

Cabinet newsletter

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Dear Reader,

Vice-President Tajani concluded his first official visit to Finland, where he had the opportunity to visit the European Chemicals Agency and to meet the Finnish Prime Minister and the Minister of Economic Affairs. I would like to draw your attention to this first test of the commitments made by the Vice-President.

I hope you will enjoy reading it.

Antonio Preto
Head of Cabinet



The official visit to Finland of Vice-President Tajani represented for him an opportunity to share his main priorities and first results. Firstly, it was a chance to visit the European Chemicals Agency, key in implementing new regulation, as well as in managing relations with industries involved. This trip was also an occasion to discuss with the Finnish Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen, and the Minister of Economic Affairs. They exchanged views on the Europe 2020 strategy and on the main initiatives launched so far to outline a new industrial policy for Europe.

The aim of REACH is to improve the protection of human health and the environment, therefore it is only too fitting that Tajani visited the Agency with the Commissioner Potočnik, responsible for Environment. REACH requires the registration of high-volume chemicals by the deadline of 30 November 2010, in order to give a solution to practical problems and to support enterprises active in this sector. The aim of REACH is to protect human health and the environment, whilst taking into account the competitiveness of industry. Commissioner Potočnik and Vice-President Tajani share the same views regarding the implementation of REACH: a result in itself if we consider how closely they will have to cooperate on this topic. Indeed, REACH has to achieve the right mix between sustainability and competitiveness, environmental protection and industrial growth.

The activity of the Agency represents an important test for the objectives of the Vice-President. One of the main priorities of his mandate is to make all the efforts to support industry, especially SMEs, to comply with European regulation, in particular in this period, as Europe emerges from crisis.

Meeting with the ECHA staff, Tajani pointed out that every action will be taken

towards sustainable growth and human health protection has to fulfill the needs of enterprises. The Agency plays a key role in communicating with enterprises. For instance, it has to set guidelines which have to be translated in all European languages as soon as possible.

The visit was an occasion to discuss with Finnish politicians on how Europe's tourism industry could develop and on how to improve access to raw materials. Dialogue with Member States, as well as the active involvement of all players, are considered by the Vice-President as key to achieve the objectives in terms of industrial policy.