt Safety Working Group

Meeting on 21st January 2015, the EuSalt Safety Working Group reiterated its call for all salt producers to identify the contact person within their company to participate in the experience sharing platform. Sharing best practices is deemed essential to improve safety awareness, the introduction and respect

of safety measures and commitments so as to provide safe workplaces to all persons involved. The meeting also progressed in introducing the concept of a yearly Safety Award for which the decision will be based on a reported LTI (Lost Time Injury)/100.000 hours worked.

World Salt Symposium 2017

The first preparatory meeting of the committee organising the 10th World Salt Symposium was held from 15th to 19th January 2015. On that occasion, new dates were announced for the next edition of the Symposium: 28th-31st March 2017 in Los Cabos (Mexico). It consists in an international gathering of all salt producers, research centres, universities and salt-related industries, and that is organised every 9 years. It provides a unique opportunity for participants to share best practices among a very international audience, as well as to present new scientific research and innovation projects regarding various aspects of salt and related applications. The first committee preparatory meeting discussed the call for



papers that will be issued in the coming days and identified the themes that will be addressed during this unique conference. More information will be made available also through a website to be published in the coming months.

Publications

European Parliament, ENVI Committee Study: ‘Environment and Climate Policies’: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2014/536288/IPOL_STU\(2014\)536288_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2014/536288/IPOL_STU(2014)536288_EN.pdf)

CEN-CENELEC Work Programme: <http://www.cencenelec.eu/News/Publications/Pages/default.aspx>

EFLA on the REFIT of the EU General Food Law: http://www.efla-aeda.org/sites/www.efla-aeda.org/files/EFLAWorkshopOnCommissionsREFITProgramme_0.pdf

The Non-Energy Extractive Industry Forum, Conference Report ([Members Only](#))

EuSalt Internal Meetings

- 10 Feb. 2015** Roadmap 2050 Working Group Meeting (*VanderValk Hotel, Brussels Airport*)
- 11 Feb. 2015** Board Meeting (*VanderValk Hotel, Brussels Airport*)
- 11 Mar. 2015** Analytical Working Group Meeting (*Regus Business Centre, Brussels Airport*)
- 12 Mar. 2015** Technical Committee Meeting (*Regus Business Centre, Brussels Airport*)
- 5-6 May 2015** Safety Working Group Meeting (*Compass Minerals, UK*)
- 3-5 Jun. 2015** General Assembly (*Salzburg, Austria*)

Upcoming Events

5 Feb.	Kellen Europe Executive Meeting	9-10 Mar.	European Summit on Innovation for Active and Healthy Ageing
10 Feb.	EuSalt WG on Roadmap 2050	18 Mar.	Evidence-based Policy-making for Innovation and Research (EMInn)
20 Feb.	AECA Roundtable on the priorities of the Latvian Presidency of the EU	18-19 Mar.	European Parliament ENVI Committee
23-24 Feb.	European Parliament ENVI Committee	24-25 Mar.	38 th EuroGeoSurveys General Meeting
24 Feb.	Biocide Consortia Meeting and Negotiations	25 Mar.	‘Water Matters’ Conference (EurEau)
2-3 Mar.	European Minerals Days Steering Committee – PR Workshop	4-7 May & 26-27 May	CEN TC/337 WG 1 on De-Icing agents (Berlin)
4-7 Mar.	Salt Institute Annual Meeting (FL, USA)	29 Jun.-3 Jul.	Food Expo (Milan, IT)

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