



EUROPEAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COUNCIL

# NEWS RELEASE

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PR 1877

## For more information:

Thomas Jostmann  
Jean-Claude Lahaut  
Marc Devisscher

+3226767452 [tjo@cefic.be](mailto:tjo@cefic.be)  
+3226767203 [jcl@cefic.be](mailto:jcl@cefic.be)  
+3226767223 [mde@cefic.be](mailto:mde@cefic.be)

## Environment Committee Vote in 2nd reading hampers ability of REACH to achieve its goals

**Brussels, 10 October 2006** – “Today’s vote in the Environment Committee of the European Parliament (EP) will hamper the ability of REACH to achieve its goals to drive both greater safety of products and competitiveness of the European industry” says Alain Perroy, Cefic Director General.

Given that the Environment Committee often has a different approach than the Plenary, Cefic is not surprised by today’s vote largely stepping back to the position of the EP’s first reading vote. The rapporteur, Mr Sacconi, received majority support for his position on substitution, which remains the most outstanding and divisive issue and – if adopted in Plenary – would create very serious problems for the whole European industry. The stricter criteria for granting authorisation and mandatory substitution, even when there is no alternative, will lead to the banning of certain substances even though there are clear socio-economic benefits and no alternative is available. This situation could encourage a lot of producers to move out of Europe.

The rapporteur announced his willingness to seek compromise with Council on the final package, with the technical support of the Commission. The co-legislators have repeatedly declared that they want to avoid conciliation and expect the REACH regulation to be finalised by the end of this year.

For Cefic, representing the European chemical industry, the EU Council common position on authorisation and substitution already represents a compromise between the initial Commission proposal and the EP’s first reading text. Providing a clearer understanding of the concept of “adequate control” and a definition of “safe alternatives”, could pave the way for a final solution that would be workable and improve the protection of health and the environment.

François Cornélis declared in his opening speech as newly elected President of Cefic: “The second reading requires a last effort of dialogue with MEPs, authorities and national governments, in particular on the conditions of a balanced and workable authorisation process and of an innovative and efficient mechanism to find appropriate substitutes if necessary”.

“For industry it is time that the REACH regulation gets finally adopted, ending a long period of uncertainty, as we need to start the implementation phase. Our member companies have already started to prepare themselves and we will support them through our Cefic ‘ReachCentrum’ service unit”, Alain Perroy, Cefic Director General, concluded.

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