



DECEMBER 2010

## EPA Enters into Statement of Intent with the European Chemicals Agency to Share Information

On December 17, 2010, the EPA announced that it entered into an agreement with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) through a statement of intent, to facilitate technical cooperation and exchange information regarding chemical substances. ECHA is the European Union's (EU) agency responsible for regulating chemicals in the EU, including administering the EU's Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals regulations, otherwise known as REACH. Specifically, the two agencies will be collaborating and exchanging information regarding the following, among other things:

- Chemical inventories;
- Chemical substance hazard and risk assessments;
- Emerging risks from chemical substances; and
- Risk identification, risk assessment, and risk management tools.

In addition, the agencies will collaborate on training, guidance development, public communication, and sharing staff on an as-needed basis. The statement indicates that the agencies will also look into the possibility of exchanging staff members through secondment arrangements, to gain firsthand experience of each other's agency operations.

This action appears to be another step on EPA's part to raise the profile and importance of chemical regulation in the United States. In the last year, EPA has taken unprecedented steps to exercise existing authorities under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), which include the following:

- Initiating the process of developing action plans under TSCA sections 4 and 5 for five substances;
- Announcing its intention, for the first time, to develop a list of chemicals of concern under TSCA section 5(b)(4)(A)(i); and
- Proposing significant revisions to the inventory update reporting rule under TSCA section 8(a).

To read the complete statement of intent, click this link: [www.epa.gov/oppt/echa.epa soi.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/oppt/echa.epa soi.pdf)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Robinson & Cole LLP's Environmental and Utilities Practice Group is assisting a number of clients with existing and emerging rules regulating the manufacture, use, remediation, and disposal of chemicals and chemical wastes. For questions regarding all aspects of TSCA and the regulation of chemicals, please contact one of the following attorneys:

[Earl W. Phillips, Jr.](#)

Hartford Office  
(860) 275-8220

[Kirstin M. Etela](#)

Metro-New York Office  
(203) 462-7534

[Christopher Foster](#)

BostonOffice  
(617) 557-5908

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