

European Federation of Associations of Environmental Professionals

# News bulletin

## Dear reader,

### Special points of interest:

#### General Assemblies 2009

- 16-17 March, Bilbao
- 17-18 Sept., London



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This year, we look forward to greet once again a few new member organisations within EFAEP. Firstly, IEMA, the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) has stated its intention to join. The IEMA is a British, not-for-profit membership organisation established to promote best practice standards in environmental management, auditing and assessment (see: [www.IEMA.net](http://www.IEMA.net)). With over 13,000 members, it will be a very large new branch on the EFAEP tree! We are also happy to welcome back APEA, the Portuguese association of environmental professionals. APEA used to be a member until it had to withdraw a few years ago for financial reasons. Now that our highly valued Portuguese colleagues can rejoin our ranks, EFAEP counts with sixteen member organisations from eleven countries. This means that we are growing rapidly towards good pan-European coverage of environmental professionals. However, we do still miss representation in a number of countries in Central Europe, Southern Europe, Scandinavia and the Baltic region. So please let us know if you happen to maintain contacts with environmental professionals who belong to associations in these countries!



A brief look at our headquarters in Brussels: over the last months, we have had introductory meetings with a number of EC representatives, notably messrs. Ladislav Miko (Director for Natural Protection in the European Commission), Nick Hanley (Head of Unit for Communication & Governance in the European Commission), Martijn Quinn (Deputy head of Cabinet of Commissioner Dimas). Furthermore there will be a meeting in February with Magor Imre Csibi, the Vice President of the Environmental Committee of the European Parliament.

With these officials discuss the potential contributions that EFAEP can make through its vast network of professionals – including top specialists in every conceivable policy field - to the quality of EU legislation and how we could best promote EFAEP's role within the European Commission. One first, modest, tangible result of these contacts is in the suggestions recently made by the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection, to “widen the range of stakeholders’ views heard during consultations on EU legislation; (to) emphasise in this context the importance of representatives of civil society, *such as networks of professionals* and consumers, at all levels from transnational to local, which provide platforms for an informed exchange of views on EU policies, thus contributing to an improved quality of EU legislation (...).”

(cont'd page 2)

Should you want to be involved in - or at least informed about - EU policy developments that may directly affect or have specific relevance to your work, then we should be able to find you. We have a tool for that: ENEP. You may be one of the now more than 1,000 EFAEP professionals who already registered with ENEP (personal and professional information, plus indications as to what extent you'd like these data to be public). If you are not, follow your colleagues' example and sign in: it is a useful and powerful tool for getting focused information from EFAEP on your specific interest areas, and it helps us to use the collective network of know-how that we form together!

*Jan Karel Mak,  
President*

## General Assembly Florence



EFAEP held its latest General Assembly on 12 September 2008 in Florence, Italy. New Byelaws were approved as well as accepting the budget outcome of last year and approving the budget for 2008. Working groups are likely to be a key focus of activities in the future and there is currently one on

EMS and one on Climate Change. Stavros Dimas, the European Commissioner for the Environment, sent a specially prepared message in support of EFAEP that was viewed by the attendees on the day. The General Assembly also saw the launch of the new EFAEP website. Our thanks go

out to the three Italian associations – AIN, AIAT and AISA – who so ably hosted the General Assembly and also the biofuels side event. The next two General Assemblies will be held in Bilbao, Spain on 16-17 March 2009 and in London, UK on 17-18 September 2009.

## ONLY ONE EARTH



## Bio-fuels conference

On the day before the General Assembly in Florence, EFAEP organised 'Biofuels: Threat or Opportunity?' – a seminar on the environmental issues relating to biofuels. The event boasted a wide

range of interesting speakers and attracted around 45 delegates to the wonderful Tribuna Gallileo at the Natural History Museum in Florence. As an outcome there was clear scepticism about the benefit of current

biofuels, but that next generation biofuels offer more hope. The presentations can be viewed at [www.efaep.org/documents/topic/41/](http://www.efaep.org/documents/topic/41/).

## Deal on EU's climate and energy package



In December 2008 the European Parliament and Council reached an agreement on the package that will help transform Europe into a low-carbon economy and increase its energy security.

The EU is committed to **reducing its overall emissions to at least 20% below 1990 levels by 2020**, and is ready to scale up this reduction to as much as 30% under a new global climate change agreement when other developed

countries make comparable efforts. It has also set itself the target of **increasing the share of renewables in energy use to 20% by 2020**.

To avoid carbon leakage, some sectors that fall under the Emissions Trading Scheme will be given emission rights free of charge. This was a last-minute compromise to ensure unanimous agreement from all member states.

The package also seeks to

promote the development and safe use of carbon capture and storage (CCS), a suite of technologies that allows the carbon dioxide emitted by industrial processes to be captured and stored underground where it cannot contribute to global warming. Revised guidelines on state aid for environmental protection will enable governments to support CCS demonstration plants.

Source:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/climate\\_action.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/climate_action.htm)



## Climate actions in Europe

In the Netherlands, more and more regional and local government organisations have the ambition to be climate neutral by 2020. Unclear is what a climate neutral local authority means in practice. What is part of it and what isn't? What does it involve in short term and in the long term? What demands does it put on policy development and implementation?

Similar questions can be asked about technology, coherence of actions and funding? And what about the impact on the economy, energy infrastructure and the behaviour of citizens and companies?

Do other countries have the same or other ideas and questions? Perhaps we can bring some examples with us to the General Assembly?

Tip! the European Climate Foundation is a new organisation that provides grants for projects that promote climate and energy policies:

[www.europeanclimate.org/](http://www.europeanclimate.org/)

See for example [www.rotterdamclimateinitiative.nl/NL/English/?cid=6](http://www.rotterdamclimateinitiative.nl/NL/English/?cid=6)



## EEP Awards 2008



By: Bruno Weinzaepfel

Also visit ENEP on:  
[www.environmentalprofessionals.eu](http://www.environmentalprofessionals.eu)

It is now 6 years that EEP association (European Environmental Press) with POLLUTEC organisation (French Environmental Trade Show) and with the support of EFAEP are organizing the « EEP AWARDS » in order to valorize technical and scientific environmental innovation in Europe.

The EEP Awards jury (17 EEP journalists and 3 EFAEP representatives (VMD, AIAT, AFITE) met in Cologne on September 2008 to discuss the 29 selected candidates. From these applications, 10 nominees were issued:

**Advanced Cyclone Systems, Portugal:** Electrostatic recirculation for fine particle capture;  
**ST1 Biofuels Oy,**

**Finland:** Method for producing sustainable transportation ethanol from waste; **Covaltech-optimgaz, France:** condensation of VOC in petrol station; **Donau Chemie, Austria:** waste gas conditioning from hydrochloric acid synthese units; **ESAC, Portugal:** one-process gasification/smelting unit to conversion of mixed waste into alternative energy carrier; **PannonJet Ltd, Hungary:** grinding of waste tyres by ultra-high pressure water jet; **Idratech S.r.l., Italy:** Environmental solution for treatment of spent caustic, which is a high impact stream generated by oil refineries; **Laboratory for Microbial Ecology & Technology (LabMET), Belgium:** Technology

produces a palladium catalyst by means of an environmental friendly, inexpensive and simple production process; **Pharmafilter, Netherlands:** Integrated waste (water) management system for hospitals, **Philips Lighting&NAM (Nederlandse Aardolie Maatschappij), Netherlands:** Bird friendly lighting for offshore platforms.

During a ceremony held at POLLUTEC show in Lyon on Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2008, the winners received their awards:

The golden was delivered to **LABMET, Belgium**, the silver to **ST1 Biofuels Oy, Finland** and the bronze to **PannonJet Ltd, Hungary**.

## EFAEP website

As mentioned above, the new EFAEP website was launched at the General Assembly in Florence. This is a major improvement on the old website, although there may yet be more to improve. Please have a look at

[www.efaep.org](http://www.efaep.org) and if you have any suggestions please forward them to Jason Reeves at [coordinator@efaep.org](mailto:coordinator@efaep.org).

## Introduction of members



The « Association Française des Ingénieurs et Techniciens de l'Environnement » (AFITE) was founded in 1979 as an association of individual environmental professionals. The objective of AFITE is, through a national strategy of sustainable development, dedicated to the environmental protection with the expertise and action of environmental professional members.

Most of the 1100 members are working in the industrial sector but are also coming from R&D

laboratories, issued from engineering or are consultants, jurists, journalists and also working in public sectors or administrations.

AFITE organize each year 2 or 3 conferences and about 10 technical visits. 8 to 10 thematic commissions allow members to be informed and to exchange information: these commissions are dedicated to reglementation, communication, water, solid waste, air, risk, health, mediation, employment and formation. AFITE issue a professional di-

rectory every year and a news bulletin every 2 months.

With it's activity open on regional, national and European levels, AFITE has the possibility to exchange and inform public organisations, like the Environmental ministry, through technical and scientific and completely neutral approach.

That is why also AFITE was pushing to found EFAEP with VVM and VDI KUT.

Bruno Weinzaepfel

## EFAEP informative

EFAEP is the European Federation of Associations of Environmental Professionals, which seeks to promote and coordinate the professional status, level and content of environmental work and of those working in this field.

Its objectives are:

- to be the representative organization for all Environmental Professionals across Europe;
- to promote and co-ordinate environmental work and environmental professionals while recognizing the separate identities of its member organizations;
- to promote adherence to environmental professional standards as one of the essential prerequisites for achieving sustainability;
- to influence and implement the environmental policy, science and education agenda throughout Europe. It will do so by being respected for its adherence to sound science rather than political lobbying but will be proactive where supported by scientific or technical evidence. Where possible it will also use its influence within the global context, beyond the European boundaries.

For full statutes and how become a member association of EFAEP, please consult the website: [www.efaep.org](http://www.efaep.org).

### Members:

ANAVAM, Spain  
 ATEGRUS, Spain  
 AFITE, France  
 AIAT, Italy  
 AISA, Italy  
 AIN, Italy  
 APEA, Portugal  
 FAEP, Finland  
 VNU, Germany  
 IEEM, United Kingdom  
 IEMA, United Kingdom  
 SVU, Switzerland  
 VDI-KUT, Germany  
 CIWEM, United Kingdom  
 CSPZP, Czech Republic  
 IES, United Kingdom  
 VBU, Germany  
 VVM, the Netherlands  
 VMD, Belgium