

ISSUE 69 2026

# IFEAT WORLD

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
ESSENTIAL OILS  
& AROMA TRADES

**BANGKOK CO-CHAIR  
INTERVIEW  
THE IFEAT ACADEMY**



**ADVOCACY BULLETIN  
OUR SUSTAINABILITY  
JOURNEY**

19 - 23 OCTOBER

# Introducing: IFEAT ACADEMY

IFEAT has officially integrated the International Centre for Aroma Trade Studies (ICATS) into its new flagship educational brand: the IFEAT Academy.

Following IFEAT's acquisition of ICATS in early 2023, this relaunch marks a significant step in the digital and academic overhaul of our education programme. IFEAT Academy now serves as the centralised home for IFEAT's industry-standard professional development.

"The IFEAT Academy is one of the most significant successes of the Federation in recent years," says IFEAT Education Committee Chair, Ruben Francot. "It embodies IFEAT's commitment to knowledge, education and industry excellence, serving as a global reference point for companies and professionals who want to grow within the world of essential oils, aromas and fragrances."

IFEAT Academy courses operate through a bespoke, asynchronous remote learning platform. This allows professionals to study from any location without the need for live attendance or formal exams. All units are assignment-based, focusing on practical industry application. The courses are open to both IFEAT Members and non-Members globally.

There are numerous different routes that students can take – from the Full Diploma to the Flavourist or Fragrance

bundles. Or for those who wish to focus on a specific unit, all of the individual units can be taken independently!

"We are excited to launch our new Fragrance and Flavour Bundles for 2026," notes IFEAT's Education Officer, Sheila Russell. "We know how important it is to have flexible learning that fits your life, and these bundles, developed with industry experts, are a brilliant way to either start your journey or refresh your skills in the F&F sector."

IFEAT Academy has modernised the original coursework initially developed by industry legends Dr. Tony Curtis and David Williams. The curriculum now bridges the gap between traditional fragrance/flavourist skills and modern regulatory/technical demands.

"The launch of the IFEAT Academy represents an exciting new chapter for professional education in the aroma trades," says Lindsay Smith, IFEAT's Education Manager. "By building on the strong foundations of ICATS within the IFEAT Education portfolio, we are creating a modern, flexible global learning platform that supports both emerging and experienced professionals as the industry continues to thrive and innovate."

## IFEAT Academy is endorsed by the following organisations:



***"My experience with the IFEAT Academy has been very engaging so far. The programme feels very grounded in the realities of the aroma trades, and I appreciate how the modules present foundational concepts through an industry lens. The breadth of materials available through Pathwright has been incredibly helpful for building a more practical understanding and making connections across different topics. It's been a great way to build confidence as I continue developing in the field."***

**Meaghann Kral**



# NEW BUNDLES FOR 2026

To celebrate the launch of the IFEAT Academy, we're offering new students the chance to get a flavour (or a fragrance!) of the Full Diploma via our new unit bundles.

Each bundle comprises three of the 11 units that make up the Full Diploma in either the Flavour or Fragrance pathway – and with 20% off the combined unit price, at a rate of just £2,840 for IFEAT Members and £3,496 for Non-Members.

Build your expertise with our Fragrance and Flavour unit bundles. Study 100% online, at your own pace, wherever you are in the world.

## The Fragrance Bundle:

Explore the diverse range of natural derived materials available to perfumers. This unit covers sourcing, characteristics, and applications of naturally derived ingredients, enhancing your ability to create unique and captivating fragrances.



*Unit 8: Naturally Derived Materials for the Perfumer*



*Unit 9: Synthetically Produced Materials for the Perfumer*

Dive into the world of synthetically produced materials tailored for perfumery. Learn about the development, properties, and uses of synthetic ingredients, allowing you to craft complex and innovative scents.

Develop your skills in fragrance creation and evaluation. This unit covers the art and science of blending, assessing, and applying fragrances, ensuring products meet the highest standards of quality and appeal.



*Unit 12: Fragrance - Creation, Evaluation and Application*

## The Flavour Bundle:



*Unit 10: Naturally Derived Materials for the Flavourist*

Investigate the naturally derived materials essential for flavourists. This unit examines the extraction, properties, and applications of natural flavour ingredients, empowering you to create authentic and appealing flavours.

Uncover the potential of synthetic materials in flavour creation. This unit focuses on the synthesis, characteristics, and uses of artificial flavour compounds, providing the tools to produce consistent and novel taste experiences.



*Unit 11: Synthetically Produced Materials for the Flavourist*



*Unit 13: Flavour - Creation, Evaluation and Application*

Hone your expertise in flavour creation and assessment. Learn about the principles of flavour blending, sensory evaluation, and application techniques, enabling you to understand and design flavours that delight and satisfy consumers.

**Go to [ifeat.academy](https://ifeat.academy) to find out more and sign up today.**



19 - 23 OCTOBER

## The IFEAT 2026 Conference has moved to Bangkok!

We are pleased to announce that the IFEAT 2026 Conference will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from Monday 19 October to Friday 23 October 2026. In a departure from the traditional programme structure, the Welcome Reception will take place on Monday evening, followed by the Conference sessions from Tuesday 20 October to Friday 23 October.

The decision to relocate the Conference reflects a careful and forward-looking assessment of several important considerations, including enhanced global accessibility, streamlined visa processes, confirmed availability of the required dates, and the need to maintain an appropriate distance from regions currently affected by geopolitical conflict.

Bangkok, a vibrant and globally connected hub at the heart of the natural ingredients trade, provides an ideal setting for the IFEAT community to convene. Its strong connectivity, established industry presence, and dynamic business environment will support meaningful engagement, collaboration, and continued momentum for our sector



**Geemon Korah**  
Chairman, IFEAT

# Welcome from the Chair

Together we are not mere participants in our industry – we are its custodians, shaping its integrity and its future. Geemon Korah welcomes you to IFEATWORLD Issue 69.

My dear Members,

As the Chair of IFEAT, it is my privilege to pen this note. I trust the year has been good so far despite the uncertainties of geopolitics. I am a strong believer that what does not break us can only make us stronger. So if we are here, reading this, then it means we are stronger today than yesterday!

With this thought, I would like to focus my note on what IFEAT actually does, beyond the Conferences which you attend every year. As you are aware, IFEAT is run by a group of Directors, from all parts of the world, representing Members from their regions of nearly 75 countries. They are ably supported by a team of staff and consultants who make all things possible.

In this issue's welcome, you will find the details of each key Committee (chaired by one Director with other Directors sharing responsibilities in the Committee as well) and what we do through the year as an overview of IFEAT and our activities.



*IFEAT's Executive Committee steers the ship with pride, dedication and gusto.*

## WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

### Communications

Now chaired by Sergio Dávalos, following Sofia Lluch's excellent term as Chair, the Communications Committee (and Communications Coordinator Simon Frost) have been hard at work developing the new IFEAT website – a major upgrade to IFEAT's digital infrastructure and online membership experience.

In addition, they are working to keep Members up-to-date on the range of activities IFEAT is undertaking – whether that's our critical advocacy work, our ever-developing education programme or our sustainability and socio-economic initiatives.

With preparations for the 2026 Bangkok Conference well underway, many communication tasks are involved in making the Conference a success – not least delivering significant improvements to the Conference app.

And it's all with an eye on 2027, when IFEAT celebrates a major milestone in its 50th anniversary – the celebrations start now!



*The Tea Tree Oil Socio-Economic Report is available online and delivered in hard copy alongside this edition of IFEATWORLD.*

### Socio-Economic

With Eduardo Mattosso agreeing to continue as the Chair for one more term, it brings a great sense of continuity in our new initiatives. Together with Jisha Das in a supporting role, Socio-Economic is now providing significantly more value to our members.

- The Tea Tree Oil Socio-Economic Report is available online and provided in print to all Members alongside this edition of IFEATWORLD. Research for the Sandalwood report has begun.
- The Sustainability Awards 2026 are being refined, with partners, costings and structure in development.
- In partnership with Green Future Project, we are strengthening our Conference's sustainability framework, including carbon measurement and offsetting.
- The Sustainability section of the website is live, linking to the Berlin Conference offset via the Mahindra Solar Project; Bangkok options are under review.
- We are working with delegates and the IFEAT team to improve travel data collection to better manage the environmental impact of Conference attendance.

### Scientific

The Scientific Committee, currently chaired by Dr John Cavallo, is advancing two important projects: the Plant Protection Product Project and the EFEO-IFEAT Scientific Program. Following launches over the past years, the project has formally begun and is progressing steadily. To sustain this work, a dedicated fundraising campaign was launched last December (see page 17).

Alongside these scientific activities, the Scientific Committee is fully involved in the Federation's advocacy strategy. It closely monitors emerging regulatory developments, identifies potential industry challenges and ensures members are informed and represented in key policy discussions. John is ably supported by Francesca Perego, who joined IFEAT as Chief Scientific Officer last year. Sibel Erkilic Horsman has continued to work on the Plant Protection Project and we will see a webinar soon on this for our Members in mid-2026.



### Study Tour

The fully-booked Australia Study Tour took place from 28th February until 8th March, offering insights into the production and processing of major Australian essential oils including tea tree, lemon myrtle, eucalyptus, boronia, sandalwood, buddhawood, white cypress, peppermint, parsley and fennel and covering the Gold Coast, Byron Bay, Adelaide, Tasmania and Sydney. A full report on this unforgettable experience will be included in the next edition of IFEATWORLD.

Plans have been finalised for the Finland Caraway Focus Study Tour, which takes place in August, with registration having opened in late April. John Nechupadom will be stepping down as the Chair of the Study Tour Committee after a superb period in which Study Tours have become a fully professionally run outfit with the support from the meticulous Stephen Pisano and exuberant Divya Sara Mammen. The incoming Chair Zahra Osman Guelle will bring her own trademark style to the future of Study Tours.

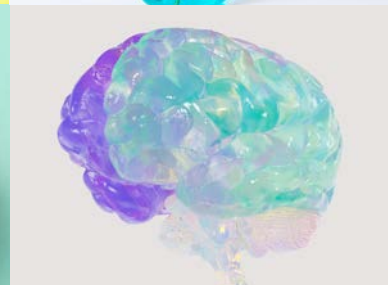
### Membership

At the time of writing, IFEAT has 768 Members, with 26 new Members joining since the Göteborg Conference. Thanks to Susumu Tominaga, who has chaired this Committee with his unique understated style, and the support of Louise Kapor, we have had a good growth in our membership over the last few years.

Since 1st January, Members have been requested to renew and pay their 2026 subscription in order for their membership to be activated and they can receive benefits and discounts. Renewal is to be done via the new IFEAT website, which was launched in November 2025 and includes an expanded and more informative Members' Directory.

It's important that Members renew their membership before registering for the Bangkok Conference, so they can book discounted delegate tickets and meeting rooms, exhibition booths and sponsorships at preferential rates.

# IFEAT ACADEMY



## Visit us at: [ifeat.academy](https://ifeat.academy)

### Education

The Education Committee, chaired by Ruben Francot, continues to expand and refine IFEAT's Education portfolio. Work is ongoing to enhance the e-learning platform, broaden Member access to resources, and increase global student engagement.

The Committee is prioritising marketing of the IFEAT Academy to strengthen recruitment and industry visibility. Academic partnerships and new outreach initiatives across the aroma trades are also being developed.

In addition, the Speaker Programme for the Bangkok Conference is well underway, supporting IFEAT's ambition to be a leading global provider of professional education in the sector. Our staff Education team of Lindsay Smith and Sheila Russell have been very supportive in their roles in this Committee.

### Finance

The Finance Committee, under the careful guidance of Henry Gill as Chair and Ronit Meier as Finance Manager, recently approved the IFEAT 2025 Management Accounts and 2026 Budget during the February Committee meetings. They are now assisted by Ajay Bansal, who joined in late 2025 as Bookkeeper.



### Trade

The Trade Committee, under the new Chairship of Ruben Francot and the support of Louise Kapor, focuses on identifying and developing commercial opportunities that support the Federation's sustainable growth.

The Committee has been very active in recent months with two main projects being researched, discussed and developed. Regular online calls have been held with external parties involved in, or approached for, these projects.

During the last Committee meeting in February, a decision was made to take the next steps with one project. The other project, handled by former Trade Committee Chair Alastair Hitchen, is also moving forward positively. A further two potential projects are in the pipeline and will be discussed at the next Trade Committee meeting in June, as IFEAT looks to expand its work, create tangible value for Members, and strengthen the role of IFEAT as a global industry platform to benefit the membership and the flavour and fragrance ingredients industry as a whole.

### Future Destinations

This is a key Committee that ensures your future Conferences are of the highest standard and set the benchmark in events, while also being the template for excellence in everything we do as an industry in our daily routines. We do not compromise on quality and service, promising and delivering a near-flawless event each time, just as we strive for in our business.

I have had the privilege as the Vice-Chair of IFEAT to have led this Committee for the last three years and the baton now goes to Alan Brown, who is the Vice-Chair of IFEAT. With Shaehzad Chaudhry as Events Manager, he has been instrumental in delivering on our goals repeatedly and consistently. The expectations our Members have set for our Conferences are high and we trust we have delivered.

## WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

As our Conferences have become bigger, it has necessitated a shift in our perspective on likely locations and venues. We now have to look at venues five to six years in advance, as our preferred dates towards the last quarter of the year are in high demand globally. We also may have to look beyond conference hotels and move to convention centres to accommodate our growing number of delegates. We have started plans for as far as 2032 already. We welcome your suggestions to make every Conference a better one than the year before.

### Advocacy

Over the course of 2025, the IFEAT Advocacy Group was closely involved in a range of EU legislative and regulatory discussions affecting the essential oils sector:

- IFEAT proactively developed a White Paper on Essentiality of Essential Oils in response to the European Commission's Essential Use Concept under the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability.
- The team contributed to a joint comment on the Omnibus VI where the associations stressed the need for a proposal that maintains consumer safety, supports innovation, and provides workable criteria and timelines for industry.
- IFEAT contributed to the targeted consultation launched in December 2025 by the European Commission as part of its evaluation of the Cosmetic Products Regulation (CPR).
- Contributed to joint comments regarding the draft amendment of Regulation (EU) 2023/915 as regards maximum levels of MOAH in food ingredients.

Current issues being addressed include, among others:

- Classification of Tea Tree Oil (TTO) - after the inclusion of TTO in the ATP24 Draft Delegated Act, IFEAT is in contact with other key stakeholders, monitoring further developments on this issue and working with other roleplayers to continue efforts to secure the original classification of TTO.

- p-cymene – IFEAT continues its defence of p-cymene through all upcoming meetings of the Competent Authorities on REACH and CLP implementation.

Thanks to Catherine Crowley for her continued contribution in this role which brings continuity and consistency.

I trust the above notes give you a fair idea of what we as IFEAT do for our Members. While some may only see and experience the Conferences, IFEAT works round the clock on much more throughout the year between Conferences. All the Directors of IFEAT work *pro-bono* and also travel to each Committee meeting (of which we have three every year) in our own time and money. I thank each and every one of my fellow Directors, who continue to give this time and effort to make our industry a better one than when we found it.

Last but not the least, a special word of gratitude to Company Secretary Louise Kapor, who has held fort and kept the links strong in everything we do.

I thank every Member of IFEAT for your support and confidence in us as we grow together.

Our strength lies not only in what we do, but in what we do *together* – across borders, across disciplines and across generations. Together we are not mere participants in our industry – we are its custodians, shaping its integrity and its future. With your continued engagement and support, IFEAT's next chapter will be defined not by the change around us, but by the standards we set. Every Committee, every contribution, every voice strengthens the fabric of our Federation.

The true value of IFEAT lies not only in what we accomplish, but in the collective responsibility we embrace. As stewards of a global industry, our work today defines the credibility, sustainability and relevance of tomorrow.

Warm regards,

**Geemon Korah**  
Chairman, IFEAT





# Interview: Robby Gunawan

Simon Frost speaks to Robby Gunawan, co-Chair of the IFEAT 2026 Bangkok Conference, about the logistical feat of relocating, the enduring relevance of this year's theme, and his journey from first-time delegate to Conference co-Chair.

## What was the first IFEAT Conference you attended?

I remember it very well – it was Cape Town in 2006. My first impression was that it was a very warm Conference – I met a lot of people who were passionate about the business and wanted to discuss it in depth. It was a much smaller Conference compared to now, but it was a beautiful venue, and we were able to see the incredible landscape of South Africa. It was a very eye-opening Conference for me, discovering this close-knit community with a shared passion.

## Tell us a little about your role within the IFEAT Committees since joining the EC in 2024.

I joined the Executive Committee towards the end of 2024 at that year's Bangkok Conference, and at the beginning of 2025 I was invited to be involved in the Scientific Committee, of which I became the Vice Chair in mid-2025. To my surprise, I was asked whether I'd like to co-chair the Conference for 2026 – I guess it was easiest to twist the arm of somebody new! Alastair Hitchen was kind enough to step in as the co-Chair. So, from mid-2025 until early 2026, Alastair and I were busy preparing for the Abu Dhabi Conference. And then we were even busier preparing for the Bangkok Conference!

## Tell us about the process of switching locations from Abu Dhabi to Bangkok.

As the situation in the region escalated, the Executive Committee started discussing the fate of the Abu Dhabi Conference, and it soon became clear that we would have to move the Conference to a new location. We knew that we had to work quickly, and we held an emergency meeting of the EC to discuss the different options, and then vote on a venue. At such a late stage, there were very few realistic options

available, but our Events Manager, Shaehzad Chaudhry, had diligently explored more than 20 alternative venues in depth, and presented them all to us.

Bangkok was clearly the leading option for us – the incredible success and popularity of the 2024 Conference gave us great confidence in the location, and as it was a very recent memory for us and the team, it was much more achievable logistically in such a short timeframe. The venue responded so



Robby presented the IFEAT Medal Lecture in 2024.



*A view of the iconic Wat Arun temple can be enjoyed while eating at one of Robby's favourite restaurants – The Deck by Arun Residence.*

positively regarding our request. We also had to consider the ease of travel and visa arrangements for our global delegates at such short notice. We had to adjust the dates slightly from the original plan, but that was all – the Bangkok option required the least compromises of any of the options available to us, and of course we know it is an incredible destination and a venue that our delegates would be more than happy to return to.

**As someone deeply rooted in Southeast Asia and very familiar with Bangkok, are there any local experiences that you would recommend delegates try?**

There are two. The first one is a small restaurant in front of the Wat Arun temple. It is called The Deck by Arun Residence, and it's a very good Thai food restaurant, with a view of the temple across the river during sunset. It's amazing – especially in the evening when it is lit up. And it serves very good Thai Food to accompany the experience. So, that's number one on my list.

Secondly, an experience for everybody that goes to Bangkok should be the Jim Thompson House Museum. It's so interesting to see the origin of that brand and the development of Thai silks – just amazing.

**How would you describe your approach to co-Chairing the Conference?**

I tend not to be overly meticulous about the details. I try to make sure that, big-picture wise, we are moving along. We have limited time, but we have a very capable and hardworking team to support us, be that the IFEAT Staff and Consultants team or the EC members – I know I can count on their help, whether that's in designing the speaker programme or helping out with regard to communication, and so on. So far we are moving along nicely with everything that we need to do. Of course, we are playing catch-up, but it is going very well – I have no doubt that we will prepare a great Conference.

**The theme of this year's Conference is Tradition, Resilience and Innovation. Could you expand on that idea and why it was chosen?**

Our industry is deeply rooted in tradition, yet we must constantly innovate to be resilient and relevant in a world that is changing fast. We chose the theme for Abu Dhabi, but we feel it is still very fitting with the current situations that we are facing. Our industry faces tremendous challenges – many beyond our control – be it the geopolitical situation, supply chain issues, high energy prices, or weather and global climate change.

There are so many innovations happening around us that can help to keep our industry as dynamic as it is now, but also more resilient for the future. AI, for example, is going to have

an increasing role in creation, as well as managing other factors in the supply chain, manufacturing efficiencies, and so on.

**Are there any particular sessions or special events that you're looking forward to during the Conference?**

I'm really looking forward to the IFEAT Medal Lecture from my co-Chair, Alastair Hitchen. There is a lot to learn from Alastair and his experience looking at the evolution of the industry, and understanding how family businesses can be elevated to the highest levels. There are many other speakers that I think will be very interesting, and we are still busy putting together that programme. There is a fine fragrance workshop that Isabelle Ferrand from Cinqmesens will be running on the Tuesday that I am particularly interested in, and the Wednesday workshop about family business succession, too. Kajsa Haag, who hosted last year's panel on the same topic, is returning to facilitate this new workshop, as well as a family business panel session on the Thursday.

**Fast-forward to the Closing Banquet in Bangkok – what would you like to look back on and say, "This Conference was a success"?**

If we reach that Closing Banquet and see that the delegates have enjoyed the same level of IFEAT Conference experience that we have provided in the



*Multicoloured silks in the Jim Thompson House Museum.*

last few years, I will be very happy. I'm sure that will happen – it's so good to see the resilience and the passion of all the teams that are working together to make this Conference a success.

### **For people that are new to the industry or to IFEAT – what can they expect from an IFEAT Conference?**

IFEAT places huge importance on welcoming newcomers by creating environments that feel both accessible and familiar. One example of this is the Young IFEATians event, which is an initiative specifically tailored for those just entering the field, helping to foster connections with peers and mentors to last them throughout their careers.

I believe it is a unique Conference and community. It has a way of drawing you in – once you experience it, you never want to leave because it feels like home. Despite our global growth, we haven't lost sight of the human element. In an era of scale, the personal connections and communication between stakeholders remain our most vital assets. We are committed to preserving that sense of community, ensuring that even as we expand, the industry remains a place where people feel they truly belong.

### **What advice would you give to a young professional who's just starting out in the flavour and fragrance industry?**

Always be open minded and willing to learn new things, and find a few mentors outside of your organisation. I'm very grateful to have found a few mentors in this industry, outside of my company, that I have been able to ask advice and learn from throughout my career – and they have become friends, too.



*The Jim Thompson House is Robby's must-see while in Bangkok.*



*With arrangements already well underway, Robby and Co-Chair Alastair Hitchen announced the Abu Dhabi Conference in Göteborg last year.*



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LEADERS IN ESSENCE





# Advocacy Bulletin #2

Rebecca Lentini updates on regulatory matters and work carried out by NOVE and the IFEAT Advocacy Group.

## Introduction

The past five months have seen significant developments across the EU chemicals landscape, from legislative files advancing in the policy process to substances moving forward in classification procedures. Throughout this period, the IFEAT Advocacy Group has been actively engaged, ensuring that the essential oils sector and its interests are represented, understood and taken into account across European regulatory discussions.

This edition of IFEAT's Advocacy Bulletin provides updates on the Group's ongoing work on Omnibus VI, the ECHA Regulation, recent REACH and CLH discussions at CARACAL, and the 2026 European Industry Summit.



## EFEO IFEAT SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

The implementation of the EFEO-IFEAT Scientific Program is progressing in parallel with the fundraising campaign.

On 16 April, representatives of the core team (Jonathan Bonello, Jocelyne Kurtz and Charles Laroche) met with the European Commission (DG GROW and DG ENV), together with representatives of the Joint Research Centre (JRC), to **define the mandate to be entrusted to the JRC** in the context of the **scientific report** to be published by the European Commission by the end of 2029.

**This meeting represents a key milestone** to clarify the scope and framework of the report, which aims to support the justification of the derogation granted to plant extracts under the ongoing revision of the CLP Regulation.

### CARACAL 56 Key Regulatory Discussions for the Essential Oils Sector

The **56th CARACAL meeting**, held on **27–28 January 2026**, addressed a number of regulatory files of direct relevance to the essential oils sector under the **CLP Regulation and REACH**. CARACAL, the European Commission's expert

group where Member States and stakeholders discuss the development and implementation of the Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation (CLP) and REACH, provided valuable insights into the European Commission's priorities for the 2024–2029 mandate.

### 1. CLH Developments – Reprotoxicity Trends and Methodological Issues

**ECHA** presented an update on trends in **reprotoxicity classifications**, noting a significant increase in activity. Based on recent data, around 73% of classifications confirm the initial submission from a Member State, 17% lead to a more severe outcome, and 10% to a less severe one. He recalled that animal studies are considered relevant for humans by default, and that **weight of evidence**, together with expert judgement, plays a defined role in RAC assessments.

Industry representatives raised concerns regarding **methodological aspects**, notably the use of very high experimental doses leading to outcomes that may not reflect realistic exposure. IFRA called on the European Commission to address these issues, while EFEO, supported by Cefic, Cosmetics Europe and CropLife Europe, urged ECHA and RAC to avoid non-relevant experimental extremes that could result in over-classification. Mr Ryan concluded by reaffirming ECHA's willingness to engage in **constructive dialogue** with industry.

### 2. Tea Tree Oil (TTO) – ATP 24

Discussions on **tea tree oil (TTO)** took place in the context of **ATP 24**, which updates Annex VI of the CLP Regulation with RAC opinions adopted in 2024. The European Commission reported on comments received during the **WTO TBT consultation**, including from Australia, South Africa, Israel,

the United States, and China, all requesting additional time for the generation of further scientific evidence.

During the meeting, **Martijn van Velthoven (EuForum)**, on behalf of **Stockton**, reiterated the request for postponement. Tim Valentiner, consultant to **ATTIA**, presented a **research roadmap** outlining studies expected to be delivered within **15 months**, with the aim of addressing uncertainties identified by RAC.



The European Commission is now expected to adopt **ATP 24 by April 2026**, including TTO.

A key outcome of industry engagement, including by IFEAT and EFEO, was the confirmation that the **classification will be limited to essential oil only**.

## CARACAL 57 – p-Cymene and ATP25

On 18 March 2026, the 57th CARACAL meeting was held, with discussions focused exclusively on the CLP Regulation. A central item on the agenda was the **25th Adaptation to Technical Progress (ATP25)**, through which Member State Competent Authorities and stakeholders reviewed the **planned update of Annex VI of CLP** to incorporate harmonised classifications based on opinions adopted by ECHA's Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) in 2025.

The RAC opinion on **p-cymene** proposing a classification as Repr. Category 1B was not discussed specifically.

The meeting also included an in-depth exchange on the proposed **additivity rule**. In this context, **IFEAT, with EFEO and others, submitted its position papers on the reprotoxicity and additivity principles**. However, the Competent Authorities did not reach any final agreement on whether to streamline the use of the additivity principle when assessing the classification of substances at ECHA level.

The **topic will be further discussed at the upcoming CARACAL meeting taking place on 1-2 July**. Further updates regarding the potential revision of REACH are also expected in this meeting.

## Cosmetics Working Group – Cosmetic Use of TTO

On 13 March 2026, the European Commission's Cosmetics Working Group met to discuss the state of play regarding the **harmonised classification of Tea Tree Oil (TTO)** and its implications for use in cosmetic products.

Following the **positive SCCS opinion**, industry representatives - CEHTRA, with support from EFEO - presented arguments addressing the **two remaining criteria: food safety and the absence of viable alternatives**. While the food safety arguments were considered relatively robust, the **demonstration of the absence of alternatives was deemed insufficient** by the European Commission and Member States. This position is further supported by external analyses, including a report by the French Agency ANSES.

The European Commission has therefore **called for a more substantiated and comprehensive submission**, including a clear timeline. **Industry has committed to providing additional data by 30 April** and is actively coordinating efforts, including through engagement with external experts.

The Commission indicated its intention to **conclude discussions at the next Working Group meeting on 15 June**. Should the process proceed as expected, this could lead to a ban of TTO in cosmetic products, with application foreseen from February 2027, followed by the relevant transition periods under the Cosmetic Products Regulation.

## Omnibus VI – Shaping the Debate in the European Parliament

The **European Parliament's ENVI and IMCO committees have approved the Omnibus package on chemicals, covering in particular the CLP Regulation, the Cosmetic Products Regulation (CPR), and the Fertilisers Regulation**. This vote follows several months of intense political discussions, during which the European Parliament broadly supported the European Commission's simplification approach while introducing clarifications to ensure workability for industry. **Overall, the outcome can be considered relatively balanced**.

The legislative process formally started with the publication of the draft report by the Parliament's rapporteurs in January 2026. This was followed by political debates across groups, focusing on how to strike the right balance between simplification, competitiveness, and a high level of health and environmental protection. Cosmetics emerged as a particularly sensitive area, notably regarding the treatment of CMR substances, transition periods, and derogation criteria. The debate was further enriched by stakeholder engagement, including a discussion hosted in the European Parliament in February, where industry representatives highlighted the importance of science-based and proportionate solutions for natural substances such as essential oils.

Amendments tabled in early February revealed diverging political views. While some groups (S&D, Renew, The Left, Greens/EFA) pushed for stricter approaches, such as limiting exemptions, shortening transition periods, or tightening derogation criteria, others (EPP, ECR) supported a more risk-based and case-by-case approach. Following negotiations, a compromise was reached ahead of the committee vote, reflecting a more pragmatic balance between these positions.

**For the essential oils sector**, several key elements emerge from the adopted text. Under CLP, a more favourable transition period of **18 months** has been **agreed for re-labelling and re-packaging in cases of stricter self-classification**, compared to 6 months in the Commission proposal and 12 months in the Council position.

Regarding cosmetics, **Article 15(6), covering plant extracts (including essential oils), has been maintained with only minor adjustments, an important and positive outcome**, confirming that such substances are not automatically prohibited solely due to the presence of a classified constituent. At the same time, **Article 15(5)** has been removed, meaning that considerations related to inhalation and ingestion exposure will now be systematically addressed within SCCS dossiers, aligning the Parliament's position with that of the Council.

**The criteria for demonstrating the absence of alternatives**

have been slightly revised but remain workable overall.

In addition, the European Commission is considering establishing a **dedicated expert subgroup on alternatives**.

The Parliament has also introduced a more flexible system of transition periods, tailored to different regulatory scenarios and distinguishing between placing products on the market and making them available, thereby better reflecting operational realities.

Looking ahead, the file will be voted in plenary on **29 April**, with a broad majority expected. In parallel, discussions with Member States have already started in preparation for trilogue negotiations, expected to begin in early May. The objective is to reach a final agreement with the Council and the Commission by the end of June under the Cypriot Presidency.

IFEAT, together with EFEO and aligned stakeholders, will continue to actively engage with policymakers throughout the next stages of the process to ensure that the final outcome remains science-based, proportionate, and supportive of the essential oils sector.

### ECHA Regulation – Defending Science-Based Decision-Making

On 15 April, the European Parliament's ENVI Committee approved the proposed ECHA Regulation. The proposal aims to **update ECHA's mandate** and governance in light of its expanding responsibilities.

At this stage, and in line with the Council's position, a broad political support for reinforcing ECHA's role and establishing a more coherent EU scientific assessment framework has been reached.

With regards to the **chairperson of the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS)** within ECHA, the ENVI committee has reverted to the European Commission's original proposal, which would see an **employee of ECHA as chairperson**.

In terms of next steps, plenary vote is expected on 28 April in plenary.

### Cosmetic Products Regulation – IFEAT Contributes to the EU Evaluation

As part of its **Better Regulation agenda**, in December 2025, the European Commission launched a **targeted consultation** to support the evaluation of the **Cosmetic Products Regulation (CPR)**, to which IFEAT participated. The evaluation aimed at assessing whether the Regulation remained fit for purpose, continued to protect consumer health, and supported the proper functioning of the internal market in light of scientific, technological and market developments.

In its contribution, **IFEAT highlighted several key points**, including the need to properly recognise **Natural Complex Substances (NCSs)**, such as plant extracts and essential oils, in line with their treatment under the **CLP Regulation**. IFEAT also stressed the importance of **SCCS safety assessments** in demonstrating the safe use of ingredients in cosmetic products, and raised concerns about the growing number of recognised allergens and the resulting **labelling challenges**, supporting greater use of **digital labelling** to avoid confusing or misleading consumers. In addition, IFEAT underlined that the sector is largely composed of **SMEs, micro-enterprises and farmers**, often family-owned businesses with limited resources, for whom cumulative regulatory costs across CPR, REACH and CLP can create significant compliance challenges. Finally, representatives of IFEAT's Advocacy Group participated at the targeted **CPR Evaluation Workshop** that took place on 13 March, where they were consulted on their views on the file's current effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and added value.

The consultants' final report is expected in **Q2 2026**, followed by a formal **evaluation of the CPR** to be included in the Commission Work Programme in **Q4 2026**. This evaluation may serve as the basis for a future legislative proposal on the revision of the CPR, currently expected to be adopted by the European Commission in **2027**.

### Looking Ahead

Through this work, the IFEAT Advocacy Group continues to position IFEAT as a credible and constructive interlocutor for the essential oils sector. By bringing together scientific expertise, sector knowledge and targeted engagement with policymakers, the Group contributes to shaping regulatory discussions that recognise both the **importance of safety and the value of sustainable, natural products**.

As a reminder, this Advocacy Bulletin will be published on a quarterly basis to keep IFEAT members informed of ongoing developments, highlight opportunities for engagement, and ensure the membership remains closely connected to policy discussions that influence the future of the sector.



## SUPPORT THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM



# An urgent call for support of the EFEO-IFEAT Scientific Program to protect our industry.

By 11 December 2029, the EU Commission will present a scientific report to the European Parliament and Council on the examination of information regarding More than One Constituent Substances (MOCS) ingredients extracted from plants.

We must demonstrate the differences in the properties of whole essential oils and their individual constituents, to establish that essential oils are unique, complex substances (not formulated mixtures), which differ both chemically and functionally from deliberately formulated mixtures of isolated components. In short, we must demonstrate that the MOCS approach for classification is not appropriate for essential oils.

And it's important that we act now. If we miss the opportunity to support the Commission in preparing a science-based report to provide the foundation for the derogation, the current classification of plant extracts – including essential oils – could change dramatically. It could result in significant consequences for their future use in consumer products, and considerable negative impact on your businesses and customers.

Think about what a hazardous label declaration would mean for the essential oils you trade in. We are working to prevent this scenario, and we need your support.

The purpose of the EFEO-IFEAT Scientific Program is to provide robust scientific evidence to accompany the EU Commission's review of Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) rules – as amended by Article 54a, Regulation EC No 1272/2008, derogation for plant extracts, published 20 November 2024.

The future of essential oils is at stake.

**Will you support the EFEO-IFEAT Scientific Program? Take a look at the support and recognition levels, and get in touch at [sciprogram.funding@nove.eu](mailto:sciprogram.funding@nove.eu) if you'd like to discuss further.**

### RECOGNITION LEVELS:

Level	Total Pledge	You Receive
Special Recognition	€120,000 and over	Dedicated Press Release announcing your support of the project (amount can be disclosed or kept private)  Recognition plaque acknowledging your exceptional contribution to the industry  Recognition during IFEAT & EFEO 2026 & 2027 Conferences  PLUS all Gold Sponsor benefits
Gold Sponsor	€60,000	Prominent positioning in Scientific Program communications, including : - IFEATWORLD articles (quarterly) - EFEO quarterly newsletter - Scientific Program webpage - Social media posts (LinkedIn, Instagram)  Logo placed and scaled prominently in Scientific Program promotional materials at IFEAT & IFEAT Conferences  A framed certificate recognising your significant support for the industry
Silver Sponsor	€30,000	Mid-level logo placement in Scientific Program promotional materials at IFEAT & EFEO Annual Conferences, in IFEATWORLD & EFEO Newsletter and across digital platforms.  A certificate recognising your support for the industry.
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Consortium Member and all levels above	€5,000	Direct access to early insights being generated for the 2029 defence.

### The Scientific Program's supporters include:





## IFEAT's Sustainability Journey

Jisha Das, IFEAT's Socio-Economic Coordinator, explores how the Federation is moving from ambition to action by embedding measurable sustainability and social responsibility into its global operations.

It was a perfect summer's day, and IFEAT Committee meetings were in full flow. Around the table, an active discussion was underway. How do we become more sustainable, not only as an organisation, but as a community of members, businesses and industry leaders?

How could IFEAT make its Conferences more sustainable? Could event materials be reduced? Could travel emissions be measured more accurately? What responsibility did IFEAT have as a global organisation – and what responsibility does the wider flavour and fragrance industry share?

The more the questions were discussed, the larger the issue seemed to become. Sustainability is not a tidy problem with a singular solution. It touches travel, food, procurement, energy, materials, communication, waste, transparency, member expectations and long-established ways of working. Some actions may appear simple but prove complex in practice. Others may require a shift in habits, budgets, planning or expectations.

There was concern that small actions might seem tokenistic, while larger actions could be difficult, expensive, unpopular, or hard to measure. And then came a simple realisation: we have to start somewhere.

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For organisations hosting global conferences, exhibitions or large-scale gatherings, the question is no longer whether sustainability should be addressed, but how to do so in a rigorous, data-driven and transparent manner. For IFEAT, this has meant looking closely at the environmental footprint of our Annual Conferences and asking how these events can become more responsible over time.

The process has not been about claiming perfection. Rather, it has been about starting with the right questions, gathering reliable information, learning from the data, and taking action where possible. IFEAT has been working with Green Future Project to measure, understand and address the environmental footprint associated with its Annual Conferences, while also developing a longer-term approach to sustainability.

### Establishing a Baseline in Berlin

IFEAT's first step in formally assessing the carbon footprint of its Annual Conference came in Berlin in 2023. This marked an important move from discussion to structured action. Before an organisation can reduce its environmental impact in a meaningful way, it must first understand where that impact comes from.



The assessment was carried out using Green Future Project's Carbon Footprint Software, helping IFEAT to establish a baseline for understanding the environmental impact of its conference activities. To address the unavoidable emissions associated with the Berlin Conference, IFEAT supported the **Mahindra Solar Project** in India through Verra-certified carbon credits.

The Mahindra Solar Project is a clean energy initiative that contributes to reducing dependence on fossil-fuel-based energy in one of the world's fastest-growing economies. By supporting this project, IFEAT contributed to a renewable energy initiative in a country where the transition to cleaner power remains an important part of climate action.



*The Mahindra Solar Project is a clean energy initiative that contributes to reducing dependence on fossil-fuel-based energy in one of the world's fastest-growing economies.*

Just as importantly, the Berlin assessment gave IFEAT a clearer understanding of how event-related emissions can be measured and managed. It also helped establish transparency as a key part of the process. IFEAT's carbon offsetting initiatives are publicly accessible through the IFEAT website, allowing stakeholders to explore the projects supported and understand the impact created.

### Continuing the Journey in Bangkok

Building on the lessons learned from Berlin, IFEAT continued to strengthen its approach to carbon footprint assessment and event-related sustainability through the 2024 Bangkok Conference cycle.



For the 2024 Bangkok Conference, IFEAT supported the **Mila Rano – Safe Water Access for Madagascar** project. Through this initiative, IFEAT funded verified carbon credits to offset the emissions associated with the Conference.

The Mila Rano project is especially meaningful because it brings together climate action and socio-economic impact. The project supports access to safe drinking water in Madagascar, helping reduce the need for households to boil water using firewood or charcoal. In doing so, it helps lower emissions associated with biomass combustion while also addressing a basic community need.

The social dimension is equally important. Access to safe water can reduce the burden placed on women and children, who are often most affected by water collection responsibilities and water-related health risks. In many communities, the time spent collecting water can affect education, livelihoods, health and household wellbeing. A project that improves access to safe water therefore has benefits that extend far beyond carbon offsetting.

The certificate also records the project's alignment with several UN Sustainable Development Goals, including No Poverty, Gender Equality, Clean Water and Sanitation, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Climate Action, and Life on Land.

For IFEAT, this makes the Bangkok offsetting initiative

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particularly relevant. It reflects the Federation's growing interest in sustainability projects that connect environmental responsibility with people, livelihoods and communities. Climate action and socio-economic impact are not separate conversations. Increasingly, they must be understood together.



*The Mila Rano project supports access to safe drinking water in Madagascar.*

### Building internal capacity in Göteborg



*Lagom är bäst – the right amount is best. Conference Chair Zahra Osman Guelle introduced the IFEAT 2025 Göteborg Conference with a special focus on sustainability.*

With the 2025 Göteborg Conference, IFEAT's sustainability journey entered a new phase. Green Future Project began training IFEAT's Executive Committee and internal staff to use the same carbon footprint software applied to previous assessments, enabling the Federation to progressively take the lead in managing future assessments independently.

This represents an important move towards internal capability – by developing the knowledge and confidence to manage future assessments more independently, IFEAT is strengthening the long-term continuity of its sustainability work.

Data collection for the Göteborg Conference has been completed and is currently being processed and consolidated. Once assessed, this data will help to identify the main sources of emissions and highlight areas where meaningful reductions can be considered in future conference planning.

This growing internal capacity is essential. Sustainability cannot remain an external exercise or a once-a-year report. It needs to become part of planning, procurement, communication, decision-making and Member engagement. By learning to measure its own footprint more consistently, IFEAT is building the tools needed to ask better questions and make more informed choices.

### Towards a Wider IFEAT Sustainability Approach

Carbon footprint measurement and offsetting are important parts of IFEAT's work, but they are not the full picture. IFEAT is also working towards a broader and more structured sustainability approach for the organisation.

This includes the development of an **IFEAT Sustainability Policy**, which is expected to be unveiled later this year. The policy will help provide a clearer framework for IFEAT's sustainability priorities, decision-making and future actions. It will also support a more consistent approach across areas such as events, communications, procurement, partnerships and Member engagement.

This work includes looking at how future events are planned, how sustainability considerations can be embedded into decision-making, and how Members can be encouraged to engage with responsible practices. It also includes reviewing areas such as logistics, event materials, food choices, energy use, waste, communications and procurement.

There will not be one perfect answer. Some changes may be straightforward. Others may require consultation, adjustment and gradual implementation. The important thing is that the work continues, supported by credible data and a willingness to improve.

Sustainability is most effective when it is treated not as a single campaign, but as a way of working. For IFEAT, the journey is still developing, but the direction is clear: to make its global events more responsible, more transparent and more aligned with the environmental and socio-economic challenges facing the industry.

### Sustainability Awards: Recognising Action Across the Industry

IFEAT is also preparing to open applications for the next edition of the IFEAT Sustainability Awards. Building on the first edition, the awards will once again be run through an independent process, separate from IFEAT's internal decision-making, and managed by Quantis.

This independence is important. It helps ensure that the awards process is credible, transparent and robust. The aim is to recognise meaningful work from across the industry, while ensuring that applications are reviewed through a structured and professional evaluation process.

Quantis is a science-driven environmental sustainability consultancy. For the first IFEAT Sustainability Awards, Quantis led the complete design and delivery of the awards, from developing the methodology to coordinating stakeholders, facilitating an expert panel deliberation and supporting the final ceremony in Göteborg.

The first edition was designed to highlight best practices across the flavour and fragrance industry and position the sector as a driver of positive change. Quantis developed a scientific scoring framework built around four main pillars: environmental impact, socio-economic benefits, scalability and replicability, and collaboration. Each project was

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evaluated using a maturity scale, with separate categories for small and large companies to ensure fairness.

For IFEAT, working with an independent sustainability partner strengthens the awards process and ensures that the evaluation goes beyond general claims. The awards will consider both socio-economic impact and climate action, reflecting the understanding that sustainability cannot be separated from people, communities, livelihoods and ecosystems.

Projects may demonstrate impact in many ways. Some may focus on reducing emissions or improving resource efficiency. Others may support biodiversity, strengthen farmer livelihoods, empower women, improve working conditions, reduce waste, support communities, or create more resilient supply chains.

This next edition also promises to be an exciting opportunity for dialogue. IFEAT plans to include a project spotlight element, where shortlisted applicants can speak about their projects, share lessons, inspire others and encourage conversation across the industry.

This is important because sustainability should not remain hidden in reports, forms or internal discussions. It should be visible, shared and discussed. By creating a platform for shortlisted projects, IFEAT can help bring practical examples to the wider flavour and fragrance community and encourage learning across companies, regions and supply chains.



### Moving Forward

IFEAT's sustainability journey is still evolving. It began with the recognition that responsible action must be based on understanding, and that understanding begins with measurement.

From Berlin to Bangkok to Göteborg, IFEAT has taken steps to measure event-related emissions, support verified offsetting projects, build internal knowledge and develop a more structured approach to sustainable events. Alongside this, the Sustainability Awards are creating space to recognise and amplify industry-led action.

The work ahead will require patience, consistency and openness. Some decisions will be easy. Others will involve discussion and compromise. But the direction is important.

A sustainable future is not created through one grand gesture. They are built through steady measurement, transparent reporting, practical improvements, credible partnerships and the willingness to keep learning.

IFEAT has started this journey, and the work continues. Its success will also depend on the active engagement of IFEAT Members, whose participation, ideas and responses will help shape the next stage of this work. Stronger participation in surveys, more applications to the Sustainability Awards, and active responses to future calls to action will all be essential in building a more informed, collaborative and impactful sustainability journey for the wider flavour and fragrance industry.



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We supply Provenance and plant based flavours suitable for food, beverage and nutrition applications, helping customers elevate their products through quality tasting flavours.

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Arethia represents an international group of companies operating within the flavour and fragrance industry.

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Lavender oil producer with a full production cycle based in Bulgaria, dedicated to high-quality essential oil production from cultivation and harvesting to distillation.

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Taru Wangi supplies premium Indonesian essential oils, sourced directly from farmers with a focus on quality, traceability, ethical practices, and supply for global partners.

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Grupo Limones Piuranos SAC is a Peruvian company dedicated to the crop, production, commercialisation and export of fresh limes (variety Key and Persian), distilled and cold.

## Shaanxi Hongda Flavor Technology Co., Ltd

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Hongda Flavor is a professional manufacturer of Sichuan pepper from China. We supply raw material, ground powder, CO2 extracted essential oils and oleoresin.

## Roots Middle East

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Roots Middle East is a leading agricultural company based in Lebanon, specialised in aromatic herbs and trees plantation, distillation and essential oils production.

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Seluz is Türkiye's largest fragrance producer and one of the world's fastest-growing fragrance and flavour companies that positions itself as a global partner shaping the future of fragrance and flavour creation.

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We are a leading biotech startup redefining flavours and fragrances through sustainable fermentation, creating high-quality, nature-identical ingredients for global brands.

### SIYOMICRO

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- Recognition within the F&F industry
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- And more!





# Socio-Economic Report on Tea Tree Oil 2026

by Jisha Das & Peter Greenhalgh

## Read the Tea Tree Oil Socio-Economic Report with this issue!

Tea tree oil is entering a period of significant transition. Heightened scientific scrutiny, evolving regulatory frameworks and shifting market expectations are reshaping how this essential oil is assessed, traded and positioned globally.

IFEAT's new Tea Tree Oil Socio-Economic Report brings together the scientific foundations, market dynamics and socio-economic dimensions underpinning global production.

The complete report is available in the dedicated supplement accompanying this issue.

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