

**ECRN Press Release
22/10/09**

**7th Congress of the European Chemical Regions on 6th November 2009:
"Chemical Regions – incubators for innovation"**

The European Chemical Regions Network (ECRN e.V.), a recognized European stakeholder for the chemical regions in Europe and member of the recently finished European Commission-led "High Level Group on the competitiveness of the European chemicals industry", organises the 7th Congress of the European Chemical Regions on the topic "Chemical Regions – incubators for innovation" on 6th November 2009.

With this year's co-organiser and host being ECRN member region Wallonia, the event will take place in the Walloon Region Economic and Social Council in Liège/ Wallonia. Participants from regional, national and European institutions, industry, science and associations are expected. Keynote speeches will be given by Jean-Claude Marcourt, Vice-President of the Walloon Government and Minister of Economy, President of the ECRN and Minister of Economy and Labour of Saxony-Anhalt, Dr. Reiner Haseloff, Dr. Hubert Mandery, Director General of CEFIC, and Pascal Lizin, President of Essenscia Wallonie. In the afternoon, two thematic panels with different expert speakers will follow on "Intelligent solutions made in chemical regions" and "Open for innovation: Clusters in chemical regions", where innovative methods and examples of best practise from the chemical regions will be presented and discussed. Reflecting on this, ECRN members will adopt a joint Congress declaration with their positions and demands concerning the question of how to meet the economic challenges they are currently faced with. This declaration will be addressed to European and national policymakers.

The European Chemical Regions Network is an association of currently 20 members from all over Europe with the goal of improving competitiveness of chemical regions. It is the voice of the European chemical regions towards the European institutions and an enabler for cooperation projects within its member regions. The ECRN acts as an information provider and as a platform for stakeholders.

The Walloon region joined the network in 2009. As a traditional chemical region at the geographical heart of Europe with special strengths in basic chemicals, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, the region now is actively involved in ECRN activities and thereby strengthens the voice of the European chemical regions on the European arena.

The **press conference** of the 7th Congress will take place **on 6th November 2009 at 1 p.m.** with the participation of ECRN President and Minister of Economy and Labour of Saxony-Anhalt, Dr. Reiner Haseloff, a representative from the Walloon government, ECRN Vice-President Karl-Uwe Büttof from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy of North Rhine-Westphalia, ECRN Vice-President representing Tees Valley, Tony Richmond, O.B.E., and the Director of the ECRN Secretariat, Michael Hack.

For further information please check the ECRN website (www.ecrn.net) or contact the Director of the Secretariat, Michael Hack:
ECRN Secretariat, 80, Boulevard St. Michel, B – 1040 Bruxelles,
Tel: +32 27410947, Email: office@ecrn.net