



Press Release

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California, Denmark to Partner on Green Chemistry

Copenhagen, Denmark – In a groundbreaking agreement signed today, California and Denmark will collaborate together to protect the environment by sharing information on product safety.

The agreement, known as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), was signed today by California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) Secretary Linda Adams and Danish Environmental Minister Troels Lund Poulsen at the Danish Ministry of Environment.

This historic step ultimately paves the way for fewer consumer products containing toxic chemicals, which is a goal of California's Green Chemistry Initiative signed into law by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on Sept. 29, 2008. The Initiative calls for a fundamental shift in product development and manufacturing.

"Gov. Schwarzenegger's vision placed California on the forefront of worldwide efforts to limit the amount of toxics in everyday products," said Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection. "California and Denmark have historically demonstrated leadership in completely re-thinking chemical policy to lead to better environmental protection and new economic opportunities."

This agreement is intended to open opportunities for research on green chemistry, and expands economic opportunities. It encourages interaction amongst research institutes, non-governmental institutions and experts in Denmark and California.

Specifically, California will benefit from Denmark's and the European Union's experience with implementing the EU's Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals (EU REACH) program, including its progress in collecting chemical data into a database. California, in creating its own Toxics Clearinghouse database, will gain significant insight from the Danes. Denmark will also help further progress on American chemical policy by exchanging with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control inspection and enforcement mechanisms that strengthen the Green Chemistry Initiative.