



**International Cadmium Association**

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## **PROGRESS REPORT No.3**

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### **General Assembly**

- The last General Assembly took place on April 22 '04 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The minutes were circulated to the membership on May 18 '04
- As a reminder to members, please note that the next General Assembly will take place on October 14 '04 in London.

### **Consultations with members on priority activities – proposed Briefing Day**

- The proposed Briefing Day on EU regulatory issues has been cancelled (see email to members of 2 June 2004). With the vacation period fast approaching, consultations on priority activities for 2004 will now be held on an individual basis and Lidia Regoli and/or Hugh Morrow will be in touch with member companies over the coming weeks to discuss this.
- At the request of several European members with interests in cadmium pigments, a specific session will be held in the UK on 15 July to review regulatory developments affecting those products and to discuss ICdA's related activities.

### **North American Metals Council**

- ICdA has been approached to support the North American Metals Council (NAMC) – a newly formed representative body for metals in North America. NAMC has a strong focus on regulatory affairs and lobbying.
- ICdA has indicated its support in principle for the creation of NAMC and is investigating participation through the American Zinc Association. If participation through AZA proves impractical, then ICdA would have to consider separate participation and a separate membership fee.

### **Dissolution of The Cadmium Council, Inc.**

- The Action of the Board of Directors petition has been signed by all four existing Directors of The Cadmium Council, and the Unanimous Consent of the Members has been signed by 10 of its 16 members. These petitions will now be forwarded to the attorneys, who will carry out the required actions with the State of New York and the Commonwealth of Virginia to dissolve The Cadmium Council, Inc.

### **ICdA North America**

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## Web Sites

- Some preliminary updates to ICdA's public website have been made and the revised site is now up and running – [www.cadmium.org](http://www.cadmium.org). Member's suggestions for further development of the site are welcome.
- Development of an ICdA Extranet for member's passworded access is also progressing. These proposals received strong support from the General Assembly on 22 April and the proposed structure can be found in the minutes of the meeting. Further details of this will follow shortly.

## ACTIVITY UPDATE

### Regulatory Affairs – Europe

#### EU Cadmium Risk Assessment – OECD Review:

- The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) discussed the EU cadmium risk assessments at the SIAM<sup>1 2</sup> on April 22, 2004. ICdA was represented by H Waeterschoot (Eurometaux) who had been briefed on ICdA's position. Industry lobbying also prompted a strong position from Canada who made supportive interventions during the meeting.
- The outcome is a revision of the SIAP<sup>3</sup>, a document that summarizes the effects data for human health and the environment, and makes recommendations for future work. This provides a more transparent overview of the effects data, and of how this data is derived for further evaluation in the EU risk assessment
- Comments on the final draft SIAP are requested by June 11 2004. ICdA will ensure that it reflects the discussions that took place at the meeting. A copy of the final draft of the SIAP can be obtained upon request from Lidia Regoli.
- Some of the suggestions made in the SIAP can be used as supporting evidence in future technical discussions at EU level.

#### EU Cadmium Risk Assessment – Update on the CSTEE<sup>4</sup> Review:

- The CSTEE opinion on the risk assessment (environment section) and targeted risk assessment on NiCd batteries were discussed in a plenary meeting on May 28 '04, and official opinions were issued on June 7 '04.
- A first read of these opinions demonstrates that the CSTEE made quite a number of important technical points. Generally, these are in our favor. The comments have the aim of reducing uncertainty and establishing more realistic and comprehensive reports.

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<sup>1</sup> SIDS = Screening Initial Dataset

<sup>2</sup> SIAM = SIDS Initial Assessment Meeting

<sup>3</sup> SIAP = SIDS Initial Assessment Profile

<sup>4</sup> CSTEE = European Commission Scientific Committee on Toxicity, Ecotoxicity and the Environment

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- ICdA will conduct a thorough review of these comments and propose a strategy for a way forward.
- The timeline for the assessment of the technical issues is July 5 '04 (request for comments by the ECB<sup>5</sup>).

#### EU Cadmium Risk Assessment – Update on “conclusion (i) work”:

- There are two conclusion (i)s (i.e., mandated requests to Industry for further information to allow conclusions to be drawn) within the cadmium risk assessment environment:
  - Bioavailability of cadmium in sediments
  - Ecotoxicity of cadmium in very soft waters
- ICdA has contested the need for this additional information. Our position is that either (i) sufficient information exists or (ii) the provision of the information will not alter the risk conclusions. These discussions with the Rapporteur and EU authorities are ongoing.
- The costs of provision of this information (through research) is estimated at \$200-250,000.

#### EU Battery Directive – Proposed Publicity of Targeted Risk Assessment for Batteries

- It has been suggested that the findings of the draft Targeted Risk assessment for NiCd Batteries are being largely ignored in the ongoing discussions over the battery directive.
- The draft risk assessment conclusions are mainly supportive of the Industry position, which may explain why they are being downplayed.
- Following discussions with CollectNiCad, ICdA is planning to bring the risk assessment to the attention of the Brussels decision-makers, possibly through the media. Proposals for review by member companies are presently being devised.

#### **Regulatory Affairs – North America**

- A proposed amendment to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program in the United States would have required the Secretary of Labor “to prescribe in regulations the illnesses caused by exposure to metals...” This proposal, if enacted, would have been problematic for the metals industry, especially the cadmium industry, which has always been the source of regulatory scrutiny with regard to occupational exposures. Through the lobbying efforts of the North American Metals Council (NAMC), language related to the exposure to metals has been removed from the proposed amendment.

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<sup>5</sup> ECB = European Chemicals Bureau

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- The North American Free Trade Agreement's (NAFTA) Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) has issued a Draft Report on toxic chemicals and children's health in North America with an emphasis on carcinogenicity, developmental toxicity and neurotoxicity. The Draft Report utilizes the Environmental Defense Fund's "Scorecard" system of rating chemicals as carcinogenic, developmentally toxic or neurotoxic along with the USA's Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) and Canada's National Pollutant Registry Inventory (NPRI) to determine which chemicals pose the greatest dangers to children's health. Cadmium is listed as a carcinogen, developmental toxin and neurotoxin.

The North American Metals Council has held a very successful meeting with U.S. EPA to enumerate all the errors and inconsistencies in this draft report. Most of the nonferrous metals trade associations, including ICdA, have filed comments with EPA and NAFTA CEC regarding this draft report. A copy of ICdA's filed comments is available from Hugh Morrow.

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