

MONTHLY JULY/AUGUST 92 - N° 340 - 750 FF

EUROPE AND FRANCE IN A WORLDWIDE INDUSTRY

**SPECIAL REPORT**

CHEMICAL PLANTS IN FRANCE: THE REGIONS DISPLAYED

THE CHIEF SUPPLIERS OF THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

# INFORMATIONS CHIMIE

LE PREMIER JOURNAL FRANÇAIS DE LA CHIMIE

ISSN : 0020-045



**elf atochem**  
**ATO**

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New York - NY 10001  
Tél. (1.212) 594.3841  
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**PRINTING:**

Guy Brielles

**MARKETING PROMOTION:**

Gisèle Carpena

**ACCOUNTING:**

Monique Goubé



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**Others publications:**

- Revue Générale des Caoutchoucs et Plastiques
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(Buyers Guide for the Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industry)
- Guide de la transformation des matières plastiques  
(The Plastics and Rubbers Converting Guide)

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### THE FRENCH CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

## The pleasant surprise of 1991

With a growth of 3% and a surplus of 24 billion Francs on the balance of trade the French chemical industry performed better last year than all its competitors. Restructurings, internationalisation, investments and research are the four driving forces behind this recovery. A level of performance which is likely to be confirmed again this year.

### 8 Classification : two French chemical companies amongst the ten world leaders

By the side of Rhône-Poulenc and Elf Aquitaine, 8th and 10th respectively in the world's chemical industry, two other French groups have established their place amongst the world's thirty leading companies. They are L'Air Liquide and L'Oréal, undeniable leaders in their specialised sectors.

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### THE EUROPEAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

## 1992, renewal and growth ?

The European chemical industry was expected to be practically at a standstill in 1991. What a surprise! Growth, although very modest at 1.1%, meant that the industry was back on course. Once again the European chemical industry showed its ability to react to the economic climate, consolidating its position as the world leader.

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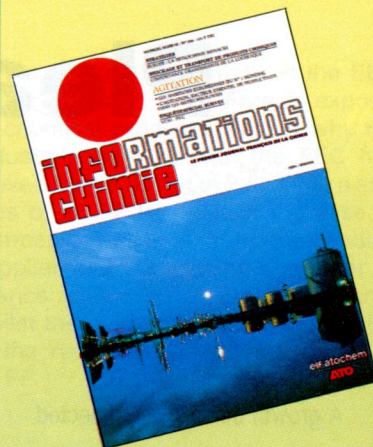
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