



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

### EUROPEAN DETERGENTS REGULATION MOVES IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

**Brussels, 14 December 2011 – A.I.S.E., the International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Products, welcomes a move to harmonise the use of phosphates and other phosphorous compounds in consumer detergents across Europe, as adopted today by the European Parliament.**

“We welcome this proposal as a major step towards a harmonised EU market for consumer detergents, whilst ensuring a high level of protection of the environment. We would particularly like to thank the rapporteur for the European Parliament, Mr Bill Newton Dunn, and the Polish Presidency for their efficient collaboration, through constructive dialogue, to come to a sound agreement”, said Ms Susanne Zänker, Director General of A.I.S.E.

Provisions for the use of phosphates and other phosphorous compounds in consumer detergents will be harmonised across the European Union. This is in line with moves already undertaken by the manufacturers, who for many years have significantly reduced the use of phosphates, particularly in consumer laundry detergents. A.I.S.E. members have always been committed to implementing all necessary measures to protect the environment, through both regulation and voluntary initiatives.

The adopted amendments to the Regulation (EC) 648/2004 will help improve the functioning of the internal market, providing the detergents industry with necessary business certainty whilst reducing regulatory complexity. It will also leave room for the innovation of continuously more sustainable and high-performing products.

#### BACKGROUND

A.I.S.E. represents the soaps, detergents and maintenance products industry in Europe. Its affiliates include 9 direct member companies as well as 37 National Associations in 42 countries, covering more than 900 companies ranging from small and medium-sized enterprises to multinationals active both in the consumer goods and the industrial & institutional (I&I) markets.

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