



The 2016 Ceramic-Days were held from Tuesday 29 November until Thursday 1 December 2016. This year the objective of the Ceramic-Days was to understand how labour and energy intensive industries can continue to contribute and further develop sustainable European jobs. The 17th European Parliament Ceramics Forum on 29 November and the high-level event on 30 November were open to the public and were both a great success.

The European Parliament Ceramic Forum (EPCF) met for its 17th plenary meeting in Brussels. The event was hosted by EPCF Chair MEP Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero, and attracted over 100 participants from EU institutions, the ceramic industry and other stake-

holders. The EPCF was divided into two panels titled “Promoting green and safe jobs in a sustainable ceramic industry” and “For an ETS fostering low carbon innovation in European SME’s”.

During the closing conference of the 2016 Ceramic Days the panelists discussed how the ceramic industry composed mostly of SME’s is able to strengthen its leadership through investments and innovation. Our high level speakers discussed the policies which can contribute to growth, investment and industrial policy. (mvv)

## Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive debated in the European Parliament

EP rapporteur Ulvskog presented her draft report on the revision of the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive on 8 December. Amongst other amendments, she proposes to reduce the exposure limit for respirable crystalline silica (RCS) down to 0.05 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (compared to 0.1 mg/m<sup>3</sup> as proposed by the European Commission). NEPSI signatories (representing employers and employees) have prepared a joint position paper regarding the proposed limit and requesting a better recognition of the NEPSI agreement, the first European multi-sectoral Social Dialogue Agreement.

The deadline to table additional amendments is 9 January. The vote in the EP Employment Committee will take place end of February. Cerame-Unie is reaching out to the members of the European Parliament Employment Committee to inform them of our position. (av)

## COP22: an Action and Implementation COP

COP22 took place from 7 to 18 November in Marrakech. It aimed to demonstrate that commitments made in Paris are being implemented, and to act as a catalyst for further action. A series of events and conferences were organised, with a strong focus on strengthening climate action before 2020. The majority of the Parties have yet to complete their domestic ratification procedures, therefore the agenda of the COP22 in Marrakech was mainly ceremonial, celebrating the entry into force of the Paris Agreement. For more information click [here](#). (cm)



## Post 2020 ETS reform negotiations progress

### Meetings and events

## THE EU ETS



On 13 October the European Parliament Industry Committee (ITRE) voted the MEP Federley report on EU ETS directive review and adopted it with a large majority of **45:13 votes**. The compromise amendments were voted in favor. This outcome is giving a strong position of ITRE Committee ahead of the plenary vote on the dossier, which is expected in early 2017.

- 24 January, CCA Validation Workshop — Brussels
- 6 March, CU Chem agents WG—Brussels
- 7 March, CU Climate & Energy WG—Brussels
- 7 March, CU ENV Committee—Brussels
- 8 March, CU workshop on Energy prices and costs study—Brussels

The major advantage of the achieved compromise for the ceramic industry under ETS is that it **rejects the “tiered approach”** to free allocation and proposes 100% of allocation up to benchmark level for all sectors and sub-sectors on the carbon leakage list. It also proposes to **increase the threshold for small emitters** from 25 kt to 50 kt CO<sub>2</sub> per year.

The drawback of the compromise is that it maintains the EC proposal on the qualitative assessment (with a threshold of 0.18) and does not refer to a possibility of PRODCOM assessments.

As a next legislative step, the European Parliament Environment Committee (ENVI), who has the leading role on the dossier, will hold a vote on 15 December and negotiation progress is also expected in the Council before the end of the year. (mv)

## Trade Defence Instruments

Some provisions in the China WTO Accession protocol which triggered intense discussions with China expired on 11 December 2016. In this context, an alliance of manufacturing industries AEGIS Europe published a press release. The EU's major trading partners, the US and Japan, have publicly stated that they see no need and are taking no steps to change their legislation with regard to the treatment of China in anti-dumping investigations. Indeed, the expiry triggered on 11 December does not apply to entire Section 15(a) of China's WTO Accession Protocol and only certain provisions lapse. The European Parliament is selecting a Rapporteur on this dossier and INTA Committee will meet on 23 January to address this file. An ordinary legislative procedure should take place involving the Council of the EU and the Parliament which should amend the EC proposal in the first half of 2016. If there are many questions on the table, a lengthy procedure as seen in the TDI Modernisation could occur. On 13 December the Council of Permanent Representatives (**COREPER**) adopted a common negotiating position on TDI modernisation, however, without Italy, the UK, the Netherlands, Sweden and Ireland. Should the Council find a common position on the Commission TDIm proposal (from 2013 and amended by the Parliament in 2014), the Parliament would need to “re-examine” the new proposal and enter into dialogue negotiations. (sv)

## Short news and publications

- ⇒ On 28 October, the European Commission launched a public consultation in relation to the REACH REFIT evaluation. The consultation is open until 28 January 2017. Cerame-Unie will convey its views via BusinessEUROPE, who will reply in detail to the consultation.
- ⇒ On 6 December, Cerame-Unie attended the event organised by EurActiv on how to enhance traceability to combat counterfeiting and illicit trade.
- ⇒ Cerame-Unie is following the progress of CETA and other FTAs. More information here
- ⇒ AEGIS Europe is a finalist in the ‘Best Lobbying Campaign’ category of the European Association Awards 2017! The winner of the award will be announced on the 24 February in Brussels.

European Refractories Producers Federation - PRE

Member of Cerame-Unie

Rue Belliard 12, B-1040 Brussels

32 2 808 38 80 | [www.pre.eu](http://www.pre.eu)

Editor: Astrid Volckaert, Mayssa Vande Vyvre | [volckaert@cerameunie.eu](mailto:volckaert@cerameunie.eu)