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STAKEHOLDER OBSERVERS INVITED TO FOLLOW THE WORK OF ECHA MEMBER STATE COMMITTEE

ECHA's Member State Committee decided to invite observers from 15 stakeholder organisations to its future meetings. This decision follows the ECHA policy on involvement of stakeholders and the open call for expression of interest published in March 2008.

The Member State Committee agreed at its second meeting on 24-25 June to invite 6 industry and trade organisations and 6 other organisations representing consumers, workers, environmental, animal welfare and health interests and 2 scientific associations to take part in its work as observers. In addition, the Committee decided to invite the OECD Secretariat as an observer. Invitations to the selected stakeholder organisations to nominate their representatives will be sent out soon. The stakeholders will have the opportunity to follow the Committee meetings as observers and provide their specific scientific and technical expertise and knowledge to the work of the Committee.

The Member State Committee also discussed its busy autumn work plan, focusing on workflows, workload and planning. In October, the Committee will discuss proposals for a candidate list of substances of very high concern for authorisation, seeking to find an agreement. By now, sixteen dossiers have been submitted to ECHA by the EU Member States and Norway, and the proposals will soon be made available for the first public consultation.

First proposals for decisions on testing requirements of substances and compliance checks of registrations that are also in the scope of the Committee's work, are expected to be on the agenda early 2009.

All EU Member States are represented within the ECHA Member State Committee; EFTA countries, based on the Agreement of the European Economic Area, will appoint their members to the Committee soon.

Links:

General information on ECHA Committees:

http://echa.europa.eu/about/organisation_en.asp

http://echa.europa.eu/about/organisation/committees/ms_members_en.asp

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