



**Press Release CLEEN Conference, Copenhagen, September 9 – 11, 2002**

## **Chemical Legislation Enforcement Networks meets in Copenhagen**

From September 9 – 11, 2002 the Third Conference of the Chemical Legislation European Enforcement Network (CLEEN) was held in Copenhagen. The conference was attended by representatives of the authorities from the EU countries, the European Commission, the Scandinavian countries and by participants from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia.

The strategic aims of the CLEEN Network focus on better compliance with chemical legislation and ensuring that companies are dealt with equally across the EU. These aims are reached by coordinating enforcement programs, sharing experiences and Best Practices, exchanging information and providing feedback to the European Commission about the execution of enforcement programmes.

The results of the EurOzone project were presented. In this CLEEN enforcement project, more than 2700 cooling installations were inspected. In these installations, CFC's are used which are a serious threat to the Ozone layer. It was concluded that more than 30% of the installation were not in a satisfactory condition and that about 20% have leakages exceeding 10% of their total coolant volume per year. In 40% of the installations, maintenance problems were identified and more than 60% of the companies inspected did not have sufficient knowledge about their installations and the handling of the CFC's. The member countries will apply the experiences from this project for the improvement of their national enforcement programmes.

The CLEEN project on the enforcement of the Dangerous Preparations Directive (Dir. 199/45/EC) was started. This project, named ECLIPS, (European Classification and Labelling Inspections of Preparations and Products) aims at protecting the consumer and households from the potentially harmful effects of various products such as cleaners, polishes etc. The project will focus on the so-called CMR-substances that are carcinogenic, mutagenic and toxic for reproduction. A Guidance Manual for the inspections will be developed, including tools for training and reporting standards, resulting in one European strategy for inspections. This will improve compliance and stimulate equal market conditions across Europe. The inspection programmes in the Member Countries will start in 2003.

Two new projects were proposed to the Member Countries, dealing with the problems of wood preservatives and PCB's. The project on PCB's, which are highly toxic and persistent substances widely used in transformers, was given a high priority. A project plan will be prepared by the end of 2002. In 2003 a Guidance Manual for the inspections will be developed, followed by the operational Phase with the inspections programmes in 2004.