

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL .....	1
YOURFORMULA – FRESH IDEAS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE .....	2
KEEPING ON TRACK WITH THE SAFE USE OF SOLVENTS .....	2
BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY - READ OUR NEW GUIDE .....	3
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT COMMITS TO IMPROVING AIR QUALITY .....	3
2016 ESIG CALENDAR – WE CELEBRATE OUR 20 <sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY .....	3
PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP AWARD 2016 CALL FOR ENTRIES .....	4
ONE SIZE NEVER FITS ALL .....	4
SEASON'S GREETINGS .....	4

## EDITORIAL

Major anniversaries are a time to stop and celebrate – and to reflect. When ESIG celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2016, thoughts will naturally turn to the many things we have achieved together on behalf of our industry and society.

ESIG was created with the purpose of increasing regulator and public awareness of the benefits of solvents for society and promoting the sustainable, safe and responsible use of solvents. Every day we strive to fulfil this purpose through product innovation, high environmental standards, a determination to ensure the safety of producers and consumers.

There are many things of which we can feel proud.

We have 'talked the talk' over the past 20 years, producing a wide range of effective and engaging materials to promote safety in 17 languages. Through our newsletters, posters, videos, guidelines, training sessions and workshops, we have opened up our work and our industry to establish a real and active dialogue about solvents with regulators, industry partners and independent institutes.

We have also 'walked the walk' by contributing to a better environment and improved health and safety. ESIG produced guidelines on air quality that helped our sector contribute to a 40 per cent drop in VOC emissions between 1990 and 2010. Our REACH Generic Exposure Scenarios (GES) catalogue, endorsed by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), has helped manufacturers and downstream users to develop exposure scenarios, contributing to the safe use of chemicals. And the ESIG Product Stewardship Award, created in 1999, has recognised innovative ways of reducing the environmental and health impact of solvent use, continually raising the bar for standards in our sector.



While we celebrate and prepare to continue our journey, we should also take a moment to reflect. There is still much work to be done to fulfil our purpose.

The media and communications environment is more open than it has ever been, giving us new opportunities to communicate but also a new platform for critics. The regulatory environment in Europe has become more risk-averse, presenting us with higher hurdles to overcome in demonstrating the safety of solvents. The economic environment continues to pose a challenge to our sector, like many others.

ESIG is determined to address these challenges. We will continue to make our products as environmentally friendly and safe to use as possible. We will reinforce engagement with our members and key audiences to foster an informed debate about solvents. We will promote health, safety and environmental protection and best practices in the use of solvents in the workplace.

ESIG has achieved much over the last 20 years. We can feel proud of our achievements. By working together, I feel sure that we can make the next 20 years even more successful. I would like to personally thank you for the excellent cooperation over the last four years, and for the continuous support from colleagues and members I have worked with during my time as Director General for ESIG. My successor will be announced soon and introduced in the next Summer Newsletter.

We wish you a peaceful Christmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year!

Antoine Brossier



## YOURFORMULA – FRESH IDEAS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Have you heard of YourFormula? It is the first international multichannel platform, where young chemists and science enthusiasts share and discuss the great innovations taking place in Europe. In less than three years after its launch, YourFormula has established itself as the go-to forum for the science community to engage on sustainability matters.

Cefic, as the proud initiator, invites you to explore and promote the platform. Maybe you also know scientists, students and your professionals who are passionate about

sustainability and would like to contribute to the discussion on how chemistry and science are helping to build a sustainable world?

YourFormula provides fun and inspiring articles, videos and blogs from the science community and partners with key European scientific events, such as the '3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium of Green Chemistry' at La Rochelle and 'Science and You' in Nancy. In 2016 YourFormula will participate at the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the 'Chemistry Conference for Young Scientists' in Belgium.

For more information check [www.yourformula.eu](http://www.yourformula.eu) and follow @YourFormula on Twitter and Facebook.

## KEEPING ON TRACK WITH THE SAFE USE OF SOLVENTS

Our mission is to help solvents suppliers and users to handle their products safely and to comply with regulatory requirements. Regular readers of this newsletter will be aware that ESIG has developed a number of tools to support solvent risk assessments under the EU REACH regulation. These tools, help suppliers and downstream users to save time, resources and costs.

We are pleased to announce the latest developments for the following tools:

### Worker Generic Exposure Scenarios – ESIG's Worker GES Library has been overhauled!

Originally developed with input from a number of the solvents user trade associations to support the 2010 REACH substance registrations, the 22 Generic Exposure Scenarios (GES) cover around 90% of all uses of solvents. The Worker GES map the typical operational conditions and risk management measures for the most common solvents applications within industrial and professional work settings. The control measures are approved as appropriate to demonstrate safe use as part of the REACH Chemical Safety Assessment (CSA) process.

These Worker GES have been wholly revised and are now available in the updated Cefic GES Worker Chemical Safety Assessment (CSA) template. The revision took account of learnings and feedback from solvents users to make the GES even more relevant to the typical workplace.

Although of particular relevance to solvent suppliers in support of their REACH substance registrations, the Worker GES may also be relevant to users of solvents who may wish to carry out their own safety assessments.

The updated library of Worker GES is available at: [www.esig.org](http://www.esig.org)



### No regret with EGRET – assessing safe handling of solvents for consumer use

Our Generic Exposure Scenario (GES) Risk Exposure Tool (EGRET) is doing just that for consumer uses of solvents. EGRET estimates exposures to typical consumer products containing solvents, such as cleaning agents, paints or adhesives, assessing the risks to check for safe use.

ESIG pioneered and developed EGRET to facilitate the safety evaluation of consumer uses of solvents. Launched in 2010, EGRET is a refinement of the ECETOC Targeted Risk Assessment (TRA) tool for assessing consumer uses of chemicals. It has now been improved to offer greater functionality and more flexibility in its application.

In Q1 2016, ESIG is planning a webinar on EGRET and how to use this tool. Please consult our website for further announcements: [www.esig.org](http://www.esig.org)

In the meantime you can find more information on the latest improvements of EGRET here: <http://goo.gl/yFjpUz>

## BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY - READ OUR NEW GUIDE



We have published a new guide 'Managing the Health Risks of Solvent Exposure' within our series of Best Practice Guides. Since releasing our earlier guide on managing solvent exposures, there have been significant changes to the regulatory landscape, in particular the introduction of the EU REACH Regulation. REACH has increased the complexity of regulatory obligations for all users of chemicals.

With this guide we provide simple and practical advice to help solvent users comply with regulatory requirements, and the necessary measures to ensure that health risks from the use of solvents are controlled.

You can download the guide here: [www.esig.org](http://www.esig.org)

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT COMMITS TO IMPROVING AIR QUALITY

You could go days without food and hours without water, but you would last only a few minutes without air. On average, each of us breathes over 11,000 litres of air each day. The air is cleaner today than it has been for the last two decades as most air pollutants have been reduced in the EU by setting new standards.

At ESIG we have continuously been engaging in the debate on national targets to limit emissions from air pollutants, especially volatile organic compounds (VOCs). We have also developed an inventory on VOC emissions which is a tool helping member states meet their national targets. All these efforts have contributed to a significant reduction of VOC emissions from solvents by 40% in the last 25 years.

In fact, earlier this year the European Environment Agency (EEA) released data showing that on average, EU member states have been 21.8% below the VOC limits set under the National Emissions Ceiling (NEC) Directive. The EEA data also showed that VOC emissions in most member states have been decreasing.

Highlighting the positive impact the solvents industry had on emission reduction of air pollutants, we have been engaging with decision makers throughout the review of the air quality legislation which has now entered the final stages. The European Parliament recently adopted the legislative proposal which includes a series of reduction targets that resonate



with the needs of our industry to remain competitive, and at the same time reduce the impact of air pollutants on human health and the environment.

The Council will now develop its position on the adopted proposal before starting negotiations with the European Parliament to agree on a final legislative text.

More information on our position on the proposed legislation as well as the solvent VOC emissions inventory is available here: [www.esig.org](http://www.esig.org)

## 2016 ESIG CALENDAR – WE CELEBRATE OUR 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



Celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this year's calendar documents the solvent's industry achievements accomplished since ESIG was launched in 1996. The next 12 months will take you on a journey, capturing the milestones the industry has taken to make their products as environmentally friendly as possible, and to improve the safe handling of solvents. With this calendar we invite you to join us on our trip down memory lane.

If you wish to order additional calendars, please contact Veronique Schoune at [VSC@cefic.be](mailto:VSC@cefic.be)



## ESIG PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP AWARD 2016 - CALL FOR ENTRIES

We invite companies using or handling solvents to enter the competition to win the ESIG Product Stewardship Award and submit their application by 31 October 2016.

For the 10<sup>th</sup> time since 1999 we will reward excellence, innovation and continuous improvement in the use of solvents as well as health, safety and environment protection beyond regulatory requirements. European companies that pursue high standards, maintain best practices and seek innovative ways related to production, supply or transport of solvents, are called on to enter the competition. The award gives solvents' users the perfect opportunity to show their strong commitment to Responsible Care and to highlight



their achievements to customers and suppliers as well as regulators, industry representatives and the media.

The award winner will be decided by an independent jury composed of senior representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament, media and trade organisations. An award ceremony will be held in 2017 where the winner will receive a high level of promotion on European and national level.

For more information about the ESIG Product Stewardship Award, past winners and to download the complete application pack, available in English, French, German, Spanish and Italian please visit: [www.esig.org](http://www.esig.org)

## ONE SIZE NEVER FITS ALL

Occupational Exposure Limits (OELs) are an important feature to control airborne concentrations of hazardous substances. They measure the intensity and extent to which our body experiences a particular hazard, and restrict the amount and length of time of that exposure.

Unfortunately, regulatory authorities often make general recommendations about hydrocarbon solvents and therefore tend to ignore the distinction between aromatic and de-aromatised hydrocarbon solvents in terms of their toxicological properties.

To this end, the Hydrocarbon Solvents Producers Association (HSPA) recently held a workshop to discuss the review of OELs in aromatic and de-aromatised hydrocarbon solvents with the working group (UA3) of the Committee on Hazardous Substances of the German Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BAuA).

Based on a study commissioned by the UA3 working group the BAuA initially recommended to use the same OELs for both groups of hydrocarbon solvents. A distinction between them however, needs to be made because de-aromatised hydrocarbon solvents have an improved toxicological profile. Their OEL can therefore be higher compared to aromatic



hydrocarbon solvents. Harmonising the limits for both groups would be ineffective.

At the end of the workshop the UA3 group agreed that OELs should be developed on a product by product basis. The HSPA technical group will therefore develop a list of OELs per product which the UA3 group will evaluate before the BAuA is expected to give its final approval early 2016.

We invite you to consult our website for further updates on this topic. [www.esig.org](http://www.esig.org)



## SEASON'S GREETINGS

The year is drawing to a close and the bustling working life is slowly being replaced by Christmas and a short breathing pause at the turn of the year. We would like to thank all Solutions readers for supporting us throughout 2015 and we look forward to continuing our cooperation in 2016. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a successful New Year!

**SOLUTIONS IS PRODUCED BY  
THE EUROPEAN SOLVENTS INDUSTRY GROUP.**

For further information, please visit our website at [www.esig.org](http://www.esig.org) or contact:  
**EUROPEAN SOLVENTS INDUSTRY GROUP**  
c/o CEFIC  
Avenue E. Van Nieuwenhuysse 4,  
B-1160 Brussels, BELGIUM  
Tel: +32 (0)2 676 72 69 • Fax: +32 (0)2 676 72 16 • E-mail: [esig@cefic.be](mailto:esig@cefic.be)

For other articles please follow us online:

[www.esig.org](http://www.esig.org)