**Cefic-LRI and ECHA workshop discuss latest scientific developments in bioaccumulation research**

HELSINKI, September 24, 2014 – Today, the [Long-range Research Initiative programme](http://www.cefic-lri.org/) (LRI) of Cefic , hosted by the [European Chemicals Agency](http://echa.europa.eu/) (ECHA), brings together experts from European member state agencies and bodies, academia and industry to exchange views on latest key developments in bioaccumulation science. The workshop aims to present recent key developments in bioaccumulation science and discuss current bioaccumulation assessment practices for organic chemicals.

The workshop is very timely for ECHA. The workshop discussions are relevant for many ongoing bioaccumulation assessments and individual authorities and industry may be able to directly make use of the discussions. The workshop results will be considered further by ECHA’s PBT Expert Group. They will help the PBT Expert Group decide on which scientific development topics require further research and which are mature enough to be included in updated regulatory guidance.

Dolf van Wijk, Director Science and Regulatory Affairs, Euro Chlor and member of the Cefic-LRI Strategy Implementation Group said “in the past decade, tremendous progress has been made in the science of assessing bioaccumulation potential of substances and Cefic-LRI has made a major contribution to this through its research corporation with academia and institutions”. The Long-range Research Initiative programme (LRI) of Cefic has been a major contributor to important scientific developments in methods to evaluate bioaccumulation, including alternatives to animal testing. “The science in this area has significantly moved forward and as a result we now have more reliable and adequate methodologies and endpoints for better assessments” continued van Wijk.

The task of this workshop is now to bring together the most recent knowledge on bioaccumulation research and revive the discussion between academia, institutions and industry on what has changed to ensure a common understanding and a more efficient corporation. “Now is the time for us to raise scientific awareness about the important new knowledge and developments in the past years, which ultimately feed in innovative regulatory guidance revisions and today’s workshop is an excellent start” concluded van Wijk.

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**Notes to editor:**The event background information and agenda can be downloaded [here.](http://www.cefic-lri.org/uploads/Events%202014/BioaccumulationWorkshop_Helsinki092414_DraftAgenda.pdf)

**About LRI**
The Long-range Research Initiative (LRI) is part of Cefic's voluntary initiatives to improve the Regulatory

Framework of the chemical industry in Europe. Its mission is to identify and fill gaps in our understanding of the hazards posed by chemicals and to improve the methods available for assessing the associated risks.

**About ECHA**
The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) is the driving force among regulatory authorities in implementing the EU's groundbreaking chemicals legislation for the benefit of human health and the environment as well as for innovation and competitiveness. ECHA helps companies to comply with the legislation, advances the safe use of chemicals, provides information on chemicals and addresses chemicals of concern.

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