



EUROPEAN CHEMICAL
REGIONS NETWORK

ECRN Inside News

2009

July / August Edition

Dear members of the ECRN,

Summer came to Brussels - with a new Parliament and the discussions on the new Commission. Enough issues are on the table which need to be worked on by the European institutions: starting from the financial crisis to climate protection. ECRN was and is active in the ETS discussions from the beginning and we are on a good way to succeed with our major position: to define the chemical industry as an exposed sector. The current discussion with the Commission can be rated as positive since most chemical sectors are exposed in this proposal. Nevertheless, the European Parliament as well as the member states will review the list at the end of the year - and after Copenhagen in December 2009.

Therefore, we will underline our position at our Congress and Par-

liamentary Evening in November.

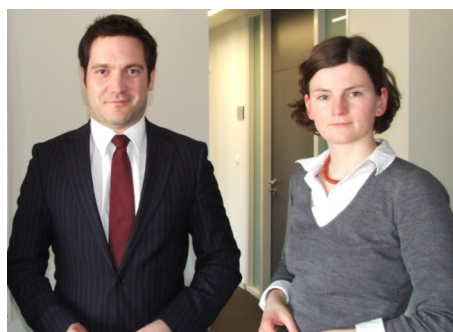
Inside the ECRN office we are preparing our events after the summer break: our seminar, Strategic Dialogues, the 7th Congress and the Parliamentary Evening. We will publish our second Newsletter this year at our Congress- and launch our website 2.0. We will report on these activities at our next Permanent Working Group (PWG).

See you at our next meetings on the 17th and 18th September!

Have a nice summer holiday and best wishes,

Michael Hack

Director of the ECRN Network
Secretariat



*ECRN Team wishes you a nice summer break
and is looking forward to seeing you again
in September 2009!*

ECRN

July/August 2009

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ECRN Affairs

Successful HLG implementation conference in Saxony – Anhalt on 8th July 2009

After the regional HLG implementation conferences in Ústí and North Rhine-Westphalia in April, on 8th July 2009 another successful implementation conference took place in Leuna / Saxony-Anhalt.

ECRN President and Minister of Economy and Labour of Saxony-Anhalt, Dr. Reiner Haseloff, welcomed all participants and stressed the importance of regional efforts to implement the HLG recommendations and thereby increase the competitiveness of the chemical industry in Europe. More than 70 participants and speakers from government, industry, associations and academia then discussed the HLG recommendations and their sig-

nificance for Saxony-Anhalt and its neighbouring regions and what perspectives of lobbying chemical regions in Europe are given facing the implementation—process of the HLG results.

As one of the speakers, Michael Hack, Director of the ECRN Network Secretariat, introduced the ECRN to the participants and made clear which role the network can play in the implementation and evaluation process.

ECRN Meeting in Wiesbaden/ Hesse in June 2009

On 12th June 2009, this year's environmental issues, further cooperation and the discussion about an internship of civil servants in the ECRN were the main contents of the meeting with the Ministry of Economics and Transport and the Ministry of Environment and Energy of ECRN member region Hesse.

Hesse has a remarkable regional specific approach of cooperation

between the stakeholders in the (chemical) industrial sector and the civil society. This "Environmental Alliance" uses moderation techniques to communicate and identify topics which are of relevance to the target groups. This approach will be presented in an upcoming ECRN PWG meeting.



SACHSEN-ANHALT

Saxony-Anhalt was the host of a regional HLG-implementation conference



Landeshaus in Wiesbaden, seat of the Economic and Transport Ministry of Hesse

HESSEN



ECRN Affairs

Reminder: ECRN Seminar on innovation in chemical regions on 17th September and PWG meeting on 18th September in Brussels

The next ECRN seminar will be hosted by member region Catalonia in their representation in Brussels on 17th September at 2 p.m.. The current draft agenda can be accessed on the ECRN website. Directly before the seminar, at 11:30 a.m., participants will have the chance to do a guided tour through the "Living tomorrow" exhibition project in Vilvoorde, not far from Brussels. There will be a bus transfer leaving in Brussels at about 11:30 a.m. at the Catalan Office and returning in time for the seminar which starts at 2 p.m. also at the Catalonia Office. ECRN members have already received the information by email. To register please fill in the template which has been sent to you by email or just send an email to ecrn@ecrn.net in which you

please clearly state if you would like to participate in the guided visit in Vilvoorde or only in the seminar, since we need exact figures for the bus company. In case of any questions, please contact the ECRN Secretariat.

On the 18th September, the third PWG meeting of the year will take place in the morning. Main topics on the agenda will be the 7th Congress of the Chemical Regions and the other upcoming ECRN events in November 2009. Furthermore, we will discuss the topics energy, environment and the state of the ECRN skills working group. Please note the date in your agendas and register also for this meeting by writing to ecrn@ecrn.net

Congress update: 7th Congress of the European Chemical Regions on 6th November 2009

The preparations for the 7th Congress of the European Chemical Regions are ongoing and the draft agenda of this year's main ECRN event can be accessed on the ECRN website. A "save-the-date" email has already been sent, the official invitations will be sent out

in September. We encourage all ECRN member regions to actively promote our main event of the year among the relevant stakeholders in their regions! In case of any questions, please contact us or check www.ecrn.net


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Next ECRN Seminar and PWG meeting will be hosted by member region Catalonia in Brussels


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7th Congress of the European Chemical Regions will take place in Liège/ Wallonia

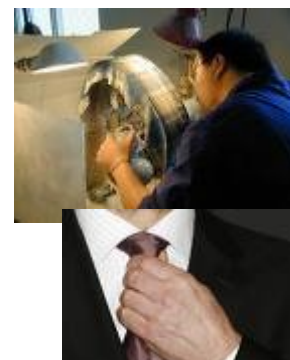
Other information

Internships for European officials in SMEs: “Enterprise Experience Programme”

European Commission DG Enterprise and Industry has developed an initiative to send officials for a short-term placement to an SME across the EU. The idea is to give European officials a direct insight into the needs and concerns of SMEs and thereby enable them to better represent SME interests in European policymaking. At the same time, the participating SMEs are given the unique chance to get in direct contact with an European Commission official and to thereby get a better understanding of European policies and institutions.

In order to participate in the “Enterprise Experience Programme” as an SME, it just has to fill in an application form and hand it in with one of the business organizations involved. If successful, the company is then included in a database of potential host companies.

For more details on the programme, participation modalities and the application form, please visit http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/dg/enterprise-experience/index_en.htm



EU-official meets SME and both gain interesting insights — that is the idea of the successful “Enterprise Experience Programme”

“Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs” – pilot project helps young entrepreneurs to gain experience

The European Commission has set up a pilot project in cooperation with Eurochambres (the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry) which aims at supporting young entrepreneurs in acquiring relevant skills for managing a small or medium-sized enterprise (SMEs) by spending time in a business in another EU country. The idea is that this will contribute to improving their know-how and fos-

ter cross-border transfers of knowledge and experience between entrepreneurs.

For further details on the programme, contact details and how to participate as a new and as an experienced entrepreneur, please visit the programme’s website www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu



The “Erasmus” Programme of the EU has been a great success among students—now it shall also involve young entrepreneurs

ECRN Inside News

Event suggestion: 4th SusChem Brokerage Event on 15 September 2009 in Brussels for the next FP7 Call

On 15 September 2009, the 4th SusChem Brokerage Event will take place from 10.00 to 17.00 at the Hotel Bloom in Brussels.

There will be a presentation of the FP7 call by the EU Commission and SusChem and then poster presentations and networking session. Main topics being discussed will be Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies (NMP), European Knowledge-based Bio-

Economy (KBBE), Environment (water-related calls).

For further information and registration procedure, please check the SusChem website or follow this link <http://www.suschem.org/content.php?pageId=2494&lang=>

Selection of Funding Calls

Below you will find an up to date list for your information about 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, as we would like to just point to some calls and programs which we think could be worth to be looked at in more detail. For more details on the different programs, please

refer to the web-addresses given. Please note that for the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP), all calls for 2009 are closed. The new calls for applications for 2010 will be published only in autumn 2009. 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
KIC Website	INNOVATION A TECHNOLOGY	EIT - Europe Innovation and Technology Program offers calls for proposals on KIC (Knowledge Innovation Communities).	The proposed KIC must contain at least three independent partner organizations established in at least three Member States. This first call has three priority areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • climate change mitigation and adaptation • sustainable energy • future information and communication society Although a KIC proposal may span across areas, the KIC must address one of these priorities.	27.08.2009	http://eit.europa.eu/fileadmin/Content/Downloads/PDF/kics/KICS_call_2009_04_02.pdf
CIP-EIP-ECO-INNOVATION-2009	Eco-innovation funding	This Call relates to CIP first application and market replication projects on Eco-Innovation, which are managed by the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) under powers delegated by the European Commission. Please check priority areas for Call 2009	Applications can be submitted by one or several entities. All applicants must be legal persons, whether private or public, established in the territory of the European Member States	10.09.2009	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eco-innovation/application_en.htm
Official Journal (2009/C111/14)	LIFE+ 2009	Carried out by DG Environment, in existence since 2007 as financial instrument for the environment, third call 2009	Proposals must be presented by entities registered in the Member States of the European Union being public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions	15.09.2009	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm
ENT-CIP-09-C-N01S005	Europe INNOVA Innovation Platform for Eco-innovation	part of CIP-EIP and has the objective to implement the measure outlined within the framework of the Europe INNOVA initiative as stipulated in the EIP work programme for 2009	Applicants eligible to submit proposals are organisations and groups of organisations from the EU member states	25.09.2009	http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/ef/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=3238&lang=en

Press clippings

European Commission wants to simplify the management of the European Funds to assist regions in tackling the crisis

As stated on EUMonitor.net on 22 July 2009, the European Commission wants to help the regions to tackle the current crisis better and has therefore adopted new measures aimed at simplifying management rules for the Cohesion Policy in order to foster new projects in the regions. As part of the measures, the Commission may reimburse 100% of the costs declared by the Member States for projects financed by the European Social Fund (ESF) in 2009 and 2010.

The changes are intended to facilitate the implementation of the 455 Cohesion Policy programmes planned for 2007-2013, representing a total investment of €347 billion, or more than a third of the Community budget. The aim is to accelerate investment flows directed particularly towards project promoters and those citizens most

affected by the crisis in the regions of Europe. Account also needs to be taken of the impact of the crisis on the public finances of Member States and regions encountering difficulties in providing additional financing for European investments. In particular, the Commission is witnessing a slow start-up of major infrastructure projects.

The changes introduced clarify certain rules and simplify the day-to-day management of the European Funds. Many other initiatives have been taken since the beginning of the crisis under the European Economic Recovery Plan.

For more information, please refer to <http://www.eumonitor.net> and the European Commission Website <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=736>



The European Cohesion Policy is an important instrument to foster European regional development and competitiveness

Carbon Life Cycle Analysis highlights key role of chemical industry in global emission savings

As stated in a press release of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) on 7th July 2009, greenhouse gas emissions savings enabled by chemical industry are more than double industry emissions, with abatement potential of more than '4 to 1' by 2030, as found in a recent carbon life cycle analysis. The study found that for every unit of greenhouse gases (GHG) emitted directly and indirectly by the chemical industry, the industry enabled more than two

units of emission savings via the products and technologies provided to other industries and consumers. The study also found that by 2030, the ratio of GHG emission savings to emissions could increase to more than '4 to 1', provided certain actions by industry, stakeholders and policymakers.

McKinsey & Company, the global management consulting firm, conducted independent...



Chemical industry as climate saver?

Press clippings

....continuation...

analyses and overall project management for the study, which examined the global chemical industry's impact on greenhouse gas emissions through the life cycle of chemical products and the difference they make in the applications they enable. Their results were critically reviewed by the Öko Institut, a leading independent environmental research and consulting institution in Europe. As mentioned by ICCA, the chemical industry is

the first global industry to embark on such an initiative.

The most significant emissions savings by volume were found to be from building isolation materials, agrochemicals, lighting, plastic packaging, marine antifouling coatings, synthetic textiles, automotive plastics, low-temperature detergents, engine efficiency, and plastics used in piping.

For more information, visit www.icca-chem.org

The economic crisis and the European Chemical industry – what lies ahead?

According to CEFIC and the German Association of Chemical Industry (VCI) from June 2009, the worldwide financial and economic crisis has severely affected the chemical sector in Europe, mainly because demand for chemicals by other sectors and key customer sectors has fallen drastically, combined with a lack of funding and credits for suppliers and consumers. It is not sure if the bottom has already been reached, but a gradual revival of the chemical industry is expected for 2010 when output will probably grow again, albeit from a very low basis. The revival will also be influenced by factors like levels of unemployment, public debt etc..The European and National Economic Recovery Plans are welcomed, but more European Commission - contribution is demanded on support to research and development of new products helping to reach the energy, emission and environment objectives, the facilitation and alleviation in the application of priority programmes such as REACH and ETS, and the postponement

of measures that would add certain burdens on the competitiveness of the industry. Cefic points out that concerning REACH, companies could be actively supported by reducing the administrative fees of registrations, since regarding the huge number of pre-registrations otherwise ECHA will unnecessarily accumulate funds. Furthermore, a "REACH loan" for the entire chemical industry would also be helpful. Concerning ETS, Cefic asks policymakers to keep in mind that costs of hundreds of millions of euros per year could be the result for the chemical companies in Europe if no pragmatic approach will be taken and that therefore the use of appropriate data and methodologies to identify carbon leakage sectors and sound approaches to produce benchmarks is, in their view, very important.

For more information please check www.cefic.org and www.vci.de



European Chemical Industry is severely affected by the current crisis which started as a financial one. Has the bottom line already been reached?

Agence Europe - Summary

New study on perspective dangers to children's health from phthalates in school supplies

According to an Agence Europe article from 11th June 2009, the European Commission Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER) has calmed down existing concerns for the health of children who regularly chew on school supplies, such as rubbers, containing phthalates (chemical substances used to make plastics softer and more flexible).

Fears had been raised in a recent study by the Danish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Just like the Danish EPA, the SCHER acknowledges that, among the school supplies, such as bags, pencil cases and rubbers, only rubbers were a source of concern since children were likely to suck or chew them on a regular basis. However, as mentioned by Agence Europe,

the SCHER noted shortcomings in the methods used by the Danish EPA to assess children's exposure which led to considerable overestimates and uncertain results.

The SCHER concluded, that the phthalates found in the school supplies did not significantly contribute to the total amount of phthalates ingested by children, and that even in cases where children bite off pieces from rubbers and swallow them, it is unlikely that this exposure will lead to health consequences. Further research is, however, recommended.

Currently six phthalates (DEHP, DBP, BBP, DINP, DIDP and DNOP) are banned in the EU in toys and childcare articles where they constitute more than 0.1% of the mass of the plasticised material. The three most dangerous

- DEHP, DBP and BBP - are on the list of the 15 chemical products of very high concern drafted by the European Chemicals Agency so that they have to go through the authorisation procedure under the European REACH regulation on the registration, assessment and authorisation of chemical substances.

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



Phthalates in school supplies like in rubbers are not a serious danger for children, as a recent study found

Agence Europe - Summary

European Union against China at WTO concerning restrictions on Chinese raw materials exports

As mentioned in Agence Europe articles from 23rd and 24th June 2009, China has once again justified its export policy after the European Union and the US had formally requested WTO consultations with China on China's export restrictions on a number of key raw materials on 23rd June 2009, which is the first step in the dispute settlement process at the WTO.

For years already, European industry has complained about Chinese export restrictions that take the form of quotas, export taxes or minimum export prices, because they increase the cost of imported raw materials, affecting especially the chemicals industry, steel and non-ferrous metals sector and customers of these industries' downstream customers. EU Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton pointed out that "The Chinese re-

strictions on raw materials distort competition and increase global prices, making things even more difficult for our companies in this economic downturn". Chinese authorities, on the contrary, stressed that "this export policy aims, above all, to protect the environment and preserve natural resources. China believes that this policy complies with WTO rules", as quoted from Agence Europe.

Several raw materials are affected, including yellow phosphorus, bauxite, coke, fluorspar, magnesium, manganese, silicon carbide and zinc, and some of these resources can only be found in China. As this is not the only issue of concern in the trade relations with China, the European Commission made clear that this is only the first topic handled but that

European industry is also unhappy about other products. The Commission, acting within the new EU integrated strategy with targeted measures to improve European industry access to raw materials in resource-rich countries (see EUROPE 9775), does not rule out going further if WTO consultations don't reach any acceptable results.

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



China owns some raw materials which cannot be found anywhere else in the world. Restrictions on export for these materials are a big problem for others



In the WTO the European Commission speaks on behalf of the 27 member states

**European
Chemical Regions
Network**



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