

Dear members and friends of the ECRN,

October 2008 is a very active month for the ECRN Network Secretariat. Our top priority is the organisation of our 6th Congress of the ECRN on the 27th October 08 in the Center of the Regions in Brussels.

The President of the ECRN, Dr. Haseloff, will also actively contribute at the High Level Group Meeting on this very

day. Moreover, we detail our plans for the Follow-up Event of the HLG in April 2009.

At our Congress we are pleased to present our printed Newsletter and our updated Who-is-Who of the Chemical Regions to you.

We are looking forward to update this overview of our partner steadily- as we will welcome our

20th member by the end of this year.

As you see and feel, we are on a good and successful path and I look forward to meet you soon at our 6th Congress!

Best wishes,

Michael Hack
*Director of the ECRN
Network Secretariat*



ECRN Team October 2008

ECRN
October 2008

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ECRN Affairs

6th Congress of the European Chemical Regions Update

As the date of our 6th Congress on 27th October 2008 in Brussels is coming closer, preparations have reached a final stage: The agenda is fixed and the official invitations have been sent.

In order to make it possible to all people interested to register for the Congress, we have also put the pdf version of the invitation on our website for easy download (<http://www.ecrn.net/activities/congresses.php>).

We are looking forward to this year's high class ECRN event with many interesting speakers and debates and hope to see all of our members here in the Centre of the Regions in Brussels!

In case of any further questions concerning the Congress registration etc., please feel free to contact us at any time (Phone: +32 (2) 7410947; Email: office@ecrn.net).

ECHA First Stakeholder Day

The ECRN participated at the historical first Stakeholder day of ECHA (European Chemicals Agency) on the 10th of October in Helsinki. ECHA presented its staff members and was open to receive feedback from the industry side and NGO. This opportunity was appreciated by all participants.

ECHA faces currently the end of the pre-registration period on the 1st December 2008. The pre-registration is used by a numerous amount

of companies. A identified problem are errors in the online registration; many companies use wrong UUIDs or just send the paper version to the agency.

The building of this agency is not yet finished and ECHA is continuously searching for staff (from the expected 400 employees are already 200 positions filled).

An useful link is:

- <http://echa.europa.eu/>
Here, the ECHA informs about current developments.



*Invitation to the 6th Congress
can be downloaded from our
website*



*European Chemical Agency
Logotype*

ECRN Affairs

ECRN Seminar on "Leadership in Europe's Chemical Clusters" and PWG meeting in Lyon/ Rhône-Alpes on 29th/30th September 2008

On 29th September 2008, the ECRN continued after the summer break with the practise of organizing seminars on different current issues, this time on the topic of leadership in chemical clusters.

The seminar took place in Lyon / Rhône-Alpes in cooperation with our member region. Participants and speakers from the European Commission, European chemical regions, industry and science created an atmosphere of inspiring presentations and lively discussions, such as Jos Verlinden, Director for Transport and Logistics at Cefic, by his interesting presentation on clustering in the industrial view. The debates led to many insights on different

strategies concerning chemical clusters and the identification of key success factors.

On the day after the seminar, this year's third ECRN Permanent Working Group meeting took place. Apart from the report from the Secretariat's Director Michael Hack on the current ECRN activities and issues, the participants from the member regions discussed future developments and projects for the next year. Members will be informed on further developments and proceedings by the Secretariat.

We would like to thank our partners in Rhône-Alpes for the perfect organisation and the warm welcome in their beautiful region!



Our new member region, Rhône-Alpes, was the host of this seminar

Advance information: Parliamentary evening planned for 18 February 2009

In cooperation with Scottish Enterprise, the ECRN plans to hold a parliamentary evening of the European Chemical regions on 18th February 2009.

The aim of this event will be to increase awareness among members of the European Parliament (MEPs) on the situation and challenges of the chemical regions in Europe and to have vivid and inspiring discussions between MEPs, representatives from industry and member regions etc.

ECRN members are invited already now to think of possible invitees for this event. Further details will be distributed soon.

The ECRN General Assembly meeting will precede this parliamentary evening, in order to spare participants travelling and time.

For further questions on these issues, please contact the ECRN Secretariat.



European Parliament members will be present in February

Press clippings

REACH reveals list of substances

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) released, on the 1st of October, a list of the pre-registered substances, according to its official website.

This catalog comes out two months before the predicted deadline (1st of December, 2008) and it serves as a reminder to manufacturers and importers that 'they can only benefit from the transitional regime described in article 23 of REACH Regulation if they have pre-registered their substances, otherwise they will

have to submit immediately registrations for their substances' (ECHA website).

This list contains the numbers and name of every substance and is available from the ECHA website in its full extent.

For further information on this article, please consult:

- http://echa.europa.eu/home_en.asp



Pre-registration should be taken more serious

Mercury Exports Banned

The European Union Council adopted, on the 25th of September, a piece of legislation that bans all exportation activities concerning mercury.

This is part of a group of strategic moves that intend to reduce, in a global scale, the highly toxic emissions that come out of this heavy metal.

According to an article published on the EUBusiness website, the legislation act demands the chlor-alkali industry (chemical industry sector that is responsible for the produc-

tion of chlorine and caustic soda) to store the already produced but not yet utilized mercury before the legislation act takes effect in 2011.

For more information on this article, please consult:

- www.eubusiness.com



Also known as 'quicksilver', this chemical element is extremely rare in the Earth's crust

Press clippings

Special

'Green Super Tuesday'

European Parliament votes on ETS

As reported in a European Voice article released on the 19th of September, the European Commission (EC) elaborated a proposal according to which some European heavy industries may be given free pollution permits. This comes as a reply to the various European industrial sectors which believe the Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) will have as consequence the declining in competitiveness of European industrial dynamic – the so called 'carbon leakage' effect. For that, the EC declared, in a separate 'non-paper' drafted by inside experts, that its criteria could be the 'trade intensity' (exposure vis-à-vis international competition) of such industries. In reaction to this criteria, some industrial sectors already stated that the data, with which the EC is analyzing the various 'trade intensities', are not updated, having as a consequence the obligation of those industries to pay undeservedly for the emission certificates. This is the case for the steel industry, one of many other sectors included in this initiative (e.g. chemical, ceramics). Also, Hans-Ulrich Engel (BASF) believes that 'unless Brussels moves quickly (...) investment in industry would be displaced

out of the EU'.

Coming back to the EC proposal, as stated in an article of the Euobserver.com (from the 8th of October), on the 7th of October (nicknamed 'Green Super Tuesday') the European Parliament approved by a narrow majority its support to this almost unmodified EC directive.

The reason for this narrow decision was that the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats (EPP-ED Group) do not support some of the points in this directive. In a press release, the EPP-ED stated that 'we have missed the chance to come up with a practical solution' and that 'we will ruin Europe as a business location'.

The EPP-ED Group supports free allocations of the emissions certificates for every level of the industry (under determined conditions) and not only for some. The EPP-ED is accordingly against the 'auction' model to sell the emission certificates. 'Producers should be able to invest money in internal climate protection measures', said MEP Karl-Heinz Florenz (EPP-ED Germany).



Competitiveness of European industry maybe in danger



*MEP
Karl-Heinz Florenz*

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(continuation)

On the other side of the fence, the Socialist Group (PSE) stated they were content with the way the European Parliament Environment Committee managed to put aside concerns about a possible financial turmoil. According to Linda McAvan (PSE Vice-president), 'the EU has agreed on an ambitious set of climate change targets', stipulating the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by 20%, by 2020. Ms. MacAvan declared that the inclusion of revenues to be spent by national authorities on fighting energy poverty was a success. The PSE believes that a short-term crisis should not affect EUs long-term goals.

In the Financial Times online of the 7th of October, some figures were divulged. Joshua Chaffin writes that the EU will put available € 10bn for support in the construction of new power plants equipped to capture and store dioxide carbon and of other Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) demonstration projects (further explained in

different article of this issue).

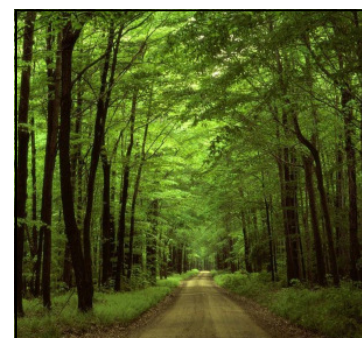
Finally, the French governmental authorities pointed out the absence of 'border adjustment measures', considering therefore that the ETS should be imposed to European imports. In relation to this line of thought, all entities seem to agree that an international agreement would much help the industry to accept the ETS, since it would approximate the limits already imposed to extra-EU industries, hence nearing the competitiveness capacities.

For further information on this topic, please consult:

- www.europeanvoice.com
- www.euobserver.com
- www.epp-ed.eu
- www.ft.com/home
- www.endseuropedaily.com



*PSE Vice-President
Linda McAvan*



*EP's Environment Committee
has emissions control
as its priority*

Agence Europe - Summary

EP Decides Penalties to MS

The European Parliament (EP), as written in a Agence Europe's article from the 7th of October, decided to establish not only the limits and deadlines that the Member-States (MS) of the European Union will to comply with, but the (harsh) penalties each one will have to face if, by

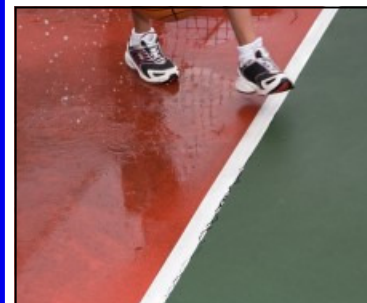
any chance, they do not manage to keep inside those established goals (the 20% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2020).

The measures were passed unanimously and they affect road and maritime transport, buildings, services, agriculture and small industrial plants.

Concerning the

finer, €100 per tonne of excess CO₂ is the basic penalty agreed. The revenue from these measures will be applied in research for energy efficiency and environmental transport.

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



Crossing the line will bring heavy fines

Coal-fired Power Plants 'Carbon Capturers'

According to an Agence Europe article from the 9th of October, the European Parliament recognized that the capture of coal and other Carbon Capture and Storage technologies are environmentally friendly and do help in the fight against climate change. By 2015, all electricity plants, MEPs say, should be equipped with mechanisms that allow the capturing of carbon dioxide and its stor-

age on geological sub-soil.

To achieve this, the European Parliament Environment Committee expects the European Union to convert the receipts of 500 million emission quotas into € 10bn, which would help the establishment of such instruments in power plants.

Chris Davies (ALDE UK), author of the Davies report, believes that this kind of funding will help in the 'liftoff' of some projects. It is time to, he says, since some

were predicted to be finished by the end of 2009, when the United Nations framework conference on climate change will take place in Copenhagen.

Reacting to these developments, Greenpeace declared it is most dissatisfied with this directive, considering that 'the environment committee is keeping the EU back in the XIXth century'.

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



Carbon captured and stored underground

Chemical Sector

Eurostat, according to an Agence Europe article from the 23rd of September, declares that the manufacturing of chemicals and chemical products in the European Union registered a growth of approximately 1.1% and

0.4%, respectively, being Estonia the country that most improved (+9.9%), followed by Italy (+5.9%) and France (+4.3%), and the largest decreases happening in Lithuania (-2.6%), Sweden (-2.2%) and Poland (-2.1%) - in which concerns total manufac-

turing of chemicals.

Incoming orders for the chemical industry were up by 7.0% in the euro area and by 5.8% in the EU27.

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



**European
Chemical Regions
Network**



ECRN Inside News

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