



EUROPEAN CHEMICAL
REGIONS NETWORK

ECRN Inside News

2009

June Edition

Dear members of the ECRN,

June is a month for the ECRN Secretariat in which we are fully committed to the preparation of our events after the summer break. The 7th Congress in Liège has now its frame, as well as the Seminar on Innovation in September.

At our June's Permanent Working Group Meeting we presented the ideas and drafts of these events, as well as how we continue with the discussion of "skills development" within our association. Here, we established a working group on skills which will be led by the ECRN member region Cheshire. The process we drafted with a working group on a specific issue could in the future also be used for the formation of expert teams on other topics of our network.

When member regions commit themselves to take the lead in a

field of common interest, the engagement of our regions becomes more visible. Examples can already be found: Besides Cheshire's responsibility for skills, Saxony-Anhalt will again report on energy at our next PWG, and North-Rhine Westphalia offers expertise in REACH - all of this makes our network vivid.

Our network lives from the input of our members and their commitment to the ECRN.

We look therefore forward to include your input in our topics and in our events.

The opportunities are there - let us use them!

Best wishes,

Michael Hack

Director of the ECRN Network



ECRN Team June 2009

ECRN

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ECRN Affairs

PWG meeting in Cheshire Office, Brussels on June 12th, 2009

On 12th June 2009, this year's second Permanent Working Group meeting took place in Brussels, hosted by ECRN member region Cheshire in its Brussels Office.

After a report of activities by the Director Michael Hack and a short overview on current energy issues from member region Saxony-Anhalt, the planning of the upcoming events and the handling of several thematic issues was at the centre of the meeting. Concerning the topic "skills development", an internal ECRN working group was set up in which Cheshire will take the

lead. At the end of the session, participants had the chance to listen to the presentations of guest speakers from the European Commission, one concerning EU-funding in the skills - area.

The minutes of the meeting will be sent to our members by email in the coming days. In case of any questions, please contact the ECRN Secretariat.

The ECRN thanks member region Cheshire for hosting this event!



Permanent working group meeting in Cheshire office

ECRN Seminar on Innovation and guided tour to "Living tomorrow" exhibition project on September 17th, 2009 in Brussels, followed by PWG meeting on the September 18th

On 17th September 2009 at 2 p.m., the Catalonian Office in Brussels will host our first seminar after the summer break, which will cover the area of cross innovation in different branches and the concept of open innovation being applied in chemical regions.

Before the seminar, from 12 noon - 1:30 p.m., essenscia offers ECRN members the chance to have a guided visit to the "Living Tomorrow" - exhibition project, an innovative meeting - and presentation place for companies and a location

to get to know future trends in working and living. This day will be followed by a PWG meeting on the 18th September.

Further details on the visit tour, seminar and the PWG meeting will be sent to you soon. For more information on the "Living Tomorrow" project, check <http://www.livtom.be/>.

In case of any questions, contact the ECRN Secretariat.



ECRN Seminar on Innovation hosted by Catalonia and guided tour hosted by essenscia on 17th September 2009

ECRN Affairs

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

The preparations for the 7th Congress of the European Chemical Regions which will take place on 6th November 2009 in Liège/ Wallonia are on-going. This year`s thematic focus is on "Chemical regions: incubators for innovation" and there will be several discussion rounds covering different aspects and answers to this topic. Furthermore, the Congress will

be an excellent occasion to meet relevant stakeholders from all over Europe and exchange opinions and experience. A first "safe-the-date" email has already been sent and the official invitations will be sent soon.

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



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

Advance notice: Next General Assembly Meeting and first PWG of 2010 on February 25th and 26th, 2010 in Brussels

The next General Assembly Meeting will take place on 26th February 2010 and will be hosted by the Bavaria Brussels Office. It will be combined with a PWG meeting which will take place the day before, on 25th February, also in Brussels.

Since the General Assembly meeting is the most important internal ECRN meeting of the year, we

would like to kindly ask our members to note this date in their agendas already now and to try their best to ensure that all 20 ECRN member regions will be presented in this meeting, as important decisions will have to be taken. In case of any questions, please don't hesitate to get back to us.



Next General Assembly Meeting will take place on February 25th, 2010.

ECRN Inside News

Selection of Funding Calls

Continuing this month 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. By offering this new service, we would like to just point to some calls and programs which we think could be worth to be looked at in more detail, even though sometimes

the deadlines are quite close. For more details on the different programs, please refer to the web-addresses given. 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
FP7-PEOPLE-2009-IAPP	MARIE CURIE INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA PARTNERSHIPS AND PATHWAYS	FP7 - PEOPLE Support for training and career development of researchers	This action addresses cooperation programmes between one or more noncommercial research institutions (e.g. universities/research centres) and one or more commercial enterprises from at least two different Member States or Associated countries.	27/07/2009	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7CallsPage
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-IEE-2009	INTELLIGENT ENERGY	The Commission, through the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI), plans to grant funds which are complementary to contributions made by the beneficiary, the national, regional or local authorities and/or other bodies.	All applicants must be legal entities, whether public or private, established in the territory of the EU Member States, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Croatia. The objective of the Intelligent Energy - Europe Programme is to contribute to secure, sustainable and competitively priced energy for Europe, by providing for action1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to foster energy efficiency and the rational use of energy resources; • to promote new and renewable energy sources and to support energy diversification; • to promote energy efficiency and the use of new and renewable energy sources in transport. 	25/06/2009	http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/call_for_proposals/doc/call_2009_en.pdf
ICT PSP - 2009	ICT POLICY SUPPORT PROGRAM	The ICT Policy Support Programme (or ICT PSP) aims at stimulating innovation and competitiveness through the wider uptake and best use of ICT by citizens, governments and businesses.	Participation in the programme is open to organisations from all EU member states and other countries having a specific agreement to participate in ICT PSP. The focus has been put on addressing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the challenge of future networks and the internet - the contribution of ICTs towards a true Single Market - the need to face the challenge of competitiveness through innovation and research - the need to develop a long-term policy agenda for users in the digital environment. 	02/06/2009	http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/documents/ict_psp_wp2009.pdf

Press clippings

European Chemical Industry to Improve in 2010

According to an article published on June 8th at the Chemical Weekly Cefic says it expects output in the chemical industry, excluding pharmaceuticals, to decline by 11% this year and show growth again in 2010. "Expectations for 2010 show growth of 5% compared to 2009". The European chemical industry has been very severely hit by the economic crisis. The latest indicators show a considerable fall in capacity utilization and investment, with some sectors, including basic inorganics, petrochemicals, and polymers, particularly badly affected. The slump in demand from downstream markets has forced sharp reductions in output and some temporary plant closures, Cefic says.

Most sectors have reached bottom, however, and there are "some early signs of improvement" including the reopening of plants and

production lines. Reversal of the recent de-stocking at all levels of supply chain should give a stimulus, Cefic says. However, The pattern of recovery remains uncertain as underlying demand is still very weak and production will remain low compared with the pre-crisis level. Most chemical sub-sectors will show an upward trend next year and experience an improvement compared to 2009. After an initial rebound led by restocking, underlying demand is expected to stabilize in 2010 rather than show a swift upward trend and it will take some years before production returns to the pre-crisis level.

For more information refer to the article:

http://www.chemweek.com/regions/western_europe/European-Chemical-Industry-to-Improve-in-2010_19397.html



Chemical Industry's demand is expected to stabilize in 2010; however, it would take some years before production return to pre-crisis levels

The First Helsinki Chemicals Forum starts

According to an article published on the "Suomen Messut" on June 4th the first Helsinki Chemicals Forum has just finished at the Helsinki Exhibition and Convention Centre.

Klaus Berend of the European Commission states that "the communication and shaping of data between different stakeholders and appropriate regulations are relevant means for ensuring that chemicals are produced and used safely. The chemical sector has great potential for helping the world to achieve sustainable growth and a cleaner environment".

The panelists of the Competitiveness and Innovation Session noted that in this challenging economic

situation the new innovations by the chemical sector should be based on customer needs. Value chain clusters are needed for effective development work. Long term development is possible only if short term innovation has good financial return, as well as new business models and supply chains need to be developed through innovation to meet the challenges of climate change and sustainability.

For more information refer to the article:

http://finnexpo.multiedition.fi/wwwcem/cem/program/Materials/HCF_summary.pdf



Helsinki Chemicals Forum 2010 will take place from May 20th to 21st 2010.

Press Clippings

Companies race to meet EU chemicals legislation deadline

According to an article published in the ICIS on June 2nd, chemical companies producing or importing substances in quantities of above 1,000 tones have to be registered by the end of 2010.

Liisa Rapeli-Likitalo, manager of the Reach competence center at Finland's believes that "the huge amount of work involved, plus some sizable obstacles, could make it a rough ride".

Companies are creating substance-related forums and seminars throughout Europe so they can share data and prepare joint registrations but the vast number of substances that have been preregistered is hampering the process.

There are common concerns, particularly among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), about whether it will be possible to meet next year's deadline for registration. The process of matching up companies that have pre-registered the same substances to create the substance information and exchange forums (SIEFs) commenced earlier this year, following the preregistration deadline at the end of 2008.

The high number of substance preregistrations applications is making communication among SIEF members extremely difficult.

The EU had been expecting pre-registrations of just 30,000 substances but the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), which is responsible for running the Reach program, says about 140,000 substances were preregistered. It is estimated that about 55,000 need to be registered by 2010.

The higher-than-expected number of preregistrations applications not only poses a serious

problem for the effective implementation of Reach, but also increases the likelihood that ECHA will be over-funded, according to the CBA, whose members are mainly SMEs. Therefore, a new mechanism is needed to review the Reach fees, particularly given the worsening economic situation.

Many agree that the size of the workload is overwhelming for all the parties, particularly for the lead registrants responsible for compiling the data and submitting the registration dossiers for each SIEF. In particular, there is a huge amount of work involved in preparing, for each substance, the robust toxicology summary and use descriptor, which involves asking all downstream customers what they are doing with that substance.

But despite all the hurdles, many remain optimistic that companies will meet the 2010 registration deadline. "Reach is a piece of legislation that the industry can't be seen to fail in," says Dave Buckland, corporate regulatory affairs manager at Netherlands-based AkzoNobel. "The credibility of the chemical industry rests upon this. If you don't get your registration, you stop production."

For more information refers to the article:

<http://www.icis.com/Articles/2009/06/08/9221131/companies-race-to-meet-eu-chemicals-legislation-deadline.html>



Chemical companies have a year to register substances in quantities of above 1,000 tones under Europe's new Reach legislation.



REACH processes are designed to provide additional information on chemicals to ensure safe use as well as to ensure competitiveness of the EU.

Agence Europe - Summary

Subsidiarity is key to economic success, according to study establishing first "decentralization index"

According to an article published the 20 of May by the Agence Europe an independent survey commissioned by the Assembly of European Regions (AER) established the first "decentralization index".

The economies of decentralized countries are performing significantly better than those of centralized countries in Europe. This study, entitled "From Subsidiarity to Success: the impact of decentralization of economic growth", is the result of two years of research and analysis carried out by BAK Basel Economics, an independent economic research institute based in Switzerland.

The press release issued by the AER shows that: (1) the application of the principle of subsidiarity in the distribution of powers is a key to economic success, and that a country's economic perform-

ance can be improved with more influence of the regions at national level, more independence of the regions from the national level, financial competences and resources for the regions, as well as more competences in recreation and culture,



infrastructure, education and research and health care; (2) the only exceptions to this trend are highly centralized transition countries that have experienced rapid economic growth in recent years.

The findings also suggest, however, that those countries' economies could have performed even better with a decentralized distribution of powers.

There are three parts to the study: (1) the

first, "Creating a Decentralization Index", marked the first combined qualitative and quantitative analysis of decentralization indicators ever conducted; (2) the second, "Decentralization and Economic Performance", investigated via regression analysis the impact that decentralization has on economic variables, according to indicators such as performance data (GDP per capita and GDP growth) and innovation output (universities, university research and patents); (3) the third, "Summary and Conclusions", brings together the key findings and explores a number of policy implications for decision-makers.

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



According to the "decentralization index", the economies of decentralized countries are performing significantly better than those of centralized countries in Europe.

Agence Europe - Summary

Energy efficiency and eco-efficiency are to be energy priorities of Swedish Presidency

According to an article published by the Agence Europe the 18 of May the EU's transition to an eco-efficient economy will be one of the biggest issues for the Swedish government during its presidency of the Council. On energy efficiency, Stockholm intends to conclude discussions between the Council and the European Parliament on the three legislative proposals; buildings, labeling of tyres and labeling of energy products. On energy security, Stockholm plans to launch the

debate on the proposal of the "energy security and solidarity package" put on the table by the European Commission in November 2008, with particular reference to the review of the security of gas supply regulation. The Commission hopes that first reading agreement will be reached by mid-December, and the Swedish Presidency will do all it can to speed things along to be able to present a progress report to the Energy Council on 7 December. In

addition to the Energy Council meetings, the incoming Swedish Presidency is sponsoring three events devoted to energy, taking place in Stockholm: an international conference on wind power on 14-15 September, a high-level meeting on eco-efficient bio-energy on 16-18 September and a conference on Energy Plan on 21-22 September.

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



Energy efficiency will be a vital issue during the Swedish presidency, particularly in view of ongoing international climate negotiations

José Manuel Barroso calls on European industry to show commitment

According to an article published by the Agence Europe the 25 of May with only few months ahead of the UN climate conference of Copenhagen in December an increasing number of climate meetings are taking place at EU level and with third countries to define the European position on the financial elements. José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission stated: "International negotiations are progressing well, although they are tougher as we all predicted they would be, and we are

now entering the critical, text-based phase of the negotiation. So in the longer term, Copenhagen agreement would be seen as a major milestone on the path to a global carbon market which would increase business opportunities and help to bring average carbon costs further down". So far the main outstanding issues are: (1) the desire of the EU for all industrialized countries collectively to commit to bring down their emissions by 30% from 1990 levels by 2020, on the basis of the comparison criteria; (2) for the de-

veloping countries to implement national low-carbon development strategies allowing them collectively to reduce their emissions by 15 to 30% compared to a no-effort scenario; (3) the need to develop a clear financial architecture to underpin the Copenhagen agreement. The Environment Council will furnish a further opportunity to debate the issue, in Brussels on 25 June.

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



José Manuel Barroso, encouraged by preparations for Copenhagen summit, calls on European industry to show commitment

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