



## Programme of the Debate

### “Is the REACH revision necessary?”

29<sup>th</sup> April 2013 from 16h30 to 18h00, European House, Jungmannova 24, Praha 1

Chemical industry belongs among the largest industrial sectors in Europe. It means that it is very important source of direct as well as indirect employment in many regions of the EU. Until recently, when Europe was surpassed by China, the EU had been the biggest producer of chemical products. With the aim to promote innovations and competitiveness of the chemical industry, the EU has adopted one of the most important regulations (1907/2006) concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals known under the acronym REACH. This regulation came into force in June 2007 and regulates safe treatment of chemicals. Besides promotion of competitiveness and innovations, one of the main aims of REACH is an adequate protection of human health and environment through earlier identification of substantial characteristics and possible impacts of chemicals in any industrial application. On 5<sup>th</sup> February 2013, the European Commission published a review report on REACH contending that a noticeable improvement of safe treatment of chemicals has been achieved. However, certain setbacks have been identified, especially concerning the administrative and financial burdens particularly for the SMEs. Although no substantial revision is envisaged by the European Commission, some amendments have been proposed. The Commission intends to improve and enhance the recalculation of registration fees, increase general awareness, deepen cooperation with organisations representing interests of SMEs and intensify research and application of alternative methods evaluating potential utilisation of chemicals. SMEs are negatively affected by REACH regulation and they consider this legislation as one of the ten most burdening regulations of the European Union. Many of them were even forced to quit their activities in this market sector. However, REACH has undeniable impact on overall competitiveness of European chemical industry in the global economy.

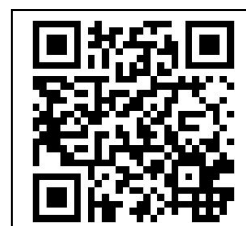
*To what extent has REACH regulation contributed to the promotion and enhancement of innovations and competitiveness within the European Union? Which possible proposals would enable SMEs to fulfil duties related to REACH mechanism in a sustainable and more suitable manner?*

The debate will be opened by **Jan Michal**, Director of the Representation of the European Commission to the Czech Republic, followed by:

- **Gustaaf Borchardt**, Management Board Member of ECHA for DG ENV and, until recently, Director of DG Environment Directorate D – Water, Marine Environment & Chemicals;\*
- **Jarmila Sládková**, Department of Risk Prevention and Chemical Security, Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic;
- **Ladislav Novák**, Director of the Association of Chemical Industry of the Czech Republic;

\* *Interpretation EN/CS will be provided.*

Discussion is going to be moderated by Alena Vlačihová, Directress of CEBRE – Czech Business Representation to the EU. Partner of the debate is the University of Finance and Administration. Medial partners are news server EurActiv.cz and Prague Leaders Magazine.



This debate is organized as a part of a project of the Representation of the European Commission to the Czech Republic and European Parliament Information Office in the Czech republic with the aim to communicate current European issues to the wide range of experts and general public. It is organized by Confederation of Employers' and Entrepreneurs' Associations of the Czech Republic in cooperation with CEBRE – Czech Business Representation to the EU. More information [prague@cebre.cz](mailto:prague@cebre.cz).

