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## **EASCR – Press Release for the European Coatings Show 2011**

### **EU Directive restricting the Use of Dichloromethane based Paint Strippers passed first deadline**

Hirschaid (Germany), March 2011 - Scheidel GmbH & CO KG is a founding member of EASCR e.V. (European Association for Safer Coatings Removal) and a contact for the subject "paint removal" during the European Coatings Show at Nuernberg (booth 8-613).

Leading European producers of user-friendly paint stripper and cleaning products have founded this European Association for Safer Coatings Removal in January 2006. The activities of this association are aimed at educating trade and industries, governments and consumers about the health risk when working with dichloromethane based paint strippers and to inform about effective and safer alternatives across Europe. Furthermore EASCR supports the development of safer, dichloromethane-free paint strippers and their market introduction in Europe.

In March 2011 the Executive Board of the association was new elected and Georg Scheidel was affirmed as board member for the coming 3 years. Dr. Gerald G. Altnau was re-elected as Chairman and Antonio Francés from Fakolith Chemical Systems - Tortosa (Spain) completed it.

With the decision by the European Parliament and Council of 6 May 2009 to change the EU Directive 76/769/EWG on limiting the marketing and use of dichloromethane paint strippers and reaching the first deadline on 6 December 2010, important miles stones for the associations have been achieved, because this was the last day for producers and importers to place DCM-based paint strippers onto the market.

EASCR follows with high interest the implementation of the Directive in the single member states, because it is of high concern to the association and its members that

safer paint strippers are offered to users and that this is not put in question by exceptions, which are difficult to control or misinterpretation of the regulation.

At present the association observes, whether highly flammable paint strippers establish as cost-attractive replacement, because this would be seen as rather critical. A concept for the comparison of different solvents in relation to their risk-potential would be very helpful and is discussed with other experts.

The association welcomes new members and is available for discussion for authorities, as well as raw-material suppliers and producers of CHC-free paint removers.

More information:

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Photo: EASCR

Possible without dichloromethane – “alternative paint removers” based on less dangerous solvent formulations have proven their effectiveness for many years. Appropriate alternative paint removers exist for all coatings, which have been previously removed with dichloromethane-based paint strippers.