

**EU LOBBYING NEWS | 4. QUARTER 2007**

01 | Alber&Geiger opens office in Berlin

02 | Commission's Green Paper „Towards a Europe free from tobacco smoke“

03 | Environment Committee votes for tougher rules on pesticides

04 | EP calls for a comparative study on labelling and advertising of alcohol and alcopops

05 | Green paper „Towards a new culture for urban mobility“

06 | Ban of 49 cosmetic substances

07 | Consultation on pharmaceuticals and human use

Our good connections to Germany's government, its institutions and decision makers as well as our relationships to NGO's and our international connections are now even closer and give you the chance to have your interests and needs brought to the right person even prompter and quicker than before. So if you want to talk to us, don't hesitate to contact us.

**II. Commission's Green Paper „Towards a Europe free from tobacco smoke“**

Wide-ranging restrictions on smoking in public places and rules to make it harder for underage people to buy cigarettes were among the measures proposed by the Environment Committee in a report.

The report says that 650,000 people a year die from smoking, including 80,000 from passive smoking, with children and unborn babies being particularly vulnerable. While 70% of Europeans are non-smokers, 86% are in favour of a ban on smoking at work, 84% in other public places, 61% in bars and pubs and 77% in restaurants, notes the committee.

MEPs therefore welcome the Commission's Green Paper „Towards a Europe free from tobacco smoke: policy options at EU level“ but regard it only as a starting point. They urge the Commission to designate environmental tobacco smoke a class 1 carcinogen. The Commission is asked to produce a report on the cost incurred to national health systems and the EU economy as a result of smoking and tobacco smoke.

The Environment Committee believes an existing directive, from 2001, on tobacco products should be updated to toughen the rules on tobacco additives, including those which are carcinogenic or addiction-enhancing. The report also insists that the same directive includes „a renewed library of larger, hard-hitting picture warnings“, to be made mandatory „on all tobacco products sold in the European Union“.

Measures such as introducing an EU-wide ban on the sale of tobacco products to people under

18 years of age, cigarette machines placed only where they are inaccessible to young people, removing tobacco products from self-service displays in retail outlets and banning distance sales of tobacco products to young people (e.g. over the internet).

Stakeholders or interested parties that have not already participated in the process should do so now.

**III. Environment Committee votes for tougher rules on pesticides**

The Environment Committee approved a draft regulation intended to update existing EU law on the authorisation of new pesticide products. The legislation's purpose is to improve protection of health and the environment, support farming, reduce animal testing and boost competition among pesticide manufacturers.

The regulation aims to revise the criteria and procedures for approving pesticides. A positive list of „active substances“ (the key ingredients of pesticides) would be drawn up at EU level and new pesticide products would then be authorised at national level.

The committee backed the Commission's plan to ban substances that are genotoxic, carcinogenic, toxic to reproduction or endocrine disrupting, but further restricted even the minor exceptions the Commission would allow. It also added substances with hormonal, neurotoxic or immunotoxic effects to the banned category and called for special account to be taken of vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, foetuses and children.

MEPs essentially backed the so called „substitution principle“, under which new products must not be approved so easily if they contain substances that could be substituted by others that are „significantly safer for human or animal health or the environment“. The committee also tightened up the proposed rules on animal testing, saying this should only be used „as a last resort“.

**I. Alber&Geiger opens office in Berlin**

Taking in account the importance of one of the EU's strongest member countries Alber&Geiger opens a bureau in Berlin, Germany. Located at Friedrichstr. 50 we are now settled in the middle of Germany's capital and its government district.



The Environment Committee's first-reading report was adopted by 43 votes to 12 with 3 abstentions. This result "... created a win-win situation: reducing risk for consumers, users and the environment, while at the same time stimulating innovation in the chemical industry" a committee member stated.

This regulation is part of a „pesticides package“ designed to give the EU up-to-date rules governing the whole life-cycle of pesticides, which consists of three phases: the placing on the market of new pesticides (the Breyer report); the day-to-day use of pesticides; and the end-of-life (or „waste“) phase. The whole package comes before Parliament's plenary in late October.

Stakeholders and interested parties shout in a pro-active way influence the process now.

## IV. EP calls for a comparative study on labelling and advertising of alcohol and alcopops

The European Parliament adopted an own initiative report on the European Union strategy to support Member States in reducing alcohol-related harm. The report raises several issues including: labelling and warnings, binge-drinking, „alcopops“ and reducing accidents caused by drinking and driving.

MEPs are worried about the increase in alcohol consumption among minors and young people and note a worrying trend on their part to start drinking at an ever-earlier age. The report calls on the Member States to pay particular attention to vulnerable social groups, such as children, young people and pregnant women, and to address the problems of hazardous and harmful alcohol consumption by young people, workers and drivers by means of information and awareness-raising campaigns and, where appropriate, a review of compliance with existing national laws.

In addition to that the European Parliament calls for a comparative study on labelling and advertising of alcohol and alcopops and recalls that front of pack labels may include the warnings that alcohol can cause serious health and mental health problems, that alcohol is addictive and that alcohol consumption during pregnancy may be harmful to the foetus.

MEPs note that the existences of different national labelling requirements and different rules on advertisements for alcohols have clear implications for the EU internal market.

Developments very similar to those of the tobacco advertising directive are obvious. Stakeholders should act now.

## V. Green paper „Towards a new culture for urban mobility“

Cities all over Europe face similar problems (congestion, road safety, security, pollution, climate change due to CO2 emissions etc.) and these problems are increasing constantly. Urban mobility accounts for 40% of all CO2 emissions of road transport and up to 70% of other pollutants from road transport. These have a negative impact on citizens' health.

The European Commission's Legislative Work Programme includes the adoption of a Green Paper on Urban Transport in autumn 2007. The Commission states that now is the time to put urban mobility on the European agenda and open a new chapter in European transport policy.

The challenges that European towns and cities face cannot be solved easily at the local level alone. The task is difficult and stakeholders, cities and towns in Europe should not be left alone. Joint solutions have to be developed by mobilising Europe's resources. Stakeholders emphasised that the financing needs are huge. On the other hand innovation on this sector will provide industries and companies with valuable advances and structural and economic chances for the future.

This new consultation will identify those actions that will be included in an "Action Plan on Urban Mobility". Stakeholder and interested parties should enter the process now.

## VI. Ban of 49 cosmetic substances

In light of the hair dye strategy, the Commission is considering banning the use of 49 substances used in hair dye products by amending the so called "Cosmetics Directive". These substances are proposed to be included in the "List of substances which must not form part of the composition of cosmetic products". In view of safety concerns expressed in relation to the use of some hair dyes, the Commission's strategy is to regulate the use of hair dye substances on the basis of a scientific evaluation of safety data.

The Commission is now proposing a ban of remaining 49 chemical substances which are currently regulated as colorants and can be used for hair dyeing purposes, since no evidence was found that these substances can be considered safe for human health. In view of the above, the Commission invites all interested parties, including authorities of the Member States, manufacturers and related industries and consumers associations to submit their comments and information on the possible impact on the measures set out above.

For a complete list of substances to be banned please contact us. Stakeholders should respond immediately.



## VII. Consultation on pharmaceuticals and human use

Globalization brings both challenges and opportunities. The emergence of worldwide health threats, such as the increasing number of counterfeit medicines or pandemic influenza, the internationalization of the value chain and the rise of new players in the global competition provide compelling grounds to intensify international cooperation. The Commission states that two objectives must be met in the future:

- To better protect the health of EU citizens
- To strengthen the competitiveness of European companies

The Commission wants to accomplish this by removing regulatory and non-regulatory barriers which impede access to foreign markets and by ensuring fair international competition. The Commission's goal is to regain territory the EU covered for most of the 20th century, when it used to be the home for pharmaceutical innovation. The Commission intends to improve the regulatory, non-regulatory and RTD framework for pharmaceuticals. Therefore the Commission intends to launch a broad public debate on the future of pharmaceuticals in Europe. The outcome of this debate should enable the EU to better understand stakeholders' views on the key challenges of the sector and how to tackle them. With a consultation, the Commission is committed to give all stakeholders the opportunity to make their opinion known on these strategic issues.

For more detailed information on what we can do for you please refer to our main website.

[www.albergeiger.com](http://www.albergeiger.com)