



CEIR

The European Association for the Taps and Valves Industry



Dear CEIR members and friends,

I am delighted to have been elected as the new CEIR President at our last congress in Harrogate. I have been involved in the activities of the European taps and valves association for many years and it is an honour to have been elected. Thank you for your confidence. I would like to take this opportunity to thank again our UK colleagues for the great Congress as well as our new Past President Klaus Schneider

for his excellent work over the last two years.

My support for more joint European work is well known and will continue. I would like to reiterate the roadmap I presented during the General Assembly in Harrogate.

- Our European Association must be strong and welcome more companies to take part in the discussion on marketing and technical issues. I firmly believe that dialogue is key: CEIR must continue proposing consensual and representative positions.
- We also want to welcome more national associations as active members; this will benefit CEIR and all its members.
- We need to be more involved in discussions with the European Commission and decision-makers, including national governments, for example in order to prevent possible regulatory inconsistencies.

There is much to do and each member has a key role to play.

- The taps and valves industry is facing challenges similar to those faced by other sectors, so we must increase cooperation with other European associations (for example EUROPUMP, PNEUROP and ETRMA).
- Worldwide we need to strengthen our existing links with PMI and VMA in the USA. In addition, we would like to build relationships with other taps and valves associations throughout the world. We must also continue to promote CEIR and its actions to give more visibility to our association and reinforce its recognition.

Today, the economic situation is difficult; the global balance is changing and European manufacturers must continue to occupy a strong position in order to maintain their competitiveness. Even if we all think we are sufficiently robust, there is nothing better than working together to achieve this objective. To this end, as CEIR President, I kindly ask all our national associations and their member companies to contribute to this roadmap by participating in our meetings and working groups and delegating experts to our projects.

In 2016, the CEIR congress will take place in Lyon from 18th to 20th May. This will be a great opportunity to share views and gather together all our partners. We do hope to see you there!

Finally, a President is nothing without each and every one of you. Thank you in advance for supporting CEIR actions.

Pascal Vinzio
CEIR President

NEXT CEIR CONGRESS IN LYON FROM 18 TO 20 MAY 2016

We are very pleased to welcome you to Lyon for this congress of the European Association for the Taps and Valves Industry organised by CEIR and hosted by PROFLUID, the French association.

We have selected Lyon, the second largest city in France, for its convenience, easy to reach from all over Europe, and as it is a wonderful city to explore.

The programme has been arranged to answer all the needs of the various members of our community:

- Visits to industrial sites or laboratories
- Speakers on the economic situation
- Follow-up of the numerous topics covered by our association for all valve sectors
- Testimonies on the ongoing revolution our industry is currently facing.

You will enjoy networking sessions to share your views and projects with colleagues and partners from all over Europe and the USA.

The partner programme has been designed so that participants discover the oldest part of Lyon and its traditional artwork.

This congress will be an excellent opportunity to share views and meet with all our partners.

We hope to see you there!

The Congress programme and practical information are available on the CEIR Congress website: <http://ceir.profluid.org/>.



CEIR ANNUAL CONGRESS 2015

Weather which was "almost Mediterranean" greeted sixty delegates to the 2015 Congress which was hosted by the Bathroom Manufacturers Association and held over three days in early June in the gorgeous spa town of Harrogate in North Yorkshire.

Klaus Schneider, CEIR President, welcomed delegates to this year's event with the prospect of the economic, financial, social and environmental challenges continuing to influence our valve businesses. He reminded members that CEIR exists to embrace these challenges to shape the future of our industry. He went on to introduce the eight speakers for the main day of the event. *Christophe Sykes*, Director General Construction Products Europe, opened the speeches via video link. He could not attend in person but he was determined to participate. Sykes spoke on Ecodesign and the sustainable challenge facing the European construction sector and how industry can provide compliant solutions for new market opportunities.

Kevin Harris, the Export Manager at Eaton Electric, shared his experience of the growing challenges encountered by counterfeit products entering the European market. His speech, his final presentation before he retired, was followed by an in depth review of Building Information Modelling (BIM) by *Peter Caplehorn*, Deputy Chief Executive of the UK's Construction Products Association.

Jacob Tompkins, Managing Director, Waterwise UK, was up next with his engaging review of the consumer's role in driving water efficiency. He believed that over the next decade subsidies for water efficient initiatives are increasingly likely. Jacob was followed by *Tom Sallis*, Senior Policy Adviser of the Confederation of British Industry in Brussels. He explained what the key personnel and structural changes in the EU institutions will mean for the direction of EU policymaking over the next five years, and how Europe's manufacturing base may be affected as a result.

Concluding the day was an update on the progress of the European Water Label by *Ferenc Pekar*. He provided an update on the preparatory study for taps and showers which has been further delayed. He provided an overview on when the report is to be finally issued and the EU process.

Congress was as busy as ever and delegates engaged in the usual networking opportunities and social activities including an unusual visit to a world full of valves at The National Railway Museum in York. This was the first Congress which supported an exhibition which was provided by the EWL, NSF, Neoperl, KIWA, Bathroom Academy and the BMA.

"We were delighted to host the 2015 Congress," said *Yvonne Orgill*, Chief Executive of The Bathroom Manufacturers Association. "Once again our annual meeting tackled the issues of the day and gave all those who attended the opportunity to share ideas and help progress our industry's future."



CEIR CONGRESS 2015 IN HARROGATE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

During the last CEIR Congress in Harrogate (UK) **Pascal VINZIO** was elected as the new CEIR President, succeeding Klaus Schneider.

Pascal Vinzio is the Research and Innovation Manager for valves at KSB Group. He is deeply involved in valve work with PROFLUID, CETIM, LRCCP, UNM, CEN and ISO.

Klaus **SCHNEIDER** (URS, Switzerland) is Past President.

Ugo **PETTINAROLI** (AVR, Italy) Marketing & Communication Committee President, is 1st Vice-President

Board Members

Alexey **BABICHEV** (NPAA, Russia)

Marco **CALEFFI** (AVR, Italy)

Bulent **HACIRAIFOGLU** (POMASAD, Turkey)

Antonio **PARDAL** (AGRIVAL, Spain)

Peter **PEGDEN** (BMA, UK)

Joao **SARAIVA** (AIMMAP, Portugal)

Benoit **SMAGGHE** (Profluid, France)

Carlos **VELAZQUEZ** (AGRIVAL, Spain)

Holger **FEHRHOLZ** (URS, Switzerland), Sanitary Valves TC President (Ex Officio Member of the Board)

VMA MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO GROW

The Valve Manufacturers Association of America (VMA) membership continued to grow in 2015 after an outstanding 2014. In 2014 we added 23 new members and this year we added another 12 new members. We have already added our first new member for 2016. Our retention level has been 95% for 7 straight years. You might say that we are doing something right.

We have four categories of membership with a total of 152 dues paying member companies:

- 63 full members – valve, actuator and control manufacturers
- 35 associate members – suppliers to the industry
- 13 associate members – distributors and channel partners
- 41 valve repair facilities

We currently represent between 80-85% of industrial valve manufacturers in the U.S. and Canada.

In 2014 we added as a new category distributors and channel partners and within six months had 12 companies join. They have proven to be an important segment of our association by:

- Attending our workshops and seminars
- Providing articles for Valve Magazine
- Making presentations at our meetings
- And, serving on our committees

It still remains to be seen how we will fare in 2016 with a slowdown in some major industry end-users but hopefully when I see you in France in May I can update you on 2016.

William S. Sandler, CAE
President
Valve Manufacturers Association
www.vma.org



HELP THEM KNOW YOUR PRODUCT – USE THE LABEL

Helfen Sie ihnen Ihr Produkt kennen zu lernen – nutzen Sie das ETIKETT
Ayudeles a conocer VUESTRO PRODUCTO – UTILICE LA ETIQUETA
Aiutateli a conoscere il vostro prodotto – UTILIZZATE L'ETICHETTA
ÜRÜNÜNÜZÜ BİLMELERİNE YARDIMCI OLUN – ETİKET KULLANIN

The voluntary European Water Label Scheme is an undeniable success. It is low cost, maintains consumer choice, and does exactly what it is designed to do - inform and educate.

The database of 8000 products in 13 fully-developed product categories is now supported by 94 registered bathroom and kitchen brands.

Since it can be viewed in 34 countries the scheme database has been upgraded with translations of all its text into German and Spanish, with Turkish, Italian and French currently being worked on.



www.europeanwaterlabel.eu

To further develop the Water Label throughout Europe, a network of local 'Management Agents' are being appointed with the assistance of National Associations.

The aim here is to continue to promote the label and to encourage many more companies and their brands to join the scheme.

In addition, manufacturers are building the label into their websites, literature, PR materials and advertisements.

The Water Label is increasingly used by bathroom and kitchen retailers who have acknowledged its power as a sales and marketing tool. Shrewd consumers who want to save money by reducing their energy and water consumption are now asking for labelled products, and shrewd retailers are giving them the advice and choice which the label provides. Retailers are displaying the Water Label in their showrooms and have also taken advantage of free listing, as stockists, available in the database.

The label is set to expand further as its reputation grows. However, if we are to avoid EU legislation which would impose mandatory labelling and mandatory restrictions on water consumption, the scheme will need more support from the whole of the industry, from manufacturers, merchants, and independent retailers right through to multi-national distributors.

About The European Water Label

The European Water Label is the voluntary, not-for-profit, international industry labelling scheme for bathroom and kitchen products. The scheme provides easy access to a database of products which, when installed and used correctly, will use less water, save energy and save money. The scheme is administered by the Bathroom Manufacturers Association. Applications to join the scheme as registered companies or scheme partners are invited.

www.europeanwaterlabel.eu

IT'S ALL ABOUT BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

It's trending.

'Behaviour Change' is in the news and major global companies are becoming increasingly involved in helping change the attitudes of their customers. They are also employing the philosophies and mechanisms of the 'circular economy' and they know that it's not just about the design and manufacture of sustainable products but also how they are installed, used and disposed of at the end of their life.

Kingfisher, Europe's leading home improvement retailer with over 900 stores in 8 countries in Europe and Asia, and flat-pack furniture maker IKEA, which has 315 stores in 27 countries, have both indicated a new and 'natural progression' of their business models. They are moving from simply selling products to providing resource efficiency-related services for customers. They, with other major businesses, understand that it is possible to increase profits through decreased material consumption and they are encouraging their customers to follow their lead and change their behaviour.

Kingfisher and others are doing it with the help of schemes like the European Water Label which is leading the way in providing the tools to create behaviour change.

"Our Water Labelling Scheme has been helping to change consumer behaviour for several years but we want to go even further," says Yvonne Orgill, Managing Director of the European Water Labelling Scheme. "We believe that now is the time to accelerate the process by giving cash incentives to encourage



behaviour change and with that, the installation of water-efficient bathroom products."

Latest research, commissioned by the UK's Bathroom Manufacturers Association, gives an analysis of the bathroom amenities of the 23 million households in England. The research shows that 44% of England's houses still have toilets which flush with 7.5 litres or more. Similar figures may be assumed for other European countries. In the USA, Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI) have found similar statistics.

Since the latest toilet models flush with a maximum of 4 litres, it follows that 10 million houses in England use twice the amount of water they need to.

The research concludes that if the existing water-guzzling toilets were replaced, there is a potential to save at least 644 million litres of water per day in England alone. Savings across Europe could be huge. In the United States, PMI have begun generating support for retrofitting with Water-Efficient Plumbing Products to save an estimated 3 billion US gallons of water per day.

The European Water Labelling (EWL) Scheme works within the UK, and across Europe, to mitigate the impact of the increasing demand for water. This voluntary scheme, which now boasts over 8000 products across almost 100 well-known bathroom brands, is growing rapidly.

European bathroom and kitchen manufacturers are working diligently to develop products which are both water- and energy-efficient whilst maintaining excellent performance and consumer satisfaction. While it is recognised that the latest products are designed to consume less water, the Scheme re-emphasises that even more significant water and energy savings can be accomplished through strong incentives to replace older plumbing products and encourage behaviour change.

Members of the Labelling Scheme have considered, for some time, that a major reduction in water consumption can be achieved throughout Europe if householders were incentivised with a straight, no-nonsense, cash payout, to replace their old water-consuming products. A few years ago, in the UK, a similar scheme to replace old central heating boilers proved a massive success.

The European Water Label Company is urging the European Commission to develop and implement a robust European-wide scheme to deliver monetary incentives to encourage both householders and businesses to purchase replacement water-efficient toilets, showers, bathroom and kitchen taps, faucets and other plumbing products.

The latest products show no loss of performance but they do show massive reductions in water and energy consumption.

"Now is the time to create the cash incentives for consumers and businesses to purchase and install water-efficient bathroom products," says Yvonne Orgill. "Now is the time when steps to preserve our precious resources must be taken. As good stewards of the environment, the EWL Scheme wants everyone to know that modern bathroom and kitchen products have an immediate effect on saving water and energy. There have been tremendous advances in the technology and efficacy of plumbing products during the last five years and, just as you wouldn't use a 20-year-old mobile phone, it doesn't really make sense to use a 20-year-old bathroom. The industry is playing its part in the drive for water and energy efficiency. Now let's hope the EU will play its part too and create the required incentives." Saving water and energy makes sense. It saves you money, and your kids' future. It's the right thing to do so why wouldn't you?

IN CALIFORNIA, THE FUTURE IS NOW

By Barbara C Higgins
CEO and Executive Director
Plumbing Manufacturers
International



In an April 7 news announcement, PMI CEO and Executive Director Barbara C. Higgins stated: "In California, the future is now – a time when steps to sustain an ever-precious resource must be taken. As good stewards of the environment, PMI wants the public to know that using water-efficient plumbing products is an immediate action that can be taken to save water. Flow rates must be set carefully within health and safety parameters to avoid unintended consequences. PMI advocates levels specified by the EPA WaterSense program, which include performance criteria in addition to promoting the efficient use of water. There have been tremendous advancements in the technology and efficacy of plumbing products. Just as you wouldn't use a 25-year-old cell phone, it doesn't make sense to use 25-year-old plumbing technology." Higgins was a part of a panel presentation on "The Future of Water" at an April 13 Water Week event in Washington, D.C.

PMI has long encouraged the replacement, or retrofitting, of older fixtures with WaterSense toilets, showerheads and faucets, which are widely available in stores throughout California and the nation. PMI and its member companies – which produce most of the plumbing products in the United States – participate as partners in the WaterSense program. "Using WaterSense products is common sense," Higgins said.

WaterSense products use 20 percent less water than federal requirements

To earn the WaterSense label, plumbing products are independently tested and certified as using at least 20 percent less water than federal requirements while meeting performance standards. Available at a wide variety of price points and in a broad range of styles, these water-efficient products are now required by the California Building Code

The simple classification scheme applicable throughout Europe

- Sets standardised water / energy / volumes and flow identities conforming to any legal national requirements
- Promotes the use of water using products in private and public buildings
- Self-declared and monitored by independent audits to keep the scheme cost-effective
- Informs European consumers on water consumption
- Invites consumers to check the database to find water saving products
- Maximises the effectiveness of the labelling scheme and monitors its implementation
- Contributes to the various efforts to reduce water and energy waste

What the Label says

It clearly shows the maximum volume or flow of water that the product will deliver if installed correctly and according to the manufacturer's instructions.

- Coloured performance bands
- Actual capacity/performance

in new construction and renovations. "A statewide rebate program will further water savings by encouraging comprehensive and timely retrofitting of older products in existing buildings," Higgins said. PMI has a history of active engagement and support for California legislative and regulatory efforts to accomplish increased water efficiencies:

- PMI was instrumental in the creation and promulgation of the provisions within AB 715 (Laird, Chapter 499, Statutes of 2007) to reduce water consumption of high-efficiency toilets (HET) to 1.28 gallon per flush (gpf) and high efficiency urinals (HEU) to 0.5 gpf. This law set levels of sales for high-efficiency water closets and urinals starting in 2010 and went into full effect for all sales of these products on January 1, 2014. All HETs and HEUs sold in California are required to meet these levels.
- PMI also supported the promulgation of SB 407 (Padilla, Chapter 587, Statutes of 2009), which will require the replacement of plumbing fixtures installed prior to 1994 when new fixtures are installed during new construction or remodeling projects. The older fixtures must be replaced with water-conserving fixtures in single family residences by 2017 and in commercial and multi-family properties by 2019.
- PMI also worked closely with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and the Building Standards Commission (BSC) to establish water efficiency levels for the 2013 CALGreen section of the California Building Code, which went into effect on January 1, 2014.

About PMI

Plumbing Manufacturers International is the voluntary, not-for-profit international industry association of manufacturers of plumbing products, serving as the Voice of the Plumbing Industry. Member companies produce about 90 percent of the nation's plumbing products. As part of its mission, PMI advocates for plumbing product performance and innovation contributing to water savings, sustainability, public health and safety, and consumer satisfaction. For more information on PMI or its conferences, contact the organization at 1921 Rohlwing Road, Unit G, Rolling Meadows, IL, 60008; tel.: 847-481-5500; fax: 847-481-5501. Visit our website at www.safeplumbing.org.

BIM UPDATE: EU FINALLY TAKING ACTION BY LAUNCHING CEN/TC 442

During its last meeting, the CEIR Board agreed to create a Working Group for Building Information Modeling (BIM).

As explained in the last CEIR Gazette, BIM is a methodology based on the use of coordinated, coherent and computable information about the physical and functional characteristics of a building or infrastructure.

The goal is to establish a reliable knowledge base for decision-making throughout the entire life cycle of a building.

In addition, BIM turns the construction industry from an opaque and hostile environment into a more collaborative one where manufacturers' BIM components compound other stakeholders' BIM models, and where the different stakeholders' specialised tools benefit from information about BIM components.

Therefore, ensuring the quality of BIM components is important because:

- *BIM users trust information supplied with BIM components provided by manufacturers*
- *Wrong BIM components in the cloud / internet may create misleading information that could have legal consequences (if the metadata included in the components leads to mistakes).*

BIM seems to be here to stay but the fact is that in spite of spreading fast it is still 'under construction' in several fields (metadata definition, legal issues, liability issues...). CEIR members need to have a clear idea about what and where but also when and who is going to define the BIM framework on product information, especially in terms of liability issues.

Product Information

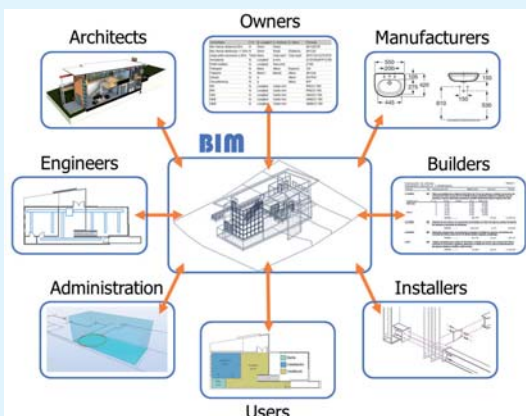
One of the current open points is the development of the semantics for BIM construction products based on harmonised standards.

Currently there is no common template across Europe stating which information a BIM component needs to provide, and this causes confusion and inefficiencies within our Industry.

As an example, CIBSE (the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers) is working on a product template for the UK that could be a reference for the whole of Europe, but CIBSE is not alone in developing a template proposal for BIM components. The obvious risk here is that we end up with different standards for different countries and for different categories.

The Industry needs to understand which are the relevant templates that are under development and state its opinion before it is too late, especially considering that the EU has finally taken action and launched the new CEN/TC 442 for BIM standardisation.

The scope of CEN/TC 442 will cover standardisation in the field of structured semantic life cycle information for the built environment. The Committee will develop a structured set of standards, specifications and reports which specify methodologies to define, describe, exchange, monitor, record and securely handle asset data, semantics and processes with links to geospatial and other external data.



The working groups already established are:

- WG1 Strategy and planning (secretariat: United Kingdom)
- WG2 Exchange information (secretariat: Germany)
- WG3 Information delivery specification (secretariat: Austria)
- WG4 Data dictionary (secretariat: France)

The next meetings will take place in Oslo on 15-16 February and in Lisbon on 20-21 June. CEIR should ensure, through the BIM Working Group (hand in hand with FECS and other players) that we all know what is going on in these meetings so our Industry can have a say before decisions are made.

Liability Issues

As stated above, BIM users trust information supplied with BIM components provided by manufacturers. Wrong BIM components in the cloud or on the internet may create misleading information that could impact the building plan, construction, safety, consumption, performance, economics, etc. This could result in legal consequences (if the metadata included in the components leads to mistakes).

Manufacturers must ensure that BIM information is correct and accurate and, in any case, make sure that everybody understands that this information is linked to the product life cycle, and not to the building life cycle.

We must address this important question as a priority issue within the CEIR BIM Working Group.

MACHINERY DIRECTIVE AND INDUSTRIAL VALVES: ONGOING DISCUSSIONS, BUT STILL A LONG WAY TO GO

Two years have passed since CEIR asked the European Commission to tackle the question of the eventual application of the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC to industrial valves. The issue first came to light when some manufacturers changed their mind, despite having previously been in agreement with European manufacturers. According to the VDMA (German mechanical engineering association), actuated valves and valves "intended to be actuated" should be considered as machinery as per the definition given in the Directive. Fearing that such a unilateral change might create huge confusion on the market, CEIR decided to seek advice from the authorities, namely the European Commission's Machinery Working Group.

What has happened in the last 2 years? CEIR presented its initial position paper to the Machinery Working Group, whose members were then invited to react. Half a dozen did so, providing valuable input but no clear answer to the question. After 3 meetings in Brussels, CEIR was invited to redraft its position in the light of the comments received. Knowing that a single position at European level is required, discussions between CEIR, BVAA (British Valve Association) and VDMA were organised and a draft Position Paper was prepared. The arguments of all parties were extensively discussed and understood, but total agreement has not been reached so far. The sticking points mostly concern whether a valve has or does not have a specific application (regardless of whether it is a "catalogue valve" or a "tailor-made valve") and the consequence of the interaction between the Pressure Equipment Directive and the Machinery Directive which would allow some valves, if considered as machinery, to be out of the PED. CEIR believes this would be counter-productive in terms of safety as pressure is recognised as being THE source of danger to consider with valves.

The topic was supposed to be dealt with during the last Machinery Working Group meeting in Brussels in November but this did not happen, due to a shortened meeting, low attendance due to safety measures in Brussels and, most importantly, ongoing discussions between stakeholders and Members States' authorities. The next opportunity will be in March 2016.

This means a few months more to discuss and agree in the best interests of our Industry. A CEIR workshop on this issue is scheduled on 22 February in Brussels (CEIR premises).

CHROMIUM TRIOXIDE - UPDATE ON "AUTHORISATION" DEVELOPMENTS

Chromium Trioxide is one of the substances included in Annex XIV of REACH (the so-called "Authorisation List"). It was included in April 2013 following publication in the Official Journal of Regulation (EU) 348/2013. The main



consequences for the industry are the following:

- 21 March 2016 (Latest application date): date by which applications must be received by ECHA in order to continue to use the substance or place it on the market for specified uses after the sunset date; these continued uses will be allowed after the sunset date until a decision on the application for authorisation is taken;
- 21 September 2017 (Sunset date): date from which placing on the market and use of Chromium Trioxide will be prohibited unless an authorisation is granted.

It is important to underline that authorisation must be granted for a specified use of Chromium Trioxide.

The tapware industry is currently using chrome plating for both functional and decorative purposes. However, Chromium Trioxide is an important compound for many industrial branches, and several initiatives have been launched in Europe in order to continue to use Chromium (VI) legally after the sunset date established by Regulation 348/2013.

Following is a short update of the activity of consortia created within the chemical and galvanic industry.

During 2015 the consortium CTACsub filed the initial application for authorisation for the use of Chromium Trioxide. The application was submitted to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).

The CTACsub consortium consists of seven companies and was created in February 2015. The specific objective of the group is the joint submission of applications for REACH authorisation for certain industrial uses of Chromium Trioxide. The CTACsub application was made on the basis of the documentation prepared by the CTAC consortium, for uses that were identified by members of that consortium (among them: "Functional chrome plating with decorative character"). Regarding this specific industrial use, relevant for the CEIR industry, the application submitted by the consortium is for an authorisation for a 7-year period.

The CTACsub Consortium consists of the following companies: Atotech Deutschland GmbH, Aviall Services Inc, Bondex Trading Ltd, Cromital Spa, Elementis Chromium LLP, Enthone GmbH, Lanxess Deutschland GmbH.

The company Grohe AG submitted a second application to ECHA in November 2015.

It is important to underline that the process of requesting authorisation includes a series of public consultations and may involve all interested stakeholders. These surveys include in particular the correct definition of the uses for which authorisation is requested.

Regarding the CTACsub application, the first consultation ended in October 2015; for the Grohe AG application the consultation runs until January 2016.

Once the application is submitted, ECHA' Committees for Socio-economic Analysis (SEAC) and Risk Assessment (RAC) should deliver their draft opinion within ten months. Then, the ECHA opinion is sent to the European Commission, which should prepare a draft decision granting or refusing the authorisation within three months. The entire process for obtaining an authorisation for use of Chromium Trioxide should be completed in eighteen months.



PRODUCTS IN CONTACT WITH DRINKING WATER: WILL THE EU FINALLY APPLY THE SINGLE MARKET PRINCIPLES?

This is one of the never-ending topics that the European valves and taps industry has had to deal with for many years – some would say decades. Materials and products in contact with drinking water are subject to:

- 2 European pieces of legislation (Drinking Water Directive and Construction Products Regulation)
- at least a dozen Member States' national regulations, often associated with a mandatory (strictly or de facto) national certification
- dozens of national standards, guidelines, byelaws...

This is a complicated situation which becomes more complex every year, depriving manufacturers of the benefits of the single market and the free circulation of goods.

Industry works hard every day to supply the different markets with products complying with current legislation, despite the incredible burden this represents for the services responsible for engineering, purchasing, logistics, quality, manufacturing etc. Of course this is not ideal, and one of CEIR's goals has always been to improve the situation. This is why CEIR is participating in several initiatives that could make a change.

First, and probably most important, the European Commission is currently studying the pros and cons of a revision of the Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC). Since this text is the root cause of a very difficult situation in Europe, the status of this Directive and its article 10 (specific to products in contact with drinking water) will be discussed. CEIR is urging the Commission to take this opportunity to tackle the problem using a new approach: delete article 10 and consider the problem as it should have been considered since the beginning. This is a field where all Member States have their own regulation and where harmonisation is necessary, according to the principles of the Treaty. The European Commission would be perfectly entitled to propose a European Regulation, based on the New Approach, with a specific CE marking for these products. The current structure, with drinking water being linked to the Construction Products Regulation, has proved inefficient. The recent European Commission's request to delete Mandate M/136 is another step in that direction.

Secondly, the Industry is trying to muster support in order to speak louder and possibly elaborate an Industry solution to this issue. With this in mind, CEIR joined the Industry Consortium for Products in Contact with Drinking Water (ICPCDW). 16 associations from various sectors, all related to products in contact with drinking water, participate in this "think tank". The immediate benefit is to share knowledge and expertise since access to information is often difficult. In the longer term, this consortium could be a great tool to synchronise actions and messages to key stakeholders.

Finally, it is obviously an interesting reservoir of expertise, which can be used to propose "THE" solution without impairing consumer safety.

If you want to stay up-to-date and be part of the change, join CEIR and participate in its Technical Committees in charge of this topic!



CIRCULAR ECONOMY: A TOP PRIORITY FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The European Commission released its new Circular Economy Package – the so-called CEP 2.0 – on 2 December 2015. This Package includes a Commission Communication: 'Closing the loop – An Action Plan for the Circular Economy' and an Action Plan. It also includes proposals to review the European legislative framework on waste and specific waste streams.

The new Package sets out measures for all stages of a product's life-cycle, from production to consumption, to waste management and the market for secondary raw materials. The objective is to "close the loop" of the circular economy.

At the production stage, the Ecodesign Directive is considered as a key instrument to improve resource efficiency. Therefore, besides energy efficiency, the Commission will propose reparability, upgradability, durability and recyclability requirements for products. For example, marking requirements will be proposed to facilitate dismantling, reuse and recycling of certain components. However, these aspects will be addressed on a product-by-product basis rather than through a "one size fits all" measure. It should be noted that EU standardisation bodies have agreed to develop standards for setting eco-design requirements for resource efficiency by March 2019 (see EC mandate).

Contrary to earlier announcements, the long-awaited Working Plan 2015-2017 was not included in the Package. It will identify priority products to be assessed under the Ecodesign Directive. It will also specify existing product regulations to be revised and

the state of play of products identified in the past. Regarding the preparatory study on taps and shower heads, DG Environment recently reiterated that the study has been completed, but the final report is not yet published. However, discussions are taking place on both the working plan and possible actions on taps and shower heads. Further developments are expected in the first quarter of 2016.

In addition, the Commission also intends to clarify rules on by-products to stimulate industrial symbiosis, i.e. turning the by-product of one industry into another industry's raw material.

For the consumption phase, the Commission will look into durability, availability of spare parts and repair information in its future work on Ecodesign. Moreover, it will support a greater uptake of Green Public Procurement and particularly focus on circular economy aspects (e.g. durability and reparability) when defining new or revised criteria.

The revised legislative proposals on waste include new rules to increase preparation for reuse activities at national level, and focus on specific EU waste management targets, notably:

- a common EU target for recycling 65% of municipal waste by 2030;
- a common EU target for recycling 75% of packaging waste by 2030;
- a binding target to reduce landfill to a maximum of 10% of all waste by 2030.

The Commission also plans to create economic incentives for producers who put greener products on the market. Another key aim is to simplify, improve and harmonise waste definitions and calculation methods for recycling rates throughout the EU. Considering the high potential of the market for secondary raw materials, quality standards for such materials and minimum requirements for reused water have also been announced.



VALVE INDUSTRY FORUM & EXPO' 2016



The III International VALVE INDUSTRY FORUM & EXPO' 2016 will take place in Moscow on April 12-14, 2016. The Forum is an exclusive venue at one time and in one place for the major players on the valve industry market - manufacturers, suppliers, designers and consumers – to engage in active dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation.

The business programme of the Forum will include the most urgent issues of sectoral interaction and will certainly arouse great interest among both valve industry companies and consumers of pipeline valves and materials. Please find more detailed information on the programme and participation on www.valve-forum.ru.

CEIR 2016 upcoming events & meetings

CEIR Industry & Building Valves Technical Committee - Machinery Directive Workshop	22 February	Brussels (B)
CEIR Showerheads Working Group	1 March	Paris (F)
CEIR Sanitary Valves Technical Committee	2 March	Paris (F)
CEIR Board	10 March	Paris (F)
CEIR Marketing & Communication Committee	10 March	Paris (F)
CEIR BIM Working Group	11 March	Paris (F)
VMA & VRC Annual Meeting	21-23 September	Rancho Mirage CA (USA)
PMI Spring Conference	March	(USA)
CEIR Congress	18-20 May	Lyon (F)



THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE TAPS AND VALVES INDUSTRY

DEFENDING AND PROMOTING THE VALVES INDUSTRY SINCE 1959

CEIR represents the common economic, technical and scientific interests of the European valves industry, in particular towards European and international authorities, and in economic and commercial circles. CEIR gathers 13 national associations with a total of 340 companies in Europe. CEIR is the European reference body, cooperating with international institutions and bodies on technical matters, harmonised regulations and rules for efficient and environmentally-friendly taps and valves.

- CEIR develops appropriate programmes and tools to support the European valves and taps industry in understanding and maintaining a good knowledge of valves and taps technologies and the related market requirements.
- CEIR promotes safety, energy savings and environmental integrity.
- CEIR maintains an open and constructive dialogue with all EU stakeholders and institutions determining or influencing the progress of our industry.
- CEIR participates in European and international standards organisations.
- CEIR is a non-profit organisation, registered in the European Union Transparency Register under the number 54018122087-60.

There are 3 CEIR Committees in charge of marketing and technical aspects where members can network and work together to influence incoming legislation.

- The Sanitary Technical Committee comprises experts from the main taps & showerheads manufacturers and associations in Europe. It informs and advises its members on all product-specific technical matters. It mainly works on EU regulatory developments, standardisation and pre-normative issues.
- The Building & Industrial Valves Technical Committee comprises manufacturers of gas, heating, water and fire-fighting valves in all CEIR member countries. It also includes manufacturers of valves, actuators and associated products for all industrial applications. The Committee represents the common economic, technical and scientific interests of its manufacturer members. Here again, it informs and advises its members on all product-specific technical matters, EU regulatory developments, standardisation and pre-normative issues.
- The Marketing & Communication Committee is in charge of coordinating "The Gazette", the CEIR newsletter. It launched the CEIR Quarterly Business Trends Survey in 2012 and has produced a "Valve Terminology" CD. The Committee is also in charge of the website and the promotion of CEIR.

CEIR, THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE TAPS AND VALVES INDUSTRY

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