

EU PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Automotive sector CARS 2020

MEP Frank Proust's report was adopted on 5 November in the Industry, Research and Energy Committee (ITRE). Around 188 amendments were tabled to this report showing the great interest of the MEPs for the issue. The final adoption of the report in plenary is planned for mid-January.

In line with the CARS 2020 Action Plan, the Commission has launched in February this year a new Expert Group CARS 2020. This High-Level Group should endorse progress made by all WGs in December.

Automotive: CO₂ emissions

A compromise agreement was found between the European institutions on the 2020 CO₂ emission targets vans. The agreement confirms the target set in 2011, which is to reduce light utility vehicles' CO₂ emissions to 147gr CO₂/km by 2020 compared with the average of 180.3 gr CO₂/km in 2012.

As regards cars CO₂ emission the compromise agreement reached in June was finally rejected by the European Council mid of October due to the

opposition of Germany, the UK, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Estonia. The Council must now decide what changes it wants to do to the previously agreed deal which will then be sent to the European Commission and Parliament for their consideration.

REACH

The European Commission is organising in cooperation with the European Chemical Agency a workshop on 10-11 December to discuss the challenges faced by smaller companies under REACH. Only 50 participants have been selected to participate in the workshop. The selection process aimed to ensure a fair representation of stakeholders.

Fiscal issues: Energy Taxation Directive

The Lithuanian Presidency has included in its draft compromise text on the revision of the Energy Taxation Directive on 20 October 2013 a reference to include lubes under EMCS (on a specific request of Poland and Slovakia). UEIL will continue its outreach activities in the coming months to underline its concern to include lubes under EMCS and to emphasise that other more effective actions can be undertaken to address the concern on fraud.

It is to be expected that negotiations on the review of the Energy Taxation Directive will continue for minimum 9 to 12 months (decision taken by unanimity). Up till now EU Member States have only found an agreement on the separation rate structure and the proportionality principle. Among EU Member States there is still a large disagreement on mainly aspects of the Directive including on levels of minimum tax rates, tax treatment of biofuels, bio liquids, commercial gasoil and energy products used for agriculture, transitional periods and tax reliefs below the minimum levels.

UEIL TECHNICAL AND COMPETITION COMMITTEES

The most recent meeting of the Technical Committee was held in Hamburg on 25 September 2013.

During the summer holiday period things tend to go quiet, however they have now picked up again and the Committee currently has 6 cases in various stages of investigation (some of which are near to completion).

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www.ueil.org/en/news/technical-committee

Local Report



Legal requirements and market demands become more and more European, if not global. Therefore a harmonised view of European lube manufacturers becomes more important. We believe that today UEIL's consolidating role is even more necessary: it gives the European lubricants industry a common voice.

As a country with one of the strongest lubricant industries in Europe, the association of the German lubricants' manufacturers (VSI) is proud to be a member of UEIL. About 70 member companies (lubricant manufacturers and additive suppliers) are representing the overwhelming part of the German lubricant industry. Legislation, national and European, became so manifold, and especially the smaller blenders got lost.

One of our key activities is to collect and distribute information about current and future legislative trends and new legal requirements, as well as to provide training (e.g. on workplace management and chemical safety management). The VSI helps its members to fulfil legal obligations by giving advice and training.

It is also important to obtain information about future initiatives of the authorities in advance. On the one hand, to inform our members, and on the other hand to approach the authorities, other industry associations, unions etc. in order to transmit the messages of our industry with a common voice. As an example, we work continuously with the association of lubricant users (VKIS) and the union of metalworkers (IGM) on a

negative list of lube ingredients (VKIS-VSI-IGM Stoffliste), substances which should not be used or substances with concentration limits or special workplace requirements. As long as a cutting fluid is in line with the list, customers can be sure to have a 'state of the art' product.

The VSI organises also workgroups, similar to the UEIL workgroups, to discuss recent developments which helps its members to find a common understanding of legal/technical requirements.

We congratulate UEIL for its 50th anniversary!

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www.vsi-schmierstoffe.de