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FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Dear Readers,



With the summer break around the corner you may already be dreaming of clear blue skies, sunny days and warm nights. Clean air is essential to our health and to our environment. I am therefore delighted to share some news from our air quality team about their active role in shaping future air quality legislation, and improving the legislator's and public's understanding of our industry's potential in managing emissions from solvents.

I would also like to congratulate once again the two winners of the 9th ESIG Product Stewardship Award, Oleotecnica and Aug. Hedinger, who received the prize for their outstanding commitment to pursuing

a sustainable use of solvents. We honoured their achievements with an award ceremony at the European Commission in Brussels.

In April, we also held our very first training course on solvents in Brussels, organised together with the UK-based Solvent Industry Association (SIA). The course is aimed at everyone who is new to the solvents industry and would like to broaden their knowledge. Given our commitment to educating customers and users on how to safely handle solvents, we are of course planning additional sessions throughout the year.

I wish you all a warm and enjoyable summer.

Antoine Brossier

FLYING THE FLAG FOR EUROPE: FACTS AND FIGURES 2014



With a workforce of 1.2 million people and a contribution of €527 billion to the EU economy in 2013, the chemical industry is one of the largest industrial sectors, and an important source of direct and indirect employment in many regions of Europe.

Each year, Cefic publishes an analysis of the latest competitive trends in the European chemical industry, putting it in a global context. The results show that although EU chemicals sales nearly doubled in the last 20 years, their world market shares halved in that same time period. Potential reasons for this decline include

high energy prices, high labour costs, and regulatory and tax burdens. The report also shows that the EU remains the leading exporter of chemicals. However, despite the apparent strength of the chemical industry, production is growing slower than global demand and the sector remains 7% below pre-crisis levels. According to the report, this relates to the increase in global competition with China ranking first in sales.

For more facts and figures on the chemical industry, download the report from <http://www.cefic.org/Facts-and-Figures/>. Hard copies are also available upon request.

NEW VOC SOLVENT EMISSIONS INVENTORY

The continued commitment of the European solvent industry and its strong cooperation with downstream users have led to significant long-term improvements in air quality. The industry's efforts have resulted in a reduction of VOC emissions from solvents by 40% since 1990.

As part of its commitment to supporting member states in meeting existing EU regulatory requirements, ESIG has produced an EU inventory on VOC solvent emissions, which calculates emissions based on actual volumes of solvents sold, rather than estimates. Results show that the contribution of the solvent sector to VOC emissions has been overestimated by the European Environment Agency (EEA), specifically by 35% in 2008 and 37% in 2009. The latest data also indicates a general trend of decreasing VOC emissions, by an average of 1.5% yearly between 2008 and 2013. Policymakers, member state officials and air quality experts have endorsed ESIG's inventories as they provide a reliable tool for estimating VOC emissions. The EEA is expected to publish its data in the 'National Emission Ceiling Directive Status Report 2014' later this year.

In the context of the ongoing review of EU air quality legislation, ESIG has been engaging with legislators to inform them about the industry's achievements and ensure that future EU emission reduction targets are pragmatic in terms of technical feasibility and achieving clear environmental benefits. ESIG believes that the substantial reductions of VOC emissions, as well as the global dimension of air pollution, should be taken into account during negotiations on the final directive.

The new European Commission Clean Air Policy Package includes a proposal to update the National Emissions Ceilings Directive (NECD), setting national objectives for the main air pollutants, including Non Methane Volatile Organic



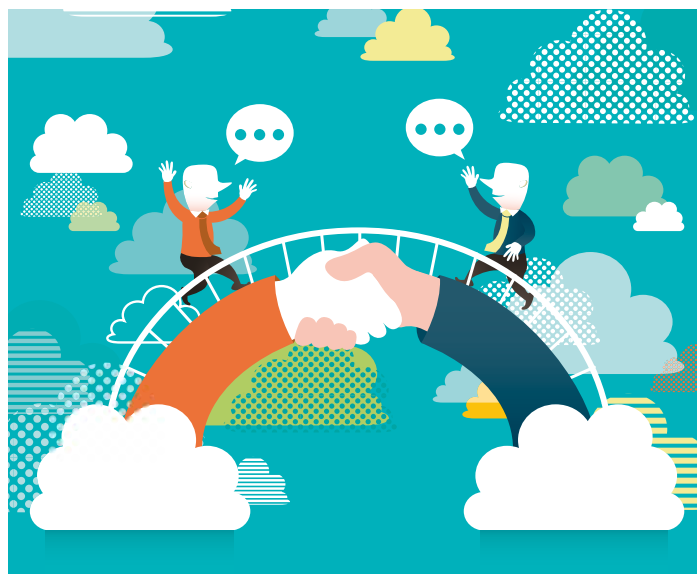
Compounds (NMVOCs). The proposal aligns EU legislation with the requirements of the Gothenburg Protocol for 2020 and introduces new objectives for 2030.

The Council and European Parliament are developing their positions, and will enter into negotiations by the end of 2015 with the aim of reaching an agreement on the final directive, which will then become EU law. MEP Julie Girling, the European Parliament's rapporteur, stated: *"I am confident that we can come up with a solution that delivers real value without imposing unnecessary burdens on industry or members states."*

ESIG will continue to cooperate with EU legislators in a constructive way to improve their knowledge about the complexity of atmospheric chemistry, and understanding of the industry's efforts in managing emissions from solvents.

More information on ESIG's commitment to air quality available here: <http://www.esig.org/en/regulatory-information/air-quality>

BUILDING THE BRIDGE BETWEEN ACADEMIA AND INDUSTRY



European standards will allow the industry to develop bio-based solvents that are regulated and managed in the same way as other chemicals. ESIG is leading the development of those standards and

was invited to a workshop organised by the University of York's Green Chemistry Centre of Excellence on 'Building Sustainable Solvent Solutions for Industry', to present and discuss progress in this area.

The global market for bio-based products is expanding. Standards play a crucial role in supporting the growth of the market. They provide common reference methods that help verify claims regarding the bio-based content, or environmental sustainability of different products, and are the basis for sound science-based sustainable solutions.

“European standards will provide the frame for new bio-based solvents. We were extremely pleased to host ESIG at our Conference on Sustainable Solvent Solutions, where experts from industry and the scientific community were eager to hear about progress in the area of standardization. We see ESIG activities as a key building-bridge between our Green Chemistry Centre of Excellence and the industry.”

Professor James Clark, Director,
Green Chemistry Centre of Excellence, University of York

ESIG REWARDS COMMITMENT AND EXCELLENCE



This year, ESIG hosted the 9th Product Stewardship Award ceremony at the European Commission in Brussels, as part of the European Virtual Institute for Integrated Risk Management Conference.

In her speech, jury member Brenda O'Brien from the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), underlined that the two winners, Oleotecnica S.p.A. from Italy and Aug. Hedinger GmbH & Co. KG. from Germany, were honoured for their outstanding commitment to responsible and ethical management of the health, safety and environmental aspects of solvents throughout their life-cycle. In particular, Hedinger impressed the jury with the excellent management of its pharmaceutical solvents supply chain, while Oleotecnica was rewarded for its long-term commitment to lowering its environmental impact.

“ We would like to underline that this reward takes on a very special meaning for us, as the safe handling of solvents, and, more generally, all the HSE aspects linked to our work, have stood in the forefront on our agenda from the very first years of our activity, even when these topics were not regulated by law and the general sensitiveness on these matters still had to be developed. ”

*Matteo Battaglia, Sales Manager,
Oleotecnica S.p.A.*

“ Winning the ESIG-Award 2014 is a great compliment to all of our engineers and everyone at Hedinger working on our system to make the handling of solvents safe for our operators and the environment. We are very proud to have been selected as one of the ESIG Award winners as it is a great reward for all our efforts with regards to safety, health, environment and quality when handling solvents. It is also a motivation to strive for further continuous improvements in all of these fields and the safe handling of hazardous chemicals will continue to be one of the companies top priorities. ”

*Valerie Thomsen, Head of Marketing and Sales,
Aug. Hedinger GmbH & Co. KG*



The prize was created in 1999 and is part of the chemical industry's global commitment to responsible care. It highlights innovative ways of achieving health, safety and

environmental improvements in the handling, storage, use and transport of solvents.

More information on the ESIG Product Stewardship Award, the winners and the ceremony are available on the ESIG website: <http://www.esig.org/en/responsible-care/esig-product-stewardship-award/2014-product-stew-award>

ESIG WORKS ON THE NEW OECD GUIDANCE FOR HYDROCARBON SOLVENTS

Following the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) guidance for characterising oleochemical substances in 2014, ESIG is pleased to announce the publication of the OECD harmonised guidance for characterising Hydrocarbon Solvents.

Even though the hydrocarbon solvents are classified as UVCBs (Substances of Unknown or Variable composition, Complex reaction products or Biological materials), under REACH - the EU Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals - the limited raw materials used to produce them within a well controlled production process, allow them to be defined when we talk about composition.

To better characterize these substances, ESIG's Hydrocarbon Solvents Producers Association (HSPA) previously developed, together with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), the hydrocarbon solvents naming convention on which the new OECD guidance is formulated.

“ Substance identification is the cornerstone of the implementation of any chemical legislation and a prerequisite for various regulatory processes. At ESIG we believe that a common understanding to characterising hydrocarbon solvents allows regulatory authorities to increase cooperation in the field of hazard. It also enables our industry to deal with regulatory requirements from multiple jurisdictions. ”

*Antoine Brossier, Director General,
European Solvents Industry Group*



The identification of Hydrocarbon solvents is based on the carbon range and the molecular structure included in the substance.

The 'OECD harmonised guidance for characterising Hydrocarbon Solvents' is expected to be published in July 2015.

For more information on the OECD guidance please visit our website: <http://www.esig.org/en/regulatory-information/reach/hydrocarbon-solvents-reach-consortium>

ESIG AND SIA LAUNCH FIRST TRAINING COURSE

The UK-based Solvents Industry Association (SIA), in cooperation with ESIG, held a first and well-attended training course on solvents in Brussels. The course is designed to benefit anyone in the industry wishing to acquire a greater understanding of solvents, as well as newcomers to the industry who would like to build a foundation of knowledge. The first course was attended by sales representatives, junior product managers and other office-based staff from companies that manufacture, distribute or handle solvents or solvent blends.

The training complements work previously carried out by ESIG and SIA such as the production of DVDs and guidelines on the safe handling of solvents as a whole. It also aims to increase understanding among non-experts of the importance of the industry to the European economy. The course covers the history of solvents, explains the different types and applications, illustrates their safe handling, and gives an overview of REACH, the EU chemicals regulation, as well as an introduction to product stewardship.

The training should be an integral part of any solvents education programme, and aligns with ESIG's commitments to responsible care and product stewardship. Both the SIA and ESIG will continue to develop tools to train customers and users on the safe handling of solvents.



ESIG is planning to hold the next training course in September. Be sure to check the website for forthcoming details on additional courses: <http://www.esig.org/en/responsible-care/training-courses>

“ I really enjoyed the course and thought it was very useful as it was starting from 'What is a solvent?', talking about the characteristics and functions, and how they influence the choice for a specific solvent. A lot of attention was also given to the health and safety aspect of the solvent industry. I learned a lot from the course as I have no chemical background, and now I certainly have a better understanding of the products we are dealing with. ”

*Tinne Berghmans, Customer Service Representative,
Petrochem Carless BVBA*

ESIG RECOGNISED FOR SUPPORTING HEALTHY WORKPLACES

ESIG has been supporting a safe and healthy work environment for producers, distributors and downstream users of solvents for many years. It is therefore proud to have its efforts recognised by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA).

EU-OSHA organised a two-day event in May for the partners of the Healthy Workplaces Campaign 'Benchmarking and exchange of

good practices in Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)' to which ESIG is an active contributor. The importance of managing OSH effectively was highlighted in the sharing of good practices. The different workshops focused on learnings from accidents, addressed questions on how to foster an OSH culture in organisations, and examined OSH performance indicators. Findings from the workshops were presented during the closing session.



“ This benchmarking event demonstrates the benefits of the exchange of good practice for European workplaces. It also shows just how important official campaign partners are to our Healthy Workplaces Campaigns and the achievement of EU-OSHA's objectives. Their commitment is crucial for bringing about real change at the workplace level. ”

*Christa Sedlatschek, Director,
EU-OSHA*

Over 100 campaign partners from European companies and federations, as well as representatives from the European Commission and from national and local governments participated to the event, which proved an ideal opportunity to share and learn from best practices, and build stronger networks.

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