



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

## POSITION PAPER

### Release of the Report from the Commission on the use of phosphates in detergents (May 2007)

A.I.S.E. has taken note of the release on May 2007 of the Commission report (COM (2007) 234) concerning the use of phosphates in detergents following Detergents Regulation 648/2004 (Article 16).

A.I.S.E. has been contributing to the preparation of this report and agrees with its conclusion namely that *“A decision on whether restrictions on phosphates in detergents are justified at EU level will be taken once sufficient evidence has been acquired and various policy options have been assessed”*.

It supports the decision of the Commission to conduct an impact assessment and to rely on comprehensive scientific data endorsed by competent scientific bodies before taking any decision on the matter.

A.I.S.E. however wants to take this opportunity to remind stakeholders and the general public that the contribution of detergents in phosphorus output is limited versus other sources (agriculture), whilst the use of phosphate in certain applications remains the preferred option for a safe, effective and resource efficient products.

A.I.S.E. welcomes the Commission strategy on the issue, which is completely in line with the Detergent Regulation policy and reaffirms its willingness to help ensuring a solid and thorough scientific basis for the legislative debate on the issue.

*A.I.S.E., as the voice of the Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Products Industry in Europe is committed to represent the needs and concerns of its National Associations in 34 countries and their members. Those currently total around 1000 companies out of which two thirds are Small & Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME's). A.I.S.E. members place safety to man and the environment as their highest priority.*