



# ECRN Inside News

2009

January Edition

**Dear members and friends of the ECRN,**

I hope your start in the new year was successful! This year and especially January and February will be busy months at the ECRN Secretariat. On the 6th of February we will organize our Permanent Working Group Meeting in Milan where we prepare the last details for our MEP Evening on the 18th February and especially our General Assembly on the 19th February. Following on the 19th of February, we will have the opportunity to participate with a group of our ECRN members the final meeting of the HLG (some places are still available, please contact office@ecrn.net until 22 January). The High Level Group on the Competitiveness of the Chemical Industry in Europe was a great opportunity for the ECRN. Consequently we do our best to implement the results in our regions. The ECRN took the initiative and will organize events dedicated to

this; the Follow-up conference in Ústí under the patronage of the European Commission and the Czech Presidency on the 16th/17th April as well we plan to organize a conference on the regional effects of the HLG results in Düsseldorf hosted by ECRN member North-Rhine Westphalia.

We will inform our members in detail about all coming events.

See you soon in Brussels and Milan!

Sincerely yours,

**Michael Hack**

Director of the ECRN Network Secretariat

ECRN  
January 2009

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*ECRN Team starting a new year*



## ECRN Affairs

### PWG meeting in Milano/ Lombardia on 6th February 2009

Last preparations for the first PWG meeting of the new year on the 6th February 2009 from 10 a.m. – 13 a.m. in Milano are on their way. Main focus of discussion will be on the preparation of the General Assembly and the planning of the new year.

Detailed information concerning the exact location in Milano etc. is coming soon. In case of questions, please contact the ECRN Secretariat under office@ecrn.net or by phone on +32 (0) 27410 947



**Regione Lombardia**



### ECRN MEP-Evening is coming closer: Further preparations for MEP Evening on 18th February in Scotland House in Brussels

The first MEP Evening of the ECRN in 2009 will be organized in cooperation with ECRN member region Scotland and will take place in the Scotland House Conference Center in Brussels on 18th February 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Several MEPs have confirmed their participation already, which promises a very fruitful and inspiring evening. All ECRN members are once more warmly invited to encourage their regional MEPs to attend as well

and to also make use themselves of this chance of in-depth dialogue and discussion on different topics of interest for the European Chemical regions on the night before the ECRN General Assembly meeting!

For further questions please contact the ECRN Secretariat.



*Scotland house in Brussels*

## ECRN Inside News

# ECRN Affairs

## Reminder: ECRN General Assembly meets on 19th February 2009 in Brussels

On the morning after the MEP evening, the ECRN General Assembly meeting of 2009 will take place in Brussels. We would once more like to point out that this is the most important internal ECRN event of the year 2009 which will give the chance to the members to discuss important points concerning our organization. Therefore,

we would highly appreciate the attendance of all ECRN members. Please make especially sure the presence of the elected ECRN members!

In case of any questions please don't hesitate to get back to the ECRN Secretariat.

## Welcome Message

Dear partners and Associates,

Since the beginning of 2009 I have started a new experience at the ECRN Brussels Office as an intern.

When the sustainable development and the environment protection are in the center of the world discussion I hope that my experience as an Environmental Engineer can be helpful and valuable for all the ECRN members.

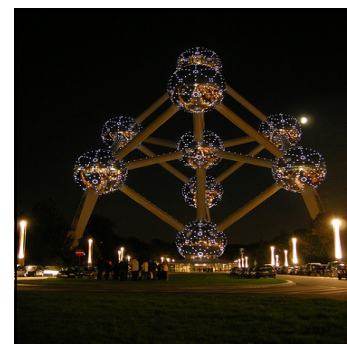
I have done my studies in Portugal with particular relevance to water/waste treatment of some industrial processes. Following the studies I had experience in the Central Region of Portugal with focus on Industrial Environment Permits. I also have worked on waste metal management enterprises and in

research at Université Libre de Bruxelles.

Based on my experience the ECRN seems to be an excellent opportunity to know all the chemical industry and to share experiences with all the regions and actors involved. For the moment I can say that I am lucky to work in such wonderful environment and I am grateful to Mr. Hack and Ms. Hertel for giving me the opportunity to collaborate with them in such important European Stakeholder like ECRN.

I wish you all a great year of 2009. Sincerely yours,

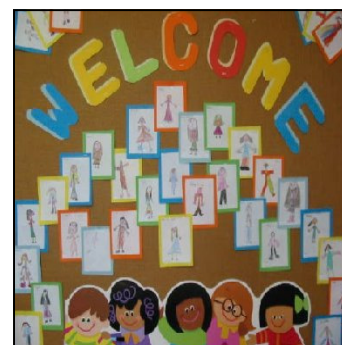
Gonçalo Ascensão



*ECRN General Assembly in Brussels*



*Participants of the ECRN General Assembly in Brussels, March 2008*



## Press clippings

### Agreement on new Directive on pesticides

According to an article published on the European Parliament website on the 13th of January 2009, the European Parliament has approved the new EU pesticides legislation. The MEPs have voted on two reports in Strasbourg, result of the negotiations with the Council in December 2008. Both reports must be now approved by the Council but this should be a formality due to agreement reached in December. However the UK, Ireland, Spain and Hungary opposed the deal claiming that it will affect agriculture and the food prices, as is referred to in an Euroactiv article of the 14th of January. The future legislation is a revision of the EU directive from 1991, where the procedures for new pesticides approving had been changed viewing environmental and health protection, and also to raise manufacturer's competition.

Pesticides have a three-period life-cycle: introduction in the market of new products, the use of the product, and the end-of-life or "waste" period. The new legislation introduces measures to control the production and use of pesticides.

The Euroactiv website mentions that the new rules will ban highly toxic chemicals, which are genotoxic, carcinogenic or toxic for reproduction, unless the effect is negligible. The directive will ban also neurotoxic, immunotoxic, and certain endocrine-disrupting substances that are susceptible to cause some significant risk and substances which are persistent, bioaccu-

mulative and toxic (PBT) and very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB). Despite the risk of those groups of substances there is a limited period of five years (with five-year renewals) that will be allowed if one substance is needed to the crop survival. The implementation of the new rules is a gradual process that can only be applied when the existing authorization of pesticides will expire. As reported in the European Parliament article, the substances approved under the old directive will remain legal until their approval period (10 years) expires. Under the new directive substances will be approved for 10 years (most active substances) and for 15 years (low-risk substances) with a renewable period of 15 years in both cases.

With the implementation of the 1991 directive about 50% of the 800 existent substances have been removed without causing major problems to pesticides users, and with the new legislation the EU is expecting the final removal of the worst remaining substances. One study of the Swedish Chemicals Agency KEMI, based on the compromise of the Council, predicts that 22 of the existing substances can be eliminated.

(...)



*Aerial crop spraying will in general be banned*



*A list of "active substances" will be drawn at the EU level*

*Turn page please*



## Press Clippings

### Agreement on new Directive on pesticides

*(Continuation)*

(...) The utilization of pesticides has not been regulated by EU law before, so the second part of this directive integrates measures on sustainable use of pesticides. The report was drafted by Christa Kläß (EPP-ED, DE). The most important points of this report are the Integrated Pest Management, the necessity of the Member States to adopt National Action Plans to reduce risks and impacts, to protect aquatic environment and drink-

ing water supplies. The Aerial crop spraying in general will be also banned.

The directive should be implemented by Member States in 2011.

For further information on this subject, please consult:

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

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



*The directive also contains some measures related with sustainable use of pesticides*

### Publication of the REACH pre-registered substances

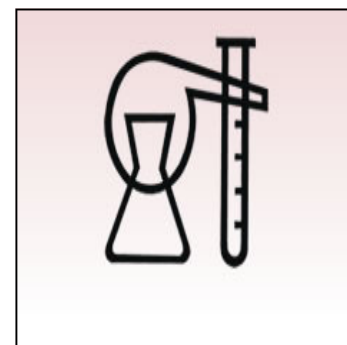
According to a press release published on the ECHA webpage of the 19th December, ECHA has published the list of pre-registered substances. After a six months period of registration which had started on the 1st June 2008, ECHA has received about 2.75 million pre-registrations for about 150,000 substances with the deadline in December 2008. The pre-registration includes all the EU "existing substances" (EINECS), and the notified new substances (ELINCS) in a total of 105,000. The other substances on the list are currently being screened and are not in these inventories. ECHA will continue the update of those substances in the beginning of 2009 as well as the checking process. ECHA reminds the companies that some of the pre-registered substances don't integrate the REACH range and

some of them haven't taken into account the volume trigger set for manufacturing or importing.

ECHA is removing during the screening process the pre-registrations that aren't relevant and merges some that are synonyms into one preliminary list. The aim of this work is to create a Substance Information Exchange Forum (SIEF) for each pre-registered substance with the same identity. The screening process results in a smaller number of substances and companies in the list.

For further information on this article, please consult:

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



*The publication will contribute to share information about chemical substances*

## Press clippings

### Industry voluntary agreement on safe storage of mercury

According to an article published on 22nd of December 2008 in the Euro Chlor website, the European Commission congratulates the Euro Chlor initiative for the voluntary agreement that ensures the safe storage of surplus mercury from the European chlor-alkali industry. That agreement follows the legislation adopted in September 2008 that bans all mercury exports from the European Union with effect after March 2011. The Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas pointed out that this proactive initiative will take out of circulation thousand tones of mercury that will be safely stored away. He also stated that this is an excellent example of how important the role of the industry is in the protection and implementation of environmental legislation.

The Euro Chlor has guaranteed safe storage of mercury by the industry after the implementation of new ban legislation. Although that legislation makes safe storage an obligation, the Euro Chlor has agreed with the industry proactive involvement that goes beyond the legal requirements.

The voluntary agreement consists also in taking out mercury of disabled chlorine plants to store in deep underground

salt mines. In the future the Commission will develop the technical support and criteria for the site safety requirements.

According to an article published on 22nd of December on the European Union website, the use of mercury is declining at both global and EU levels but there are some significant remains that are highly toxic to humans, animals and ecosystems. The residual uses of mercury are in small-scale gold mining, the chlor-alkali industry and the acetylene based process for production of PVC.

For more information on this article, please consult:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/searchResultAction.do?search=OK&query=allenvdoc&sername=EN&adv=0&language=en>

<http://www.eurochlor.org/newsroom>



*The use of mercury these days  
is in decline*



*The industry will guarantee the safe  
storage of mercury*

## Agence Europe - Summary

### Control of chemicals elected to European Commission Annual YearBook

As stated in an Agence Europe article of the 15<sup>th</sup> December of 2008, the European Commission launched on Thursday 11 December its annual multimedia yearbook, presenting some of the most important achievements of 2008. The book shows where the European Union thinks to make a difference to the lives of its citizens and people far beyond. One of the

most important of last year's achievements in the European Commission's opinion was the control of chemicals used in Europe, with EU's strict regime to assure the safety of chemicals contributing to the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemicals. As the Commission explains, the REACH regulation contributes to con-

sumer's information and protection as well as works in industry's interest, by increasing the competitiveness and the knowledge about the chemicals they are working with.

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

### Climate Protection Priority for Czech Presidency

According to an Agence Europe article from the 9 January 2009, climate protection is a priority for Czech Presidency's work programme for the next 6 months. After the energy/climate package success during the French Presidency the Czechs need to respect the commitments related with climate protection and to keep the world lead in this field. The Czech Presidency plans to ensure the economic viability of the measures referred to in the package adopted as well as

the optimal utilization of funds committed and reduce the social and economic impact.

Throughout the Czech Presidency the most important issue is the beginning of the negotiations with all the parties to attain a global agreement on the fixing of greenhouse gas emission targets after 2012. The negotiations will be conducted in preparatory meetings in March and June in Bonn, with the final negotiations in December 2009 in Copenhagen already with Swedish Presidency.

To increase the chances of agreement Prague will conduct bilateral meetings with the main emitting economies, United States, Russia and also the emerging economies like China, Brazil and India. The cooperation with the Swedish Presidency and Denmark who will hold the December conference is regarded as extremely important.

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



*Potential risks from chemicals are more controlled under EU legislation*



*Commission Annual Yearbook 2008*



*European Commission President Barroso with Czech President Václav Klaus*

**European  
Chemical Regions  
Network**



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## **ECRN Inside News**

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