

Summary



| | |
|--|---|
| 1. New study prepared | 1 |
| 2. European Business Awards for the Environment | 2 |
| 3. "The Safe Handling of Ozone Depleting Substances" course organised in Malta | 3 |
| 4. New Programme from Malta University Services Ltd - Technologies for competitive manufacturing | 4 |
| 5. Expo CO ₂ : markets, financing and funds | 4 |
| 6. Park Life Fair 2006 | 5 |
| 7. The 2nd Syrian Int'l Environment - SYRENVIRO 2006 3-6 April 2006 | 5 |
| 8. Good Housekeeping Practices Seminar in Morocco | 6 |

1. New study prepared

Pollution Prevention and Reduction at Source in the Chemical Industry

The Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (RAC/CP) has completed the study on *Pollution Prevention and Reduction at Source in the Chemical Industry*.

To carry out the study, we consulted the National Focal Points (NFP) of the countries in the Mediterranean Basin and had more than 350 contacts with public administrations, associations, committees and federations from the chemicals industry, societies, centres and development agencies, Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Embassies, economic and commercial offices, National Statistics Institutes, the Association of Mediterranean Chambers (ASCAME), the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) and Responsible Care as well as chemicals industries in the countries that were the object of the study. The aim was that when choosing the reference prevention opportunities in the chemicals sector they should take into account the technologies and conditions existing in each country and participate in all the areas involved, through a communications network that has been set up in the sector.

While the study was being written, B&B Asesores, the consultancy agency in charge of its preparation, set up a web page on the RAC/CP website (<http://www.cema-sa.org>) in three different languages (English, French and Spanish) for disseminating and compiling documentation. Based on all the information collected, we prepared a description of the situation of the chemical subsectors being studied in each country. Therefore, the guide offers real knowledge about the situation of the fine chemicals sector in the Mediterranean Arc: about the size of the sector, its particular problems, and the economic and legislative framework.

The manual is particularly aimed at small and medium-sized enterprises in the fine chemicals sector. This sector is defined by its discrete, varied productions, not by the similarity of activities, as they are grouped into sectors as varied as base pharmaceuticals, surfactants for special use (not detergents for the public), colorants, biocides or aromas and fragrances, which use techniques and activities from very different settings. The approach tried to establish pollution prevention measures and good

practices associated to the phases of the process and to basic operations which are common to most of the subsectors in question. We excluded the chemical reactions themselves from these operations, given the enormous diversity and heterogeneity in synthetic chemical products.

In this sense, the aim of the study is to help companies achieve sustainable development, through the study of their impacts and by suggesting a wide range of possibilities for reducing pollution, which include reduction at source, recycling and recovery at source, waste recovery,

redesign of product and process, good environmental and hygiene practices and the replacement of raw materials.

The manual also hopes to provide a useful tool that serves as a guideline for minimising the pollution generated in the discontinuous chemicals sector and to be a useful, practical guide for managing the real application of pollution prevention opportunities in their different varieties through practical proposals whose application is within the possibilities of the chemicals companies in the MAP countries. ■

2. European Business Awards for the Environment

The Malta Cleaner Technology Centre has in January 2006, submitted the application of Trelleborg Sealing Solutions Malta Ltd. for the European Business Awards for the Environment, organised biannually by the European Union Directorate General Environment.

Trelleborg Sealing Solutions Malta Ltd. was one of the winners of the local Environment Awards for Industry organised during 2005 by the Malta Cleaner Technology Centre.

The Malta Environment Award for Industry is designed to recognise and promote organisations that have made a significant contribution to environmental protection during the previous year. The aim is to highlight policies, practices and processes from all sectors of industry which are helping to achieve economic and social development while minimising the environmental impact of their operations, so that such initiatives may be of example to others.

The Malta Environment Award for Industry is given in the following three categories;

- Category A Management Award for Sustainable Development
- Category B Conservation Award for Sustainable Development
- Category C Environment Protection Initiative Award for SME's

The winners, Trelleborg Sealing Solutions Malta Ltd. for Category A, HSBC Bank Malta plc for Category B and The Limestone Heritage for Category C, were presented with the awards during a presentation held on the 14th of November 2005.



Representatives from Trelleborg Sealing Solutions Malta Ltd., winners of Category 'A'

As the winning organisation in Category 'A', Trelleborg Sealing Solutions Malta Ltd., has the possibility to compete in the European Environment Award Programme organised by the European Union. A total of 28 countries are taking part in this year's edition of the European Business Awards for the Environment, making this award the biggest European Business Awards. "The companies that compete in the European Business Awards for the Environment are the best companies in Europe making business out of being friendly to the environment".

The winning organisations will be announced at an awards ceremony to be held in June 2006. ■

3. “The Safe Handling of Ozone Depleting Substances”, course organised in Malta

The Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs) breakdown the ozone layer in the stratosphere, resulting in an increase in damaging ultraviolet radiation at the earth surfaces. ODSs are widely used in refrigerators, air conditioners, fire extinguishers, in dry cleaning, as solvents for cleaning, and as agricultural fumigants.

The Montreal Protocol is one of the most successful environment protection agreements in the world. The Protocol sets out a mandatory timetable for the phase out of ozone depleting substances. This timetable has been under constant revision, with phase out dates accelerated in accordance with scientific understanding and technological advances.

Regulation 2037/2000 of the European Commission, in some cases goes even beyond the requirements of the Montreal Protocol.

Malta, as a signatory to the Montreal Protocol and as a full member of the European Union has to phase out the use of ozone depleting substances.

As a result, the Cleaner Technology Centre organises a monthly course entitled “*The Safe Handling of Ozone Depleting Substances*” to promote least polluting technologies.

This course is aimed at technicians already qualified and working in the refrigeration/cooling industry. It is being held in anticipation of amendments to local legislation (Legal Notice 292 of 2002), which need to be in line with EU legislation.

The objective of this course is to bring participants up to date with the latest technology in the handling of refrigerant gases and to comply with the forthcoming regulations requiring this course for eventual registration with the Malta Environment and Planning Authority.

Topics covered during this course include:

- 1) The Environmental Impact
 - a. Ozone Depletion
 - b. Global Warming
 - c. Montreal Protocol
 - d. Alternative Refrigerants
- 2) Legislation
 - a. Relative Legislation and Health and Safety Standards
- 3) Safe Handling of Refrigerants
 - a. Identification of type, state and condition of refrigerants
 - b. Storage and Handling of refrigerant cylinders
 - c. System preparation and leak testing
 - d. Recovery of refrigerants
 - e. Liquid and vapour charging
 - f. Disposal of refrigerants
- 4) Practical issues
 - a. Use of recovery units
 - b. Connection and Disconnection of charging equipment.

A successful completion certificate, which will be compliant with the forthcoming regulations, is issued at the end of the course. Over 60 technicians have already been awarded this certificate. ■



4. New Programme from Malta University Services Ltd - Technologies for competitive manufacturing

This 15-hour programme introduces the student to modern concepts, technologies and equipment that have become indispensable in today's competitive manufacturing environment. Each lecture focuses on a theoretical introduction to a particular technology, followed by practical demonstrations using the high-technology equipment available in the DME laboratories, including a state-of-the-art three axis vertical machining centre with a 21-tool automatic tool changer, a six-axis PUMA 260 industrial robot, fluid power equipment and PLCs, facilities for building prototype and experimental flexible automation equipment, and fully equipped product design and development facilities running AutoCAD 2004.

The course targets persons with a technical background working in the manufacturing industry, as well as those in

managerial positions in SME's that are involved in manufacturing.

The technologies that will be discussed and demonstrated during the course can be used either individually or collectively to improve a number of basic operating performance measures such as cost, time, and quality in production.

Participants on the course will obtain a clear understanding of the capabilities, limitations, and applications of the technologies, as well as an appreciation of the requirements associated with their installation and adoption.

For further details or course brochure please contact Mr CJ Falzon on 21 343 572 or email:

charles.j.falzon@mus.com.mt ■

5. Expo CO₂: markets, financing and funds

The last 4-5 May 2006 it was held in the Auditorium of the Agbar tower in Barcelona (Spain), the seminar Expo CO₂.

Expo CO₂ is born with the ultimate aim to become the main meeting point in Spain for all public and private players who are actively participating in the creation and expansion of this new economic commodity. The objective of Expo CO₂ is to annually present the main answers to the needs generated by the introduction of this new economic-environmental variable within the businesses' organization.

The first edition of Expo CO₂ coincides with the closing of the exercise of 2005, within the first period of the trading of CO₂ emissions. The access of companies to CO₂ exchanges and markets, or the experiences in private trade between counterparts, are some of the current key challenges that the European market of emissions faces. The appearance of this new fast growing market, activates other very attractive mechanisms that facilitates acquiring emission allowances at a better price,

as well as the Carbon Funds allow the public and private participation to wider portfolios of CO₂ credit generating projects, which represents a huge potential in generation of resources by the market, for the innovation and improvement of the companies' competitiveness.

The Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production supports Expo CO₂ jointly with the organisers, the Fundació Fòrum Ambiental. The Fundació Fòrum Ambiental is one of the organizations that has better impelled the development of the economic mechanisms derived from the Protocol of Kyoto in Spain with the conviction that their correct application is essential for the reduction of the emissions that affect the climatic change, at the same time that can be very positive in strictly economic and enterprise terms.

For further information, please visit the Web page: <http://www.expoco2.org> ■



expo CO₂

6. Park Life Fair 2006

The RAC/CP took part in the second Park Life Fair, which was held in Rome from 30 March to 2 April.

The fair, which was opened by Mr Paul Mifsud, the coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme, benefited from the presence of a number of important political figures, in addition to the support of the Italian *Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio*.

The UNEP/MAP had a stand, which was used to distribute information and reference material concerning the activities of the Regional Activity Centres (RAC) and the MAP programmes, the majority of which were also present. The presentations made by the RAC Blue Plan on the state of the Mediterranean coast and the RAC/CP, which presented its study on the *State and Trends of Sustainable Production in the Mediterranean*, are worth highlighting.

On 31 March, a talk was given on the UNEP/MAP activities entitled "The Mediterranean in view of the local challenge and global scenario. The Mediterranean Action Plan", following which Ms Virginia Alzina, Director of the RAC/CP, made a presentation of the activities that the Centre plans to carry out in relation to two of the



Park Life (Rome), 31.3.06

priority areas of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development: tourism and agriculture.

Speeches were also given by Mr Sergio Illuminato, Director of the CAR/INFO Centre in Rome; Mr Abdelrahmen Gannoun, Director of the RAC/SPA in Tunis; Ms Marie-Christine Van Klaveren, Executive Secretary of Accobams; Ms Purificación Canals, Vice President of the IUCN; Mr Nino Capriotti, Community Policy Advisor of the Province of Ascoli Piceno; Mr Andrea Cirillo, Vice President of UNCEM; Mr Ernino D'Agostino, President of the Province of Teramo and of the Adriatic-Ionian Association; Mr Paolo Giuntarelli, Director of RomaNatura; Mr Josep Mayoral, President-Councillor for the Natural

Areas Branch of the Province of Barcelona; Mr Angelo Messina, Vice President of Federparchi; Mr Angelo Paladino, Councillor for the Environment for the Province of Salerno; Mr Pedro Rosabal, Representative of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas; Mr Massimo Rossi, National Environmental Coordinator for the UPI and President of the Province of Ascoli Piceno; Mr Angelo Gentili, Italian Secretary of State for the Environment and Mr Roberto Patrino, Head of International Relations at the CAR/INFO.

The best possible representations of territorial management, sustainable tourism, biodiversity management and products of local culinary traditions were present at the fair. ■

7. The 2nd Syrian Int'l Environment Exhibition - SYRENVIRO 2006. 3-6 April 2006

Under the patronage of His Excellency the Prime Minister Eng. M. Naji Al Otri, Envirotech - Middle East, in cooperation with Allied Expo was held last 3-6 April 2006 SYRENVIRO 2006; the 2nd exhibition in Syria to focus on environmental related products, engineering, consultancies and environmental services.

Selected specialized audience including government officials, line

ministries, international organizations and diplomatic missions working in Syria, businessmen, environment activists, NGOs representatives, experts, private and public universities participate in the mentioned event.

SYRENVIRO 2006 was supported by UNEP, the Syrian Ministry of Local Administration & Environment, the Syrian Environment Association and Damascus Petrochemical Refinery Co.

Parallel to this event and in co-organization with the UNEP, a series of seminars were held by Public Authorities, NGOs, International Organizations, and Participating Companies aiming at increasing the level of environmental management and policy formulating as well as introducing the latest technological advances to Syria and the region.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.syrenviro.com/> ■

8. Good Housekeeping Practices Seminar in Morocco

As the result of an on-site dissemination project on *Good Housekeeping Practices in the Tanning Industry in the Maghreb Region*, which started in the middle of 2005 thanks to an Advanced Seminar in the framework of the Azahar Programme, a Seminar on Good Housekeeping Practices in the tanning sector was held during the week of March 13th in Morocco (Casablanca and Fez).

The overall objective of the project is the dissemination of good housekeeping practices in the sector through training trainers and writing a manual which has been disseminated in the Maghreb region (Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco).

The Morocco seminar was coordinated by the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production, with the collaboration of the AIICA, the Moroccan Federation of Leather Industries (FEDIC) and the Moroccan Cleaner Production Centre (CMPP). Experts from the AIICA presented the manual and the various opportunities for pollution prevention in the sector.

The course combined theoretical sessions and visits by the experts to various companies in the area, including the Tannerie Mohamedia (a company that tans with chrome and vegetable extracts), the Tannerie Nouvelle Somatam, the Tannerie Sais (a company that works with sheep hide), the Tannerie Oudhiri (a company that works with sheep hide), the Tannerie ND Freers (AIN NOKBI) working with cowhide and other cowhide companies.

The seminar in Casablanca took place at the headquarters of the CMPP, with 25 people attending from various institutions, manufacturers of chemical products



The RAC/CP director, Dr. Alzina and Dr. El Khayati El Ghazouani (FEDIC) in the opening session of the Seminar

and leather tanners. The seminar in Fez was given at the Fez Chamber of Commerce and Industry, with the presence of technicians from the FEDIC, the CMPP and leather tanning companies.

The general assessment of both seminars was positive, due to the good attendance at both of them, as well as the collaboration and involvement of the FEDIC and the CMPP in their organisation.

Before these seminars were held, and within the framework of the overall project, there were also seminars in Tunisia in collaboration with the National Centre for Leather and Shoes (CNCC) and during 2006, it is planned to hold seminars in Algeria, Greece, Turkey and Egypt. ■



Seminar in the CMPP premises (Casablanca)



Dr. Adzet in his presentation during the Seminar