



**ESTP**  research

European Society of Tattoo and Pigment Research

**Open Letter to the Tattoo Community**

**December 2016**

About 20 years ago I started first experiments with tattoo inks without knowing the destination. Therefore I was really delighted that I could join a small group that established the European Society of Tattoo Pigment Research (ESTP) in 2013. It is the first and only society in this vein worldwide.

Long before ESTP was established national and EU authorities started to regulate tattooing. This process has been running for many years and appears to be rather longwinded.

It is a major goal of ESTP to improve the safety of tattooing but also to achieve a fair regulation of tattoo inks for all competitors in the field. ESTP may act as independent intermediary between authorities on one hand, and companies or tattooists on the other hand. In this context, the ECTP congress plays the role of an important platform where people from industry, science, medicine and authorities can discuss and exchange information, face to face. In Regensburg we have different new topics as follows.

At present we have already different tattoo regulations in different countries. EU authorities currently investigate which regulation path could be used for tattoo inks. The process is governed by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). Once regulated, tattoo inks imported to EU will face the same rules regardless the country from where the inks will be imported (United States, Canada, China or elsewhere).

ESTP invited ECHA to present the running process of the EU tattoo regulation. We are delighted that key persons of ECHA accepted this invitation from ESTP to come to Regensburg and you will have the opportunity to discuss with them. We have reserved plenty of time for presentations and discussion.

ESTP is involved in the process of CEN 435 that will enable the development of a European Standard related to the hygienic performance of tattooing including aspects related to the job specification, training, personal hygiene, aftercare, facilities as well as instructions for cleaning and disinfection of equipment.

ESTP is involved in scientific investigations regarding tattooing and ESTP is consistently reviewing scientific outcomes of studies worldwide. Hard facts of such investigations foster safe tattooing and may reduce prejudices.

We are still a small society. A small group of committed people is working for the society and the next congress in Regensburg on a non-profit basis. We aim to run the congress at the least possible costs. However, we need your membership, your participation and your support to organize and to fund such a congress and hence to keep the platform for the tattoo community.

The more you approach us, the more you support us, the better we can achieve together our goals of safe tattooing and fair regulations. Please do not hesitate to contact me or someone in the society for discussion.

I should be very pleased to see you in Regensburg 2017!

Kind regards, Prof. Wolfgang Bäumlér

Congress President of ECTP 2017 in Regensburg

Further information: [www.estpresearch.org](http://www.estpresearch.org),

Board members in the society: Chairman Jørgen Serup, MD, Vice-chairman Nicolas Kluger,  
Treasurer Wolfgang Bäumlér, Board member Christa De Cuyper

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> European Congress on Tattoo and Pigments Research (ECTP 2017) takes place in  
Regensburg, Germany on March 28th – 30th 2017.**

More information and registration can be found at [www.ectp2017.org](http://www.ectp2017.org)