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## FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Dear Readers,

Whilst spending time outdoors this summer, think about the trees and crops that may generate biomass and become a part of the solvents used in your cosmetic products, to prepare your medicine and to help spread your house paint evenly.

The European Commission is carefully reviewing the management and use of renewable biological resources under the EU Bioeconomy Strategy to ensure that it becomes more resource efficient. The responsible sourcing and use of sustainable biomass are key to meeting current needs for food, energy and materials but must be achieved without compromising future generations. This can only be realized through innovation and

a reasonable framework. By engaging in various expert groups, ESIG is playing a principle role in developing a bioeconomy for Europe.

Our air quality team is also making great strides during the "Year of Air" by working closely with regulators to contribute to developing future air quality legislation and ensure that we all live in a better world.

I'm also pleased to announce the publication of our newly updated Flammability Guide, the result of dedicated Product Stewardship teamwork, which is another tool in the box towards ensuring safer environments for those working in our downstream industries.

Happy reading and best wishes for a warm and sunny summer!  
Antoine Brossier

## NEW TRAINING DVD ON SAFE HANDLING OF IBCs

As part of our commitment towards the safe and responsible use of solvents, ESIG and the Solvents Industry Association released a DVD on the use of Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs). The DVD, which aims to increase awareness of the safe handling of IBCs during storage, transport, inspection and stacking among solvent users, is proving to be a very useful tool for downstream users who have contacted ESIG in great numbers from across Europe to request the DVD for internal training.

Five languages are available: English, German, French, Spanish and Italian. The DVD can either be watched online or downloaded from the library section on the ESIG website.

“ At AkzoNobel in Ghlin, Belgium, workplace safety is our number one priority and this is regularly communicated to employees and contractors. DVDs produced by ESIG are integral to our training sessions on the safe handling of solvents, awareness about static electricity, etc. ”

M. C. Van Dongen, *Director, S.A. AkzoNobel Chemicals N.V.*



“ We, at Brenntag, always welcome supporting materials for our staff and customer training sessions. The Solvents and IBCs DVD proved to be very helpful and we are grateful to ESIG for such an initiative. ”

Dave O'Neill, *External Account Manager, Brenntag Ireland Limited*

## EU REVIEWS AIR QUALITY FRAMEWORK

During the 2013 "European Year of Air", the European Commission will review the EU's air quality policy framework. This will focus on previous legislation<sup>1</sup> in order to assess the effectiveness of existing policies to better meet future challenges. It will also include a revision of more specific pieces of legislation such as the National Emission Ceilings Directive (NECD) which will set emission ceilings to be respected by 2020 for the four already regulated substances<sup>2</sup> and primary emissions of particulate matter 2,5µg.

As part of this review, the European Commission held a public consultation<sup>3</sup> on the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution taking into account the views of three main groups from across 25 Member States; the EU Stakeholder Expert Group on Air Review (SEG), air quality experts and practitioners as well as citizens interested in air quality.

A key theme raised by stakeholders and ESIG is the importance of ensuring that there is a connection between EU air quality directives and other EU policies (in particular climate and energy policy) as well as with international legislation on air quality. Secondly, respondents emphasised that better implementation of existing legislation would also result in an improvement in compliance with these directives. ESIG brought forward the view that existing NECD air quality targets are already ambitious and that NECs should match, rather than go beyond, the new 2020 Gothenburg Protocol ceilings. Focusing on international standards also encourages countries outside Europe to adhere to air quality targets, whilst ensuring a level playing field between EU and Non EU countries.

“European ceilings should match the new 2020 Gothenburg Protocol ceilings”



Ahead of the review of the NECD, which is scheduled for September this year, ESIG also drew attention to its proactive work developing inventories for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) emissions from solvents to provide reliable emissions data. The new methodology is based on actual solvent sales data for the EU 27 Member States (Hydrocarbon, Oxygenated and Chlorinated), rather than estimates using the same end-use sectors as identified under the European chemical legislation REACH.

“ESIG's new VOC emissions inventories improve the quality and reliability of reported data”

The development of a new methodology to improve the quality and reliability of reported data on VOC emissions from solvents is enabling ESIG to help Member States with the assessment of their performance towards the NECD. ESIG will work with the relevant EU institutions, Member States and stakeholders to provide detailed data on VOC emissions from solvents to continue contributing to the improvement of air quality at EU level.

<sup>1</sup> 2005 Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution and Clean Air for Europe Programme

<sup>2</sup> Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen Oxides, Volatile Organic Compounds and Ammonia

<sup>3</sup> 'Options for the review of the EU Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution and related policies' [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/air\\_pollution\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/air_pollution_en.htm)

## PROGRESS ON EU STANDARDIZATION OF BIO-BASED SOLVENTS

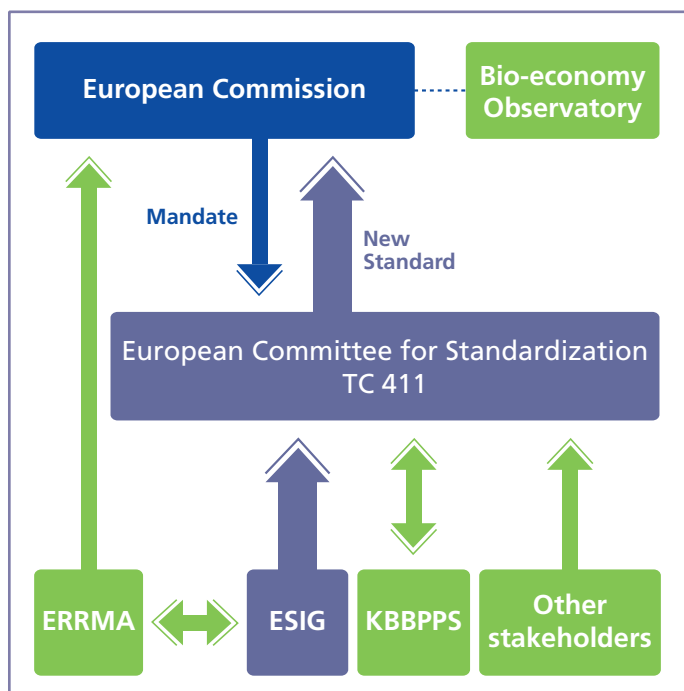
Encouraging smart, green growth in Europe is central to Europe 2020<sup>4</sup>. As part of this, in 2012 the European Commission put forward the EU Bioeconomy Strategy<sup>5</sup> to open up the market for bio-based products.

A year after launching this strategy, the European Commission has set up a bioeconomy observatory<sup>6</sup> to support decision-making at EU level and is holding stakeholder conferences to promote public debates. The second<sup>7</sup> of this series took place in February in Dublin, during which stakeholders came together to discuss challenges and opportunities for bioeconomy sectors.

Under the European Committee for Standardization's (CEN) Technical Committee 411<sup>8</sup> (TC411), ESIG is supporting the development of standards for bio-based solvents. In particular it develops methods and techniques for determining the total bio-based content. Moreover, ESIG is contributing to the generic development of sustainability criteria for products.

Technical performance, as well as health, safety and environmental aspects will also be discussed under TC411. ESIG will work on validating bio-based solvent performance claims. In parallel, bio-based solvents must comply with Europe's chemical legislation and follow the rules for classification and labelling using the standardized tests under CLP<sup>9</sup>. Compliance with European chemical legislation will ensure that bio-based solvents are regulated and managed in the same way as other chemicals.

ESIG is also working closely alongside other European research projects such as the "Knowledge Based bio-Based Products Pre-Standardization"<sup>10</sup>, which is focussing on pre-standardization research for bio-based products, to be integrated into the work of CEN and other international standardization bodies.



The work of the European Renewable Resources and Materials Association<sup>11</sup>, a pan-European collaboration, is another important project seeking to gain a better understanding of issues and solutions for bio-based products.

The work taking place under TC411 to define standards for bio-based products like solvents will contribute to a better estimation of the European bio-based market and demonstrates the pivotal role that the European solvents industry is playing in achieving the European Commission's strategy for a more resource efficient Europe.

## EUROPEAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY AT THE FOREFRONT OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY

In 2012 Cefic initiated a roadmap to explore the role of the European Chemical industry in developing solutions for resource and energy efficiency. This followed the publication of the "EU Low Carbon Economy Roadmap"<sup>12</sup> by the European Commission to move towards a competitive low carbon economy in 2050 and the publication of an "Energy Roadmap"<sup>13</sup> setting out the security of energy supply and sustainability. Both documents are central to the EU's climate action policy.

The Cefic roadmap, which was released in April 2013, notes that chemical industry technology and products are integral to helping other sectors improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provided a complete chemicals sector value chain remains in Europe. "The EU must now decide whether to continue

a policy based on pushing up energy prices, or seek instead to make low-carbon energy cheaper, preserving European competitiveness" said Cefic. The report plots a course which delivers a low-carbon economy while keeping industry firmly docked in Europe, ensuring jobs and growth.

“The issue is not whether the EU should aim for a sustainable, competitive economy, but how Europe gets there”

The full 186-page report is downloadable from [www.cefic.org](http://www.cefic.org)

<sup>4</sup> Europe 2020 [http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm)

<sup>5</sup> European Commission Communication "Innovating for Sustainable Growth: A Bioeconomy for Europe"

<sup>6</sup> Bioeconomy observatory [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-13-113\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-113_en.htm)

<sup>7</sup> "Bioeconomy in the EU: achievements and directions for the future"

<sup>8</sup> CEN TC 411 <http://www.cen.eu/cen/Sectors/TechnicalCommitteesWorkshops/CENTechnicalCommittees/Pages/default.aspx?param=874780&title=Bio-based products>

<sup>9</sup> Regulation on Classification, Labelling and Packaging of substances and mixtures <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:2008R1272:20110419:EN:PDF>

<sup>10</sup> KBBPPS <http://www.biobasedeconomy.eu/research/kbbpps/>

<sup>11</sup> ERRMA <http://www.errma.com/>

<sup>12</sup> A Roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050 <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0112:FIN:EN:PDF>

<sup>13</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0885:FIN:EN:PDF>



## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visit our website on [www.esig.org](http://www.esig.org) where you will find more information on EU regulatory developments and news for all those involved along the European solvent industry supply chain.

Our website features up-to-date information on the EU air quality package review, information on the Responsible Care programme and ESIG's Product Stewardship Award as well as a comprehensive array of best practice materials that have been developed by ESIG to improve the health, safety and environmental performance in the handling, storage, use or transportation of solvents.



## HELPING DOWNSTREAM USERS WITH SAFETY EVALUATION

*The Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology*<sup>14</sup> recently featured an article on ESIG's Generic Exposure Scenario Risk and Exposure Tool (EGRET) developed to help downstream users with the safety evaluation of consumer uses of solvents.

Under REACH<sup>15</sup>, all manufacturers and importers of solvents into the EU are required to identify conditions for the safe use of chemical substances and to communicate these along the supply chain through exposure scenarios.

EGRET is helping downstream users by providing them with a tool to effectively comply with REACH. Once completed, the tool provides standard phrases in a format that is consistent with the REACH exposure scenario guidance so that outputs can be quickly assimilated into safety data sheets and similar information technology systems.

For more information please visit our GES library <http://www.esig.org/en/regulatory-information/reach/ges-library/ges-library-3>

## ESIG PUBLISHES FLAMMABILITY GUIDE

*Safe Working with Industrial Solvents* is a comprehensive safety guide developed by ESIG to assist users in handling solvents for a safer workplace. The guide provides key recommendations on how to handle flammable solvents as well as general information on solvent flammability and ignition hazards.

A concise summary of the guide's recommended measures is available in the introduction of the guide providing a quick reference point for further reading on support and advice. The newly updated guide can be downloaded from the ESIG website here: [www.esig.org](http://www.esig.org)

## IMPROVING YOUR READ!

In order to ensure that future content and design of the ESIG newsletter and website will correspond to your needs, we would be grateful if you would take a few minutes of your time to complete a questionnaire.

You can find the questionnaire on our homepage at [www.esig.org](http://www.esig.org)



<sup>14</sup> For more information: <http://www.nature.com/jes/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/jes2012128a.html>

<sup>15</sup> Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:2006R1907:20121009:EN:PDF>

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