

anopol newsletter

Surface Treatment for Stainless Steel

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CHALLENGING TIMES

We are now only days away from what is probably the most important Referendum in our lifetime.

The two sides have now settled on their main themes: the 'Remain' camp is concentrating on the adverse effects leaving the EU will have on the UK's economy, whilst the 'Leave' camp is promising to stop the free movement of people from within the EU's member countries. These apparently valid arguments from both camps are making it difficult for the 'Undecided' to reach a decision. It is impossible at the time of writing to forecast whether the outcome of the vote will be for the status quo or for major change. One thing seems certain, the result promises to be very close, and should cause some re-thinking in Brussels.



Surface Engineering in Europe

Anopol's two companies have long been members of the Surface Engineering Association (SEA). One of the many benefits of the SEA is its involvement in CETS, the European Committee for Surface Engineering.

This is the only European Association that represents the metal finishing sector and discusses issues with the European Commission, European Parliament and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).

SEA's Chief Executive David Elliott, has been elected as President of CETS for a further 3 year period. One of the important issues having serious effects on the metal finishing industry (electroplaters, galvanizers, electropolishers, etc.) is the REACH regulations (**R**egistration, **E**valuation, **A**uthorisation and **R**estriction of **C**hemicals).

The following feature was published in the May edition of SURFACE WORLD.

www.sea.org.uk

Are the benefits of REACH real or just hypothetical?

Following the recent ECHA report regarding the costs and benefits of REACH, CETS President, David Elliott stated "the only conclusion we can draw from this report is that the costs to industry are very real and making the EU less competitive in the global market place whilst the benefits are, at present, all hypothetical and presented in such a way to convince everyone that REACH is actually working".

Everyone agrees that we need to manage our use of substances carefully, particularly those that could qualify as SVHCs (Substances of Very High Concern) and, wherever possible, we should attempt to remove these substances from global supply chains if suitable alternatives are technically and economically feasible. However, what is not helpful is the recent publication of the supposed benefits of chemicals legislation such as REACH.

The ECHA (European Chemicals Agency) has recently published "Costs and benefit assessments in the REACH Restriction dossiers" ISBN 978 – 92 – 9247 – 838 – 4 in which it claims that the total costs assessed for all the restrictions in the EU having gone through the REACH procedure is estimated at €290 million per year and the health benefits equivalent to over €700 million per year. So to the uninformed, this looks like a clear cut case of benefits exceeding costs. However on closer inspection it becomes very clear that the costs to industry are indeed real and probably underestimated, but the benefits to the EU are all estimated and based on projections and assumptions and are not actual savings at all.

The report actually states that human health and environmental impacts of restrictions are challenging to estimate and only for a few cases have the monetised benefits been established. In fact, just 2 of the restrictions account for almost 97% of the supposed benefits – the removal of methanol from windshield washing fluids and the removal of chromium VI from the tanning of leather articles.

It is stated that the removal of methanol from windshield washing fluids will prevent 82 fatalities due to methanol poisoning after drinking windshield washing fluids as a substitute for consumable alcohol and the statistical value of each life is €3.9 million. Surely if someone is an alcoholic and is so desperate to drink windshield washing fluid to satisfy their addiction, they will find something else to drink. How the value of €3.9 million per each life has been calculated is not explained and how the saving will be achieved is also not explained.

The removal of chromium VI from the tanning of leather articles is estimated to prevent an alleged 1.32 million people with chromium allergies to be sick off from work, companies to avoid lost production because of this, as well as health and medication costs and to allow these 1.32 million people to start buying leather products again, all of which mounts to €353.6 million. Again there are no details on where the 1.32 million figure comes from and no account of the fact that the majority of leather goods are actually tanned outside of the EU.

CETS, the European Committee for Surface Treatment, is an international federation of national associations engaged in all aspects of surface engineering. The application of surface engineering is vital to the success of almost every commercial and industrial product: from aero engines to aeroplanes, from iPods to surgical implants and from razor blades to racing cars.

Visit: www.cets-eu.be

Welcome to the team Paul



Paul Fereday has recently joined the group as Business Development Manager essentially responsible for business growth. Paul has a HND in Mechanical and Technical Engineering and previously worked for 18 years for a fabricator of large pipework, with sizes typically from one to four metres in diameter. He has a further 9 years within the steel stocking industry involved with multi-metal and multi-products.

Paul is a family man and is also a keen follower of cricket. However, much of his free time is currently taken up working on the restoration of his 1930's house. In welcoming Paul to the Anopol team, MD David Cass said, "Paul is an exciting new addition to our team at Anopol and brings with him a robust approach to both customer service and sales growth. Paul came through a lengthy and challenging recruitment process as the role of Business Development Manager at Anopol

requires leadership, knowledge, experience and the capacity to learn the very technical nature of our service". He then went on to say "We all welcome Paul to the team and look forward to furthering our customer lead approach to doing business"

One text can put an end to nuisance call

People who are fed up with receiving nuisance calls on their mobile phones can send one text that should put a stop to them. Although about 85% of all landline numbers are registered with the Telephone Preference Service, making it illegal for companies to cold-call them, only about 3% of mobile numbers are registered. Now people can text 'TPS' and their email address, which is used only for verification purposes, to 78070. They will then receive a text from the TPS confirming that their number has been added to its database. Mobile phone users should notice a gradual reduction in unsolicited sales and marketing calls after a few days, although it can take up to 28 days for the service to be fully effective. It is already illegal for companies to send unsolicited text messages.

John Mitchison, head of TPS, said: "Texting will make it easier for people to register their mobile numbers and help us stamp out rogue callers."

A new use for hairdryers by Carol Midgley, The Times

Male habits often surprise and this is no exception: some men use hairdryers on their personal "undercarriage." So bad has the problem become that Iceland has erected signs in communal changing rooms urging men to desist from blasting their scrotums post-shower and instead use an 'absorbent towel'. A local newspaper ran an article headlined: "This is not a scrotum dryer", with a diagram of a man giving it full throttle. Considering the heat coming from my Babyliss Pro Speed it's a miracle there haven't been more burns incidents. But is it really so 'inconsiderate'? When you dry wet hair the dryer doesn't make contact with your head and I am sure the same applies to a chap's old coin purse. It sounds the most hygienic method in the home. Especially if you're next to use his towel.

Bolognese tramps give vegan chef a roasting

Homeless people in Bologna have given a resounding thumbs down to Italy's most renowned vegetarian chef who dropped in to lend a hand in their soup kitchen. Simone Salvini has risen to fame thanks to his ambitious vegan recipes, which he promotes on a popular television show. He offered to cook once a week at a soup kitchen run by monks in the northern city. He failed to reckon with Bologna's proud meat-eating tradition, however. Known as Italy's culinary capital, the city specialises in tagliatelle al ragu – pasta with meat sauce – lasagne and cured ham. The homeless people were not keen on his bean soup, he admitted. "Some of the poor people told me 'we are heading back to the streets because we need meat,'" he said.

The chef tried to meet people half way, dishing up vegetables cooked in the shape of meatballs, sausages made of beans and soya ragu. The effort did not go totally unrewarded. "Last week some of them came to shake my hand," he said. "It was an enormous satisfaction."

Visit to the home of the European Commission

Earlier this month Anopol's Chairman, John Swain, joined 14 other members of the Surface Engineering Association for a two day visit to Brussels. The group was accompanied by SEA's Chief Executive David Elliott and SEA's Membership Services Manager Diana Blair, who together had organised the visit. On arriving on the second day at the offices of the European Commission, the group was welcomed by the Commission's Directorate-General for Communication, Ms Lise Ravnfeldt, who had assisted in organising the event.

The day was broken up into 5 sessions, each presented by a different speaker, with subjects as diverse as "Promotion of Entrepreneurship of Women" to "Latest Developments with the REACH Regulation".

It became quickly apparent that the main languages used in the Commission are English and French, although we were informed that there are 20 official languages.

The organisation of the whole event was excellent, with much credit going to the organisers, both here and in Brussels.



THE FIRST WORLD WAR – 1914 -1918

Lost in the desert

January 13, 1916

A soldier who was wounded at the *Battle of Ctesiphon* writes: I seem to have had rather a close shave, having stopped a bullet with my head, but probably owing to the lack of brains therein it did not touch a vital spot.

After knocking me clean out, it left me in the field, with shells and more bullets striking all round, with the dead and wounded for company. And then the real trouble began. After reaching the first dressing station and resting a while, all those who could get into carts were ordered to do so, and we had an awful journey to another field hospital, where we arrived badly bruised and shaken. We tried to lie down and sleep, with the groans of the wounded and dying all around to add to the misery of the bitter cold, which is worse than the coldest night in England. And then we were shelled again, and the wounded received more wounds. Still the Turks came on, and when the end seemed to have arrived, our troops flung themselves in and bravely kept the enemy off all night. As soon as it was daylight they started dishing it up again, and we were ordered to clear out to a trench a mile or two away. There we sat, still under fire, until through the glasses the RAMC officers saw that the Turks had been reinforced and were coming on, with our people slowly retiring; so putting those who could not walk into carts, we made our last camp by the river, eight miles away. After going for hours and no sign, the truth dawned that we were hopelessly lost, and then darkness fell. We made a square of the carts and lay down inside it. The cold was so intense that we all had ague, shivering like jellies. It was by all the rules of the desert that the Arabs should have swooped down upon us. Our officers knew this, and served out what brandy there was, with tins of milk, and so we waited, with Arabs in front and Turks behind. When dawn appeared we could only look at each other in dumb surprise that we were really alive. And then we fell in with some Indian cavalry who directed us on to the track that at last brought us, after three hours' tramp, to our boats and water. How we drank – the first for three days.

The doctor has found two holes in my head and the bullet is out. He says I shall feel the effects for 12 months, but ought to be as usual except for my nerves.

Pants? Policeman did best work in Y-fronts, says lawyer.

A police officer who became a symbol of Italy's lazy public servants when he was filmed clocking on in his underpants, before going back to bed, is fighting to clear his name after being sacked. Alberto Muraglia, 53, who has an apartment in the same building as his office in San Remo, said that he was being made a scapegoat. Mr Muraglia claimed that he had only punched the clock six times in his underpants and had always been on duty, despite being without his trousers. Luigi Alberto Zoboli, his lawyer, claimed that the officer had done some of his best work in his Y-fronts. "Once, in his underpants, he stopped a robbery, rushing down into the street with his pistol in his hand and arresting the criminal," he said.

THE JOYS OF EPIC FAILURE (Number 25)

The Not Terribly Good Samaritan

Being a kind-hearted sort of chap, Mr Hugh Pike rushed to the aid of a British family in distress in 1978. They were on holiday in Bordeaux. Their Morris estate car had broken down. They needed a spare part from Britain so had to abandon the vehicle. They spoke no French. They could not get back to Boulogne for the boat home. It was now Sunday night and the father had to be at work in his native Sheffield at 8 am the next morning. The situation was almost perfect. Wishing to help, Mr Pike told them he had a working knowledge of French, was himself going to Paris and would be only too pleased to help. He drove them at high speed to Gare du Nord, arrived with seconds to spare, went to the ticket desk, asked a guard for the train to Boulogne, dashed down platform 6, and got the Sheffield family on board, as the train pulled out amid dewy-eyed protestations of undying gratitude and friendship. Only as he walked back down the platform, aglow with the knowledge of a good deed done, did he look up at the departures board and realise that he had put them on the train to Bologna in Italy, a country with whose ways and language they were even less well acquainted with.

THE JOYS OF EPIC FAILURE (Number 26)

The Most Pointless Radio Interview

One of Britain's most popular radio programmes is *Desert Island Discs*, in which a celebrity is asked to imagine that, for unspecified reasons, he is trapped on a desert island with his or her eight favourite recordings. In the 1970s the programme's presenter, Roy Plomley, was keen to get the novelist Alistair Maclean onto the show. As a writer of adventure stories, it was felt he might fit the role of a castaway and give a gripping broadcast. This was soon arranged despite Maclean's known reluctance to give interviews.

Mr Plomley went to meet him for lunch at the Savile Club in London. They got on extremely well.

During lunch Mr Plomley asked, "Which part of the year do you put aside for your writing?"

"Writing?" said Maclean.

"Yes – your books – *Guns of Navarone*."

"I'm not Alistair Maclean, the writer.

"No?"

"No. I'm in charge of the Ontario Tourist Bureau."

With no alternative, the two set off to the studio. During the recording an increasingly agitated producer urged, "Ask him about his books".

"He hasn't written any," replied the interviewer. The programme was never broadcast.

Did I really say that?

The renowned BBC boxing commentator Harry Carpenter was usually a very shrewd observer of his sport, but had the occasional lapse. During the eighth round of the famous 'Rumble in the Jungle' fight in Zaire between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman in 1974, Carpenter said dramatically: "There's no way Ali can win this one now." Within a few seconds the bout was indeed over. Ali had launched a brief, furious counter-attack and had knocked his opponent to the floor, winning in some style.

The Democrat Presidential hopeful, Michael Dukakis, was absolutely certain that steps should be taken to reduce America's crippling budget, but he wasn't sure how many steps it would take. In April 1987 he stated: "There are only two ways to reduce the budget deficit....we must do both". By September the solutions seem to have grown. "There are only three ways to reduce the deficit," said Mr Dukakis. "We must do all three," Yet in August 1988, Mr Dukakis's options seem to have grown again when he said: "There are only four ways to reduce the federal budget deficit....we must do all four." Perhaps it's just as well he didn't get elected, otherwise that list of solutions might have spiralled out of control.

That's enough of the serious stuff. It's chuckle time, so enjoy a few comic stories.

Many years ago during my married days, I accidentally overturned my golf cart. Elizabeth, a very attractive and keen golfer, who lived in a villa on the edge of the golf course, heard the noise and called out, "Are you okay, what's your name?"

"It's John, and I'm okay thanks," I replied as I pulled myself out of the twisted cart.

"John," she said, "Forget your troubles. Come to my villa, rest a while and I'll help you get the cart up later."

"That's mighty nice of you," I answered, "but I don't think my wife would like it."

"Oh, come on now," Elizabeth insisted. She was so very pretty, very sexy and very persuasive and I was weak.

"Well okay," I finally agreed, thinking to myself that my wife is not going to like this.

After a couple restorative Scotch and water, I thanked Elizabeth. "I feel a lot better now, but I know my wife is going to be really upset. So I'd better go now."

"Don't be silly!" Elizabeth said with a smile, letting her robe fall open slightly. "She won't know anything. By the way, where is she?"

"Still under the cart, I guess," I said.

The late Cecil Parkinson failed to make it to Burns Night, which is a shame since he liked to tell a joke on such occasions about the Almighty telling the English and the Scots to settle their differences by electing a poet to write a four-line verse including the word Timbuktu. Wordsworth was chosen by the English and came up with this: "I went into a foreign land/ I came upon a silver strand/ A sailing ship hove into view/ Her destination, Timbuktu." Very nice it was too, but Robbie Burns saved the day for Scotland with this one:

"Tim and I a-walking went/ We spied three virgins in a tent/ Since they were three and we were two/ I bucked one and Tim buck'd two."

A Jewish gentleman was leaving a convenience store with his espresso when he noticed a most unusual Italian funeral procession approaching the nearby cemetery. A black hearse was followed by a second black hearse about 50 feet behind the first one. Behind the second hearse was a solitary Italian man walking a dog on a leash. Behind him, a short distance back, were about 200 men walking single file. The Jewish man couldn't stand the curiosity. He respectfully approached the Italian man walking the dog and said, "I am so sorry for your loss, and this may be a bad time to disturb you, but I've never seen an Italian funeral like this. Whose funeral is it?"

"My wife's"

"What happened to her?"

"She yelled at me and my dog attacked and killed her."

He inquired further, "But who is in the second hearse?"

The Italian man answered, "My mother-in-law. She was trying to help my wife when the dog turned on her."

A very poignant and touching moment of Jewish and Italian brotherhood and silence passed between the two men.

The Jewish man then asked, "Can I borrow the dog?"

The Italian man replied, "Get in line."

IN BRIEF

Well I'm a Jewish atheist.....thank God. *Warren Mitchell*

A woman is like a teabag. You can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water. *Eleanor Roosevelt*

My friends, as I have discovered myself, there are no disasters, only opportunities. and, indeed, opportunities for fresh disasters. *Boris Johnson*

When I was a kid, my father kept snapping me with cameras, I still get flashbacks. *Anon*

