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## Business for stronger REACH

*On Tuesday 18 January, the International Chemical Secretariat (Chemsec) presents "What we need from REACH" - a new publication where companies and organisations argue for a stronger European chemical legislation. The release takes place at the European Parliament at a reception hosted by MEP Lena Ek, Rapporteur on REACH for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy. Present at the release are also some of the companies and organisations that contributed to the publication.*

Chemical policy is not just a concern for the producers of chemicals. Chemicals are not just found in drums in industry or in bottles in the cleaning cupboard at home. They are used in the manufacturing processes for almost every product, and as ingredients in the articles themselves. But we know almost nothing about what harm these chemicals do to the environment and our health. Companies that want to avoid "toxic scares" and gain the long-term confidence of their customers are at present unable to obtain or demand the information they need.

Chemsec believes it is unfair that the companies and businesses that could ultimately suffer the financial consequences of inadequate information about chemicals have so far received little attention in the debate over the EU Commission's proposal for new chemicals legislation (REACH). Chemsec has therefore given several companies and stakeholder organisations the opportunity to describe their motives for demanding stronger chemical legislation.

"We believe that REACH is a great opportunity to re-build confidence in chemicals, those who make them and those who use them", says Stephen Johnson, Sustainable Development Manager at Boots.

"Electrolux sees REACH as an important tool in accomplishing our objectives regarding safe products, safe production and environmental protection" says Henrik Sundström, Vice President, Group Environmental Affairs at Electrolux.

On Wednesday Lena Ek will, together with MEPs Karl-Heinz Florenz, Giles Chichester, Phillip Whitehead, Guido Sacconi and Hartmut Nassauer, host a public hearing on REACH in the European Parliament.

"It is important to recognise that many companies believe that a strong REACH can help them regain consumer confidence in chemicals", says Lena Ek. "And consumer confidence is something the chemical sector needs to be able to continue grow in the future".

The publication is available in English and German, and can be downloaded from [www.chemsec.org](http://www.chemsec.org). Hard copies can be ordered from [info@chemsec.org](mailto:info@chemsec.org).

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