



CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

17 November 2005: No Embargo

CIA Responds to REACH Vote in European Parliament

The Chemical Industries Association (CIA) welcomed the European Parliament's vote today for a more workable and proportionate Registration package in the REACH regulation, but expressed its concern that MEPs decided to base the Authorisation part of the system on hazard alone.

We are pleased that MEPs share our view that the registration requirements should be less bureaucratic. Contrary to some pressure group fears, the industry will still test all 30,000 legacy substances to some degree but those posing greater risk will require - and get - more thorough testing.

However, for companies who manufacture and use reactive chemicals to make the benign substances we find in everyday products such as medicines and cleaning products, hazard-based authorisation means that many useful substances could be removed from the market, even when there is no risk to man or environment if those substances are used appropriately.

"Today's vote in the Parliament marks the first formal legislative milestone for REACH since this chemicals management debate started back in 1998 under the last UK Presidency of the EU," said Judith Hackitt, CIA's Director General.

She continues, "We hope the vote gives this 2005 UK Presidency the boost it needs to draw this phase of the debate to a close by the end of the year. Then we can all focus on preparing for REACH and delivering the environmental and health benefits all parties wish to see following its effective implementation."

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Notes for Editors

1. The UK Chemical Industries Association (CIA) is the premier trade/employers' organisation in the UK chemical industry. It has a membership of 150 companies, many of which are international, operating from over 200 sites in the UK.
2. The chemical industry in the UK contributes over £5 billion annually to the country's balance of payments from a gross output of £50 billion. It accounts for 2% of UK GDP, 11% of manufacturing's gross value added, and employs some 225,000 highly skilled

people directly as well as supporting several hundred thousand related jobs throughout the economy nationwide. The industry is global both in terms of markets and ownership, with over 65% of CIA's membership being foreign "headquartered". Any significant imbalance in business operating environment between the UK and other locations can lead to the loss of UK output, trade and investment opportunities.

3. REACH - the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals - remains the number one legislative issue for the sustainable future of the European chemical industry. The CIA continues to support its overall objectives of protecting human health and the environment; developing a single new system of registration and evaluation of substances; and the principle of risk based decision-making. We believe, to help ensure our industry's sustainable future, that we have a responsibility to our workers, our customers and to the public to ensure that all our products are safe - and we fully accept that new legislation is needed to achieve this level of reassurance.
4. For more information about Reach and the European Chemical Industry please visit <http://www.cefic.be/Templates/shwStory.asp?NID=494&HID=441> or <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/chemicals/eufuture.htm>