



Association Internationale de la Savonnerie, de la Détergence et des Produits d'Entretien
International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Products

A.I.S.E. PRESS RELEASE

A.I.S.E. WELCOMES THE ADOPTION OF GHS IN EUROPE

Brussels, 3 September 2008 - A.I.S.E. welcomes the adoption today by the European Parliament of the new EU "Classification & Labelling Regulation", corresponding to the adoption of GHS¹ in Europe. A.I.S.E. members are committed to ensuring that their products are safe to use, properly labelled and supported by relevant communication to consumers.

"We welcome this new Regulation as an important tool to help -together with REACH- further enhance consumers' confidence in products containing chemicals. We would particularly like to thank the EP rapporteur, Mrs Sartori, and all the institutions for their efficient collaboration, through a good and constructive dialogue", said Mrs Zänker, Director General of A.I.S.E..

Our association strongly supports the goals of the GHS which will facilitate global trade and secure harmonisation between different legislative systems. More importantly, in doing so, it will help secure human safety and environmental protection particularly through the supply chain. We appreciate the adoption of a system which will lead to the right classification of products thereby allowing consumers to distinguish properly between products, through adequate labelling and relevant communication.

A.I.S.E. is however concerned about a particular point rightly raised in today's debate by the draftspersons of the Parliament's Industry and Internal Market Committees, Mrs Anne Laperrouze and Mr Andreas Schwab, on the absence of a transitory period for the implementation of the classification and labelling of some mixtures. We call on the Commission to help address this issue with the Member States.

Background

A.I.S.E. was created in 1952 and represents the soaps, detergents and maintenance products industry. Our affiliates include 35 National Associations across 34 countries in Europe, and also 10 direct member companies. Combined membership of the current 35 National Associations totals about 900 companies, ranging from small and medium-sized enterprises to multinationals, active in the industrial and institutional, and consumer goods market.

Since the first draft of the GHS was approved by the Committee of Experts in December 2002, A.I.S.E. has been involved through out the various stages of GHS development at UN and EU levels.

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¹ GHS : Globally Harmonised System for classification & labelling of chemicals

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