

ECHA/PR/07/03/en

Helsinki, 12 December 2007

## **First Forum meeting kick starts harmonised enforcement of REACH**

**The Forum met in Helsinki for the first time 11 – 12 December. This commenced the work towards harmonised enforcement of REACH across the EU. The meeting elected Ms. Kowalski as its provisional Chair, approved operating rules and decided to set up three working groups. The work programme for 2008-10 will be prepared for adoption at the next meeting in May.**

Interim Executive Director, Geert Dancet, said in his opening statement: *“The enforcement of REACH, which is a national competence, needs to be coordinated to ensure proper functioning of the Regulation. The Forum plays a critical role in this coordination by harmonising the efforts and promoting best practices.”*

The “Forum of exchange of information on enforcement” is a network of Member States authorities responsible for REACH enforcement stipulated by the REACH Regulation. Its objective is to ensure harmonized enforcement of the Regulation across the EU. The tasks of the Forum include spreading good practice and highlighting implementation problems, agreeing on harmonised enforcement and inspection projects, identifying enforcement strategies, developing working methods and tools, and coordinating exchange of inspectors.

The Forum consists at this stage of 27 members; each Member State has appointed one member for a 3-year term. In the future, the Forum may appoint up to five additional members. The current members are listed in the Annex.

In the first meeting, the Forum elected Ms. Ulrike Kowalski from Germany (Head of Unit, Federal Institute of Occupational Health and Safety) as its provisional

Chair. The formal election of the Chair and two Vice Chairs will take place in the next meeting.

The meeting also discussed and agreed on the rules of procedure for the Forum. The rules will safeguard transparency of the Forum's operations while maintaining its independence and ensuring confidentiality of data. The rules cover also the participation of observers to the Forum meetings. The ECHA Management Board will review the rules before they formally adopt them.

The Forum set up three working groups:

- Work Programme 2008-10
- Information needs of the enforcement authorities
- Enforceability of restrictions

The mandate and composition of these working groups was agreed at the meeting and are recorded in the meeting minutes. The minutes will be made available on the ECHA website after they have been approved.

The Forum is foreseen to meet at least twice a year. The next meeting is scheduled for May 2008.

**Contact:**

Juhani Sormunen                      Tel. +358 9 68.61.82.35  
Petteri Mäkelä                         Tel. +358 9 68.61.82.36

**or**

[press@echa.europa.eu](mailto:press@echa.europa.eu)

## ANNEX: Members of the Forum

Country	Surname	Name
BE - Belgium	CUYPERS	Paul
BG - Bulgaria	SAVOV	Nikolay Stanimirov
CZ – Czech Republic	FORINT	Pavel
DK - Denmark	BORGLUM	Birte Nielsen
DE - Germany	KOWALSKI	Ulrike
EE – Estonia	ARO	Tiiu
IE - Ireland	O' SULLIVAN	Tom
EL - Greece	ANGELOPOULOU	Ioanna
ES - Spain	ALONSO FERNÁNDEZ	Rosario
FR - France	VIERS	Stéphanie
IT - Italy	PISTOLESE	Pietro
CY - Cyprus	KYPRIANIDOU- LEODIDOU	Tasoula
LV - Latvia	PALLO	Parsla
LT – Lithuania	SESKAUSKAS	Viktoras
LU - Luxembourg	SCHMIT	Gaston
HU - Hungary	MAJOR	Jenő
MT - Malta	BORG	Ingrid
NL - Netherland	BLENKERS	Joop
AT - Austria	WURM	Gernot
PL - Poland	MIEGOC	Edyta
PT - Portugal	BARROQUEIRO	Álvaro António
RO - Romania	ISTRATI	Daniela
SI - Slovenia	PEZDIR	Mojca Jeraj
SK - Slovakia	KOLESAR	Dušan
FI - Finland	EKMAN	Annette
SE - Sweden	THORAN	Karin
UK – United Kingdom	BISHOP	Richard