



ECRN Inside News

2008

December Edition

Dear members and friends of the ECRN,

2008 was an eventful and fruitful year of the ECRN as we are on a good way forward with our association: we are growing and we are more and more known and recognized – in our regions and on EU-level.

We welcome again our new regions - and look forward to those who are about to come.

Our vivid exchange at the ECRN meetings in our partner regions was always very informative for the participating audience and gave a good insight of the regional situation. To highlight some of our achievements: We hosted our 6th Congress with over 120 participants and speeches by Vice-President of the Commission Günter Verheugen and other high-level representatives, we represented the ECRN at the HLG meetings and advo-

cated our positions, we applied successful for an INTERREG 4b project and we hosted several seminars, one of them on the "Future of Bulk Chemicals in Europe".

We were very active this year - and we will continue in 2009. For this we are dependent on your support and your motivation to achieve the best for the Chemical regions in Europe.

Thank you for our great co-operation in 2008 and we wish you from our Brussels office a Merry Christmas and a happy 2009!

Sincerely yours,

Michael Hack

*Director of the ECRN Network
Secretariat*

**ECRN
December 2008**

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ECRN Team wishes you a Merry Christmas



ECRN Affairs

ECRN invites to MEP evening in cooperation with Scotland on 18th February 2009

The ECRN in cooperation with Scotland will invite to a Parliamentary Evening in Scotland House Conference Center in Brussels on 18th February 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Invitations to the MEPs from our member regions will be distributed via the ECRN members. We are looking forward to a

highly interesting event with many participants, which will furthermore take place on the eve of the last meeting of the HLG in Brussels and of the ECRN General Assembly meeting.

In case of any questions, please contact the ECRN Network Secretariat.



Scotland Europe office in Brussels



ECRN General Assembly on 19th February 2009

The ECRN General Assembly meeting for the year 2009 will take place on 19th February 2009 in Brussels. This will be the most important internal event of the year 2009, where several important decisions will be taken. That is why we would like to kindly re-

quest our regions to make sure the presence of the elected ECRN members at this date!

Please contact the ECRN Secretariat in case of any questions!

PWG December 2008 in Humber and Brussels

On the 8th of December, the ECRN in cooperation with member region Tees Valley/ UK, organized a PWG meeting in Humberside. An overview was given on the ECRN activities of the last months and an outlook on projects and challenges for the coming year. For those who did not make it to the PWG meeting there will be the possibility to be informed on the results in Brussels on 15th De-

cember, when Michael Hack will give a short conclusion on the meeting. Furthermore, in Brussels the further steps concerning the "ChemClust" application proposal will be discussed among those interested.

For any information on the PWG in Humber or on the meeting in Brussels, please feel free to contact the ECRN Secretariat at any time!



Humber Meeting Facilities



ECRN Affairs

PWG Lombardia 6th February 2009

The preparations for the first PWG meeting in 2009, which will take place in Milano /Lombardia, are on their way! The ECRN Se-

cretariat will keep you informed. More details about the agenda and practical information are coming soon.

Farewell message

Dear Partners and Associates,

Since September this year, I have been involved in ECRN activity as an intern. I now announce that this professional experience is coming to its end and that my place will be taken by another young and energetic individual.

In the office of the ECRN secretariat in Brussels I found a unique work ambience. The mixture of a calm working place with the dynamic of a Director like Mr. Hack and the needs of the ECRN network allowed me to give the first giant steps in the professional world. I wish to underline the expression giant steps, since here I realized profoundly what it takes for a Secretariat to work effectively: the involvement of every member of the team in all weekly happenings, phases and moods. Having been implicated in all these activities – from ECRN representative tasks to the most basic IT emergency instants – I have only to be grateful to Ms. Hertel

and Mr. Hack for giving me the opportunity of figuring out for myself how one should perform in each situation, guiding me when necessity was found.

I take this opportunity also to thank the team of the Representation of Saxony-Anhalt to the EU and of the North-East England Office in Brussels for sharing their working experience with me and for giving me the opportunity to know themselves better. I would like to express also and repeatedly my special thankfulness for all the help, energy and professional intellect that Ms. Hertel and Mr. Hack introduced in my professional profile throughout our daily work. I honestly hope to meet everyone again in another opportunity.

I wish you all a great festive epoch. Sincerely yours,

Nuno Loureiro



Galleria Vittorio Emmanuelle, Milan



Waving Goodbye

Press clippings

REACH Reacts to IT Problems on Final Preregistration Hours

According to a press release published on the UK Chemical Industries Association's webpage, of the 26th of November, the REACH IT platform is still a reason of discussion between industrial entities and policy makers. During the last hours of the preregistration period, whose end was scheduled to be at the end of November, the REACH website encountered some technical problems creating a barrier to last minute online preregistrations and, therefore, setting up unsatisfied reactions from the industrial actors behalf.

This had already been predicted and underlined by the UK-based distributor Whyte Chemicals while communicating to Günter Verheugen that "the problems caused by the inadequacies of the Reach-IT system" would be reason for some preregistration delays. Geert Dancet, ECHA's executive director, affirms that this is due to the fact that companies wished to register all at the same time dur-

ing the day, making it impossible for the system to cope with such number of demands.

To assure the right functioning of the preregistration website, Mr. Dancet stated that ECHA had launched a special service that would take care of such processes during weekends and night hours; also, according to the ECHA webpage, a parallel site was created to unload some of the requests that arrive to the regular preregistration webpage. Planning ahead, the creation of ECHA agencies throughout the EU Member States is under consideration in order to facilitate the process with personalized expertise.

For more information on this article, please consult:

www.cia.org.uk

www.echa.europa.eu

Labeling and Classification of Chemicals Globally Standardized

According to a press release on the European Union webpage, of the 1st of December, the European Commission welcomed the agreement by EU Member States to side the European classification, labeling and packaging of substances and mixtures with United Nations Globally Harmonized System (GHS) ensuring an equal classification and labeling process all over the world. It therefore complements the already existing REACH regulation.

Concerning the acceptance of the GHS, the European Parliament had

already agreed on this regulation. Günter Verheugen, Commission Vice President and Commissioner responsible for Enterprise and Industry, stated that "in a global world, we need global rules" and that "this kind of regulation at UN level will be a great help to European industry". Stavros Dimas, Commissioner responsible for Environment, preferred to underline the importance such regulation signifies for workers, consumers and environment protection.

Turn page please



ECHA's IT problems were predicted by some, with which the Agency tried to cope rapidly



Worldwide standards for labeling and classification of chemicals were agreed...

Press clippings

(continuation)

This, according to the EU press release, is a direct result of the fact that chemicals need to move in the global market under equal regulation standards. The regulation (Directive 67/548/EEC) will enter into force in December 2010 for substances, and June 2015 for mixtures.

For further information on this article, please consult:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/ghs/index_en.htm



...thus facilitating the substance trading in a global scale

Increased Costs Augment Interest on Supply Chain

According to a UK Chemical Industries Association article, of the 1st of December, the increase of energy and fuel prices concentrates the industry attention to the supply chain, a survey of chemical producers and logistics providers worldwide, done by ICIS Chemical Industry News and J&M, indicates.

"We typically found a couple of similar approaches to this increasing energy and fuel cost scenario. The majority of companies were looking proactively to continue to optimize costs through the chain, some were looking beyond this proactively to leverage value creation and profit impact jointly with customers and a small amount were continuing to take an incremental reactive approach", states James Black, Chemical Sector Head at J&M. As written in the article, companies look now to improve the use of transportation and of logistics as a way to reduce the impact of the increased energy costs. Other companies are plan-

ning in dept cooperation projects with other chemical industry actors, of which some examples are coordinated rail transport, joint storage, improved joint jetty facilities, united pipeline facilities and consolidation of road transportation (for example, backhauling). Concerning specifically the European industrial actors they indicated that the stimulus for cooperation between the chemical companies in Europe is the flow of cheaper raw materials coming from the Middle/Far East.

In the same survey, disaster recovering plans and the EU REACH regulation appear in the bottom of the list on the most relevant issues to keep up with.

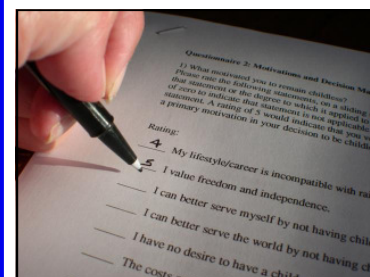
For further information on this survey, please consult:

www.cia.org.uk

www.icis.com



The oil-barrel prices hit the historical record value of 142\$ in June this year



European Industrial Actors express their concerns for the future in recent survey

Agence Europe - Summary

Switzerland and the REACH Regulation

According to an Agence Europe article, from the 24th of November, the Swiss authorities expressed, at a mixed EU-Switzerland meeting, their concerns towards the implications that the EU REACH regulation may have on bilateral trade relations.

The estimated loss of 1bn EUR to Swiss companies has its origin in post-REACH

situations of increased complexity, such as cases where product "preparations are made in the EU, processed in our country and then re-exported to the EU", explained the Helvetic authorities. Swiss press declared that the participation of Switzerland in European rules would be a plausible solution to such problems. At the same meeting, the European Commission

expressed also its concern on the increasingly regular relocation of EU companies to Swiss territory. Swiss authorities refuted such criticisms and asked for a justification to such a position by the European Commission.

For further information on this article, please consult:

agenceeurope.com



Swiss press say that participation in EU rules would be the solution for national post-REACH chemical sector complications

Community Environment Law Application Improved by Commission

As stated by an Agence Europe article, from the 21st of November, the European Commission announced on the 18th of November that it is considering to improve its help to Member States in applying Community Environment Law. This latter includes the some 200 complex regulations on "climate change, air quality, waste management, water resource protection and biodiversity, restrictions relating to chemical products and the evaluation of environmental incidences".

The European Commission intends to continue its policy of legal prosecution but now giving preference to a more strategic approach instead of a case-by-case investigation. Some of the cases include "the persistent tolerance of unlawful dumping, repeated failure to treat urban residual water, failure to comply with the obligation of delivering authorizations to large industry". It will as well intensify conversations with the European Parliament, this being taken as an im-

portant agent constantly attentive to infringing situations.

This comes in accordance with the 2007 established goal of improving the functioning of Community Law, and at the same time as the Commission's annual report on monitoring the application of Community Law.

For further information on this article, please consult:

agenceeurope.com



The puzzling application of Community Environment Law to become simpler with Commission's help

**European
Chemical Regions
Network**



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