

Dear members of the ECRN,

March has been for the ECRN Secretariat fully blocked of planning and working on our coming events: The HLG Follow-up in Ústí, the planning of the 7th Congress, our PWGs and seminars until the end of the year.

We are looking forward to the Ústí conference and the interesting speeches we will hear - as well as the thematic workshops on the second day of the conference. The event in Ústí will be combined with an Executive Board Meeting of the ECRN before the conference where we will officially adopt our Ústí declaration.

A very positive feedback came

from our Spanish partners Catalonia and Asturias where I met the regional ministries and important stakeholders. These regions also showed interest in the implementation of Strategic Dialogues. We will keep you informed on the further steps.

Best wishes

Michael Hack

Director of the ECRN Network
Secretariat

ECRN
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ECRN Team March 2009

ECRN Affairs

ECRN meetings in Catalonia and Asturias

The further cooperation with the Spanish members of the ECRN has a high priority since these regions were part of the ECRN from the beginning of the INTERREG period onwards. Catalonia is the biggest chemical region in Spain with approx. half the production of all in Spain produced chemicals.

It became very clear during the meetings in Barcelona that Catalonia is very committed to the cluster concept and has been implementing clusters since the beginning of the 1990s. Catalonia showed also the interest to host the PWG and the seminar on Innovation in September this year, on which we will keep you updated concerning the planning. Also, the idea of Strategic Dialogues was explained to the different

stakeholders which woke the interest in this ECRN initiative as well.

Asturias will implement the Strategic Dialogue with a kick-off meeting end of June this year with an ECRN contribution. Asturias and its economic development agency IDEPA are an excellent example of how to implement the chemical sector successfully and in a sustainable way in a region. DuPont is the biggest chemical company in this region and produces products mainly for world-wide export. The close cooperation of the different stakeholders in Asturias is remarkable and surely one key element for the success of this region. IDEPA CEO Victor M. González Marroquín will present best examples in the innovation field at our 7th ECRN Congress this year.



GOBIERNO DEL
PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS



*ECRN Director meets stakeholders
in member region Asturias*



Catalonia Region

HLG Follow-up Conference update: Last preparations for the conference in Ústí nad Labem on 16th/17th April 2009 are ongoing

Only three weeks before the HLG Follow-up conference in Ústí nad Labem will take place, last preparations are on their way. All ECRN members who would like to attend and have not registered yet are warmly invited to register their participation as soon as possible!

All information concerning the final agenda, registration procedure and accommodation details can be found on the official website

www.HLGconference09.cz



*HLG Follow up conference
in Ústí*

ECRN Affairs

Survey: Chemical Customer Connectivity Index (C3X) is accessible until 31 March

Once again, A.T. Kearney, CHEManager Europe and the Westfälische Wilhelms University Münster (Germany) jointly compile the Chemical Customer Connectivity Index (C3X), which is done by a survey examining the customer-supplier relationships in the European chemical industry.

Managers of leading European chemical companies and of their client industries are once again invited to answer some questions concerning client-related issues. Additionally, there is always a section with a special topic, this time related to the consequences of the current financial and economic crisis.

The questionnaire is accessible until 31 March 2009 and the fill-out will take between 10-15

minutes. The information is of course treated in a confidential way. The results will be published in CHEManager Europe in the 5/2009 edition. Furthermore, all participants will be provided with the results in an individually tailored form.

The European Chemical Regions are invited to pass this information on to interested companies.

To access the questionnaire please consult: <http://ww3.umfragecenter.de/uc/c3x/>

Further information can be found under:

www.gitverlag.com/en/print/6/40/index.html

http://www.atkearney.com/shared_res/pdf/



ECRN Regions are invited to pass this information

United Nations declare International Year of Chemistry 2011

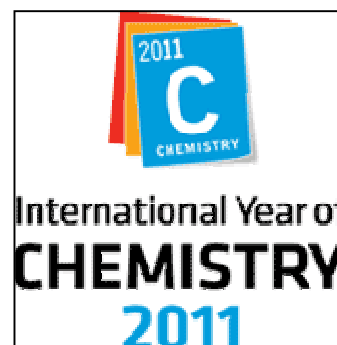
Initiated by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and UNESCO which had pointed out that "it is time to celebrate the achievements of chemistry and its contributions to the well-being of mankind", in December 2008 the United Nations General Assembly declared the year 2011 as the International Year of Chemistry.

Activities planned for that year have the aim to increase public appreciation of chemistry in meeting world needs, increase interest of young people in

chemistry, generate enthusiasm for the creative future of chemistry, and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Mme Curie Nobel Prize and the 100th anniversary of the founding of the International Association of Chemical Societies.

Several regional and international events are planned and local organizers are welcome to present their proposals for appropriate activities.

For more information, please check www.chemistry2011.org



Press clippings

Pesticides review program

According to an article published on 12th March on the European Union website, following the agreement reached on pesticides on December 2008, by the European Parliament and the Council, the regulation proposed by the European Commission will be replacing the 1991 directive after 16 years of review.

In the review process, each substance had to be evaluated as to whether it could be used safely with respect to human health and the environment with focus in groundwater and non target organisms, like birds, mammals, earthworms, bees.

The review of existing pesticides has lead "to the removal from the market of more than two thirds of these substances" said EU Health Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou.

According to the article published on the Euroactiv website on the 16th March the majority of about 1000 substances reviewed which

means 67 %, were eliminated because "dossiers were either not submitted, incomplete or were withdrawn by the industry" and only 26 % of the substances passed the EU safety assessment. About 70 substances were withdrawn from the market due to revealed risks to human health and environment.

The database on active substances is now available on the website of the European Commission since the 16th March. This database will be freely and easily available to all citizens.

For further information on this subject, please consult:

www.europa.eu

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/cap/eu-completes-16-year-pesticide-review/article-180313>



Pesticides new program after 16 years of review

Conference on classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals on 17th June 2009

According to a press release published on the ECHA webpage of the 5th March, the European Commission presents a conference on "EU Regulation on Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) of substances and mixtures based on the UN Globally Harmonised System (GHS)" in Brussels.

The conference objective is to inform authorities, industry and other stakeholders on new provisions for classification, labelling and packaging in the EU as well as in the global context of GHS. The new legislation focusing on practical aspects will also be discussed and there will be also up-to-date information on the CLP guidance and tools provided.

The target audience for this conference are all actors with a key role in the implementation of the CLP Regulation with particular emphasis on public authorities, industry associations or public bodies.

The closing date for registration is 1 May 2009 and the participation on the conference is free of charge.

For further information on this conference and registration, please consult:

http://echa.europa.eu/news/press_en.asp

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



Conference on CLP organised by the European Commission

Press Clippings

First public consultation on chemical substances

According to a press release published on the ECHA webpage of the 23rd February, ECHA has published the first public consultation on a proposal to harmonise the classification and labelling of two chemical substances. A period of 45 days was opened for comments on the proposal and all of them will be taken into account in the subsequent decision-making process.

This consultation is the first after the Regulation EC/1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures has been released. The ECHA's Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) is reviewing new proposals from member states and it's expected that new consultations will follow.

Suppliers of chemicals across Europe have to evaluate the hazards of chemicals and classify and label them before putting on the market. The National authorities of EU Member States may ask in established situations for the classification and labelling of a substance to be harmonised across Europe.

The Swedish authorities submitted to ECHA several dossiers on two substances and asked for their classification and labelling. The substances under consultation are:

Epoxiconazole – a pesticide, used in agriculture to control types of fungus

Diantimony trioxide – used as a flame retardant in plastics, PVC, rubber and textiles; as an additive in glass; and in the manufacture of pigments and paints

In the line with the REACH regulation, ECHA's RAC will expect comments and scientific opinions on the Swedish proposals and forward them to the European Commission.

The role of the European Commission is to decide the classification and labelling of the two substances, in order to harmonize them among all EU members. If the substances will have a harmonised classification and labelling, suppliers across Europe must classify and label them in the specific way before placing them on the market.

For further information on this subject, please consult:

http://echa.europa.eu/news/press_en.asp

http://echa.europa.eu/consultations/harmonised_cl_en.asp

http://echa.europa.eu/classification_en.asp



Suppliers of chemicals have to evaluate the chemicals and classify and label them



ECHA has published the first public consultation on a proposal to harmonise the classification and labeling of substances

Agence Europe - Summary

Reducing energy consumption of industrial engines

As stated in an Agence Europe article of the 16th March of 2009, the Member states' experts present in the Eco-Design Regulatory Committee on Wednesday 11 March have supported new measures proposed by the European Commission designed to reduce electricity consumption of industrial engines.

The European Commission proposition would ban the marketing of engines with performances standards lower than the

"IE2" standard by 2011 and will only authorise high performance "IE3" engines from 2015 for high powered engines and 2017 for other engines. The standards are IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) standards and derived from older European motor industry labels to harmonise with American standards.

According to the Commission this regulation will reduce the electricity con-

sumption in the utilisation stage by almost 135 terawatts/hour and an annual reduction of 63 million tonnes of CO₂.

The Commission proposition takes in account the analysis of technical, economical and environmental data on industrial engines carried out jointly with stakeholders and experts world-widely.

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



This regulation will reduce the electricity consumption of industrial engines

Stricter rules concerning industrial pollution

Based on the European Commission proposal the European Parliament supported the simplification and strengthening of legislation on coordinated industrial pollution reduction in the EU. The aim is to have lower costs with certain flexibility to avoid bureaucracy and taking local needs into account. The MEP's believe that they will achieve the objectives with the increase of document references (briefings) in an attempt to consider the best available technologies when granting pollution permits and also setting minimum emission value limits

for industrial installations.

That decision was taken on 10th March 2009 in Strasbourg by a large majority (402 votes for, 189 against, with 54 abstentions) to remodel the Commission proposal in a single text of seven European directives and integrated pollution control.

The implementation of this text will cover 52,000 industrial plants but the desired result has several obstacles due to the high number of authorisations granted that disregard the best pollution reduction technologies

available, as Stavros Dimas, the European Commissioner for Environment pointed out before the vote.

The ratified text goes further than the Commission's proposal with main regard to the setting of binding minimum value limits constituting the "European safety net". But the text is also less severe in some areas with particular emphasis in major combustion installations in sectors like oil refineries, steel production sites and chemical products.

For more information please consult Agence Europe.



The implementation will cover 52,000 industrial plants

Agence Europe - Summary

Forum of Global Associations of Regions (FOGAR) in Florence

According to an Agence Europe article of the 13th March of 2009, the financial and economic crisis in countries across the globe was in the top of debate at the annual General Assembly of the Forum of Global Associations of Regions (FOGAR), that took place on the 12th and 13th March 2009 in Florence. "The crisis is not the same in Europe as it is in Mali or in Indonesia or in Canada", but the regions and local communities are "on the front line in meeting this problem," said Claudio Martini, President of FOGAR. He also said that a crisis of confidence in the institutions amplified the problem and calls for a "coordinated regional initiative".

Paúl Carrasco Carpio, President of the Latin American Organisation of Intermediate Governments (OLAGI) stated that in time of crisis people went to their local

government and not to the central government and he also strengthened the idea of "greater involvement of local government in development" based on the reality of local situations through complementarity between regions.

Martini announced that the European Union should give more attention to what is being said in the regions and the European Commission should be more flexible so that the process of re-orienting the structural funds can begin.

Priscilla Wohl, Executive Director of the Northern Forum, an international association of regional governments from the Arctic Circle said that a review in training should be done, so that it looked to the jobs of the future and not on jobs which are not relevant anymore.

It was also referred to the fact that the economic and financial crisis is not the only problem in the world because there are also the food and climate crisis.

Christopher Nuttal representing the United Nations Development Programme said that the key players on climate change are local authorities, since countries aren't expected to deal with all regional problems. The UNDP has several programmes with the regions and encourages regions to make a climate diagnosis and to define a strategy themselves as well as collaborating with regions which had had the same problems.

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



*Forum of Global Associations
of Regions*



The Forum took place in Florence

**European
Chemical Regions
Network**



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