

Draft for a 2-weekly EFAEP Newsflash on environmental issues

18.11.2004

Chemical Pollution: EU ratifies Stockholm POP Convention

The EU has stepped up efforts to get rid of the world's nastiest chemicals by ratifying the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). This Convention is so far the most important global effort to ban the use of toxic chemicals. EU legislation already implements all its provisions. But by becoming a Party to the Convention, the European Union can push for its efficient implementation all over the world and for inclusion of additional substances to be banned globally. POPs are toxic, persist for generations, can travel long distances and accumulate in human and animal bodies. They have been widely used in industry and as pesticides. Traces of these substances can be found in humans and animals all over the planet. The EU has deposited its ratification instrument with the United Nations in New York and will become a full Party to the Convention 90 days later.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1379&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

17.11.2004

Conference on clean energy power

An international conference 'clean energy power 2005' will take place in Berlin, Germany, from 26 to 27 January 2005.

The conference will address the issues of renewable energy, energy-efficiency, and sustainable building and renovation.

For further information, please visit:

<http://www.energie-server.de>

http://dbs.cordis.lu/fep-cqi/srchidadb?ACTION=D&SESSION=16602004-11-22&DOC=24&TBL=EN_NEWS&RCN=EN_RCN_ID:22935&CALLER=EN_NEWS

17.11.2004

World textile conference

A world textile conference, held in the context of the AUTEX (association of universities for textiles) network, will take place in Portoroz, Slovenia, from 27 to 29 June 2005.

AUTEX brings together universities internationally renowned for their work in textile education and research. It involves institutions from Europe, both within and outside the EU, and a few from further afield. The association aims to play a leading role in the future development of textile education and in basic, strategic and applied research.

The conference will give an overview of advanced textile materials and corresponding environmentally friendly technologies. Special sessions will be dedicated to textile education, textile design, fashion and style, e-activities and management.

For further information, please consult the following web address:

<http://autex2005.fs.uni-mb.si>

http://dbs.cordis.lu/fep-cgi/srchidadb?ACTION=D&SESSION=16602004-11-22&DOC=23&TBL=EN_NEWS&RCN=EN_RCN_ID:22934&CALLER=EN_NEWS

16.11.2004

Sun and Earth as energy sources: European research on photovoltaics and biomass

Today, a press briefing organised by the European Commission in Uppsala (Sweden) will provide insights into research breakthroughs in photovoltaic and bio-energy technologies. Rising oil prices, environmental challenges and legislative changes have created an urgent need to develop renewable energy alternatives to fossil fuels. Biomass from wood, agricultural residues and organic waste are the only renewable energy sources able to provide liquid fuels for transport on a large scale. Photovoltaic solar energy panels can be integrated into roofs and buildings to cover, in the long term, as much as 10%-60% of electricity demand in countries like Germany, Spain, Italy, UK, The Netherlands or Sweden.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1368&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

16.11.2004

Research: Commission's Descartes Prize (science competition) is five years old

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/headlines/news/article_04_11_15_en.html

15.11.2004

New environmentally friendly process for manufacturing polystyrene

A Dutch-German Eureka project has developed a system for manufacturing polystyrene beads that does not release VOCs into the environment.

Polystyrene foam is widely used in a variety of forms, including building insulation, packaging and drinking cups. All types of foam are commercially produced from a single starting material - high-density spherical beads of expandable polystyrene (EPS).

The beads are expanded and moulded by product manufacturers using a blowing agent.

Current practice involves using pentane, an inflammable, volatile organic compound (VOC).

Up to half of the pentane remains in the EPS after processing and is slowly released into the atmosphere during storage and use.

'Concern is growing throughout Europe and the USA about increasing pentane emissions, and legislation to limit it is already planned in Switzerland, Austria and Sweden,' says

Wolfgang Teubert, Managing Director of German partner Teubert Maschinenbau.

The alternative, developed by Teubert Maschinenbau and Nova Chemicals from the Netherlands, is the world's first water-blown expandable polystyrene bead.

http://dbs.cordis.lu/fep-cgi/srchidadb?ACTION=D&SESSION=16602004-11-22&DOC=34&TBL=EN_NEWS&RCN=EN_RCN_ID:22919&CALLER=EN_NEWS

13.11.2004

Directive 2004/101/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 October 2004 amending Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission

allowance trading within the Community, in respect of the Kyoto Protocol's project mechanisms

<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/JOhtml.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:338:SOM:EN:HTML>

12.11.2004

Energy: New and Renewable Energies - New successful project in the Biomass-Bioenergy sector

http://europa.eu.int/comm/energy/res/sectors/bioenergy_chp_en.htm

11.11.2004

Energy and Transport: New brochure "Electricity from renewable energy sources - Encouraging green electricity in Europe"

http://europa.eu.int/comm/energy/res/publications/index_en.htm

10.11.2004

Energy and Transport: DG Energy and Transport's Organisation chart updated

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dqs/energy_transport/home/organigram/index_en.htm

10.11.2004

SCATTER project concludes with recommendations to combat urban sprawl
Sustainability, smart growth and a multi-sectoral integrated strategy are the key concepts in the European debate on urban sprawl, say experts.

At the final seminar of the SCATTER (sprawling cities and transport: from evaluation to recommendations) project, financed under the Fifth Framework Programme (FP5), four policy measures were presented to counteract the negative consequences of urban sprawl. These include: fiscal measures to control land use by putting a tax on suburban residential developments as well as offices; road pricing; transport pricing measures and measures to control housing prices and to promote the development of intermediate type housing.

http://dbs.cordis.lu/fep-cqi/srchidadb?ACTION=D&SESSION=218952004-11-15&DOC=9&TBL=EN_NEWS&RCN=EN_RCN_ID:22904&CALLER=EN_NEWS

09.11.2004

Altran Foundation to reward innovative projects aimed at beating social exclusion

The Altran Foundation for Innovation is inviting nominations for its 2005 award for projects aimed at overcoming social exclusion through scientific and technological innovation.

The Altran Foundation Award is unique in that the prize is one year of technological and scientific assistance by Altran in the form of individualised support.

To guide candidates, the Altran Foundation has selected a number of sub-themes:

- health and hygiene;
- transport and mobility;
- housing and environment;
- communication and information;
- education and knowledge;
- training and employment.

Candidates can submit applications individually or as a team. The candidate must come from a European country in which Altran operates (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the UK and Switzerland), or the

United States. For further information, please consult the following web address:

<http://www.altran-foundation.org>

http://ica.cordis.lu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.simplesdocument&N_RCN=22899&CFID=1101829&CFTOKEN=11477532

09.11.2004

Science meets environmental policy - revamped website shows you how

The European Commission's Environment DG has revamped the section of its website dedicated to research.

The new pages focus in particular on the link between research and policy making concerning the environment. The site now hosts news on relevant forthcoming events, examples of how science has met policy needs and information on expert working groups. The revamped site also contains information on environmental projects and opportunities under the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) for research, as well as on the preparations for FP7. Links to the websites of successful or promising environmental research projects are also provided.

To access the website, please visit:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/integration/research_en.htm

http://ica.cordis.lu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.simplesdocument&N_RCN=22900&CFID=1101829&CFTOKEN=11477532