



**ECRN - The European Chemical  
Regions Network**  
**[www.ecrn.net](http://www.ecrn.net)**

**Michael Hack**  
**Director of the ECRN e.V. Network  
Secretariat**

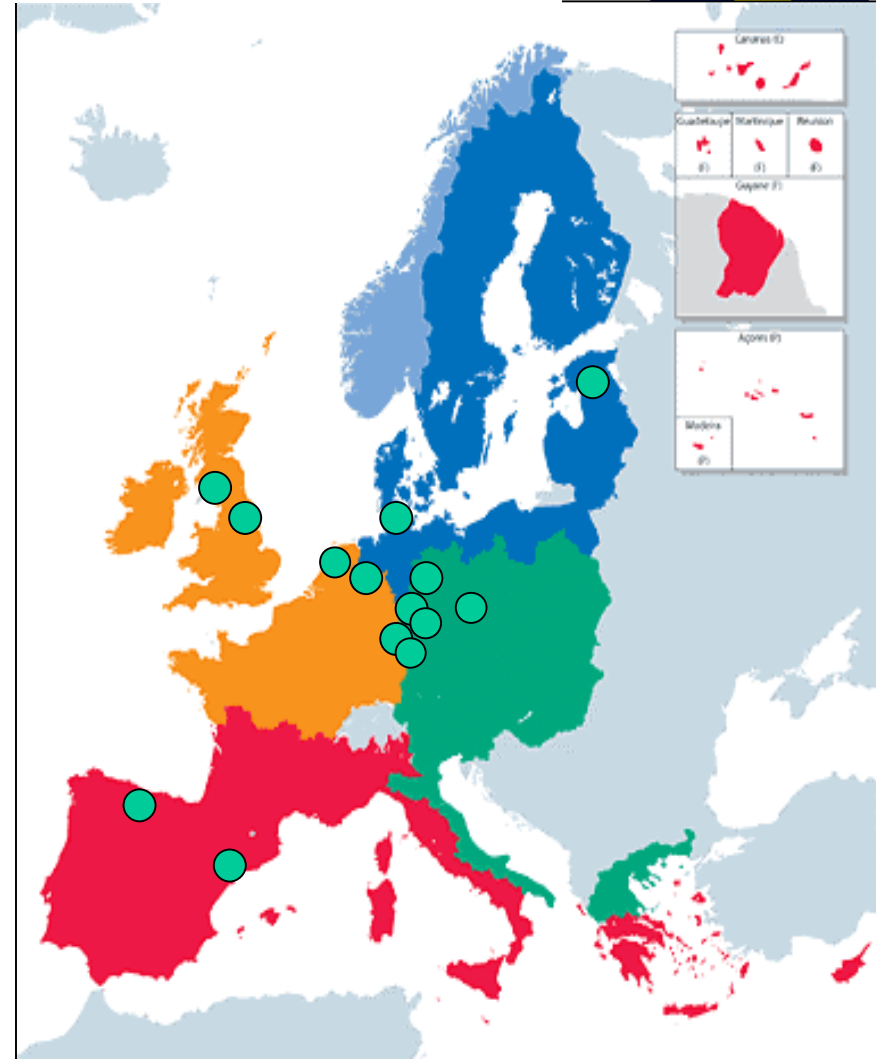
**Aachen, 22. November 2007**

# The ECRN consortium



## Partner:

- Saxony-Anhalt, D (President)
- Lower Saxony, D
- North Rhine Westphalia, D
- Hestia, D
- Rhenania-Palatinate, D
- Schleswig-Holstein, D
- Catalonia, E
- Asturias, E
- Ida-Viru, EST
- Limburg, NL
- Tees Valley, UK
- Cheshire, UK
- Usti, Cz
- Vlaanderen, B



# History



May 2003:

First European Congress of Chemical Regions in Brussels

September 2003:

Proposal of a common Interreg project

January 2004:

Start of Interreg project with 13 partners and a budget of 1,6 Mio Euro and 3 years duration

February 2004:

2nd ECRN Congress in Halle; Participation of Commissioner Wallström

October 2005:

3rd ECRN Congress in Milano, Foundation of association with 8 members

# History



November 2006:

4th Congress in Terragona, Declaration of action and finance plan

December 2006:

■ Extension of Interreg project for 2007

October 2007:

Start of ECRN Network Secretariat, Brussels

November 2007:

5th Congress of the ECRN in Ludwigshafen

## Aims and Objectives of the ECRN



- **Improving regional development strategies in Chemical regions**
- **Maintaining competitiveness by fostering European co-operation of regional actors**
- **Developing a European partnership of regional partnerships in Chemical regions**
- **Articulating common interests of Chemical regions towards the European institutions**
- **Recognizing the European Chemical Regions Network as a genuine stakeholder in the future debate on Chemical policy.**

# Influencing EU Policies



## Success factors are:

- **Defining joint interests between the regions (i.e. REACH)**
- **Developing strategic co-operations at EU level**
- **Engaging the stakeholders at regional level**

# Quantitative Results



- 1. Regional Partnership Meetings**  
with 1.600 regional stakeholders
  - 2. Representing joint interest in EU Decision Making Process (14 Joint Position Papers)**
  - 3. Developing spin off projects for further development and deepening of cooperation (e.g. MentorChem and ChemSME)**
- **Setting up the ECRN association as a legal body**

# ECRN and future activities



**Since 2003 the ECRN took part in the SusChem project, driven by CEFIC**

## **Focus of ECRN**

**➤ INTERREG IV C- cooperation with CEFIC**

**“Development of technology platforms in chemical regions”**



# ECRN as stakeholder in the future debate on Chemical policy.



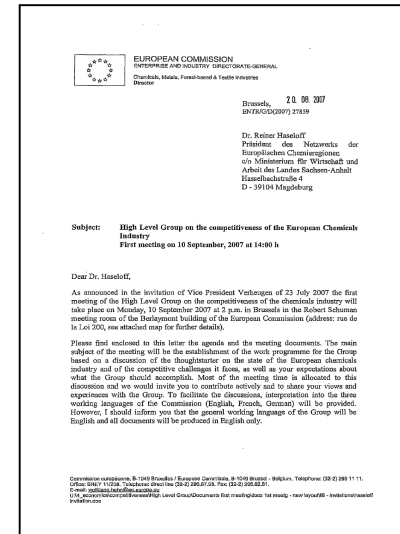
Nomination of ECRN

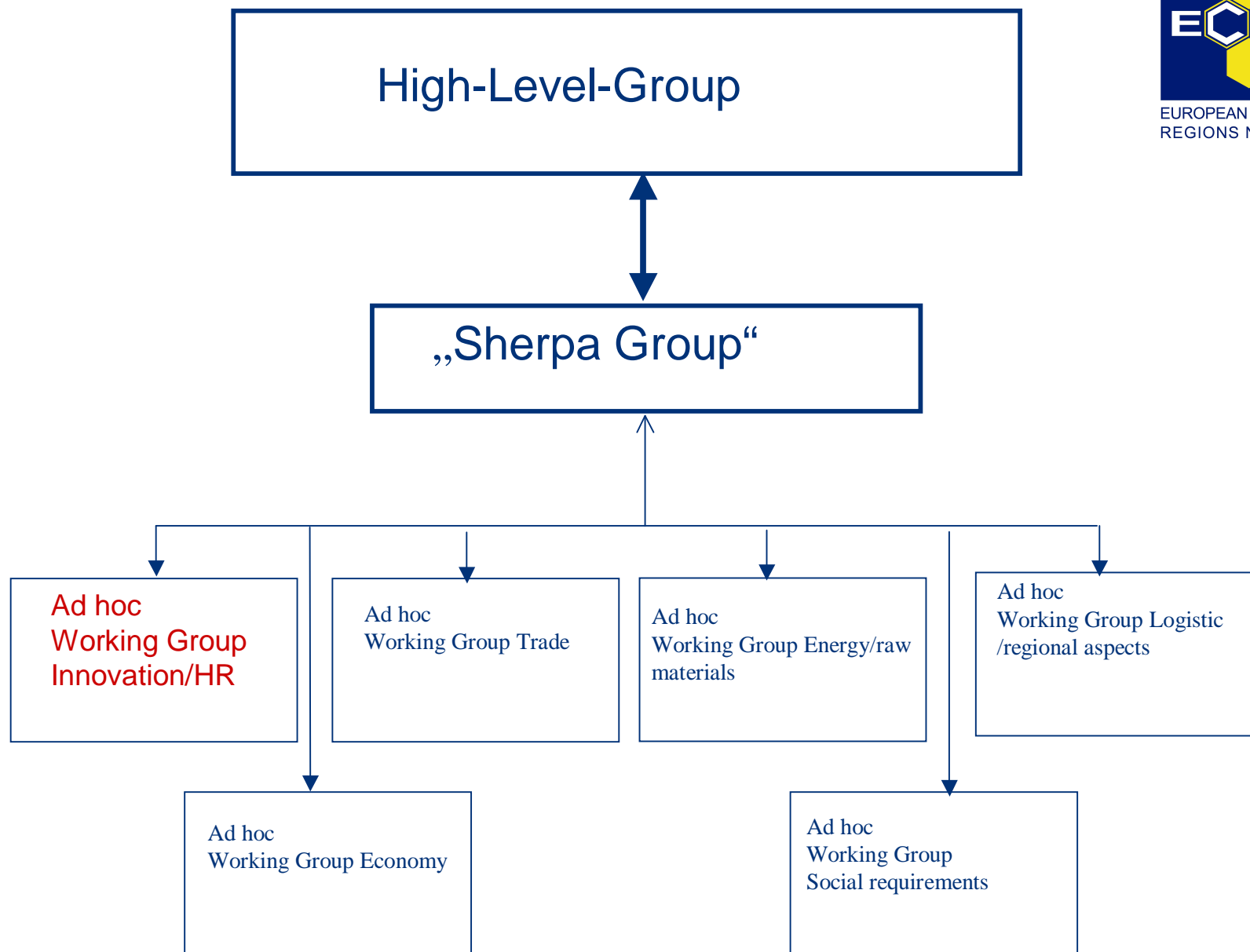
as Member of the

High Level Group on the

“Competitiveness of the European Chemical Industry”

to represent the chemical regions







## Tasks of ad hoc Group on Innovation



### 1. To evaluate

- the future innovation needs
- the role of the EU in global comparison



### 2. To analyse

- the strengths and weaknesses
  - make proposals to solve the weaknesses
- 

The proposals should flow into the work of the

- ad hoc Group Energy/ Raw materials and
- ad hoc Group Economy



## **ECRN - an ongoing success story**



**Engagement of stakeholders at regional level leads to**

- co-operations in INTERREG projects**
- development of strategic co-operations at EU level**
- influence EU policies**

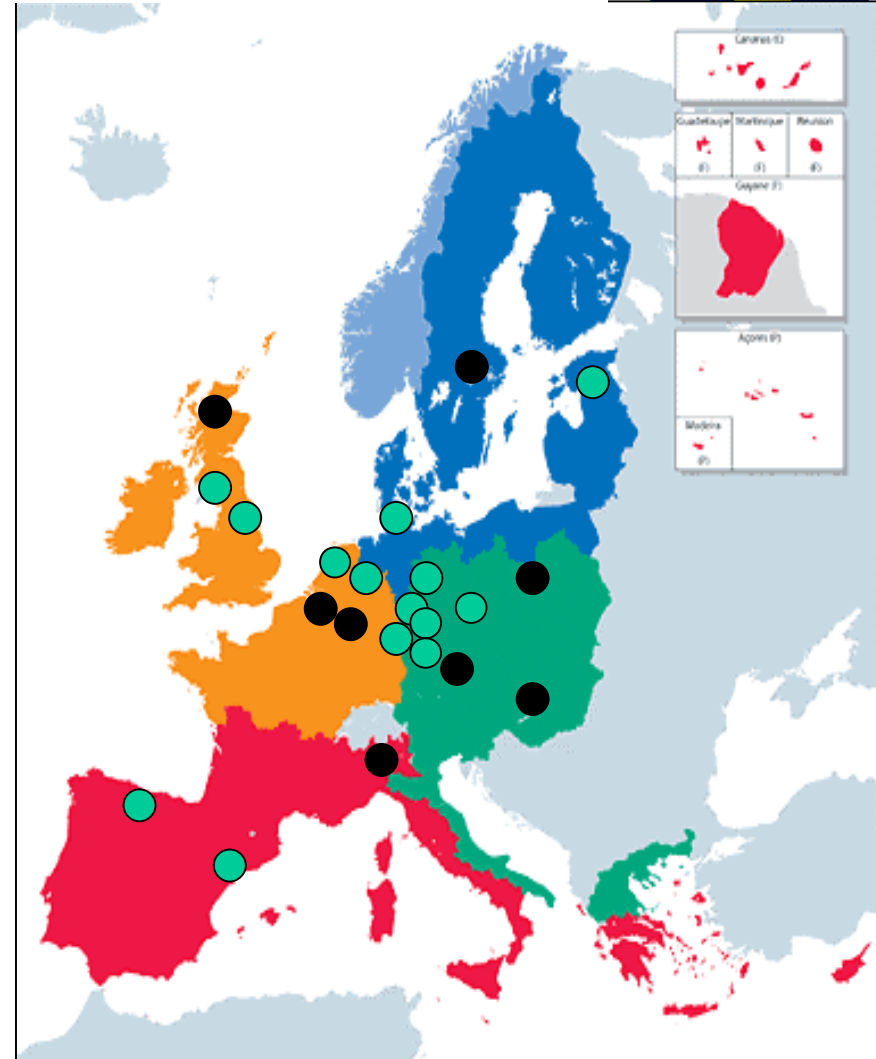


# Extension of the ECRN consortium? “●



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***Joining the ECRN is a clear commitment from the member-regions towards the Chemical Industry and potential investors for a sustainable long-term relationship.***

## Further Contacts

### ECRN Brussels office

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EUROPEAN CHEMICAL  
REGIONS NETWORK