

Alkylphenols & Ethoxylates Research Council

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Industry Reacts Strongly Against French Assembly Proposal to Ban Alkylphenols and Other Classes of Chemicals

May 13, 2011 – The Alkylphenols & Ethoxylates Research Council (APERC) supports European Union (EU) industry demands that the French legislature abandon a bill passed unexpectedly last week by the French National Assembly that would ban entire classes of chemicals, including alkylphenols, based on potential concerns that they may be endocrine disruptors. The proposed legislation, which has to be adopted by the French Senate before becoming a full legislative proposal, would ban the manufacture, import, and use of alkylphenols, phthalate, and parabens.

The action was particularly surprising given this same legislation had previously been voted down by the French Assembly's own Commission on Social Affairs and is not supported by French regulators and industry alike. Further, the bill appears to be in direct conflict with the EU-wide chemical control regulation (REACH), which requires health assessments for chemicals on the market in the EU and the reporting of this information to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).

The chemical, plastics and manufacturing industries in France and world-wide have strongly and uniformly rejected this legislation as ill-conceived, unsubstantiated, and in conflict with existing EU chemical regulation. The [Union of Chemical Industries \(UIC\)](#), which represents the French chemical industry, called the bill "nonsense" in noting that these classes of chemicals represent a wide-range of substances that have different toxicological profiles, uses and exposures. UIC emphasized that this legislation does nothing to improve consumer health and safety and would have a very real negative impact on business, goods, and products that are essential to daily life.

The implementation of REACH throughout the EU, will address potential concerns about chemical exposure and risks. Regulating chemicals in sweeping national legislation, without the support of detailed chemical assessments, undercuts the entire chemical regulatory system in the EU and creates enormous business disruptions without any gains in consumer protection.

It is APERC's view that the weight of the scientific evidence for alkylphenols continues to support their human and environmental safety.

Alkylphenols are chemical intermediates used to produce high-value, high-performance products.

The mission of the Alkylphenols & Ethoxylates Research Council, which is composed of manufacturers, processors and raw material suppliers of alkylphenols (AP) and alkylphenol derivatives (e.g., alkylphenol ethoxylates (APE)), is to promote the safe use of AP and AP derivatives through research and outreach within the framework of responsible chemical management. For more information about AP and APE go to www.aperc.org.