

EUROFER SPECIAL PREPARATIONS WORKSHOP

28th May 2008

Integral building, Avenue Ariane, Brussels

Michel Quatrevalet

The “article” dilemma

The border between substances/preparations and articles is one of the key issues in REACH:

- **Big gap on constrains, costs and responsibilities**
- **Competitiveness between inside and outside Europe**
- **Influences efficiency of REACH if imported substances escape from REACH through articles**
- **It is the breakthrough point for the information in the supply chain.**

Definition of an article in REACH:

"Article means an object which during production is given a special shape, surface or design which determines its function to a greater degree than its chemical composition;" (REACH, Article 3(3)).

Statement of RIP 3/8 (1)

From the example of aluminium, RIP 3/8 clearly states that an ingot or a slab before rolling could be a preparation and a rolled/forged steel could be an article...

... but gives some flexibility for a case by case approach.

Statement of RIP 3/8 (2)

- **The RIP 3/8 statement is the worst case for European steel producers**
 - if coils/rods were preparations, it could be more costly but for both Europeans and importers, and the breakthrough point of the supply chain could be at a better place.(what we effectively sell)
 - if slabs and ingots were articles, less costs for everybody
 - if slabs and ingots preparations, probably costs for Europeans, not for overseas companies, and difficulties in the supply chain

- **The arguments for slabs/ingots as articles**
 - steels are well defined by a precise standardisation commonly validated by producers and customers/users
 - limited risks in massive form (already exempted of labelling under the preparation directive)
 - uses well known, so will be easily assessed through iron and alloying elements registration

- **The way forward:**

- **set up a position with strong arguments, based on robust statements**

- try to have a common approach with non ferrous products

- propose a way of assessment of special preparations, even if they are not put on the market

- communicate to convince other parties that we do not try to escape from our duties