

**ECRN Press Release
23/10/08**

**6th Congress of the European Chemical Regions on 27th October 2008:
Enabling solutions for the chemical industry**

The European Chemical Regions Network (ECRN e.V.), a recognized European stakeholder for the chemical regions in Europe and member of the European Commission-led "High Level Group on the competitiveness of the European chemicals industry", is organizing this year's high-level Congress of the European Chemical Regions on the topic "Enabling Solutions: Addressing Competitiveness, Climate Change and Innovation in Chemical Regions". It will take place on 27th October in the Center of the Regions in Brussels with keynote speeches by European Commission Vice-President, Günter Verheugen, the Vice-Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, Milan Hovorka, the President of ECRN and Minister of Economy and Labour of Saxony-Anhalt, Dr. Reiner Haseloff, and Alain Perroy, Director General of CEFIC. Approximately 200 participants from industry, public administrations and science are expected.

The European Chemical Regions Network is an association of nearly 20 members from all over Europe with the goal of improving competitiveness for chemical regions. The ECRN association was originally started as an INTERREG IIc project in 2004. Today the network has grown to a highly successful constant organization with a Brussels-based secretariat. It is the voice of the European chemical regions towards the European institutions and is an enabler for cooperation projects within its member regions. The ECRN acts as an information provider and as a platform for stakeholders.

The **press conference** of the 6th Congress will take place **on 27th October 2008 at 1 p.m.** with the participation of ECRN President and Minister of Economy and Labour of Saxony-Anhalt, Dr. Reiner Haseloff, ECRN Vice-President Karl-Uwe Büttof from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy of North Rhine-Westphalia, ECRN Vice-President and Councillor of Darlington Borough Council Tony Richmond, O.B.E., ECRN Vice-President Pol Verhaegen from the Department of Economy, Science and Innovation of Flanders, and the Director of the ECRN Secretariat, Michael Hack.

For further information on the 6th Congress of the European Chemical Regions or the ECRN, please check our website (www.ecrn.net) or contact the Director of the Secretariat, Michael Hack:

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