

# Short meeting report - ECHA's First Stakeholders' Day October 10, 2008

The first Stakeholders' Day of the European Chemicals agency took place in Helsinki, Finland on October 10, 2008. The stakeholders' day will be a reoccurring event, at once a year, with the next day scheduled for May 27, 2009.

The number of participants present was about 300. ECHA had counted on 400 so this must be seen as a slight disappointment. The whole event was also broadcasted over the Internet directly and will be available shortly on the [EU Commission website](#) for those who did not have the possibility to follow the event in real time. All presentations from the day have also been uploaded to the [Extranet](#).

The day consisted basically of three parts:

1. Pre-registration
2. Candidate list
3. Stakeholders' involvement

## ***Pre-registration***

Up till now, 12.000 companies have signed up to REACH-IT and ECHA has received about 450.000 pre-registrations! That's much more than what was expected for the whole pre-registration period and many more are expected during the coming weeks.

There was an enormous interest in this session and the presentations were followed by a questions and answers session where the following was discussed:

- Slow down of REACH-IT – ECHA has received many more pre-registrations than expected and it has caused the system to slow down. Improvements are continuously being implemented and the system should pick up.
- Access to pre-registration numbers of others – It was discovered last week that a South Korean company had managed to access the pre-registration numbers of other pre-registrants through one of the public ECHA IT tools. ECHA is currently considering how to handle this since it is an abuse of an otherwise useful tool for industry.
- Reactivation of a deactivated pre-registration – has not been discussed up till now
- Imported for the first time – means imported for the first time after June 1<sup>st</sup> 2008
- Boarder control – ECHA is not responsible for the REACH compliance and it will be up to each of the EU member states to decide how they will check compliance.
- Prolongation of the pre-registration phase – will not be possible, not even with a financial penalty. The legislation is there and would in that case have to be changed which is not foreseen and would in any case take too long for it to have any effect before the end of the pre-registration phase is over.
- Access to pre-registration numbers – Enforcement authorities will have access to pre-registration numbers but not downstream users.
- Registered uses – to be sure a supplier has registered your use it is very important that you keep good contacts in the supply chain. This is nothing that ECHA can help with.

## ***Candidate list***

This is a topic that has not been given so much attention up till now and there was a lot of interest from the audience. The first candidate list for authorization of substances of very high concern should be published by the end of October this year.

Topics discussed in the questions and answers session included the following:

- Alternative testing methods – the recommended/allowed test methods are regularly updated with identified useful methods. REACH also states that results from other methods should be taken into account if they are relevant.
- Information to consumers – for consumers, information of safe use and disposal is necessary. How it is communicated and in what level of detail is up to each member state to decide since it is an enforcement issue.
- Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for articles – an SDS is not necessary but information on safe handling and use is still needed.
- Exposure scenarios and recycling – waste treatment has to be covered.
- Already classified CMRs (Carcinogenic – Mutagenic – Repro-toxic) and the candidate list – There is no indication so far that all already classified CMRs would all be on the candidate list in the future, it would have to be proposed by a member state.
- Up-dates of the candidate list – will be done regularly but how frequent is still under discussion.

## ***Stakeholders involvement***

This topic was given the most time in the program but was of least interest to the audience. After the presentations the moderator found it difficult to find even a few questions from the audience related to the topic of the session. Even though reminded several times, the audience kept asking questions on pre-registration showing clearly that this was the topic of interest and that the first session of the day had been far too short.

Questions and answers:

- REACH information in non-EU languages – pilot projects on-going in Chinese and Russian.

## ***Reflections***

There are still so many uncertainties and people are really frustrated and confused. One can only speculate in the reasons why ECHA did not devote more time to this topic but at least it was clear that they don't have answers to all of the questions as many are "still under discussion".