

associations in the CWG. Such an observer on your behalf would also help the liaison of the industry associations from your countries with their EU counterparts as regards the developments in the CWG and the RIPs. However, if already now you can identify specific RIP projects on which you would like to provide comments or for which you would like to nominate an expert for the SEG please contact Mr Jack de Bruijn of the European Chemicals Bureau of the Joint Research Centre (jack.de-bruijn@jrc.it). For the CWG, the contact point is Ms. Minna Heikkilä of Directorate General Enterprise and Industry (Minna.Heikkila@ec.europa.eu) and Ms. Monika Schopf of Directorate General Environment (monika.schopf@ec.europa.eu).

Currently there are approximately 200 experts taking part in the SEGs, coming from 20 EU Member states, from more than 20 industry organisations and from many different NGOs. In addition, for some particular RIPs we have already invited comments from organisations outside the EU that volunteered their expertise (e.g. Health Canada, Environment Canada and the US-EPA) as these have recognised experience which the EU would like to build upon.

I would also like to underline that we are in close contact with the OECD secretariat in order to ensure that international harmonisation can take place for all relevant issues related to the guidance for REACH. The Commission is committed to take full account of the relevant OECD products and vice versa will bring the results of the relevant RIP projects to the attention of the respective OECD groups dealing with chemicals assessments and management with a view to achieve international harmonisation as early as possible.

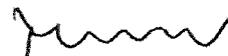
Finally I would like to inform you of the fact that the Commission is organising a workshop on the Development of REACH Guidance for Industry on 25 September. We kindly invite your governments and the stakeholder organisations from your countries to send their representatives to this workshop. We call on your assistance to inform them about this important workshop. The registration form as well as further information on this workshop can be found in the Internet-pages of the relevant services:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/prep_guidance_en.htm#w

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/preparing/workshop_rip3.htm

I thank you once again for your keen interest in the preparations of REACH. I hope that the suggestions made in this letter address your concerns and contribute to a close and productive cooperation between your countries and the Commission to achieve workable guidance for industry within and outside of the EU.

Yours faithfully,



Roland Schenkel

**CC: PRESIDENT BARROSO, VICE-PRESIDENT VERHEUGEN
COMMISSIONER DIMAS, COMMISSIONER POTOČNIK
H. ZOUREK, DIRECTOR GENERAL DG ENTERPRISE
M.P. CARL, DIRECTOR GENERAL DG ENVIRONMENT**