

CIAA Flash

Publication addressed to CIAA members

Highlight

During the CIAA Environment Committee on 21 February, Klaus Koegler, Head of Unit at DG ENV, confirmed that the Commission has started drafting a Sustainable Consumption Production Action Plan to reduce environmental impact in three key sectors: food production, private transport and housing. These sectors have been found to have particularly high environmental impacts. The Commission will issue a Green Paper on the Action Plan in the 2nd half of 2007. The aim of the plan is to change consumption patterns via market intervention, said Mr Koegler. "An Action Plan is always a very ambitious project because it must go beyond mere analysis and propose concrete measures" he added. For the Commission, changing consumption patterns means above all better informed consumer choices". It will thus propose a new environmental labelling scheme, which shall provide the consumer with easily understandable labels for key products. Whether or not this would also cover food products is left open to further analyses. The CIAA Environment Committee expressed its intention to cooperate as closely as possible with the Commission in the drafting of the Action Plan. DG ENV promised CIAA full involvement of industry in the further process (see also ENV/027/07).

Food Ingredients

Mrs Asa Westlund, rapporteur for the European Parliament Environment Committee on the Commission proposals for Regulations on food additives and common authorisation procedures, issued its draft reports on the proposals on 20/02 February. Mrs Westlund tabled a total of 25 amendments on the proposal on food additives, and 26 amendments on the proposal dealing with common authorisation procedures. The EP Environment Committee held a first debate on these reports on 26/02, the deadline for MEPs to table additional amendments on these two Commission proposals is 06/03, while the vote at the Environment committee on both texts is scheduled for 10-11/04.

Renewable energy and biofuels

On 20/02, the Environment Council confirmed the conclusions of the Energy Council the week before and endorsed the 10% binding minimum target to be achieved by all the Member States, as proposed by the Commission in its Energy Package in January. This support is linked to a number of qualifications related to the sustainability of biofuels production, the development of second-generation biofuels and the amendment of the Fuel Quality Directive. The nature - binding or indicative - of the 20% global renewable target remains undecided. These matters will be on the agenda of the March European Council. On that basis, the Commission will prepare legislative proposals that should be released in autumn 2007.

Trade

WTO - Negotiations of the WTO Doha Development Agenda are gaining momentum. Chief negotiators

from the EU, US, Brazil in India (G4) met last week in London, discussing mainly sensitive and special products' exemptions from tariff cuts. Although EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson welcomed the meeting a clear turning point in negotiations, USTR Susan Schwab argued that India needs to show more concessions in non-agricultural market access (NAMA) and services.

EU China - The European Commission, DG Trade, invited on 27/02 to the presentation of a study on bilateral trade relations with China. The report entitled "Future Opportunities and Challenges" undertaken by a consortium of consultants identifies 10 sectors and analysis the impact of a possible bilateral trade agreement. The study is thought to support the European Commission in the coming months preparing a renewal of the 1985 Partnership and Cooperation agreement.

CIAA New Communications Director

Sabine Henssler joins CIAA as the new Communications Director. Sabine most recently worked for Edelman Public Relations where her overall responsibilities included the strategic and financial management of client accounts, development of media campaigns to promote new services and client brands as well as the development and implementation of strategic communication plans. She has a solid background in Belgian and pan-European media relations as well as in corporate and brand communications. Sabine holds a BA in Journalism. She is German and also speaks fluent English and French. You can contact Sabine at s.henssler@ciaa.eu