



# ECRN Inside News

2009

April Edition

## Dear members of the ECRN,

We look back to our successful conference in Ústí - and it can be summarized as a proof how the ECRN reaches stakeholders in the chemical field from all over Europe and as a proof of its commitment to implement the HLG recommendations. Our conference declaration was well received by the participants and we are content with the participation and contributions of the high-ranked speaker we invited and the organization of the event.

More than 120 participants joined us for this conference in which we underlined our aim to disseminate the High Level Group results further in our regions- and with a regional perspective. For this, we continue with our initiative at the HLG conference in Düsseldorf on the 29<sup>th</sup> April.

In November 2009 our 7<sup>th</sup> Congress of the ECRN will be held in our member region Wallonia. Here, we count on your regional input to this conference and your ability to promote this event in your region.

At our next PWG meeting in June we will also raise this topic.

I wish you a pleasant reading with our ECRN Inside News!

Sincerely,

**Michael Hack**

Director of the ECRN Network  
Secretariat

ECRN  
April 2009

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ECRN Team April 2009



## ECRN Affairs

### ECRN disseminates High Level Group results in its regions: Successful High Level Group Follow up Conference in Ústí nad Labem on 16th/17th April 2009

The High Level Group (HLG) Follow-up Conference "Delivering the HLG results in the regions" which took place on 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> April 2009 in Ústí nad Labem/ Czech Republic was a big success for the ECRN and its member region Ústí, who had been organizers of this event under the patronage of the European Commission and the Czech EU Presidency: Over 120 participants and high-level speakers from all over Europe representing regional, national and European institutions, industry, academia and associations had assembled in Ústí to discuss the HLG results and how these results can now be implemented. Furthermore, a joint

ECRN congress declaration with the title "A competitiveness agenda for a sustainable chemical industry in Europe - Implementing the HLG recommendations with the chemical regions in Europe" was adopted which was distributed among the participants and which will be also addressed to European policymakers.

Please check the ECRN website for the full text of the declaration. A final conference report and other information on the different panels will also be available soon. Please feel free to contact the ECRN Secretariat in case of any questions.



*HLG Follow up conference in Ústí nad Labem*

### Latest ECRN Newsletter has been published

The latest ECRN Newsletter print edition (Newsletter No. 9, April 2009) has been distributed among the participants of the HLG Follow-up Conference in Ústí and will be distributed further on all upcoming ECRN events. It contains a number of interesting articles from ECRN member regions and other contributors and the region profiles

of the two new ECRN members Wallonia and Bavaria. The Newsletter is also available as pdf-document on the ECRN website under "Communication -Newsletter"

In case of any questions or suggestions for future editions, please feel free to contact the ECRN Secretariat.



*ECRN April 2009 Newsletter*

## ECRN Affairs

### ECRN Executive Board Meeting on 16th April 2009

On the morning of the first day of the Ústí conference, on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2009, the ECRN Executive Board met for its first meeting in 2009. After a short welcome and introduction by the ECRN President, Dr. Reiner Haseloff, the ECRN activities of the first quarter of the year 2009 were presented by the Director of the ECRN Secretariat, Michael Hack, who also gave an outlook on the different projects and activities which are coming up for the rest of the year. Afterwards, the Executive Board members discussed and adopted the joint ECRN Declaration on "A competitiveness agenda for a sus-

tainable chemical industry in Europe - Implementing the HLG recommendations with the chemical regions in Europe". The declaration can be found on the ECRN website.

As another point on the agenda, Mr. Buscemi from member region Lombardy shortly mentioned a project idea on nano-technology, more details on which will be given to the ECRN members in the coming weeks.

For more information on the Executive Board meeting, please contact the ECRN Network Secretariat.



*Executive Board Meeting in Ústí*

### HLG results dissemination conference in Düsseldorf / North Rhine-Westphalia on 29th April 2009

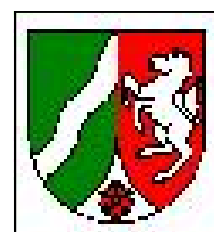
ECRN member region North Rhine-Westphalia invites all ECRN members to participate in an HLG results dissemination conference in order to discuss the recommendations of the HLG and their consequences for the region North Rhine-Westphalia.

The conference will take place in Düsseldorf on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009 from 10:00 – 14:00 p.m. at the Ministry for Economy and Energy/ Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Mittelstand und Energie des Landes NRW, Haroldstr. 4, 40213 Düsseldorf, room 1601.

For more information, please refer to the email which has been sent to all ECRN members or register directly under:

[http://www.nrweuropa.de/index.php?id=56&no\\_cache=1&tx\\_nrwevents\\_pi1%5Bcmd%5D=singleView&tx\\_nrwevents\\_pi1%5Buid%5D=86&cHash=c3ae34158b](http://www.nrweuropa.de/index.php?id=56&no_cache=1&tx_nrwevents_pi1%5Bcmd%5D=singleView&tx_nrwevents_pi1%5Buid%5D=86&cHash=c3ae34158b)

In case of any questions or problems, of course feel free to contact the ECRN Secretariat!



*HLG results dissemination conference in North Rhine – Westphalia*

## Press clippings

### EU REACH regulations affect steel industry

According to an article published on the Steel Business Briefing on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009, the European Union legislation on manufacturing and import of chemical substances is putting a "huge burden" on steel-makers, according to industry sources.

Several iron compounds and constituents of alloys and coatings used in steel industry represent about 30,000 substances requiring registration under the EU's REACH legislation, introduced in 2007. Companies should register the substances they manufacture or import into the EU until December 2010.

Industry sources refers to that the registration process is time-consuming and costly. Additionally to a large administrative work, companies pay fees up to €31,000 per chemical registered. If a company has more than one legal entity, each one is treated separately and the costs will increase for complex companies. The companies

have difficulties to prepare all the documentation and they are paying fees to join consortia that take care of the registration process for specific substances, as pointed out in the article.

Rob Versfeld, REACH manager at the Anglo-Dutch Corus Group said that "fulfilling REACH criteria is a huge task for us at the moment" and added, "but we always comply with legislation and will continue in our effort to implement REACH.

The full costs of complying with REACH are not yet clear but the European Confederation of Iron and Steel industries (Eurofer) is working on obtaining a good understanding of the financial impact of REACH.

For further information on this article, please consult:

[www.steelbb.com](http://www.steelbb.com)



*Steel industrials consider REACH a "huge burden"*

### Updated list of the REACH pre-registered substances

According to a press release published on the ECHA webpage of the 27<sup>th</sup> March, ECHA has published an updated version of the List of Pre-registered Substances. It contains around 143,000 substances which were pre-registered by 65,000 companies between 1 June and 1 December 2008.

The new list contains further improvements comparing with the previous versions:

- The inclusion of the CAS number (unique numeric identifier designated to only one substance);
- The search functions for the list have been improved;
- List numbers in the format of EC (Enzyme Commission) numbers are included for those substances without a current EC number to make registration easier.

The referred improvements are important for companies who manufacture or import substances and who wish to find the correct SIEF (Substance Information Exchange Forum) for their substance and it will also help to identify similar substances for read-across and formation of chemical categories.

The list is made up by the industry and ECHA refers to the fact that many preparations and substances did actually not need registration, and should not be registered.

For further information on this article and in the list, please consult:

[http://echa.europa.eu/news/press\\_en.asp](http://echa.europa.eu/news/press_en.asp)



*Updated pre-registration list contains around 143,000 substances, pre-registered by 65,000 companies*

## Press Clippings

### Substances that deplete ozone layer

According to a press release of the European Parliament on the 25<sup>th</sup> March, MEP's approved a compromise between representatives of the EP and the Council on a regulation updating the EU law on substances depleting the ozone layer. The aim of the new law is to protect the ozone layer, and goes beyond the Montreal Protocol. The EU will therefore continue to lead by the example.

In 1987 the Montreal Protocol obliged the signatory countries to phase out ozone depleting substances according to a set timetable. The revision of the regulation aims to simplify the current legislation according with the European Parliament. Despite the good results achieved in the recovery of the ozone layer continued vigilance is required considering the impact of climate change and that many ozone depleting substances are greenhouse gases.

The achieved compromise will clarify some provisions considering the destructive effects of UV radiation and climate change. One of those examples is the exemptions and derogations to the use of ozone-depleting substances and in which conditions they can be imported and exported. It aligns the EU laws with latest international agreements.

Already under the existing EU legislation the production and placing on the market of the most damaging ozone-depleting substances is banned, and the EU will go further than the Montreal Protocol by banning or setting limits to the use of certain substances.

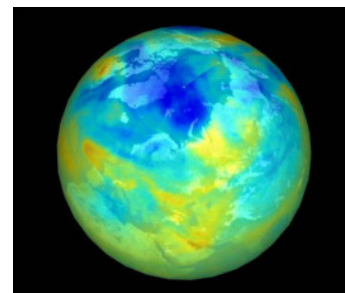
The MEP's together with the Council also set the deadlines for the phasing out of hydro chlorofluorocarbons (HCFC's), for the year 2019 and that the production between 2017-2019 should decrease 7% in relation to 1997 levels. The limitation of the use of methyl bromide (used as a pesticide) will also be reflected in some environmental and health benefits.

Considering the substances contained in refrigerators and buildings, most of those substances are no longer produced although thousands of tonnes are contained in existing refrigeration equipments and insulation material in buildings. The compromise therefore lists responsibilities for undertakings to prevent the substances from being released into the atmosphere and to prevent damages to the ozone layer. It also tightens the requirements on recovery and destructions of these substances.

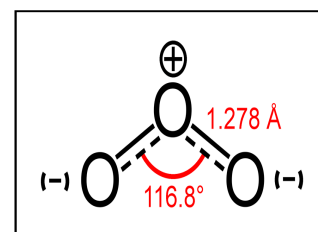
Furthermore, the Commission shall make available at the latest by the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2010 a list of products and equipment which might contain or rely on controlled substances in order to reduce them and ultimately to phase them out.

For further information, please consult:

[www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/default_en.htm)



*EU updates legislation on ozone layer*



*Ozone or trioxygen (O<sub>3</sub>) is a triatomic molecule, consisting of three oxygen atoms*

## Agence Europe - Summary

### Publication of 2008 emissions checked by ETS participating companies

As stated in an Agence Europe article of the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009, the Commission has published the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced in 2008 by installations covered by the European Trading Scheme (ETS).

All industrial plants in the ETS should have transmitted their 2008 verified emission rates before the 31<sup>th</sup>

March 2009 to their national authorities to be included in the member state registers.

The information will be passed to the European level and included in the Community Independent Transaction Log (CITL). After that CITL will give unlimited time to public access to submitted

verified 2008 emission data.

Those data will be available on:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/emission/citl\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/emission/citl_en.htm)

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



*ETS covers around 10,500 installations across the 27 Member States plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway*

### Voluntary Eco-labeling agreement in the European Parliament

As stated in Agence Europe article of the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009, the MEP's gave their go-ahead to the revision of the Eco-label ("EU flower") voluntary system. They believe that the increase of awareness for sustainable production and consumption is necessary and the promotion of more environmentally-friendly products and the improvement of environmental performance in companies and organisations is needed.

Salvatore Tatarella (UEN, Italy) rapporteur for Regulation 1980/2000 revision setting up the award for the Community ecological label (the small flower with twelve stars) for more than 3000 products

such as detergents, paper and shoes, said that the objective of this regulation is to promote products with a reduced environmental impact through the use of a voluntary scheme.

Following the agreement, the Parliament is seeking to make this voluntary system less costly and bureaucratic and prevent its extension being obstructed by administrative reasons like in the past.

The Parliament also stated that in response to consumer expectations with regard to chemical product quality and security the eco-label should not, in principle, be awarded to products containing chemical substances that give rise to sig-

nificant concern (persistent, bio-accumulating, toxic, very toxic, carcinogenic, mutagenic or with toxic repercussions on reproduction). Lacking safer exchange solutions, derogations will, however, be included.

The achieved compromise stipulates that member states and the Commission should promote the eco-label and massive public awareness campaigns. The member states should also set the targets for labeled products when awarding public contracts and practical aid given to SME candidates to obtain the label.

For further information, please consult the Agence Europe website.



*The Flower is the symbol of the European Eco-label*

## Agence Europe - Summary

### Extended time allowed for examining biocidal substances

According to an Agence Europe article of the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009, the European Parliament is in favour of key biocidal products such as hospital disinfectants not being taken off the market on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010, but they want to prolong the deadline until 2014. MEP's agreed in Strasbourg the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009 that the national rules for these products should continue until 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014 because they considered that the 10 years period (ending 14 May 2010) was not

enough to properly test those products for safety.

With a large majority (652 votes for, 5 against and 17 abstentions) the MEP's approved the first reading compromise negotiated with the Council on the European Commission proposal to amend Directive 98/8/EC.

The European Commission proposal suggested a three year extension (14 May 2013) for the test programme and transitional period to allow active substances

used in biocides to be assessed and if safe put in a European Community list of approved substances.

The final compromise approved provides for an additional year (until May 2014) and includes more-over the possible extension of the transition period through comitology, but only for two more years.

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



*The Biocidal Product Directive aims to harmonise the European market*

### European Year of Creativity and Innovation

Ján Figel, the Education, Training, Culture and Youth Commissioner met the 27 ambassadors for the European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009 on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2009, whose task is to decide where reform is necessary and which types of investment are needed for the development of conditions in the European Union for the growth of creativity. According to an Agence Europe article of the 27<sup>th</sup> March, eminent figures in research and creativity are working on a "manifesto", and

the first drafts will come out in June with the final text published in December. The text will concretize proposals to help Europe to develop the creativity and innovative potential in a period of crisis. The objective is to support the Commission for future action in this area. "We want to raise young people's awareness of entrepreneurship and ... develop a stronger capacity to innovate both in private and public spheres" Commissioner Figel said and also that "what

we are doing is providing a push. We don't want this (the manifesto) to go away when the Year is finished".

Some ambassadors also stated the importance of an implementation plan creation and that this manifesto should "speak to people" being most powerful if people can read it, understand it and then learn from it and apply it.

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



*2009 European Year of Creativity and Innovation*

**European  
Chemical Regions  
Network**



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## **ECRN Inside News**

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