



# ECRN Inside News

2010

November / December Edition

Dear members and friends of the ECRN,

The ECRN Secretariat has undergone several changes in recent months, and in the midst of work on planning future objectives, political strategies, staffing and financial means of the ECRN, we decided to combine the November/December edition of the Inside News.

The aforementioned topics were the result of discussion in the Executive Board meeting on 7 October. A new approach concerning these issues is foreseen under development and preparation by a strategic group starting soon.

As already announced, Michael Hack left the Brussels office in mid-November. The Executive Board thanks him and Eva Hertel for their important contribution to the ECRN network. Michael Hack will stay in Brussels in a Japanese Company and Eva Hertel took over a position

in our member region North Rhine-Westphalia.

I have been chosen as the new Director of the ECRN Secretariat, and I will initiate the intended new political strategies by setting up kick-off meetings to engage the ECRN network in the process.

I am a chemist by education, and I have a background of working in North Rhine-Westphalia in the Ministry for Environment for over 18 years and in the Ministry for Economic Affairs for the past five years, engaged in discussions on topics such as REACH, Nanomaterials and innovation issues. I have also gained inside experience on European decision making as a national expert during a three year-stay in the EU Commission. Furthermore, I have been engaged as an expert in different Twinning projects in Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria and Serbia. Due to these experiences I know that the new ECRN strategy can only be realized

ECRN Inside  
News

November/  
December 2010

Inside this issue:

*ECRN Affairs* 2-4

*News from  
Member Regions* 5

*Press Clippings* 6-9

*Selection of  
Funding Calls* 9

*Contact* 10



ECRN Team in November/December 2010



through networking and engagement with you, the colleagues and experts in our member regions.

At the moment, I am supported in the office by Miia Itänen who has been working here as a trainee for the past months and finishes soon with a Double Masters in Business Administration (Belgium/Finland). She has been a big help, especially with her knowledge of practical issues and French.

I thank you all very much for your constructive contributions and discussions in 2010, and I hope

that the future will bring the intended success to ECRN!

We, from the Brussels office, wish you and your families a merry Christmas and all the best for the year 2011!

I look forward to working with you as we head towards the International Year of Chemistry - IYC 2011!

My Best Wishes,

Hanny Nover  
Director of the ECRN Network  
Secretariat

## Recent Updates from the European Chemicals Agency

The EU's chemical policy reached an important milestone with the first registration deadline of REACH on 30 November 2010. Altogether 24,675 registration dossiers were successfully submitted for 4,300 substances including nearly 3,400 phase-in substances.

This deadline was a part of a three-phase process, with the next two registration deadlines in 2013 and 2018. The 2013 deadline, on 31 May, is for substances produced in amounts of more than 100 tons.

Registration statistics and further information is available on the ECHA website. The final number of registrations and substances, including a breakdown of 'phase-in' and 'non phase-in' will be made available in the coming weeks.

Furthermore, ECHA is planning to carry out inspections during 2011 to control REACH compliance across the supply chain and to enhance awareness of registration and notification requirements.

Finally, the notifications to the Classification and Labeling Inventory of substances placed on the market on 1 December 2010 is due on 3 January 2011. Submission of notifications should be done via the REACH-IT portal on the ECHA website. ECHA encourages early submissions.

Further information from ECHA:

[http://echa.europa.eu/news/pr/201012/pr\\_10\\_23\\_registration\\_deadline\\_20101201\\_en.asp](http://echa.europa.eu/news/pr/201012/pr_10_23_registration_deadline_20101201_en.asp) ,  
[http://echa.europa.eu/news/pr/201010/pr\\_10\\_22\\_forum\\_20101015\\_en.asp](http://echa.europa.eu/news/pr/201010/pr_10_22_forum_20101015_en.asp) and  
[http://echa.europa.eu/clp/inventory\\_notification\\_en.asp](http://echa.europa.eu/clp/inventory_notification_en.asp)



EUROPEAN CHEMICAL  
REGIONS NETWORK



*Three recent updates from ECHA that are of relevance for the chemical regions:*

- 1) the first REACH registration deadline passed on 30 November*
- 2) further inspections for REACH compliance along the supply chain foreseen during 2011*
- 3) Classification & Labeling Inventory deadline coming up on 3 January 2011.*

## ChemClust Meeting held in Limburg on 17 and 18 November

This year's third ChemClust meeting was held in Limburg on 17 and 18 November. While the previous ChemClust meetings in Saxony-Anhalt (June 2010) and Tees Valley (September 2010) focused on the topics of "Chemical Sites as Knowledge Sites" and "Skills Development, this meeting was dedicated to the theme of "Open Innovation". Topics discussed included efforts carried out in different regions as well as further development of a project benchmarking study.

The region of Limburg presented its regional policy that aims to support innovation by establishing close cooperation between industry, universities and administration. In essence, it involves a collaboration-based approach to business development, cross-sector cooperation of research and industry clusters, as well as enhanced transfer of knowledge between research institutions and industry and support for start-ups and SMEs. Overall, the goal is to support the development of a new mindset and organizational culture to enhance innovation.

The main objective of ChemClust is to collect good practices of innovation promotion and disseminate them among regions through pilot actions. In order to identify and share the good practices in the regions, a benchmarking study is being developed. In order

to compare the regions and to identify areas for cooperation or needs for action, the study is structured in three parts: quantitative description of the chemical industry, analysis of cluster and network integration, and description of future potential and needs to be addressed.

While innovations were the key theme of this meeting, earlier meetings this year addressed the synergies and strengths realized through cooperation of chemical sites and clusters and strategies to develop chemical sites. Additionally, due to the demographic changes and evolving context of the chemical industry, new strategies for skills development and ways to improve the image of chemical industry have been discussed. In this context, the importance of cross-sector cooperation and collaboration with clusters, other industries, universities and research institutions is of increasing importance.

The benchmarking initiative will bring together the aforementioned topics, and based on the benchmarking study, pilot actions in the fields of Open Innovation, Knowledge Sites and Skills Foresight will be developed to further enhance knowledge transfer between ChemClust partners.

More information:  
[www.chemclust.eu](http://www.chemclust.eu)



*ChemClust meeting was held in Limburg on 17 and 18 November, focusing on the theme of Open Innovation. In addition to sharing best practices on encouraging innovation, plans were made for conducting a benchmarking study on chemical clusters.*

## New Approaches to Innovation Discussed at a Conference on Open Chemical Innovation on 18 November

"Open Chemical Innovation: your business in Top Gear" -conference was jointly organized by ChemClust and CHEMaterials Campus projects on 18 November 2010.

Nearly 200 participants from chemical companies, national or regional governmental bodies, development companies and educational institutions attended the conference.

As the conference coincided with the ChemClust meeting, several ECRN member regions were present at the conference. The members of the ChemClust project also disseminated the results from discussions during the meeting of 17 November during the conference.

Open innovation is a new approach to business development based on extensive collaboration with third parties. It is based on increased focus on the surrounding business environment and identification of opportunities to accelerate business.

Essentially, open innovation is about reaching more effective outcomes and reducing risk and time to market. However, open

innovation is not just about methods and techniques but it is also about developing a different mindset which often requires changes to the culture within your organization.

In the context of chemical industry, Open Chemical Innovation has been successfully applied for instance within DSM and Chemelot for a number of years.

The conference aimed to increase understanding of the principles of open innovation and help the participants to gain an understanding of the methods and tools that can be used to accelerate innovation.

The conference setting also provided excellent opportunities to interact with other people to share ideas and experiences and to discover a potential for expanding and accelerating open innovation among business and regions.

For further information concerning the conference, please contact Bianca Moonen / [info@openchemicalinnovation.com](mailto:info@openchemicalinnovation.com) or visit the conference website at [www.openchemicalinnovation.com](http://www.openchemicalinnovation.com)



*Open Innovations were discussed also at a conference jointly organized by Chemelot and the province of Limburg at Chemelot Campus, Sittard-Geleen, the Netherlands, on 18 November 2010*

## News from Member Regions

### Initiatives in Lombardy to support SMEs to comply with REACH

Chemical sector is very important for Italy, and particularly for the Lombardy, where many of the chemical companies are located. Among European chemical regions, Lombardy is the first in terms of companies, and the second in terms of employees, thanks to the wide net of SMEs located in the region. Lombardy was the first region in Italy to recognise the regional law on competitiveness for enterprises and territory and the European legislation as a great opportunity to promote sustainable development among enterprises, enhancing security and safety also for the final users.

In line with goals of improving the protection of health and environment from the risks of chemicals while enhancing the competitiveness of the EU chemical industry, the REACH regulation (registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemical substances) was implemented in the EU in 2007. In order to support SMEs to comply with REACH and to enhance competitiveness of the entire sector, the DG Industry, Handicraft, Building and Cooperation of Lombardy Region launched a call for applications in 2009 for co-financing expenditures for projects to improve knowledge on and the management of REACH.

SMEs that completed the REACH pre-registration procedures and fulfilled obligations on work safety and security were eligible for the call and could apply for financial

contribution for training or service initiatives. These included courses on topics such as REACH regulation, product safety legislation, use of IT in managing relations with authorities, transmission of information, updating of safety data, and evaluating exposure scenarios. Also included were services aimed at enhancing communication with national and European authorities, as well as suppliers and users, particularly in relation to the Substance Information Exchange Forum (SIEF), and services dealing with characterization of substances, or REACH-related research.

The initiative was a great success and the call was re-opened with two different phases of financing, the first of which ended in October 2009 and the second in July 2010, registering a total of 252 founded enterprises for an amount of more than 2 million Euros.

However, the work continues, as both the REACH regulation and the regional law could be improved to better respond to the needs of SMEs. Indeed, the Commission intends to review the scope of REACH to avoid overlaps with other EU provisions. Furthermore, the regional law should be aligned with the principles of the "Small Business Act" to improve the overall approach to entrepreneurship. This is one of Lombardy's priorities, as the region continues to play a central role in collecting input and feedback from enterprises of chemical sector.



**Regione Lombardia**

*The Lombardy region has had great experiences with initiatives aimed at supporting SMEs to align and adapt to REACH.*



*Support and funding was offered to SMEs to organize training and services related to REACH. The work now continues by ensuring that regional law and framework conditions are aligned to support entrepreneurship.*

## Press Clippings

### New Industrial Policy to Boost Europe's Competitiveness

The Communication on "An integrated industrial policy for the globalisation era", adopted by the European Commission on 28 October, places industry at centre stage to enhance Europe's position as a global economic leader. The policy aims to maintain a strong, diversified, sustainable and competitive industrial base in Europe.

Commissioner Tajani (Industry and Entrepreneurship) said that "Europe needs industry and industry needs Europe", as it contributes to "finding solutions to the challenges of our society, today and in the future". Industry plays a key role in meeting the Europe 2020 goals, as 1/4 of European private sector jobs are in industry, and another 1/4 depend on it either as a supplier or a client. Industry also creates new jobs. Moreover, majority of private sector R&D is done in industry, making it a driver of innovation.

As part of the Europe 2020 strategy, the policy aligned with other flagship initiatives such as "Innovation Union", "New Skills for New Jobs", and "Resource Efficient Europe". The Communication sets a framework for a modern industrial policy to support entrepreneurship, help industry adjust to new challenges, and boost the competitiveness of Europe. Both broad horizontal measures and targeted actions for specific industries are proposed.

The policy aims to improve the framework conditions for Euro-

pean industry and enhance resource efficiency, sustainability, and innovation. It addresses the entire value chain from infrastructure and raw materials to after-sales service.

Support for SMEs is cited as a central element in strengthening competitiveness. Other issues to be addressed on a European level include the innovation gap between Member States and energy efficiency. However, while the importance of a coordinated approach on the EU level is highlighted, many of the policy instruments are to be implemented on national level. The success of EU industry thus critically depends on national action. Member States are encouraged to adopt strategies and action plans for greening existing industries and boosting eco-industries.

Ten key actions are listed for enhancing competitiveness, such as strengthening European standardization, and improving the transport, energy and communication infrastructure. Furthermore, as smarter regulation can significantly cut costs and enhance efficiency and competitiveness of businesses, the Commission proposes "competitiveness proofing" and "fitness checks" of new and existing legislation.

Moreover, the creation, growth and internationalization of SMEs will be supported with enhanced access to credit. Sector-specific innovation performance will be improved with actions targeted for



*The European Commission outlines the strategic agenda for the new industrial policy in its communication "An integrated industrial policy for the globalisation era", adopted 28 October.*



*The industry is placed at a central role in speeding up the recovery and growth of the European economy after crisis. The commission outlines a set of measures to improve the framework conditions in order to boost competitiveness.*

## Press Clippings

instance for advanced manufacturing technologies, bio-fuels, and transport. Innovations are encouraged in energy-intensive industries through promotion of clusters and improved framework conditions. Additionally, a new space policy will be pursued, and sustainability will be enhanced with a new strategy on supply and management of raw materials. The Commission will monitor progress by reporting on European and Member State's competitiveness on an annual basis and encourage sharing of best practices.

The chemical industry welcomed the new policy approach and was pleased to see industry placed at

centre stage in enhancing Europe's competitiveness. Particularly the actions on smarter legislation and support for innovation and SMEs were appreciated, as they contribute to enhanced competitiveness of the sector in global markets. CEFIC now calls for concrete action, better coordination between public and private sectors, and fast implementation of the initiatives, as they could boost growth and employment in the European chemical industry.

More Information :  
[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/industrial-competitiveness/industrial-policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/industrial-competitiveness/industrial-policy/index_en.htm)



*The chemical industry welcomed the policy outline, as many of the proposed initiatives would contribute to growth and competitiveness of the European chemical industry.*

## Commission's "Energy 2020" Strategy

On 10 November, Commissioner Oettinger presented the Commission's Communication on new energy strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy. He emphasized the need for a unified European approach in order to develop an efficient, competitive and low-carbon EU economy. The strategy sets out priorities and actions to tackle the challenges of saving energy, achieving a market with competitive prizes and secure supplies, boosting technological leadership, and effective international relationships. The Communication forms the basis to concrete legislative initiatives and proposals that the Commission will introduce within the next 18 months.

Five top priorities are identified, including energy efficiency, integrated European energy market,

safety, security and consumer empowerment, leadership in energy technology and innovation, and strengthening the external dimension of the EU energy market. For instance, in the industrial sector, increased use of energy efficiency certificates is proposed to incentivise companies to invest in energy efficient technology. The need for better coordination of energy policies and improvements in the overall EU energy infrastructure is highlighted, and the Commission estimates that investments of €1 trillion are needed. Moreover, the promotion of intelligent networks and electricity storage, research on bio-fuels and partnerships to promote energy savings are called to improve Europe's competitiveness.

More information :  
[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/strategies/2010/2020\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/strategies/2010/2020_en.htm)



*The Commission adopted a Communication outlining the key issues and priorities for the new Energy 2020 strategy, seeking to ensure a sustainable and secure EU energy system.*

## Press Clippings

### Debate on Emission Targets Continues - EU wants to "Decarbonise" the Economy

In October, the EU's emissions trading scheme (ETS) cap was revised to accommodate new sectors such as aluminium and petrochemicals. The new cap was set at 2.039 billion tonnes (vs. prior 1.927 billion tonnes), taking into account the new post-2012 scope.

The ETS cap is based on the EU's self-imposed legal obligation to cut emissions by 20% by 2020. The EU is now debating the option of raising the target to 30% as the Commission and some Member States no longer regard the current goal as a sufficient incentive for companies to invest in low-carbon technologies, as the latest figures already indicate a 17% fall in the EU emissions. However, the decision on whether to raise the target has been postponed to 2011. The Com-

mission, the Member States and businesses continue to debate the pros and cons of further reductions. While opponents claim that further reductions would have a negative impact on European competitiveness against countries with less stringent regulation, the supporters believe they would boost innovation, investment and job creation.

Furthermore, the Commission is preparing a "Roadmap for a low carbon economy 2050", outlining a strategy for reducing emissions. A public consultation has been opened for gathering views on how to decarbonise the European economy. Comments should be submitted by 8 December 2010.

Contributions can be submitted at: [http://ec.europa.eu/clima/consultations/0005/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/consultations/0005/index_en.htm)

### New Directive on Industrial Emissions

On 8 November, the EU adopted new, stricter legislation on industrial emissions. The new Directive on updates and merges seven pieces of existing legislation on reducing pollution, strengthening the application of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and revising the minimum emission limits that apply to large combustion plants across the EU. The Directive makes sure that plants will reduce their harmful emissions whilst providing sufficient flexibility guaranteeing the security of energy sup-

ply within the EU. The new rules yield environmental and health benefits, reduce administrative burden and cut costs, and drive innovation.

The Directive strives to enhance environmental performance of the industry through continuous improvement. Member States are also asked to promote emerging techniques. The new Directive includes a number of mechanisms to enforce compliance, including provisions related to emission monitoring, re-



*Debate on addressing climate change and reducing emissions continues. In addition to the ongoing discussions between the EU bodies, the Member States and interest groups, input is now being gathered by the Commission through a public consultation on future strategy to decarbonise the European economy.*



*The Council has voted to adopt a new Directive on industrial emissions, described as another "milestone in industrial pollution control in the European Union". Stricter legislation was proposed already in 2007, and the Directive should enter into force by the end of 2010.*



porting, and inspections. Improvements have also been made regarding public access to information. The clearer implementation requirements for Member States will facilitate the Commission's task of ensuring the full application of the Directive.

The Directive will enter into force before the end of 2010. Member States will have 2 years to transpose the Directive into their legislation and to start implementing the new legislation.

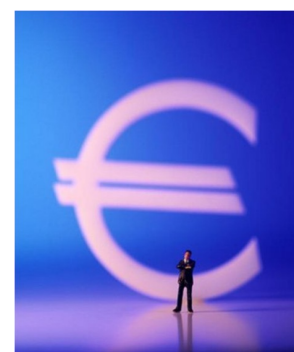
Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/pollutants/stationary/index.htm>

## Selection of Funding Calls

Below is a non-exhaustive selection of some recent calls for European Funding Programmes of potential relevance for the ECRN members.

For more details, refer to the websites listed in the table.

Please feel free to contact the ECRN Secretariat in case of any suggestions or questions.



Call Identifier	Call Title	Funding Scheme	Eligibility Conditions	Deadline	Website
FP7-REGIONS-2011-1	Regions of Knowledge	FP7	Minimum of 3 regional research-driven clusters from at different EU Member States or Associated Countries. Clusters must be composed of at least 3 types of legal entities (research organizations, business entities and regional/local authorities)	9 December 2010	<a href="http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CapacitiesDetailsCallPage&amp;call_id=338">http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CapacitiesDetailsCallPage&amp;call_id=338</a>
FP7-ERANET-2011-RTD	ERA-NET Call 2011	FP7	Minimum of 3 independent participating legal entities from different countries, which finance or manage publicly funded national or regional programmes.	22 February 2011	<a href="http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&amp;call_id=312">http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&amp;call_id=312</a>
	NER 300 Call	NER300 competition (DG Climate Action)	Single organizations or consortia; innovative renewable energy and carbon capture and storage projects	9 February 2011	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/clima/funding/ner300/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/clima/funding/ner300/index_en.htm</a>
	Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP)	Erasmus Grundtvig Comenius Leonardo da Vinci	All types and levels of education and vocational education and training, details differ for each sub-programme	Deadlines differ for every sub-programme.	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/education/llp/doc848_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/education/llp/doc848_en.htm</a>
	Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)	Sub-programme of CIP	Differs for the different parts of the programme; e.g. companies, NGOs, research organisations, public authorities	Deadlines differ for the different parts of the programme	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/cip/documents/work-programmes/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/cip/documents/work-programmes/index_en.htm</a>
	4th call for proposals for INTERREG IV	INTERREG IV (European Regional Development Fund)	Projects have to involve partners representing at least three countries. Priority for projects related to "innovation and the knowledge economy" or "environment and risk prevention". The full terms of reference will be published on the programme website on 1 December	1 April 2011	<a href="http://i4c.eu/">http://i4c.eu/</a>

**European  
Chemical Regions  
Network**



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## **ECRN Inside News**

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