

Berlin, 11 April 2014

**Statement of UNITI Bundesverband mittelständischer Mineralölunternehmen e.V. regarding the public consultation on N,N'-methylenbismorpholine (MBM)**

UNITI Bundesverband mittelständischer Mineralölunternehmen e.V. (UNITI) is the German association representing small and medium-sized companies in the fuels, lubricants and heating fuels sector. The member companies employ approximately 60.000 people, with a total annual turnover of about 31 billion Euros. The numerous independent small and medium-sized lubricant manufacturers represented by UNITI have a market share of about 50 percent in Germany.

Many UNITI member companies produce metal working fluids for the national, European and international market and use Formaldehyde releasers in their products. These lubricant companies and especially the users of the metal working fluids would be strongly affected if N,N'-methylenbismorpholine (MBM) and other Formaldehyde releasers are no longer available as biocidal active substances in the formulations. Limitations on the use of MBM and other Formaldehyde releasers will create practical problems for downstream users who need to control microbial activity in the aqueous-based metal working fluids during use, as difficult to replace with other biocides available in the market.

Furthermore, there are substantial doubts to classify the potential substitution candidate MBM in the same way as its hydrolysis product Formaldehyde. Normally the classification according to CLP regulation is related to the hazards of the substance as placed on the market.

For the reasons mentioned, UNITI fully supports the statement of the Formaldehyde Biocide Interest Group (FABI) - which is a CEFIC registration group - of 9 April 2014 with the title "Statement from FABI members in response to the public consultation on potential candidates for substitution for MBM". UNITI strongly recommends to take into account the various well-reasoned arguments of the FABI statement in the opinion making process.

The FABI statement of 9 April 2014 is attached.