

## Health & Environment Committee Report, December 2008

Rob Stubbs from Polartech updated the UEIL Annual Meeting in Poland on [Health and Environment Committee](#)'s 2008 achievements and 2009 plans.

After seven years in the chair Rob stepped down at the UEIL Annual Meeting in October 2008.

Following this, Bert Boomkamp of Cimcool, the new chairman, thanked Rob for his outstanding work during his time. Bert plans to continue the work outlined by Rob and Rob will remain an active member of the Health and Environment committee and will help Bert during his first year.

The UEIL Health and Environment Committee gives a platform for the local organisations in several European countries.

Reach, GHS, Biocidal Products Directive and chemicals such as boric acid, formaldehyde, formaldehyde release biocides and medium chain choro-paraffins more than justify this European approach.

Also the cooperation with ILMA, the US lubricant association, continues. In October this year, the UEIL co-sponsored in the ILMA Metal Removal Fluid symposium and it has been suggested that the next symposium will be hosted by the UEIL in 2 – 3 years. Initial planning is already being done!

It was suggested to have a joint meeting with ILMA on 16-18 April 2009 in Arizona either physically and/or through video-link.

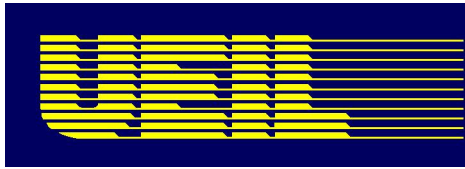
At the time of writing of this newsletter, the Pre-registration phase of Reach is nearly completed but there are still plenty of Reach related projects:

The Data Collection Forum for Metalworking Fluids for companies participating in REACH pre-registration has now been initiated and this group will share information on a confidential basis through an independent third party to provide some assistance in the subsequent 'read across' process. At this stage twelve companies have joined the programme.

A presentation about the present status of exposure scenarios is scheduled for the next meeting of the Committee, Brussels on January 21st 2009.

The ECHA newsletter on obligations further to the Candidate List Publication has been put on our website. Please note that we will use this part of the Website for similar information.

Together with the UKLA and VSI we have updated the boric acid position paper and placed it on our website. The following information has been received from the EU commission about boric acid:



As you probably know some boron compounds have been recently classified as toxic for reproduction category 2 (Directive 2008/58/EC).

Such classification would automatically mean a ban for these substances and preparations containing them which are sold to the general public.

The ban would apply for those substances which a limit of concentration above those included in the Directive 2008/58/EC. Please find enclosed the list of such Borates.

I would kindly ask you if the substances listed are used in concentration above those limits and if such substances /preparations are consequently sold to the general public.

It would be important to quantify the impact of such possible ban to your companies as well as to identify the possible risks for consumers during the use of such substances/preparations.

I assume none of our products are sold to the general public; however if you have other information please contact the UEIL office.

Another subject that, no doubt, will be further discussed in 2009 is formaldehyde.

In France, a June 2007 country based 'arret' relating to formaldehyde in the workplace has been affecting the usage of these products. An indication was given that this concern about the potential for formaldehyde release from other additives at elevated temperatures was now creating questions from end users. The French based IRNS organisation have previously been involved in reviewing some of the activities currently within the French Industrial marketplace and how this issue is impinging on specific metalworking fluid usage. As a consequence, the UEIL Health and Environment Committee has invited the IRNS to the next Committee meeting in early 2009.

Bert Boomkamp