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Competent Authorities review of Deca-BDE's Risk Assessment follow-up programmes

On 16 June 2005, Competent Authorities reviewed the programmes industry has developed with EU regulators and scientists following the closure of an EU risk assessment. These programmes aim at ensuring that Deca-BDE does not pose a future risk to the environment or human health.

The Competent Authorities noted progress on all the programmes.

Industry's voluntary programme to reduce emissions from textiles and plastics plants using Deca-BDE was widely commended for its ambition. Progress by the textiles industry was in particular recognized. Competent Authorities were less satisfied with progress by the plastics industry and urged this industry to speed up its implementation of the emissions reduction programme. A format for industry to report progress on the emissions reduction programme to future Competent Authority meetings will be developed by the Commission and the UK.

A number of Member States asked about new studies on Deca-BDE. It was confirmed that Deca-BDE's risk assessment remains closed. As with all closed risk assessments, it is standard procedure for the risk assessment lead countries (UK and France) to carry out regular reviews of new science. The risk assessment would only be reopened if new science were to denote a risk.

BSEF is the international organisation of the bromine chemical industry, whose remit is to inform stakeholders and commission science on brominated chemicals such as flame retardants.