

European Commission
DG Enterprise and Industry, Unit G2
Att. Dr. Stephen Pickering
Rue de la Loi 200, (N105 01/07)
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

April 7, 2006

Re: DCM Paint Stripper Forum

Dear Dr. Pickering,

We would like to express our surprise and our mounting concern about the way your Department deals with European SMEs.

EASCR attended the Forum "Paint Stripper Agents" organized by your department on 14 November 2005 in Brussels to discuss properties, characteristics and risks on different paint strippers.

Despite your promise, made in your e-mail to us on 31 January 2006, that Dr. Hadrich would contact us shortly to follow up on the false information provided by Mr. Poel during his presentation, we have never been contacted by anyone or received any follow-up information from the forum. In fact we are still waiting for the final version of the minutes and for the incorrect statements, made by presenter Mr. Poels, to be corrected.

Furthermore, we understand that the German BG Bau , the German BAuA and the French INRS, never received the final minutes of the Forum either. The discretion with which your staff shares information is surprising, especially as your organization invited all the groups to

Brussels to attend this Forum aimed primarily at helping the Commission collect more information on the subject of paint stripping. We all shared our know-how with the Commission; the least we can expect is to be copied on the minutes and to be kept informed of further developments on this issue of paint stripping.

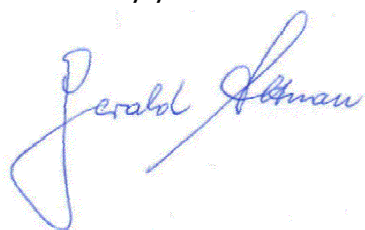
As if the above was not enough, you went on to organise another workgroup meeting on the subject of dichloromethane paint stripping on 15 February 2006, without informing some of the participants (and in particular SMEs and alternative producers and neutral institutions) of the forum you organized on the same issue!

Again, we understand that there can be differences of opinion, but we cannot accept to be ignored as if EASCR made no valid contributions to this debate.

We would therefore like to request that you provide us with the promised documents/corrections. Furthermore please advise us how EASCR can continue to participate in future discussions.

We remain committed to provide effective and safer paint removing products to the professional and private users.

Sincerely yours



Dr. Gerald G. Altnau
Chairman



Ivor Chivers
Vice-chairman

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Dr. Reinhold Rühl – Berufsgenossenschaft Bau, Germany