



EUROPEAN CHEMICAL
REGIONS NETWORK

ECRN Inside News

2008

November Edition

Dear members and friends of the ECRN,

After our successful 6th Congress of the European Chemical Regions we are already planning the activities for the year 2009.

Our Congress in October gave us again much publicity which was underlined by the numerous speakers we invited. We received a very positive feedback from participants who came from industry, associations, member regions – and regions who are interested to join the ECRN. Moreover, Wallonia region (Belgium) applied officially for ECRN membership.

More than 120 participants joined us at our congress- and the ECRN Network Secretariat thanks you for your contributions for this success.

As Commissioner Günter Verheugen said as keynote speaker of our congress, the Commission recognizes the activities of our network, which led to numerous contributions at the HLG. A concrete outcome of these actions

will be the organization of the Follow-up Conference on regional aspects of the HLG results in April 2009 by the ECRN together with its member region.

As mentioned, we are currently planning the activities of the ECRN in 2009 in more detail. The frame was already presented at our Executive Board meeting and was agreed by the participants.

Our next internal meetings of the ECRN will take place on the 8th December in UK, and on the 15th December in Brussels.

I look forward to welcome you at the next occasion and remain sincerely yours,

Michael Hack

Director of the ECRN Network Secretariat

ECRN

November 2008

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ECRN Team at the Brussels office entrance hall



ECRN Congress Special

Successful 6th Congress of the European Chemical Regions in Brussels - ECRN Executive Board meeting and new ECRN publications

6th Congress of the European Chemical Regions in Brussels on the 27th October 2008

Over 120 participants from European and national institutions, chemical regions, industry and science attended the 6th Congress of the European Chemical Regions in Brussels on 27th October 2008. After keynote speeches by European Commission Vice-President Günter Verheugen, ECRN President Dr. Reiner Haseloff, Vice-Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic Milan Hovorka, and Director General of CEFIC Alain Perroy, two high-class workshops on climate change and on the role of innovation clusters concerning chemical industry took place which led to inspiring debates among speakers and participants.

All presentations given at the workshops, the Congress Agenda and other Congress documents can be found on the ECRN website: <http://www.ecrn.net/activities/congresses.php>

Adoption of Congress declaration on the future role of chemical regions in Europe

Furthermore, a Congress Declaration on "Chemical Regions – a Driver for Competitiveness and Innovation in Europe" was adopted, which is officially addressed at the members of the HLG on Chemical Industry and the European institutions and other

stakeholders.

This declaration can also be found on the ECRN website: <http://www.ecrn.net/activities/congresses.php>

ECRN Executive Board Meeting

In the morning of the 27th October before the official opening of the 6th Congress, the ECRN Executive Board met for the second time this year in order to draw a conclusion of ECRN activities in 2008 and discuss budget and working plan for 2009. In this context, the issue of two (!) new European regions becoming members of the ECRN next year was especially welcomed, since it shows that the ECRN success story continues and that the results of our work are more and more visible in the European arena.

Who-is-who update October 2008 and latest ECRN Newsletter online now!

At the occasion of the 6th Congress, the ECRN has also presented two new publications: A comprehensive update of the "Who-is-Who of the Chemical Regions in Europe" is available as a pdf-document on the ECRN website (...)

Turn Page please



6th Congress Conference room



ECRN President Dr. Reiner Haseloff and
Director of Secretariat Michael Hack
welcome Commissioner
Günter Verheugen



Executive Board Meeting



ECRN President, Dr. Reiner Haseloff



EU Commissioner for Enterprise and
Industry Günter Verheugen
answers questions

ECRN Inside News

ECRN Congress Special II

(Continuation)

(...) which gives a detailed overview on all current ECRN member regions and their geographic and economic characteristics and contact persons. A short overview - version of this who-is-who was also distributed in printed form among the Congress participants. Please follow this link to download the document: <http://www.ecrn.net/activities/whoiswho.php>

Furthermore, we are proud to present our 8th ECRN Newsletter which can also be downloaded online for those of you who missed the Congress where the printed copies were distributed: (<http://www.ecrn.net/communication/newsletter.php>).

For all documents mentioned in this Congress Special, please consult www.ecrn.net. In case of further questions, please feel free to contact the ECRN Secretariat.

ECRN Affairs

ECRN Meeting in Milan

On the 5th and 6th of November 2008, the ECRN President, Dr. Reiner Haseloff, and the Director of the Brussels Secretariat, Michael Hack, met the representatives of the regional government of Lombardy – the Director of Foreign Relations, Giuseppe Costa, and the Director of Research and Innovation, Ferruccio Ceccarelli – and of the Italian National Federation for the Chemical Industry (FEDERCHIMICA) – the General-Director of Economic Analyses

and International Relations, Vittorio Maglia.

The purpose of this encounter with the Lombardy regional government and FEDERCHIMICA was to promote ECRN previous activities and future agenda. The ECRN looks forward to the PWG meeting, on the 6th of February 2009 in Milano, and to further strong cooperation with the member-region Lombardy .



Congress Participants



The intervals represented an opportunity for conversation between the invitees



Participants of the meeting in Milan, November 2008

Press clippings

Circulation of Hazardous Substances Decided in Rome

According to a New Europe article from the 31st of October 2008, between the 27th and 31st of October 2008, in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Rome headquarters, representatives from over 120 governments all over the world decided on the addition of two more pesticides (endosulfan, used in cotton production, and tributyl tin compounds, used as antifouling paint for ship hulls) and one other industrial chemical component (chrysotile asbestos, utilized by construction industries) to the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) list, an international list of potentially hazardous substances.

The PIC list, as explained in the article, is in accordance with the

Rotterdam Convention treaty, but it does not, nevertheless, serve as a ban or restriction list. Rather, it has the power to highlight the potential danger of certain components. It therefore gives countries an opportunity to refuse the entrance in their territory of substances they are doubtfully capable of handling.

Around 70,000 chemicals are currently in the market and 1,500 are yearly added, which, as FAO stated, makes it complex to monitor and regulate the potentially dangerous substances.

For further information on this article, please consult: www.neurope.eu

The Future of Energy in Europe

According to an article published in the New Europe Journal on the 3rd of November 2008, the parallel increase of energy demand, specifically, oil demand and of oil prices is making the European energetic bill more and more unsupportable. The International Energy Agency (IEA) stated recently that the lack of willingness from the oil and gas major producers/controllers to decrease the prices or increase investment in some sort of plan to stabilize them, contributes to the rising of those prices and, consequently, of the European energetic bill.

The political, economical and social impacts that this continuous rising could have moved some European entities forward to find new energetic solutions that would decrease European energetic dependency and manage to get the continent into 'a

new industrial revolution of energy'. The European Commission has introduced the European Energy Policy, which aims to transform European energy economy into one that is sustainable and competitive and that is capable of profiting from supply security. The establishment of an External European Energy Policy, the predicted investments on other energy sources (renewable ones, nuclear energy, etc.) and the establishment of a limit for European Union member-states emissions are just some of the many measures included in this energy package that could end European energetic dependency to the rest of the world, Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs affirms.

For further information on this article, please consult: www.neurope.eu



Certain Hazardous Substances will be considered too dangerous for market circulation



Investment in renewable energies is seen as one of the solutions for Europe's energy problems

Press clippings

Appeal for Justice in Future Negotiations

As stated in a EurActiv article online, from the 10th of November 2008, representatives from national Parliaments, various business sectors and the civil society in general appealed, on the 6th of November, for a human dimension based on justice and dignity to be present in the Poznań climate change negotiations taking place next month.

They affirm that the scientific evidences on the climate change impacts exist already and they cannot be ignored. In order to prevent a future and global climate cataclysm, entities need to start moving. The European Union, the article says, must stick to the plans and targets already established. This appeal arrives in a moment when the European Union Member-States manifest themselves to be divided between the urgency of 'acting environmentally' and the industrial daily claims for a

less expensive policy, according to a European Voice article from the 21st of October 2008. To avoid the carbon leakage certainty announced by European industrial sectors, Jean-Louis Borloo, the French Minister for Environment, said that a 'combination of free pollution permits, the inclusion of importers into Europe's emissions-trading scheme (ETS) and benchmarking' are plausible measures to take into account. On this subject, the Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas affirmed that an accord is reachable before the end of the current year, enabling the European Union to present a united point-of-view in the December climate change negotiations in Poznań.

For further information on this article, please consult:

www.euractiv.com/
www.europeanvoice.com/



Justice needs to be present at the Poznań negotiation round

European Parliament Backs Commission's Ban on Pesticides

As stated in an article of the New Europe Journal, from the 5th of November 2008, the European Parliament's (EP) Environment Committee supports a proposal from European Commission (EC) aiming to ban pesticides that pose a risk to human health.

The EC proposal would have as an impact the introduction of 'cut-off criteria' which aims to redraw from the market all pesticides considered carcinogenic or toxic and which can have an impact on the nervous and reproductive systems. In total, 10 to 25% of the pesticides currently in circulation would be banned.

The Council of Ministers, as predicted by New Europe, will not be as positive, since it considers the proposal to be excessively strict. This results from various pressures coming from associations like the

European Farmers and the European Agri-Cooperative Associations (Copa-Cogeca), who believe the result for national farmers across Europe to be unbearable. Furthermore, the European Crop Protection Association (ECPA) stated that the low level of carcinogenic components in some of the pesticides the EC proposal points at to ban does not represent a threat for public health.

German Green MEP Hiltrud Breyer counter-affirms that the farmers themselves and their families would be more protected in case this proposal is passed by the Council of Ministers, since it decreases the chances of exposure to harmful pesticides.

For further information on this article, please consult: www.neurope.eu



Pesticides representing a risk to human health to be banned?

Agence Europe - Summary

Raw Materials Integrated Strategy

As stated in an Agence Europe article from the 4th of November 2008, the European Commission proposed, on the same day, an integrated strategy which aims to implement measures which will improve European industry's access to raw materials from third countries where resources abound.

Raw materials are crucial for the manufacturing of technologically sophisticated products, great percentage of which cannot be found in European territory but only in third countries.

These latter are making it difficult to get the raw materials by applying protectionist measures that intend to assure the stability of their national economies but, simultaneously, impeach the access by the European industrial sectors. China, Brazil and South-Africa are some of the countries which possess almost -exclusive productions of some necessary raw materials for European industrial productions.

The European Commission strategy includes the promotion of recycling. This can

greatly help reducing European dependency on raw materials imports by reutilizing finished but unused materials, and it also contributes to energy efficiency. Günter Verheugen, Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry stated in a press release from the 4th of November 2008, that the EU should 'define critical raw materials and give itself an integrated strategy'.

For further information about this article, please consult the Agence Europe website.



Protectionist measures make raw materials access difficult for European industry

Renewable World by 2090

According to an Agence Europe article from the 30th of October 2008, the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC) and Greenpeace recently made an appeal to governments all over the world not to put aside their investments on the fight against climate change. In a study, called 'The Energy Revolution' divulged

on the 27th of October 2008, these two organizations claim that the continuance of such efforts will surely manage to make renewable energies capable of covering half of the planet's energy costs by 2050, and all of them by 2090. Along with that, costs with fossil fuels would greatly decrease.

The authors of this

study have only taken into account existing technology, as well as a growth in world population of 50% and the cost of oil rising by 140 per barrel by 2050.

For further information about this article, please consult the Agence Europe website.



Actress Daryl Hannah campaigns for Greenpeace's recent study

Agence Europe - Summary

Revised Directive on Quality of Surface Waters Adopted

As stated in an Agence Europe article of the 23rd of October 2008, the Council of the European Union adopted a revised directive that explains the new environmental quality standards for EU surface waters.

The text, passed by the Environment Council, determines the limits for more than 30 pollutants, including pesticides,

heavy metals and biocide products. The EU rivers, lakes and coastal waters must be free of such chemical substances by 2018, the directive stipulates to the Member-States.

A period of 18 months will be given to all Member-States to implement this directive. The first step is of monitoring all river pollution, in order to analyze what

kinds of substances are polluting the waters, and to determine its origin. At the end of this first step, this information must be compiled in an inventory for further use.

For further information about this article, please consult the Agence Europe website.



Monitoring the danger of surface waters all over Europe is the aim of the revised EU Directive

ECHA Publishes Initial List of Chemical Substances

According to an Agence Europe article, released on the 29th of October, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) published a preliminary list of 15 chemical products which raise very high concern and that will possibly be subject of an authorization procedure under the REACH regulation.

This list comprises flame retardant HBCDD and three

other phthalates (DEHP, DBP and BBP), among others. ECHA's Executive Director, Geert Dancet, already announced that this will imply 'legal obligations in the supply chain'. Greenpeace declared it fully supports such a process, being it an instrument of great help to substitute, as quickly as possible, dangerous components in circulation with safer

alternatives; it laments, nonetheless, the size of this initiative and the fact that other known dangerous components are not yet in this preliminary list.

For further information on the list, please consult ECHA's website:

echa.europa.eu



*ECHA's Executive Director
Geert Dancet*

**European
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