



European Federation of Essential Oils

Newsletter N° 4-2025

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November 2025

EFEO NEWS

Save the date: EFEO eAGM on 10 December 2025

EFEO will hold its first AGM of the new Belgian entity online on 10 December 2025 at 2pm.

The meeting link and the agenda will be sent out to all members in a separate mailing.

Statement on the European Commission's General approach on the Chemicals Omnibus (Omnibus VI) Regulation

Please find enclosed a [link](#) to the joint statement by IFEAT and EFEO as well as 5 other European organizations. The associations call for a balanced regulation simplification to address the regulatory burden impacting the cosmetics, fragrances and essential oil industries, one that maintains consumer safety, supports innovations and provides workable timelines for the industries.



Council misses opportunity to tackle unnecessary administrative burden stemming from the Cosmetic Products Regulation

Brussels, 6 November 2025

Important: EFEO account information

As part of the transition to our new Secretariat in Brussels, EFEO has transferred its bank account to Belgium. The **new account details** were included in the invoices that were sent out in summer this year. However, since there have been a number of transfers to the old account, we would like to ask everyone again to take notice of the new details copied in below, and to also inform your accounting departments of this change. For any information or documents needed to implement those changes in your systems, please contact the EFEO Secretariat at secretariat@efeo.eu.

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EFEO opinion on the integration of the SCCS in ECHA

In November, EFEO issued a position paper on the proposed Regulation establishing a self-standing legal framework and stronger governance for the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). In this context, the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS) would be integrated into ECHA as a stand-alone committee. **EFEO's paper underscores the SCCS's essential role in safeguarding consumer health through rigorous, science-based assessments**—especially for cosmetic ingredients—and commends its long record of independence and excellence. It calls for these qualities to be preserved by keeping the SCCS distinct and independent, with its own working methods, rules of procedure and member-selection processes, and by clarifying the transition period to avoid disruption. EFEO also urges that the Chair be elected from among SCCS members to safeguard scientific autonomy. Beyond governance, EFEO recommends broadening the SCCS mandate to additional consumer product categories and recognising the SCCS's leadership in non-animal (NAM) assessment to support the EU roadmap to phase out animal testing. **Overall, EFEO supports the reform while reaffirming the need to maintain the SCCS's independence, credibility and scientific integrity within the new ECHA framework.** The position paper will be used in discussions with policymakers as the regulatory approval process enters its final stages.

Participation by EFEO in a Call for Evidence on the new EU Organic Regulations

EFEO has prepared a position paper on the application of Article 29 of the Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848 for submission to the European Commission's recent call for evidence. While supporting the Regulation's aims—consumer confidence, fraud prevention and product integrity—**the paper flags major implementation problems** caused by non-harmonised national practices, which create legal uncertainty, uneven treatment of operators and disproportionate investigations triggered by trace-level detections that do not imply intentional use or safety risk. EFEO therefore calls for a **science-based, risk-oriented revision** that aligns Article 29 with existing EU food and pesticide rules (notably Reg. (EC) 396/2005), provides clear definitions (including a coherent meaning of "presence"), and standardises procedures and proportional enforcement across Member States. It also urges reforms to OFIS to improve transparency, allow correction of errors and prevent unreliable entries from driving enforcement. **Overall, EFEO argues that harmonised implementation—backed by validated sampling, quality analytical standards and time limits for case handling—would strengthen trust in organic controls, cut unnecessary bureaucracy and protect the competitiveness of operators in sectors such as essential oils, while keeping the system effective, science-based and fair.**

Cosmetics Products Regulation: EFEO invited to participate in the online targeted stakeholder survey

EFEO has been invited to participate in a **targeted consultation for the evaluation of the Cosmetic Products Regulation (CPR)** as part of its Better Regulation agenda and in parallel with the ongoing work under the Omnibus VI (Chemicals). The CPR is the core EU framework governing the safety, market access and regulatory requirements for all cosmetic products placed on the EU market.

This evaluation will examine whether the Regulation remains fit for purpose, whether it continues to meet its objectives of protecting consumer health and ensuring the proper functioning of the internal market, and whether updates may be required in light of scientific, technological or market developments.

To complete this work, the Commission has tasked its mandated consultants (ICF, Ricardo and RPA) with conducting an external study, including extensive stakeholder consultation. Following the earlier call for evidence and the public consultation, the European Commission has now opened a **targeted online survey for key stakeholders directly involved in implementing or complying with the CPR**.

EFEO will respond to the survey in due time. The final report is planned to be in QII 2026. It should be followed by an exhaustive Evaluation included in the Commission Work Programme in Q IV 2026, justifying a legislative proposal to address the Revision of the CPR to be adopted by the Commission later in 2027.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Regulating Essential Oils: A European Adventure in Agriculture

Insights from Philippe Soguel (Distillerie Bleue Provence, France) at the IFEAT Conference, Gothenburg

European regulations are often seen as a maze by essential oil distillers, and **EFEO board member Philippe Soguel shared the challenges—and occasional triumphs—of navigating this complex landscape**. From small family farms to collective enterprises, essential oil producers face a curious paradox: their products are both chemically complex, with hundreds of molecules, and yet remarkably simple, produced through straightforward steam distillation of wild or cultivated plants.



Most European distilleries are small operations: 80% are tied to private farms or groups of farmers, and half are collective enterprises with annual revenues under €5,000. For these producers, regulations can feel overwhelming, technical, and sometimes disconnected from the realities of rural agriculture.



The regulatory journey has not been easy. **In 2005, essential oils were largely excluded from the biocide market**—not due to scientific evidence, but because testing methods were impractical and prohibitively expensive. For producers in France, this exclusion translated into significant economic losses and led to the uprooting of dozens of hectares of thyme and sage, deeply affecting both the land and the livelihoods of farmers.



By 2008, integrating French distilleries into REACH consortia became the next challenge. Producers confronted gaps in knowledge, limited resources, and language barriers, making the process slow and difficult. Yet progress was possible. **Between 2014 and 2016, the European Commission began to open dialogue through roundtables**, supported by associations like **EFEO, IFRA, Prodarom, and Cihef**. These discussions clarified essential points, including the botanical definitions of plants, ensuring that only authentic products were recognized while protecting both consumers and producers.

Challenges continued into the 2020s. **In 2021, a proposed change to the CLP Regulation threatened essential oils once again.** This time, agricultural mobilization and advocacy led to a victory: in December 2024, the European Parliament voted for an exemption, safeguarding these vital products.

Looking ahead, Philippe reflects on recent European initiatives, such as the draft proposal “Towards a circular, regenerative, and competitive bioeconomy.” Like the Green Deal before it, these initiatives initially seemed full of promise for essential oils. In practice, however, **the Green Deal has posed significant challenges rather than opening new opportunities**, creating obstacles for producers instead of supporting the sector. This experience underscores the need for continued engagement with the Commission to provide clear information about essential oils and their unique value—both for consumers, the environment and for the farmers whose livelihoods depend on these crops.

At the heart of this effort is a deeper concern: survival. Farmers face increasing pressures from climate change, and preserving the cultivation of essential oils is about more than economics—it’s about maintaining biodiversity, cultural heritage, and the landscapes that define Europe’s agricultural identity. The push to classify lavender landscapes as UNESCO World Heritage Sites is a testament to this vision, ensuring that future generations can continue to cultivate, harvest, and live sustainably from these treasured crops.



RIFM annual meeting in Teaneck, New Jersey on 6 November 2025

RIFM very kindly extended an invitation to EFEO to join their very well attended event. As of today, 2140 safety assessments are completed and accessible to the public on Elsevier.com. Another 126 have been submitted to panel for 2025. 200 NCS have been evaluated and regrouped in over 25 “families”. RIFM is also putting an emphasis on posing on LinkedIn, visiting member companies and making presentations across the world, to advance science for the safe use of fragrances.

Please note their 60th anniversary on their next annual meeting on 5 November 2026.

REGULATION

EUDR – potential amendments

The last episodes of the EUDR saga are summarised below:

The **European Commission** has confirmed the reopening and simplification of the European deforestation regulation (EUDR). This is not an omnibus but a new legislative proposal, which will be presented shortly by the Commission, introducing a series of amendments to the text:

- The EUDR will come into force as planned on 1 January 2026, but there will be a six-month transition period (until 30 June 2026) for large companies, during which no sanctions or penalties will be applied.
- Small and micro-enterprises will only be required to submit a simplified declaration instead of a full due diligence statement, which would reduce the burden on IT systems. Their compliance obligation will be postponed until 1 January 2027.
- Only the first operator in the value chain will be required to fulfil the due diligence obligation; downstream operators will simply indicate the reference number of the initial due diligence statement.

The **European Parliament** voted in favor of using the so-called urgency procedure to simplify the EU deforestation law. MEPs are now due to vote on the content during the Nov. 24-27 plenary session.

The **Danish presidency of the Council** has proposed that the EUDR should not be launched until the end of 2026.

Negotiations are therefore still ongoing.

Update on CSRD - CSDDD

On 13th November, the plenary of the European Parliament just adopted position on the Simplification Omnibus on Corporate sustainability reporting and due diligence. The text adopted, which is more ambitious than the Commission's proposal, was voted through thanks to an alliance between EPP, ECR, Patriots and ESN with 382 votes in favor, 249 against and 13 abstentions.

The main takeaways from what is now the European Parliament's position for the trilogue:

On CSRD:

- Scope of 1750 employees and EUR 450 million turnover.

On CSDDD:

- Scope of 5,000 employees and EUR 1.5 billion turnover
- Deletion of article 22 on climate transition plans
- Article 27 on penalties modified to delete references to 5% turnover fines and include that the Commission shall issue guidance on the appropriate level of penalties, taking into account the turnover of companies.
- Article 29 on civil liability kept as in the Commission's proposal, i.e. without EU-wide civil liability regime.

Now that the Parliament's position has been adopted, interinstitutional negotiations will start swiftly. According to our information, the Commission is still aiming to conclude the talks before Christmas.

Reevaluation of hexane

EFEO, together with IOFI, EFFA and IFEAT, have sent their contribution to the EFSA call for data on technical hexane. The deadline has been postponed to 12 December 2025, and therefore the associations might complete their contribution.

Thanks to the companies who contributed.

FEDIOL has also released a Q&A on hexane which can be consulted [here](#).

For more details, please contact secretariat@efeo.eu

Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals : MEPs and Member States agree to delay rules

- Most parts of the revised regulation will instead apply from 1 January 2028
- Postponement is part of EU simplification efforts
- Parliament used the urgency procedure to speed up the process

The European Parliament voted to postpone the application dates for new EU law on the classification, labelling, and packaging of chemicals. MEPs supported the Commission proposal, part of wider simplification efforts aimed at strengthening the EU's competitiveness.

This 'stop-the-clock' mechanism postpones application of most parts of the revised regulation on the classification, labelling, and packaging of chemicals to 1 January 2028. It also amends the timelines for relabelling and mandatory formatting requirements, and rules on advertising, distance sales and fuel pump labelling.

Next steps

To speed up adoption of the measures, the Parliament agreed on Tuesday to deal with the file under its urgent procedure. To enter into force, the draft law now requires formal approval by the Council, which endorsed the same text on 24 September 2025.

Background

The European Commission presented the 'Omnibus VI' package in July to simplify EU legislation in the field of chemicals. The objective was to reduce compliance costs and ease the administrative burden for the chemical industry while ensuring strong protection for human health and the environment. The package also simplifies hazardous chemical labelling rules, clarifies EU cosmetics regulations, and streamlines registration for EU fertilising products by aligning information requirements with standard REACH rules for chemicals. According to the Commission, these measures should save the industry at least €363 million a year.

On 17 November, the Member States agreed on the stop-the-clock as well.

TTO Final SCCS published

The final opinion on the use of Tea tree Oil in Cosmetic products was published on Nov. 14th 2025. The assessment of the preliminary SCCS opinion remained unchanged:

The SCCS considers the use of Tea Tree Oil (TTO) as an anti-seborrheic and anti-microbial agent safe in four defended product types - up to the maximum concentration of 2.0% in shampoo, 1.0% in shower gel, 1.0% in face wash and 0.1% in face cream. The assessment has considered all available data, a possible classification as 'Repr.1B' under Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008, the conditions laid out in Article 15 (2) (d) of the Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 including the aggregated exposure from the defended cosmetic products and non-cosmetics uses of TTO.

The final SCCS opinion is an important part in obtaining an exemption of the ban for cosmetic products. Be aware that no decision was made on the food safety dossier and the dossier on absence of alternatives to Tea Tree Oil. Both dossiers are still being evaluated and discussed.

Since Tea Tree Oil is only the third substance for which such an exemption is requested, the outcome of the on-going discussion and the on-going defense can not be predicted.

For further information, please consult the official publication of the European Commission [here](#).

PRESS

Could lavender replace synthetic preservatives in skin care?

by Kirsty Doolan, CosmeticsDesign Europe

A new cosmetics ingredients study has shown potential for lavender as a natural preservative in oil-in-water cosmetics formulations. Read the full article [here](#).

CALENDAR/EVENTS



SAVE THE DATE

We are happy to greet you
at our next AGM in **Grasse, France** on **28 May 2026.**

1. BEOA Annual Quiz BEOA is hosting their Annual Quiz, including Guess the Frangrance and Essential Oil on 27 November 2025 in London, UK. For more information please contact secretariat@beoa.co.uk .	2. HPCI India The next event is planned for 27 - 28 January 2026 in Mumbai, India.
3. BIOFACH The next BIOFACH trade fare is scheduled for 10 - 13 February 2026 in Nuremberg, Germany. More information here .	4. World Aroma Ingredients Congress & Expo EOAI will host the next edition in Mumbai, India on 16 - 18 March 2026.
5. cosmoprof Cosmoprof worldwide Bologna is planned for 26 - 28 March 2026 in Bologna, Italy. More details here .	6. Aroma Expo The Asia-Oceania Aroma Association will host its 2026 Expo in Seoul, Korea on 7 - 10 April 2026.
7.in-cosmetics Global in-cosmetics Global 2026 will take place from 14 - 16 April 2026 at the Paris Expo Porte de Versailles in Paris, France. More details here .	8.EFEO AGM EFEO will hold its next in person AGM in Grasse, France on 28 May 2026.
9. SIMPPAR The 2026 edition of SIMPPAR will take place on 26 - 27 May 2026 in Grasse, France.	10. IFEAT Conference IFEAT is hosting their 2026 Conference on 11 - 16 October 2026 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.



Feel free to contact us, raise your questions or make suggestions.

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