

## **ESTAL discusses Nanomaterials with European Commission (24.3.2014)**

Following a high-level meeting of Orgalime with the European Commission, in which ESTAL President Ivo Vermeeren took part, ESTAL had expressed certain concerns of our industry in a paper 'Some considerations on the regulation of Nanomaterials' (attached herewith). That paper resulted in an invitation for a meeting of Ivo Vermeeren and Simon Meirsschaut with Commission officials responsible for the nanomaterials definition and for the nano-registers that are being imposed in various Member States. The meeting took place on 24 March 2014. It was chaired by Otto Linher, head of unit Chemicals at DG Enterprise and Industry. From DG Enterprise, also specialists on REACH, Raw materials and Impact assessment were present, as well as two experts from DG Environment.

From the exchange of information it appeared that in the opinion of the Commission, powders for powder coating may in some cases indeed be in the scope of the legislation that is being considered. It was also clear that at the present time the Commission is not yet decided as to the precise measures that they are going to propose to regulate the nanomaterials issues. It was announced that a public consultation on the impact assessment of nano-registers is probably going to be launched shortly. Several options for further community-wide legislation will be presented. The view of SME's will be particularly appreciated. The Commission urged our member companies to contribute to the consultation.

As for the possible review of the REACH-regulation, apart from minor updates, it seems to be the intention of the Commission to go for legislative stability until after 2018, i.e. until after the third and final deadline for the REACH-registration of substances. ESTAL expressed fears that specific niche-chemicals that are essential for surface treatment processes might be discontinued because, in the eyes of producers or importers, the low quantities involved may not justify the costs and efforts of registration, let alone authorization under REACH.

A lot will depend upon the new composition of the European Parliament and of the organisation of the Commission after the European elections that are taking place in May 2014. It was suggested that our industry should not hesitate to contact the newly elected MEP's.

'Some considerations on the regulation of Nanomaterials' : text to be uploaded on ESTAL website