

Newsletter

JULY 2025

Dear reader,

Since our last newsletter, we have seen significant developments in the EU legislative environment. With major initiatives just around the corner, our industry pushes for a regulatory strategy that supports our efforts towards safety and circularity, whilst maintaining European competitiveness.

I am pleased to share an update on the various projects that ISOPA is contributing to.

First and foremost, our Secretariat has made significant efforts to promote and expand our digital training platform, which is now available globally with a tailored training module in additional languages. Over 850,000 users have already registered online, a milestone that underscores the industry's unwavering commitment to safety and compliance. We are also honoured to say the Safe Use of Diisocyanates project has been awarded best professional development offering in the Associations Success Awards 2025!

Furthermore, since our last newsletter, Member States have started the transposition of the occupational exposure limits for diisocyanates in national law. ISOPA actively monitors and engages with national authorities to promote a harmonised transposition across the EU.

Lastly, we are happy to announce the re-election of our leadership team during our General Assembly in June.

Jörg Palmersheim
ISOPA Secretary General



REACH RESTRICTION

A successful digital training platform

It has been almost two years since the REACH restriction on diisocyanates came into effect in August 2023. ISOPA is proud to say over 850.000 workers have now registered online via the digital Safe Use Diisocyanates training platform on www.safeusediisocyanates.eu.

This milestone reflects the industry-wide commitment to safety and compliance. ISOPA is still reviewing the training material and plans to launch the new 2.0 version this year to make the training more accessible and interactive.

+850,000

Online registrations

222

External and internal trainers

34

License agreements

Safe Use Diisocyanates Global

Our global diisocyanates safety platform www.safeusediisocyanates.com was launched in February 2025 with a newly tailored version of our general safety training module to global audiences. The training is now offered in multiple new languages, with more to being added on a running basis. Hindi, Turkish and Russian are already available and other languages, such as Arabic, Japanese, and Mandarin are currently under progress. We are actively working together with global partners to translate and disseminate the new training worldwide.

Train-the-Trainer

We initiated our Train-the-Trainer programme two years ago, and it remains a tool used by many to promote worker safety. To date, the program has successfully trained over 130 individuals in more than 20 full-day online seminars.

Are you also interested in becoming a certified safety expert on Diisocyanates, capable of providing training in line with the Diisocyanates REACH restriction? Find our upcoming sessions below and visit our website for more information.

2025-09-09: English, Online

2025-10-28: German, Online

2025-11-25: English, Online

The feedback speaks for itself, one of our participants shared:

"I would like to thank you for the training, it was very nicely organized and clearly conducted, I have attended over 100 different safety trainings, and this was one of the best"

Classroom Training

In March, we successfully trained 185 workers on the safe handling of diisocyanates through a series of full-day training sessions. The training was provided in-person by ISOPA Secretary General and certified safety trainer Jörg Palmersheim to employees of Creos Luxembourg. Creos operates Luxembourg's electricity and natural gas networks. To ensure Creos' employees have the necessary knowledge to handle diisocyanates safely, specialised safety training was provided focusing on casting compound for cable sleeves based on MDI products.



Recognition

Safe Use Diisocyanates Wins Association Success Award 2025!

We are honoured to say that Safe Use of Diisocyanates has been awarded the Best Professional Development Offering at the 2025 Association Success Awards by the Association of Association Executives (AAE). We are extremely proud to receive this recognition, an award that belongs to everyone who contributed to making this project a true success story.



EU Transition Initiative

Safe Use Diisocyanates has been recognised as a [transition initiative](#) for a competitive, net-zero and digital EU chemicals industry by the European Commission under the category: 'Safety and Sustainability'.

Nomination – Cefic Responsible Care Awards 2025

ISOPA, ALIPA and our member companies have submitted Safe Use of Diisocyanates for the [Cefic Responsible Care Awards 2025](#) under the category: 'Above and Beyond Boundaries: Spreading Responsible Care Ethic across Chemicals Value and Supply Chain'.

ECHA Enforcement Forum

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has [announced](#) that its next EU-wide enforcement project (REF-15) will assess how risk-management measures for certain restricted substances, such as diisocyanates, are implemented in the workplace. Inspectors will verify whether safety data sheets provide adequate information and whether the recommended measures are being followed. The inspections, planned for 2027 with a final report in 2028, aim to enhance cooperation between REACH enforcement authorities and occupational safety and health bodies across the EU. The precise scope of the inspections has yet to be clarified.

OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE LIMITS

Directive (EU) 2024/869 entered into force on 2 April 2024 and sets binding EU-wide occupational exposure limits (OEL). A limit of 20 µg NCO/m³ as STEL and 10 µg NCO/m³ as TWA will be in place until 2029, after which a limit of 12 µg NCO /m³ as STEL and 6 µg NCO /m³ will go in effect. This means Member States have until April 2026 to ensure that they have brought into force the appropriate national laws to ensure compliance with the Directive.

Establishing uniform limits is a crucial step toward creating a level playing field and ensuring a consistent approach to worker safety across the EU. A harmonised approach across all Member States is essential to enhance safety and regulatory coherence throughout the Union.

ISOPA continues to actively monitor the implementation process and provide feedback to national authorities where needed. A wide range of countries have indicated their intention to follow the agreed EU limit values. You can find an overview below:

Indicated to follow EU limits

Germany, France,
Netherlands, Poland,
Spain, Finland, Sweden,
Ireland, Slovakia,
Slovenia

Limits to be confirmed

Austria, Belgium,
Bulgaria, Croatia,
Cyprus, Czechia,
Denmark, Estonia,
Greece, Hungary, Italy,
Latvia, Lithuania,
Luxembourg, Malta,
Portugal, Romania

Stricter limits indicated

Norway
(negotiations currently
ongoing)

EU CHEMICALS SECTOR AT A CROSSROADS

The next six months will be crucial for the European chemicals industry, with the European Commission having announced several key initiatives, following strong calls from the industry to improve competitiveness, simplify rules, and support sustainable investments.

This July, the Commission presented its [Chemical Industry Action Plan](#) with key commitments towards the chemicals industry, outlining actions to cut energy costs, reduce regulatory burdens, and support the industry's transition toward greener practices. At the same time, the Commission published key [simplification measures](#) to reduce compliance costs and administrative burdens.

These commitments come at a crucial time, as European industry continues to face significant challenges. Urgent cooperation among EU Member States, and between industry and regulators, is needed. Without quick action, the risk of continued shutdowns and job losses will only grow.

Central among the expected actions is the Chemicals Industrial Package, which includes long-awaited updates to the REACH Regulation and clarity on PFAS. These initiatives remain the subject of much debate, as few concrete answers have been given as to their final make-up.

ISOPA is closely following these developments and works with partners across the value chain. We are committed to supporting safe, innovative, and sustainable policies. Visit the News & Documents section of our website to read more about our work and [positions](#).

ISOPA ON STAGE

PU TECH 2025 – New Delhi, India

Our president, Christopher Metz, gave the inaugural keynote speech at PU TECH India 2025, emphasising how polyurethane innovation is driving progress toward a more sustainable world. The ISOPA team was present to promote our global diisocyanates safety initiatives. ISOPA furthermore met with global leading actors in the Global Diisocyanate and Polyurethanes Working Group to discuss global developments in our industry.





Europur & Euromoulders Annual Conference – Alicante, Spain

Jelle Verheij, Public Affairs and Communications Officer at ISOPA, presented a regulatory update on diisocyanates, focusing on the current EU legislative environment and diisocyanate-specific files such as the REACH restriction and occupational exposure limit values.

PTIF – Shanghai, China

Our Secretary General, Jörg Palmersheim was at the Polyurethane Technology International Forum in Shanghai. Jörg spoke about sustainable product stewardship to ensure the safe use of diisocyanates and discussed pathways to creating a circular polyurethane life cycle.



IN THE MEDIA

“Polyurethane – Building a sustainable future in every aspect of life” (Putech & Composites Magazine, February 2025)

“New Study Highlights European Polyurethane Industry’s Socio-Economic Contributions Amidst Difficult Economic Climate” (Putech & Composites Magazine, April 2025)

“Invented to be Reinvented - How Can Polyurethane Continue to Promote Sustainable Development Through Everyday Life?” (Urethanes Technology International, April 2025)

“Industry highlights from PU TECH 2025 - Interview with Jörg Palmersheim” (Chemical Today, May 2025)

“Interview with Jörg Palmersheim” (Polyurethanes Today, June 2025)

“Interview with Christopher Metz” (Polyurethanes Today, June 2025)

“IPUA and ISOPA form a strategic alliance” (Polyurethanes Today, June 2025)

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS FROM PU TECH 2025



ISOPA RE-ELECTS LEADERSHIP TEAM

ISOPA is pleased to announce the re-election of its leadership team during our General Assembly in June.

Christopher Metz, Vice-President of Business Management Isocyanates at BASF, has been re-elected as President of ISOPA. Erik Vangronsveld, Global Materials & Industry Sustainability Director at Huntsman, has been re-elected as Vice-President. Jörg Palmersheim will continue to serve as Secretary General.

All have been mandated until June 2027, reflecting members' strong confidence in their leadership and strategic direction.

Under their continued stewardship, ISOPA will pursue its key priorities, with safety and sustainability at the heart of our mission. ISOPA will continue to work closely with policymakers and stakeholders at both European and national levels to contribute to key legislative developments and advocate for the industry's continued path toward greater sustainability. Moreover, safety remains a top priority and ISOPA will maintain the active work on our digital training platform for the safe use of diisocyanates.



Christopher Metz



Erik Vangronsveld



Jörg Palmersheim

Our current Board of Directors

President: Christopher Metz

Vice-President: Erik Vangronsveld

Directors: Rajesh Balan (Dow), Tibor Klement (BorsodChem), Christine Mendoza-Frohn (Covestro), Vincent Bernhart, (Shell)

