Registration for Safe Use of FBC Ash as a Chemical Substance within European REACH Regulation; 
Results and Prospects

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REACH is an EU regulation concerning Registration, Authorisation, Evaluation and Restriction of 
Chemicals operating since 1st June 2007.  All chemicals manufactured in or imported into the EU 
have to be registered at the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). The registration requires 
information on the properties and the potential risks of the substances.

In September of 2010 a Consortium of 120+ FBC Ash Producers, with Utex-Centrum Ltd being a Lead 
Registrant, managed to successfully register ashes from FBC boilers at ECHA, according to REACH 
procedures. This was preceded by agreeing upon a Substance Identification Profile, catering for the 
native variability of this substance. Then an extensive testing programme was executed, divided into 
three areas of: physico-chemical properties, toxicology and ecotoxicology leading to a Registration 
Dossier, which was submitted to ECHA. Results of tests were evaluated and led to adopting a 
classification of the substance, which is compiled in a Chemical Safety Report. In case of FBC Ashes 
the Report states that:

”FBC Ash is not classified according to directive 67/584/EEC. There is no concern from the use of FBC 
Ash with regards to human or environmental exposure. No risk management measures have been 
identified as required.”

Though this represents a major step forward allowing for these CCPs being normally used in market 
practice, REACH system assumes that within two years since the registration, some further studies 
proposed during the process will be decided and implemented. On top of that, new developments in 
science and our understanding of interaction of FBC ashes with environment and biosphere may 
warrant further studies. Nevertheless, being able to compare the properties of FBC ashes with other 
chemical substances available on the market, within a sophisticated framework of testing, evaluation 
and classification, is a major step facilitating beneficial use of these CCP materials.