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Helsinki Reach Center

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HICCS 2008 - Helsinki International Congress on Chemical Safety is approaching

The first annual HICCS congress, organised by HELSINKI REACH CENTRE, will be held in the Helsinki Fair Centre on 20th-22nd May 2008.

The EU Regulation on REACH (Registration, Evaluation, and Authorisation of Chemicals) entered into force on 1 June 2007. On the same day, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) was established in Helsinki, Finland, to manage the lengthy process.

As the most comprehensive piece of legislation on chemicals ever introduced, REACH changes dramatically the way chemicals are regulated in Europe. This presents a major challenge for industry in the EU, as well as for the non-EU manufacturers wishing to export their chemicals to the EU.

All companies willing to introduce chemicals in the EU market must act now: Pre-registration of chemicals under REACH will start on 1st June 2008 and close on 1st December 2008. If chemicals under the scope of REACH

are not pre-registered by that date they will not have access to the European market.

The congress will provide the delegates with

- Great opportunity to have direct contact with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in its hometown to receive first-hand information about the REACH requirements for companies
- Information on business impact, as well as best practices for managing REACH legislation from high level industry representatives from the EU, the US, Switzerland and China among others
- Information about the HELSINKI REACH CENTRE's Helsinki model to meet REACH requirements cost-effectively

The non-EU exporters will have the opportunity to find a suitable solution in order to be able to register their chemicals.

The keynote speaker of the congress is Mr **Geert Dancet**, the Executive Director of ECHA.

For more information – including the programme and the registration form – please visit the congress website www.hiccs2008.eu/hiccs2008.

HELSINKI REACH CENTRE (HRC) is a programme clustering together organizations which can benefit from co-operation to meet the REACH requirements. It is funded by the City of Helsinki and membership fees, and it works in close contact with ECHA.

HRC members include non-EU associations which need help in fulfilling the REACH requirements, as well as REACH specialists providing services in various fields (e.g. laboratory, legal, IT, training and consulting services).

For more information, please visit the HRC website at <http://www.helsinkireachcentre.eu/>

*You may also contact directly the HRC Programme Manager,
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