

REACHforLIFE Press Release



REACHforLIFE calls for science to take centre stage in the new European Parliament

Brussels, 5 June 2009: REACHforLIFE appeals to the incoming MEPs to ensure that science takes centre stage in policy-making during the next 5-year term.

The European Parliament's role in legislating on scientific issues is ever-increasing and, during the next mandate, amongst its many critical tasks MEPs are expected to make decisions on future regulations pertaining to nanotechnologies and biotechnologies, continue to oversee the proper implementation of REACH, and consolidate the EU's role as a standard setter for climate change targets.

With the new Parliament set to increase in political clout because of the anticipated ratification of the Lisbon Treaty, it has become even more crucial that it puts its enhanced power to good use.

As Frank Swain, author of blog www.sciencepunk.com and supporter of science-based policy-making, points out, "Decisions made in Europe affect the air we breathe, the food we eat and the medicines we take. It is essential these decisions are based on best possible evidence, and science offers the means to do this. Science is at the heart of our modern world, and it deserves to be at the heart of political discussion too."

"Sound science, particularly when obtained through the EU's official risk assessments, should be paramount in any forthcoming EU legislation," said Willem Hofland of REACHforLIFE. "Hence, whilst we look to congratulate all new and returning MEPs on their election, we also call on them to ensure that science receives the attention it deserves."

REACHforLIFE is calling for sound science to be a cornerstone in decision-making at both the European and national levels. For more information please visit www.reachforlife.eu.

About REACHforLIFE

The objective of REACHforLIFE is to launch a debate, the aim of which is to move away from a mistrust of science and towards a balanced approach in applying sound scientific evidence in the EU decision-making process. In particular it is calling for the official scientific risk assessments to be trusted and upheld in the EU's legislative infrastructure.

Our campaign is pan-European, embracing the Brussels regulatory landscape and the EU Member States, particularly France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the UK.

REACHforLIFE was founded in June 2008 and currently comprises the companies Albemarle, Chemtura, and ICL-IP – www.reachforlife.eu