

Dear members and friends of the ECRN,

May is a month full of preparation for our coming events: we have the frame of our Congress on the 7th October ready, which will take place with the support of the Belgian Presidency of the EU and in close cooperation with our member regions Flanders and Wallonia. Beside this, you may already book the 6th October for our evening reception. Already next month, our second Permanent Working Group Meeting will take place on the 7th June in Saxony-Anhalt followed by ChemClust events.

In May, we also focus on the maintenance of our contacts. The annual SusChem Stakeholder event was one good opportunity to see where the Chemical Innovation Platform heads in the future. The discussions were about the frame of the future FP8 and what

has to be done to tackle societal challenges. One topic was mentioned in almost all discussions: the exceptional role and influence of the Chemical industry for the whole value chain.

Another main event was the ECHA Stakeholder Day. Since the ECRN intends to maintain in close contact with the ECHA, the participation at the ECHA Stakeholder Day was mandatory. Tipps and tools for the registration were presented as well as a feedback of the registration was given. More information of these two events will be given at the next PWG meeting.

Until then I wish you an enjoyable lecture of the ECRN Inside News!

Best wishes,

Michael Hack



ECRN Team in May 2010!

**ECRN Inside
News**

May 2010

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Outlook on the Permanent Working Group Meeting in June

On 7th June the next meeting of the ECRN Permanent Working Group will be held from 3 pm to 5.30 pm in Saxony-Anhalt. The exact location of the meeting will be announced soon and will be corresponding with the location of the ChemClust meeting on 8th and 9th June. At the meeting of the Permanent Working Group current activities of ECRN will be reported as well the current state of affairs of the ChemClust project. Next to that, presentations of key projects for the HLG follow-up in Germany will be given and a schedule of regional presentations for the upcoming meetings will be made. Furthermore, the agenda foresees a discussion on the paper on

“chemical mixtures” that has been drafted by Tees Valley and could serve as an ECRN position to the European Commission on this matter. In addition, the political overview and regional input will be discussed as we are in search of regional experts who can draft further ECRN position papers in the future. Finally, an update on the planning of the 8th ECRN Congress and other upcoming meetings will be given.

You can confirm your participation in the Permanent Working Group meeting until 1st June at ecrn@ecrn.net. In case of further questions, please contact the ECRN Secretariat.



German HLG Follow-up Conference on 1st July

One year after their publication, a German Follow-up Conference will deal with the implementation of the recommendations of the High Level Group on the Competitiveness of the European Chemicals Industry. The conference will take place on 1st July at the representation of North Rhine-Westphalia in Berlin and is jointly organized by VCI (German Chemicals Industry Association) and the German ECRN members. Its goal is to take stock of the German measures taken so far to implement the recommendations of the High Level Group, and to support the further implementation. This will be done by means of four parallel sessions that deal with the aspects of skills

development and human resources, innovation, energy and raw materials, and logistics. As introduction, there will be contributions from representatives of the European Commission, the German Ministry for Economic Affairs, the chemicals industry and ECRN-President Dr. Reiner Haseloff. The conference is addressed to politicians, civil servants, representatives of the European institutions and of other EU member states, industry associations, the social partners and business.

All ECRN members are cordially invited to participate in the conference. However, we would like to inform you that the language of the conference will be German.



The German implementation of the HLG recommendations will be evaluated in Berlin on 1st July

New Trainee at the ECRN Secretariat

Dear members and partners of the ECRN,

My name is Julia Wengert and from May until the end of July I will be the intern at the ECRN secretariat. After obtaining my Bachelor degree in European Studies I came to Brussels for an internship at the representation of my "home region" North Rhine-Westphalia to the EU where I got to know the workings of a regional interest representation and its interactions with the European institutions. At

the ECRN I want to learn about the organization of cooperation between different regions on chemical issues, and to acquire some skills in this regard. I also get the chance to deepen my knowledge of the policy areas important to the network and its activities. So far I am having a nice and interesting time at the ECRN.

I am looking forward to working with and for you during the next three months!

Press Clippings

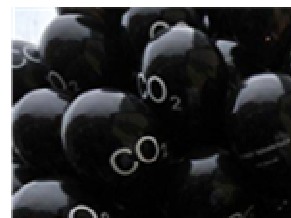
Controversy over Carbon Auctioning Rules

The European Commission's latest proposal on a regulation for carbon auctioning under the Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) covering the period after 2013 was controversially discussed among the EU member states and business on 6 May, as stated by an article of EurActiv dated 10 May. The proposed opt-out of the centralized European auctioning platform is favoured by Germany and the UK, but opposed by France. According to France and the majority of EU member states, such a single platform is the only way to ensure a single price on the market. A British representative, however, noted that also a centralized auctioning platform does not necessarily work faultless.

Many critics of the Commission's multi-platform proposal point to its lack of common rules, market oversight and sanctioning mecha-

nisms for malfunctioning platforms. The industry wants the Commission to quickly decide on an auctioning calendar and the final volumes of the permits to be traded. Market analysts warn the Commission to avoid an oversupply of permits and reminded it that past mistakes of the ETS can be corrected now. The European Commission intends to adopt its final proposal for a regulation by 30 June.

For further information on this topic, visit Euractiv (<http://www.euractiv.com/en/climate-environment/ets-auctioning-rules-spark-controversy-news-493948>). The proposal of the European Commission can be accessed at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/emission/pdf/proposed_auctioning_reg.pdf.



The latest proposal on European carbon auctioning rules is subject to much discussion



Tighter Rules on Industrial Pollution

According to a EurActiv article published on 5 May, the environment committee of the European Parliament on 4 May agreed on a proposal that will combine seven existing directives into a single one on industrial emissions (IED) and so recast the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control directive (IPPC). The goal of the new directive is to reinforce the system according to which industrial installations have to obtain permits from national authorities that allow them to release pollutants. The European Parliament as a whole will vote on the amended text in July.

In their proposal the MEPs strengthened the general direction of the directive by restricting the cases in which permits may be handed out to installations that do not use best available techniques (BATs). Additions made to the text suggest that derogations are not allowed when environmental quality standards are at risk of not being met and the local environment is severely impacted. Pollution permits could therefore only be issued to installations that do not use BATs if an assessment demonstrates that BATs cannot be implemented or their cost would be disproportional to environmental advantages. The proposal foresees a deadline of mid-2019 for large combustion plants to meet the emission limit values. A controversial proposal for EU-wide minimum requirements for emission limits was, however, abandoned by the committee. These would be assessed for individual industrial sectors instead.

The European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) – as stated on its website – supports the objectives of the IED directive. The legislation, however, needs to guarantee the necessary flexibility so that different local circumstances can be taken into account. Cefic stresses that local authorities are suited best to implement the provisions of the future directive. It promotes the inclusion of the chemicals industry into decisions and assessment relating to the BATs. In general, Cefic warns against disproportionate changes to the IPPC and advocates a balance of environmental, economic and social factors to achieve environmental sustainability.

At the same time a report by the European Environmental Agency (EEA) projects the EU member states' performance at controlling industrial pollution. According to data published on 4 May, in 2010 about half of the EU member states can be expected to miss one or more limits set by the National Emissions Ceilings directive (NEC). Nitrogen oxides (NO_x) seem to constitute the biggest problem, with the road transport sector being the main cause.

Further information on this topic can be found at EurActiv (<http://www.euractiv.com/en/climate-environment/meps-agree-tighter-rules-ippc-derogations-news-493759>), EEA (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/europe-to-exceed-air-pollutant>) and CEFIC (<http://www.cefic.be/Templates/shwNewsFull.asp?HID=1&NSID=752&P=1>).



The European Parliament's environment committee agreed on a proposal for the new directive on industrial emissions.



Press Clippings

Commission wants to simplify Research Funding

The European Commission intends to simplify rules and procedures relating to the funding of research under the current and future Framework Programmes. As reported by EurActiv and Agence Europe, a new communication presented on 29 April outlines measures of how to cut the administrative burden for the applicants and recipients of funding. This is meant to especially encourage SMEs to participate in the funding programmes. With this move, the Commission responds to complaints that the Research Framework Programme is too complicated in its procedures.

According to EurActiv (4 May), Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, wants scientists to "spend more time in the lab and less time in the office". Changes aiming at reduced form-filling, improved IT-tools and better guidance for application are already under way. More radical changes will be proposed in an amended financial regulation that will be presented this month. Among these are the payment for research based on "average costs" instead of a detailed calculation of each aspect, more cash-prizes for scientists and measures that allow

research projects to use the same accounting methods for EU schemes as for national funding.

The Commissioner also envisages changes to be enacted in future Research Framework Programmes. As stated by Agence Europe, a "results-based pay" method might be introduced, according to which researchers receive funding for specific tasks and aims and have to demonstrate that the money is used in an effective and efficient way. Also a new name might be given to the 8th Framework Programme to make it more attractive and meaningful to the European citizens. A midterm-review of the 7th Framework Programme and the new Research and Innovation Strategy will both be discussed in autumn.

More information on this topic can be found at EurActiv (<http://www.euractiv.com/en/science/eu-wants-researchers-in-the-lab-not-in-the-office-news-492009>) and Agence Europe (<http://www.agenceurope.com/>). The communication of the European Commission can be accessed via http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/pdf/communication_on_simplification_2010_en.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none.



Plans to simplify research funding under the current and future Research Framework Programme have been outlined by the European Commission



Proposed Merger of Gazprom and Naftogaz

Agence Europe stated on 7 May that Ukraine would "cautiously consider" the proposal of Russia's premier Wladimir Putin on a merger of Gazprom and the Ukrainian energy company Naftogaz. The merger was, however, rejected by Ukrain-

ian President Viktor Yanukovich on May 13, as EurActiv reports. According to Yanukovich, only a 50-50 deal with Russia is interesting to Ukraine, but Gazprom would not be willing to agree to this. In a meeting with EU energy commis-



A merger between Gazprom and Naftogaz has been proposed by Russia

Press Clippings

sioner Günther Oettinger on 6 May, the Ukrainian energy minister Yuriy Boyko made clear that examining the proposal would be considered, taking into account Ukrainian but also Russian and European interests. The Ukrainian idea to also invite European companies to potential talks was turned down by Gazprom, however. Commissioner Oettinger had emphasized earlier that the

merger and any decision thereon are to be made by Russia and Ukraine and that there is no need for any involvement of the European Commission at the moment.

For additional information on this topic, please visit Agence Europe (<http://www.agenceurope.com/>) and EurActiv (<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/gazprom-s-push-ukraine-merger-meets-resistance-news-494165>).

Update on the Nabucco Pipeline

As indicated by EurActiv on 7 May, a new policy brief by the Centre for European Reform (CER) argues that the Nabucco pipeline project "still makes sense" and should be backed politically and financially by the European Union member states. Many energy experts forecast that the European demand for gas will be rising slowly in the future, regardless of a current lack of demand and the EU's climate goals. The CER therefore points to the future need for the Nord Stream, South Stream and the southern corridor projects which have Nabucco at their centre. The project's benefits go beyond the increased profit of some European energy companies, including diversified gas supply and stronger relations with the suppliers and countries like Turkey. Therefore the EU and the member state governments "should give Nabucco stronger public support". In the policy brief, however, it is also stated that the EU has limited influence over many of the issues surrounding the pipeline project, for example in terms of securing the gas supply from countries like Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan or Iraq.

The European Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger only recently visited some countries that have a stake in the Nabucco pro-

ject. According to an article of Agence Europe from 16 April, Turkmenistan on this occasion expressed plans to triple its level of gas production and sees itself ready to provide the Nabucco pipeline with up to 10 billion m³ gas a year. A bilateral working group now needs to solve the legal issues connected to the countries' involvement. Also the problem of transporting gas from Turkmenistan to Azerbaijan has to be resolved. As stated by Agence Europe on 19 April, Commissioner Oettinger subsequently visited Azerbaijan where he met Energy Minister Nalik Aliiev. The Energy Commissioner stressed the key role of the country in the Nabucco project, in terms of transit and supply. Aliiev expressed the need for weighing the risks of Nabucco and negotiating long-term agreements. A final decision on the future of Nabucco is said to be taken at the end of this year and the European Commission will hold a conference with all stakeholders in autumn.

More information can be found at EurActiv (<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/nabucco-pipeline-needs-patience-and-public-support-news-493862>) and Agence Europe (<http://www.agenceurope.com/>).



A new policy brief advocates the realization of the Nabucco gas pipeline



Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger visited Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan to discuss their involvement in the Nabucco project

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.

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
	Intelligent Energy Europe	Sub-programme of CIP (Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme)	All participants are private or public legal entities.	24 June 2010	http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/call_for_proposals/call_library_en.htm
SP1-JTI-CS-2010-02	Clean Sky JTI 2010-02	FP7— Cooperation (Joint Technology Initiative)	Only legal entities established in a Member State or in a country associated to the Seventh Framework Programme	30 June 2010	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?function=UserSite.FP7.DetailsCallPage&call_id=306#infopack
	Support for European cooperation in Education and Training (ECET)	Part of the Lifelong Learning Programm (LLP)	National or regional ministries in charge of education and training, other public bodies and stakeholders' organisations active in the field of lifelong learning (pre-primary, schools, VET, higher education and adult learning)	16 July 2010	http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lfp/funding/2010/call/ecet_2010_en.php
SP1-JTI-CS-2010-03	Clean Sky JTI 2010-03	FP7— Cooperation (Joint Technology Initiative)	Applicable under certain conditions to non-profit bodies, secondary and higher education establishments, research organisations and SMEs	20 July 2010	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?function=UserSite.FP7.DetailsCallPage&call_id=308
	Eco-innovation Projects	Sub-programme of CIP (Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme)	All legal persons that are based in eligible countries but priority to Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). Clusters of applicants and projects which demonstrate a European added value and have a high potential for market replication are strongly encouraged.	9 September 2010	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoinnovation/application_en.htm
	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/lfp/doc848_en.htm
	Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)	Sub-programme of CIP (Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme)	Differs for the different parts of the programme; in general: companies, research organisations, NGOs and other organisations, public authorities	Deadlines differ for the different parts of the programme	http://ec.europa.eu/cip/documents/work-programmes/index_en.htm

**European
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