

Dear members and friends of the ECRN,

Before our General Assembly and our Executive Board Meeting at the end of this month we inform you about actual European news in our monthly "ECRN Inside News".

Very recent and since this week, the new Commission is officially in office. We informed our members about the new Commissioners already in our last issue of the inside news as the ECRN is looking forward to continue its good relationships. Therefore, the ECRN already made contact with its most important partners.

After the special section on the new Commissioners in the last issue we focus this month on an overview of the SEVESO Directive

and the Water Framework Directive in order to give you an overview on the current discussion.

As usual, clippings from European news sources together with an overview of actual calls are present as well as we inform you about our next ECRN events.

Enjoy the reading!

Best wishes and see you soon in Brussels,

Michael Hack

Director of the ECRN Network Secretariat



ECRN Team in February 2010!

**ECRN Inside
News**

February 2010

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ECRN Affairs

25th/26th February: ECRN General Assembly meeting 2010 and Executive Board and PWG meetings

The ECRN February events are coming closer now: On 25th and 26th February 2010, the ECRN starts into the new year with three important internal meetings which will all take place in the Representation of member region Bavaria in Brussels: On 25th February from 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., all ECRN members are warmly invited to attend the first Permanent Working Group meeting of 2010. On 3:30 p.m. of the same day, the first Executive Board meeting of 2010 will take place. After these meetings a networking dinner at 7 p.m. in the same place will give ECRN members the opportunity for informal discussions and exchange - also with some MEPs.

In the morning of the 26th February, the annual ECRN General

Assembly meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. and will be located also in the Bavarian representation. Among other things, ECRN President's and Director's reports on 2009, the election of Presidium's members and decisions on working and budget plan for 2010 are on the agenda of the meeting.

The draft agendas of the different meetings, the draft budget and working plans have been sent to the members by email or postal mail.

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



Upcoming ECRN events on the 25th and 26th of February will take place in cooperation with member region Bavaria



Representation of member region Bavaria in Brussels

Save the date in your agenda:

ECRN Congress on 7th October 2010 in Brussels

The exact date for the 8th ECRN Congress is fixed and ECRN members are warmly invited to save the date in their agendas: The 8th ECRN Congress will take place on 7th October 2010 in Brussels and will be co-organized by ECRN and the Belgian partners. ECRN members will receive more infor-

mation in due time. For any questions, please contact the ECRN Network Secretariat.

Press Clippings

Classification for Three Chemical Substances

In reference to an article from ECHA (28/01/2010), the Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) of ECHA has considered new proposals for the classification of three chemical substances under the categories of carcinogen, mutagen and toxic reproduction.

One of the substances is Indium Phosphide which is not harmonized at the European level, and which is used specially as a semiconductor in the electronics industry. For the RAC Committee, the chemical should be classified as a carcinogen-substance that causes cancer, and as toxic for reproduction due to its toxicity through prolonged or repeated inhalation exposure.

At the EU level Di-tert-butyl peroxide - DTBP is considered for its physico-chemical hazards. Mostly, it is used by industry as an addi-

tive in polymerisation reactions. Following a proposal from France, the Committee agreed to classify it as a mutagen (a chemical agent that can induce genetic changes).

As for the Trixylyl phosphate, RAC received the Netherlands' proposal to classify it as toxic for reproduction. This substance is used as a fire resistant hydraulic fluid in industrial power generators.

For further information you can consult the following website: http://echa.europa.eu/doc/press/na_10_02_rac_20100128.pdf



New Classification for three chemical substances



Is Rail Transport the future for Europe beyond 2020?

According to a Euroactive article (05/02/2010), the chairman of the reflection group on the future of Europe beyond 2020, Filipe González believes that rail is the solution for greening passenger and for freight transport.

For the former Spanish prime-minister Filipe González, rail transport is the best alternative considering Europe's dimensions and demographic density. The now chairman who has just received a European Railway Award due to his role in the improvement of the Spanish transport system, has been chairing a reflection group on the future of Europe since 2008. The group is entitled to draft a report to the European leaders at

their June summit, which will influence the EU's 2020 strategy.

This comes in line with the current juncture for the transport sector which is dealing with the EU's executive attempts of decarbonising it. The group recognizes the role of transport as the backbone of the European economy.

The information of this article can be found at the following website:

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/transport/eu-wise-men-chief-wants-more-rail-less-road>



The rail transport system: The best solution for Europe?

Agence Europe - Summary

Energy Policy is one of the priorities for the Spanish EU Presidency

In accordance with an article from Agence Europe (28/01/2010), the Spanish EU Presidency will put a great emphasis on energy policy in order to adopt the energy action plan for Europe 2010-2014 by the Spring European Council. This is an energy strategy which will comprehend the energy/climate package of January 2008 and the UN climate agreement concluded in Copenhagen in December 2009.

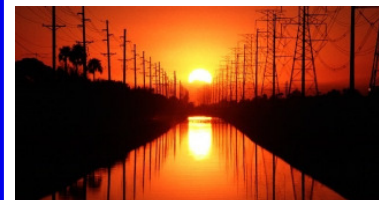
The Spanish Presidency will give priority to energy supply security, particularly to the strengthening of electricity and gas interconnection in the EU, said the Industry Minister Miguel Sebastián Gascón at the EP energy committee on the 27th January 2010. Thereby the November 2008 action plan for energy security and solidarity, where emphasis is placed on the trans-European energy transport networks (TEN-E) and in the EU's interconnections plans, is of great importance for the Presidency. Sebastián Gascón intends to influence the Council's adoption of two draft regulations: one on gas supply security and the

other on transparency for investment projects in EU infrastructures.

The current EU Presidency will support the member states' preparation of their renewable energy action plans, which are supposed to be finished by June 2010. Its intention is to supervise the implementation of the strategy for energy technologies and to promote development of industrial initiatives for solar energy, intelligent networks and CO2 capture and storage.

The Presidency also plans to support the implementation of the third legislative package for liberalization of the internal market for energy, having in consideration the priority interconnection projects and to get the Agency for Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) up and running.

The information of this article can be viewed on the Agence Europe website: www.agenceurope.com



Energy Action Plan for Europe until 2014 to be decided soon



Strengthening of electricity and gas interconnections in the EU as an important aim

Creation of a European agency to enforce waste legislation?

As reported by Agence Europe on the 1st February 2010, the European Commission has recommended the creation of a European agency in order to supervise the enforcement of European legislation on waste. This special agency would be in charge of examining the systems for checking and inspection activities of European waste legislation in the member states. Additionally, a special European body would be cre-

ated to perform direct inspections and checks on installations and sites in case of a breach of the European law. The European Parliament had proposed the setting up of a "Community environmental inspection force", back in 2008.

You can access this article on the official website of Agence Europe: www.agenceurope.com



Agence Europe - Summary

Free emission allowances for CCS and renewable energy technologies?

In an article from Agence Europe (04/02/2010), it was reported that the climate change committee composed of member state experts has supported the European Commission's proposal to allocate 300 million emission allowances to fund demonstration projects for carbon capture and storage (CCS) and innovative renewable energy technologies. The allowances would be taken from the new entrants' reserve (NER) under the revised emissions trading directive. The NER is a set of carbon dioxide allowances, reserved for new installations and extensions to existing permitted installations.

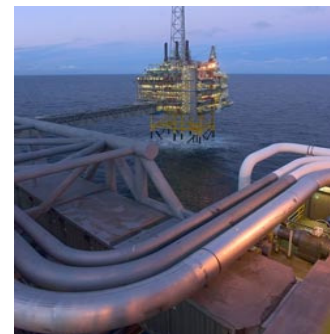
The four key elements of the Commission's proposal are: a European approach to project selection to ensure a comprehensive technology portfolio; a European approach to monetization of the allowances which will be sold by European Investment Bank (EIB) and distributed to the member states; the latter participation in determining which projects are eli-

gible for support and finally, a good balance between CCS and renewable demonstration.

The member states interfere in other elements of the Commission's proposal, such as their reinforced role in the selection process before the Commission's final award decision.

The "NER 300" draft must be viewed by the European Parliament and the Council before returning to the Commission for adoption in May. Member states would have to submit projects to the EIB by the end of 2010 in order to be assessed in the end of 2011, allowing the final Commission award decision by that time. This schedule is meant to ensure that CCS demonstration projects are functioning by the end of 2015. Therefore the call for proposals for the first round of projects would be launched immediately after the May decision.

More info at the Agence Europe website: www.agenceurope.com



European Commission plans to give free allowances

Hearing in the EP on energy supply

In conformity with an Agence Europe article (04/02/2010), an efficient internal energy market is the best option to face the energy security supply crisis, as stated by MEP Alejo Vidal-Quadras on the 3rd of February after a hearing on gas supply security. The proposal for a new regulation on supply security envisages action to be taken when the market fails to address a supply crisis, and would repeal Directive 2004/67/EC. It also aims at the removal of any barriers to its proper functioning and creates a legal framework to carry out the investments in new infrastructure.

For the MEP Alejo Vidal-Quadras the January 2009 crisis demonstrated that the EU lacks energy

infrastructure, such as interconnections or reverse flows. Vidal-Quadras also refers that the creation of additional infrastructure will entail significant costs. The Spanish MEP acknowledges that it is important to find the best solution that will balance supply needs with cost effectiveness. The EP hearing on gas supply security revealed the handicaps faced during the construction of interconnections due to differences in the tendering procedures among the member states and the administrative obstacles. The new regulation will try to reduce these disadvantages.

Consult the Agence Europe website: www.agenceurope.com



Chemicals Trends Report by Cefic

Cefic has published its Chemicals Trends Report in January 2010. According to the new report, the EU chemicals industry has been recovering since January 2009 but is still below its historical average. The report provides information on the European chemical competitiveness and performance, the economic activity, industrial growth, business climate and sectoral performance of chemicals.

In accordance with the Business and Consumer Survey Results of the European Commission, the EU Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI)- a term used to describe the levels of optimism and pessimism of investors towards the market- has increased by nearly 40% in December 2009 in comparison with December 2008. As of March 2009, the EU chemicals confidence improved slightly and the level of optimism in December 2009 rose 2.8 points when compared to November 2009.

When considering the first eleven months of 2009, the output in the EU chemicals industry, excluding pharmaceuticals, declined 12.7% in contrast to that same period in 2008. At the country level, the largest member states such as Germany (-16%), Italy (-14.5%) and the UK (-14.0%) showed a significant decline, whereas Spain demonstrates the least significant decline in chemicals production. However the levels of growth at the sectoral level revealed rather mixed in 2009. Basic inorganics, petrochemicals, and polymers showed an average growth between 1.7% and 3% per month, while also some other chemical sub-sectors were less affected by the crisis as well.

The full report can be accessed on the Cefic website: <http://www.cefic.be>

Selection of Funding Calls

Below you will find for your information some recent calls for European Funding programs of potential relevance for the ECRN members. It is a selection and makes no claim to be complete. These are some calls and programs which could be worth to be looked at in more detail, depending on regional priorities. For more details on the different programs, please refer to the web-addresses given.

The calls for applications for 2010 for the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) are now open and can be found by following the respective link in the table below. The new work programme for the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP) can be accessed now as well. In case of any suggestions or questions, please feel free to contact the ECRN Secretariat.

Call Identifier	Call Title	Funding Scheme	Eligibility Conditions	Deadline	Website
	Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP)	Erasmus Grundtvig Comenius Leonardo da Vinci	The Lifelong Learning Programme applies to all types and levels of education and vocational education and training, for details please check the different sub-programmes of interest	Deadlines differ for every sub-programme.	http://ec.europa.eu/education/llp/doc848_en.htm
FP7-ENERGY-2010-2	FP7-ENERGY-2010-2	FP7-Cooperation (Energy)	applicable under certain conditions to non-profit bodies, secondary and higher education establishments, research organisations and SMEs	04 March 2010	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooprationDetailsCallPage&call_id=264
S1P-JTI-CS-2010-01	Clean Sky JTI 2010-01	FP7—Cooperation (Joint Technology Initiative)	applicable under certain conditions to non-profit bodies, secondary and higher education establishments, research organisations and SMEs	27 April 2010	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooprationDetailsCallPage&call_id=302
	Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)	Sub-programme of CIP (Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme)	See newly available work programme for 2010		http://ec.europa.eu/cip/documents/work-programmes/index_en.htm

European Directives Special

Seveso II Directive 96/82/EC

The Seveso II Directive 96/82/EC of 9th December 1996 on the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances is being reviewed since 2008. The directive aims at the limitation of the consequences of such accidents not only for safety and health reasons but also for environmental concerns.

The Directive will have to be amended since the CLP legislation on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (EC No. 1272/2008) based on the UN Globally Harmonised System on the classification and labelling of hazardous chemicals (GHS) has been modified in December 2008, and will repeal Dangerous Substances Directive (DSB) 67/548/EEC (DSD) and Dangerous Preparation Directive 1999/45/EC (DPD) by 1 June 2015. In agreement with the European process safety centre the CLP will introduce new requirements for classification that will differ from those in the existing Seveso classification.

As stated by a Health and Safety Executive, the CLP Regulation introduces new scientific criteria to assess the hazardous properties of chemicals, new hazard warning symbols (called pictograms) and new hazard warning symbols. The new legal document creates a new database of agreed harmonised European classifications of substances, including the existing Annex I of the DSB (to be maintained by the European Chemicals Agency based in Helsinki).

In accordance with the European Commission, a Technical Working Group "Seveso and GHS3" was established in 2008. Experts from Member States and stakeholders are currently assessing the translation of the Seveso categories in annex I Part 2 of the Directive to

the new classification system. The technical work has been planned to be accompanied by an impact assessment study of the options for adapting the Directive to the GHS, carried out by Danish consultants COWI.

Further studies have been conducted to verify the transposition of the Directive: The European Virtual Institute for Integrated Risk Management, together with LEIA Foundation, INERIS and R-TECH directed a "Study of the Effectiveness of the Seveso II Directive" in 2008. The survey was based on questionnaire(s) and follow-up interviews from a sample of Member States and industrial sectors. The study has shown that interviewees think that the requirements of the directive contribute to create awareness of the hazards and develop appropriate measures to control risks.

A "Study of the Effectiveness of the requirements Imposed on Public Authorities" was implemented in 2009 by Environmental Resources Management, a global provider of environmental, health and safety, risk, and social consulting services.

The European Commission plans to draft a revision proposal in 2010.

Detailed information on the review of the Directive is given on the European Commission website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/seveso/legislation.htm>



Seveso Directive: Control of accidents involving dangerous substances



European Directives Special

Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy) sets a legal framework for water protection and management. The EU directive provides the steps to reach the common goal of a good qualitative and quantitative status for all water bodies.

As indicated by the Water Framework Directive Information Centre, this legislation requires that all inland and coastal waters within defined river basin districts must reach at least good status by 2015 and defines how this should be achieved through the establishment of environmental objectives and ecological targets for surface waters.

The Framework Directive includes other specific legislations: Groundwater, Priority Substances, Assessment and Management of Floods and Marine Strategy Directives.

The Framework Directive provides that river basin districts covering the territory of more than one member state will be assigned to an international river basin district. An analysis of the characteristics of each river basin district, a review of the impact of human activity on water and on economic analysis of water use and register areas requiring special protection must be completed. All bodies of water used for abstraction of water intended for human consumption providing more than 10 cubic

meters a day as an average or serving more than fifty persons must be identified.

Nine years after the entry into force of the Directive, a management plan and programme of measures must be produced for each river basin in order to prevent deterioration and restore bodies of surface water and groundwater. These objectives are to be completed no later than fifteen years after the entry into force of the Directive.

As of 2010, Member States are entitled to ensure that water pricing policies provide adequate incentives for users to use water resources efficiently and that the various economic sectors contribute to the recovery of the costs of water services.

The Commission is committed to enhance a successful cooperation under the Common Implementation Strategy in order to promote common understanding, best practices and information exchange on some issues.

The Commission and the European Environment Agency agreed to develop a Water Information System for Europe (WISE) by 2010 as a means to modernise and streamline the collection and dissemination of information for European water policy.

For more information, please consult the following website:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html



*Water Framework Directive:
The steps to reach a good
qualitative status for all water
bodies by 2015*



**European
Chemical Regions
Network**



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