



Substitution: From principles to practice
An EU Project for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal opportunities DG

INVITATION TO WORKSHOP

Background

This EU project focuses on practical matters of substitution of hazardous chemicals in the workplace. The main objective is to assess whether it is possible to develop a common approach to substitution. In the workshop, suggestions by the project team to such an approach are put forward for critical discussion. The overall outcome of the project is envisaged to be a practical guidance document to substitution. This could contain examples and overviews of how to carry out effective and targeted substitution, and, if a common approach is found to be of value, a step-by-step guide to the recommended methodology. The main target audience for the guidance documents would be likely to consist of small and medium size businesses, where chemical know-how may not be at a very high level.

Workshop objective

In the workshop, representatives of authorities, experts and companies will critically discuss the suggestions for a common approach to substitution. A key objective is to ensure that any common approach is both easy to follow yet provides the user with the potential for accurate assessments and implementation plans. The use of substitution as a risk management measure in practice and what this requires from companies will be debated.

Workshop time & location

28th September 2010
From 9.30 am to 16.00 pm

The International Auditorium,
Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 5, 1210 Bruxelles, Belgium
<http://www.theinternationalauditorium.be>

There is no participation fee, but lunch and travelling expenses are not covered by the EU

Participants

Regulators and experts from EU Member States, academia, trade organisations, industry associations as well as the EU occupational health and safety organisations.

Registration

Registration by email to Dr Jatta Aho by the 31st August 2010: Jatta.aho@gaia.fi



Workshop agenda

- 9.00 Registration and coffee**
- 9.30 Welcome to the workshop** - Dr A. Angelidis, DG Employment, Social affairs and equal opportunities
- 9.40 The feasibility of developing a common approach to substitution: Findings from the project** - Ylva Gilbert, Gaia Consulting
- Substitution and the chemical supply industry
 - Substitution when chemical properties are critical for the process
 - Substitution when desired chemical properties are more generic and/or the extent of chemical use in the company is relatively low
- 10.15 Viewpoints on Challenges and opportunities of chemical substitution**
- Working for a safer workplace today and in the future – Dr. Tony Musu, ETUI (to be confirmed)
 - The role of the supplier: CEFIC (to be confirmed)
 - Substitution from a user point of view: (to be confirmed)
- 11.00 Debate on the feasibility and benefits of a common approach.** The discussion will be facilitated by Gaia and based on finding the challenges, options, concerns and benefits as well as recording facts that have to be taken into account.

12.30 Lunch in the ETUI cafeteria

- 13.15 Practical aspects of a common approach.** A short introduction to the subject is followed by work in smaller groups, where particular aspects of substitution in relation to a common approach are discussed.
- Group A: Consequence assessments: Information needs and information use
 - Group B: Identifying potentials targets for substitution – what to look for and when (non-process chemicals)
 - Group C: Management challenges: Practicality versus perfection
- 14.15 Coffee break**
- 14.30 Presentations of the findings from the Groups**
- 15.00 Joint discussion and conclusions about the potential for a common approach and target audiences for guidance.** Moderated by Gaia.
- 15.45 Summing up and closure of the workshop**