



EUROPEAN CHEMICAL  
REGIONS NETWORK

# ECRN Inside News

2009

May Edition

## Dear members of the ECRN,

May is a month of preparation for the ECRN Secretariat after the HLG events in Ústí and Düsseldorf. We are planning and preparing the following meetings in June (PWG), September (Innovation Seminar and PWG) and our 7<sup>th</sup> Congress of the ECRN which will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> November in Liège. Our congress will therefore be one of the main topics of the June PWG for which the support of all member regions is appreciated.

Another important issue in May is the aim of the ECRN to extend the membership. This was supported through presentations in the Polish Voivodeship of Lower Silesia and in Berlin. Other presentations in potential regions will follow in the coming second half of the year - as we count on your recommendations to support the growth of our network. Wrocław/

Lower Silesia (PL) was also the host of the 33<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Polish-German governmental commission, where the ECRN was presented as a best practice example.

In Germany, the ECRN and the ECRN Ústí Declaration will take an explicit role in the political discussion since ECRN President Dr. Haseloff will give a report of the HLG and connected ECRN activities in the biannual Conference of the German Economic Ministers. The HLG recommendations stay therefore in our focus.

I look forward to meet you at our meeting June 12<sup>th</sup>

and remain sincerely yours,

**Michael Hack**

Director of the ECRN Network



*ECRN Team May 2009*

ECRN  
May 2009

### Inside this issue:

<i>ECRN Affairs</i>	2
<i>ECRN Affairs</i>	3
<i>NEW: Recent Funding Calls</i>	4
<i>Press Clippings</i>	5
<i>Press Clippings</i>	6
<i>Agence Europe Summary</i>	7
<i>Agence Europe Summary</i>	8
<i>Contact</i>	9



EUROPEAN CHEMICAL  
REGIONS NETWORK

## ECRN Affairs

### Implementation of HLG results in the ECRN regions: Conference on „Chemical industry and competitiveness“ in Düsseldorf on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009

The ECRN continues to implement actively the High Level Group results in its member regions: On 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009, the first implementation event after the Ústí conference took place in Düsseldorf, North Rhine-Westphalia. Under the heading “Chemical industry and competitiveness – Recommendations of the High Level Group on the Chemical Industry” about 100 participants and speakers exchanged views and developed concepts for effective implementation of the HLG recommendations in North Rhine-Westphalia. Among the speakers were Christa Thoben, Minister of Eco-

conomic Affairs and Energy of North Rhine-Westphalia, Gwennole Cozigou, Director of the Directorate Chemical Industry, DG Enterprise and Industry of the European Commission, Massimo Buscemi, ECRN Vice-President and Minister of Nets, Public Utilities and Sustainable Development of Lombardy and Dr. Utz Tillmann, Managing Director of the VCI.

This conference was a further step of the HLG implementation process in the European chemical regions. Further events will follow and will be published on the ECRN website.



*HLG Conference in Düsseldorf*

### Reminder: Upcoming ECRN Events

The next PWG meeting will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> June at 9:30 a.m. in the Cheshire Office in Brussels, where the preparation of the 7<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Chemical Regions in November will be an important focus. After the summer break we meet again on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of September with a Seminar on Innovation and for a PWG meeting. These two events will take place in the Office of Catalonia in Brussels. The 7<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Chemical Regions, which

will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> November in Liège/ Wallonia, will not only offer high-class speeches on different topics of relevance for the chemical regions, but will also give the chance to meet and exchange views with other stakeholders from all over Europe. The ECRN Secretariat will keep you informed on all of these events. In case of any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.



*Upcoming events*

## ECRN Inside News

# ECRN Affairs

## Final Conference Report of the HLG Follow-up conference in Ústí nad Labem available soon

The final conference report on the Ústí conference which took place on 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> April 2009 is in preparation and will be available on the ECRN website in the coming days. It will contain detailed summaries

of the panels and workshops in order to give a good overview on the conference. The ECRN Secretariat will inform you as soon as the report is available.



*Ústí nad Labem conference*

## Suggestions for other events in Brussels

Cefic and ReachCentrum are organizing a workshop about the REACH implementation process the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of June in Brussels, Belgium.

For further information, please contact: Clarissa Spencer on 0032-(0)2 676 74 02 or refer to <http://cefic.org/en/689.html>



*REACH implementation workshop*

## Welcome Message by ECRN Trainee

Dear Partners and Associates,  
I joined the ECRN's team at the beginning of May with a lot of expectations that by sure are going to be fulfilled.

In today's world it is of crucial importance to have a common framework that allows regions to better scope with not only sustainable development but with environmental challenges, I hope that my education and my international background can contribute to the ECRN to better deal with this defy.

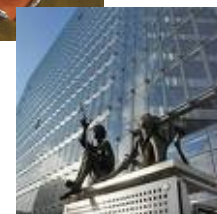
Originally from Ecuador, South America, I have done my studies in the U.S. and Belgium on the Business and Economics

arena. Following my studies I have working experience in the Beverages and Agrochemical fields on controlling and sales administration.

Based on my background the ECRN seems the right step to follow while I am doing further education in the capital of Europe. I am really looking forward to get more involve with the chemical industry as well to see how a European organization works from the inside.

Best regards wishing you all a nice spring and coming summer.

Piero Castro Loor



*Brussels*

## ECRN Inside News

# Selection of Funding Calls

In this month's Inside News attaches 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. 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
<a href="#">FP7-PEOPLE-2009-IAPP</a>	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	<a href="http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7CallsPage">http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7CallsPage</a>
<a href="#">FP7-PEOPLE-2009-IAPP</a>	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	<a href="http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7CallsPage">http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7CallsPage</a>
<a href="#">KIC Website</a>	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"> <li>• climate change mitigation and adaptation</li> <li>• sustainable energy</li> <li>• future information and communication society</li> </ul> Although a KIC proposal may span across areas, the KIC must address one of these priorities.	27/08/2009	<a href="http://eit.europa.eu/fileadmin/Content/Downloads/PDF/kics/KICS_call_2009_04_02.pdf">http://eit.europa.eu/fileadmin/Content/Downloads/PDF/kics/KICS_call_2009_04_02.pdf</a>
<a href="#">CIP-IEE-2009</a>	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"> <li>• to foster energy efficiency and the rational use of energy resources;</li> <li>• to promote new and renewable energy sources and to support energy diversification;</li> <li>• to promote energy efficiency and the use of new and renewable energy sources in transport.</li> </ul>	25/06/2009	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/call_for_proposals/doc/call_2009_en.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/call_for_proposals/doc/call_2009_en.pdf</a>
<a href="#">ICT PSP - 2009</a>	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"> <li>- the challenge of future networks and the internet</li> <li>- the contribution of ICTs towards a true Single Market</li> <li>- the need to face the challenge of competitiveness through innovation and research</li> <li>- the need to develop a long-term policy agenda for users in the digital environment.</li> </ul>	02/06/2009	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/documents/ict_psp_wp2009.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/documents/ict_psp_wp2009.pdf</a>



## Press clippings

### First coordinated REACH enforcement project started

According to the press release of ECHA the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, a joint REACH enforcement project has started across Europe. National inspectors are checking pre-registrations, registrations and the provisions for Safety Data Sheets. The Forum for Exchange of Information on Enforcement, meeting for the fourth time this week in Helsinki, reviewed the start of the project and agreed on the further steps.

Inspectors in the participating countries will focus on the phase-in substances (existing ones) and check through inspections whether companies have submitted a pre-registration or a registration and, where necessary, whether a Safety Data Sheet has been supplied.

A designated national coordinator will supervise the implementation of the project in each participating country and provide training for local inspectors. For that purpose, the national coordinators were trained by the Forum Working Group at ECHA's premises earlier in April.

The results of the project will be collected by the end of 2009 and the Forum Working Group will analyze the results and produce a report in early 2010.

For further information on this article, please consult:

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



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

### Ensuring coexistence of GM Crops with conventional and organic farming

According to an article published by the European Commission on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, there is a new report on national strategies to ensure a common policy procedure of genetically modified (GM) crops to coexist with conventional and organic farming. Member states have made significant progress to develop legislation the last years given the fact of the expansion of the GM crops.

These measures would provide a broader range of choice to consumers and agricultural producers enhancing individual preferences and economic opportunities. Whilst environmental and health aspects of GM crop cultivation are to be addressed beforehand during the authorization procedure, coexistence measures have their focus on the economic impact.

EU experience with the cultivation of GM crops remains extremely

limited in comparison with other regions of the world. The only GM crop currently cultivated in the EU is GM maize which is resistant to certain lepidopteran pests. In 2008, GM maize was produced in the Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Romania, and Slovakia on a cultivation surface of about 100 000 hectares which means 1.2 percent for the EU's total maize area.

The Commission is convinced that the subsidiary-based approach on coexistence has been the right choice and it sees no need to develop further harmonization on this matter.

To be continued on next page...



*EU Commission new policy is trying to ensure a common framework on GM crops for the member states.*

## Press Clippings

The Commission is committed to strengthening its efforts to facilitate co-operation among Member States, to promote a science-based and practical approach on segregation measures. In 2011, the Commission will report on the progress made, including an update on the development and implementation of national coex-

istence measures.

For further information, please consult:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/searchAction.do>

### “Green” sustainable chemistry is on the rise

According to an article published on the ICIS chemical newsletter on May 6th there is a ever increasing trend on bio-manufacturing. This has been largely followed by many organizations within regions around the globe in order to replace their oil-derived products in their operations.

For instance Genomatica, is one example of how the chemicals industry is developing. It follows its breakthrough with a microorganism that can produce 1,4-butanediol (BDO).

It uses plant sugars as a raw material and produce chemicals that can be used as replacements for their oil-based equivalents. Such sustainable chemistry is an area of growing interest, driven by companies' desires to improve their sustainability and move away from oil-based materials to renewable feedstocks. Use of "sustainable chemicals" also offers the potential to reduce energy usage and carbon emissions, and to protect against future tightness of oil supplies and resulting higher oil prices.

Christophe Schilling, CEO and cofounder of Genomatica, believes several waves of sustainability thinking are sweeping across chemical producers, with some companies further ad-

vanced than others.

Companies are taking a eager interest in improving their sustainability, mainly through looking at energy usage and their carbon footprint. They are also examining the products themselves, and beginning to ask whether they can produce materials in a more sustainable manner from renewable feedstocks.

This would allow companies to engage in a more participate action towards communities around the world who seem to have an ever seen interest on environmental issues. Moreover, communities close to industry clusters around the globe are more aware of the importance of the stakeholder participation they have when dealing with green issues.

How quickly these technologies are taken up depends on the market, the stage producers have reached and the governmental support in their progress to sustainability.

For more information refers to the article:

<http://www.icis.com/Articles/2009/05/11/9213552/are-chemical-producers-engaged-in-the-drive-to-use-green.html>



*Europe GM maize field*



*Green chemistry, also called sustainable chemistry, is a chemical philosophy encouraging the design of products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use and generation of hazardous substances. .*

## Agence Europe - Summary

### Financial crisis and climate change - topics discussed by Europe's regions and municipalities in Malmö

According to an Agence Europe article published on April 23; the 24th General Assembly of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), the largest local and regional event in Europe, opened on Malmö on Wednesday 22 April. The CEMR accounts with representation from local and regional governments from over 40 European countries. Despite the last minute cancelation of some high-level speakers, almost 1,000 delegates gathered in Sweden's third largest city. Under the slogan "Fit for the future?" this General Assembly sought dialogue between local and regional authorities in the face of the challenges of the moment and the near future.

"Cooperation is the most important tool at our disposal for solving problems," said Cecilia Malmström, Swedish Minister for European Union Affairs, representing the government, as Sweden prepares to take over the presidency of the Council of the European Union. She felt that climate was "the

most important task facing our generation" and that it was essential that the European Union continues this work despite the economic crisis. The best way, she suggested, was through the exchange of best practice and experience because some cities and regions have made more progress than others.

Former Mayor of Heidelberg in Germany and former MEP Beate Weber pointed out that all the issues remained as important as they were before the crisis. "We can not forget these issues during this crisis" as this is "the only way to ensure sustainability". Sustainability must not wait for the future, not await new technologies: it can be put into application right now, said Håkan Buskhe, Chief Executive and President of E.ON Nordic AB and E.ON Sverige AB.

The economic crisis is powerful and is creating risks to the social system and threats of poverty and hunger, said Bärbel Dieckmann, Mayor of Bonn, Executive President of

the CEMR and chairwoman of the World Mayors Council on Climate Change. Yet governments are investing huge amounts of money which increases countries' debt. "It is necessary to spend money and increase debt at the moment but we must invest in sustainable industries," she suggested. She called for urgent investment in sustainable industry and in education, because it is only by "investing in a durable way that there is a chance of solving the problems". "The work has to be done at all levels, however, municipalities and cities can act quickly and more effectively because they know what has to be done in their areas," she concluded.

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



*The Council of European Municipalities was founded in Geneva in 1951 by a group of European mayors; later, it opened its ranks to the regions and became the Council of European Municipalities and Regions.*

## Agence Europe - Summary

### Compromise with Council on phyto-pharmaceutical products rejected in second reading

As stated in the press article released on Friday 24 April, the European Parliament did not succeed in obtaining a qualified majority during the second reading on the compromise the Council and EP environment committee had reached on statistics on phyto-pharmaceutical products. This situation obviously poses a problem, insofar as there is only one session left under this legislature where the compromise could be approved by MEPs. This possibility, ac-

ording to Bart Staes (Greens/EFA, Belgium), the rapporteur, nevertheless cannot be ruled out because the compromise was not obtained due to the absence of some of the MEPs during the session. Parliament, on the other hand, did adopt a series of amendments submitted by the Greens/EFA, EPP-ED, ALDE, GUE/NGL, IND/DEM and PES. The Council and Bart Staes, on behalf of the environment committee, managed to find some common

ground on certain controversial subjects such as the field of application for the regulation (restriction on phyto-pharmaceutical products and the inclusion of non-agricultural use). This regulation is expected to complete the other recent initiatives on pesticides.

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



*Like this crop duster in action, many MEPs want to swoop low and target toxic chemicals in pesticides.*

### Nuclear waste storage has recent developments

According to an article published on the 23 of April in Agence Europe, progress made in research has allowed a large part of the problem of elimination and lasting storage of radioactive waste to be overcome, as claimed by Roland Schenkel, Director General of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, speaking on 16 April. This studies has shown a new way to eliminate nuclear

waste in a more effective way, he said at a meeting of the European Parliament committee on industry, research and energy (ITRE). There was highlighted the possibility of depositing highly radioactive waste using vitrification techniques.

The program's activities mainly focus on the site in Ispra, Italy, which houses the essential part of the research center halted nuclear instal-

lations, while decommissioning activity is for now relatively limited to the sites in Geel (Belgium), Karlsruhe (Germany) and Petten (Netherlands), where nuclear installations are still in active service.

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



*Nuclear waste program accounts for total revised budget of €676 million, which has increased €38 million compared to forecasts.*



**European  
Chemical Regions  
Network**



---

## **ECRN Inside News**

---

May 2009

ECRN Secretariat  
Boulevard St. Michel 80  
B-1040 Bruxelles

Register:  
Amtsgericht Magdeburg 1995

Phone: +32 (0) 2 7410 947  
Fax: +32 (0) 2 7410 927  
E-mail: [office@ecrn.net](mailto:office@ecrn.net)  
Web: [www.ecrn.net](http://www.ecrn.net)



*ECRN Office in Brussels*