



June 2008 Edition

## EU Confirms the Science-Based Case for Climate Change

The European Parliament has passed a resolution on the scientific facts of climate change. It makes reference to the body of work undertaken by various international agencies and organizations and concludes that there is consensus that anthropogenic climate change is occurring. The resolution states that:

“data collected from such studies underline the urgent need for adaptation and mitigation measures to be implemented in order to limit alarming risk to humans, the biodiversity of flora and fauna, habitats and infrastructure, first and foremost in the developing world but also in Europe and other wealthier parts of the world”



However, the resolution goes further. It acknowledges the Stern Report's conclusions that the costs of tackling climate change will be far lower than the costs of doing nothing, but goes on to explain that existing policies and initiatives will not be sufficient to combat climate change. The resolution explains that the current increase in the rate of emissions must be halted by 2015, if targets to limit global temperature rises to 2°C above pre-industrial levels are to be achieved. In particular, it stresses the need to prevent temperatures reaching “tipping points”, whereby damage to the environment will result in emissions of greenhouse gases by natural phenomena.

Although the resolution does not put forward specific measures to address climate change, it clearly demonstrates the EU's commitment to tackle the issue and is an indicator of future EU policy and possible regulation.

CRA is hosting two briefings on climate change and carbon management, in Nottingham (25<sup>th</sup> June) and Reading (2 July). To download the event flyer, click [here](#). To read the resolution in full, click [here](#).

### Headline Stories

#### **Business Briefings: Effective Carbon Management – Key Steps to Getting Started**

CRA is hosting two briefings on climate change and carbon management, in Nottingham (25<sup>th</sup> June) and Reading (2<sup>nd</sup> July). The briefings will provide an overview of climate change mechanisms and consequences, and the economic and regulatory drivers. The briefings will include practical guidance on calculating carbon footprints and communicating performance to stakeholders.

To download the event flyer, click [here](#).

#### **REACH goes live**

Twelve months after its creation, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has evolved from a few staff to a fully functioning organisation of 200 employees. On the 1st of June 2008, the Agency launched the REACH-IT portal and started to accept pre-registrations and other data submissions from industry.

At a press meeting a spokesperson for Gunter Verheugen, Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry expressed concern “that some companies may still not be conscious of their obligations, either because they are not aware of the scope or the specific requirements or because they believe that REACH does not affect them, especially if they are not part of the chemicals sector.”

Don't miss out on registration. Ensure that your suppliers are registering chemicals critical to your business. For help and advice with REACH contact our [REACH Team](#) or see our REACH services [here](#).

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE REGULATIONS ARE GETTING CLOSER.....

Public consultation on the Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations 2008 has ended and the intention is that these Regulations will come into effect 'by December 2008'.

A large number of organizations will be liable for "environmental damage", whether or not the operator intended to cause damage or was negligent. Where "environmental damage" occurs, or is imminent, the operator must immediately:

- Take steps to prevent damage or further damage;
- Notify the regulators of all relevant details; and
- Take remedial steps specified by the regulators.

The Regulation consultation draft can be found [here](#).

## LANDFILL TAX RELIEF FOR CONTAMINATED LAND TO BE PHASED OUT

The government has recently announced that landfill tax relief on contaminated land is to be phased out by 2012. Currently landfill tax stands at £32 per tonne; this is rising to £48 per tonne by 2010. This will further limit the economic viability of disposing of contaminated soils to landfill.

For further details on either of these issues please contact our [Land and Property Team](#).

## DEFRA'S POSITION STATEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Defra has issued a new position statement that provides rigorous endorsement of the benefits of EMS. It emphasizes that the EMS should focus on compliance and genuine improvement in performance, and that certifiers must be competent to assess the capability of an EMS to deliver these goals.

Defra has urged the UK Accreditation Service (UKAS) to ensure that certification bodies meet the requirements of international auditing standards, to safeguard the quality and credibility of certification. In particular, Defra emphasizes the need to strengthen arrangements for checking compliance with legislation.

The Environment Agency already recognizes that EMSs improve environmental performance; its risk-based approach to regulation through the Operator and Pollution Risk Appraisal (OPRA) scheme results in IPPC-regulated sites with EMSs being charged lower regulatory fees. Defra recommends that this principle be extended to other regulatory charging schemes.

The strengthened emphasis on ensuring legal compliance will put organizations and certifiers under increased pressure to more rigorously implement and check legal registers and compliance. CRA has already helped many companies ensure they are legally compliant in line with the upgraded requirements of ISO 14001 : 2004 . In addition, our legal register update service provides a site-specific review and update of legal requirements and implications for both compliance and the organisation's control procedures, etc. For further details contact our [EMS Team](#).

To read the Defra position statement, click [here](#).

## THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY AWARDS 2008

CRA is pleased to announce that we were a finalist at The Environment and Energy Awards, 2008 for the Consultancy Award for Sustainable Clean Up.

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