



ECRN Inside News

2010

October Edition

Dear members and friends of the ECRN,

The 8th Congress of the ECRN was again a successful event for our network. Commissioner Oettinger, Prime-Minister Peeters, MEP Kraemer, ECRN President Dr. Haseloff and high level representatives from our regions and industry discussed on the follow-up of the HLG Chemicals with a focus on energy issues and logistics. More than 130 participants took part in the discussions and the ECRN adopted a congress resolution which can be downloaded from our website.

Alongside this main event, the ECRN held an Executive Board Meeting where changes at the ECRN Secretariat were discussed. As many of you already know, I have resigned from the ECRN and

will leave the network mid-November. With my new employer I will stay in Brussels and I look forward to keep the contact with you also in the future. My position will be filled with a successor from mid November onwards.

I want to use this opportunity to thank all colleagues, friends, members of the network and especially the President Dr. Haseloff for the excellent cooperation as I wish the network all success for the future.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Hack

Director of the ECRN Network Secretariat



ECRN Team in October 2010

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The 8th ECRN Congress on 7th October

The 8th Congress of the ECRN gathered more than 130 chemical stakeholders from all over Europe representing politics, industry, academia and public authorities in Brussels to discuss the follow-up to the High Level Group on Competitiveness of the Chemical Industry in the European Chemical regions. This year's congress was held in cooperation with Flanders and Wallonia and supported by the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Commissioner Günther Oettinger, Prime-Minister Kris Peeters from Flanders, ECRN President Dr. Reiner Haseloff and essencia President Wouter de Geest opened the Congress at an evening reception on 6 October, where discussions focused on energy supply for the chemical industry.

The Congress day on the 7 October was dedicated to the topics of future feedstock, logistics and energy security. On the Congress morning, the ECRN Executive Board adopted a joint Congress Declaration on future developments of the industry and the follow-up process to the High Level Group initiatives.

Presentations held during the day by high-class speakers from chemical associations, European and regional institutions and industry covered topics ranging from efficient collaboration and renewable energy to local initiatives and best practices on chemical logistics, and introduced views and experiences on innovative processes and solutions on the regional level to inspire the congress participants.

As every year, the congress aimed to provide relevant stakeholders with the opportunity for an intensive exchange of opinions and experiences at the European level, and interesting discussions were held with representatives from the European Commission, the European chemical associations, trade unions, the industry and our member regions.

The ECRN would like to thank its partners and all participants for contributing by their presence and active contributions to the success of this event! In order to access the ECRN Congress Declaration and some of the presentations given, please visit the ECRN website at www.ecrn.net



The 8th ECRN Congress was held in Brussels on 7th October



Press Clippings

EU's new Innovation Strategy aims for growth and progress through "Innovation Union"

The EU's new innovation strategy, published on 6 October, sets out how Europe can overcome barriers to innovation and turn ideas into jobs, green growth and social progress. The "Innovation Union" flagship is at the heart of the Europe 2020 strategy. Partnerships, patent reform and new sources of financing are placed at a central role in improving EU's global competitiveness. In line with the new strategy, structural funds and public procurement will be steered towards innovation and enhancing translation of knowledge into marketable products. Up to €86 billion of structural funds will be earmarked for research and innovation. The goals of the next Framework Programme for Research (FP8) will also be aligned with "Innovation Union" goals.

As the global competition intensifies, Europe needs collective commitments to foster innovation. The EU highlights the importance of partnerships and collaboration of political, industrial and scientific stakeholders in driving innovation. New "European Innovation Partnerships" will be launched to support the new strategy. Partnerships are piloted with a project on healthy ageing, and future initiatives are planned in energy, smart cities, water efficiency, agriculture and raw materials. The partnerships will step up R&D and standards, coordinate investments and mobilise stakeholders – European,

national and regional, public and private - to tackle societal challenges with potential for Europe to become a world leader. The projects will be funded by the EU and the stakeholders.

The chemicals industry is particularly well-placed to benefit from the "Innovation Union" and the new partnerships, as the sector can contribute to solving major societal challenges. The industry welcomed the strategy and said that through the European Technology Platform for Sustainable Chemistry (SusChem), the chemical industry has already put on the table a number of concrete topics for innovation partnerships in areas that are essential to the EU 2020 Strategy, including resource efficiency, sustainable mobility, construction and low carbon energy.

Furthermore, Cefic announced that the chemical industry is determined to lead the future of innovation with other sectors through the innovation partnerships, stating that the chemical sector in Europe has a strategic, economic and social role to play in innovation.

More information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/innovation-union>, AgenceEurope and <http://euractiv.com/en/innovation/eu-unveils-innovation-blueprint-news-498526>



The EU's new innovation strategy, "Innovation Union" was published on 6 October. It sets out to create new jobs and tackle society's biggest challenges, such as climate change, energy security and healthy living.



Partnerships are placed at a central role in driving innovations, and a new pilot for European Innovation Partnership will be launched in the beginning of 2011, focusing on healthy ageing.

Press Clippings

European Chemical Industry Update

In the end of September, Cefic released a 2010 report on facts and figures on the European chemical industry. The report highlights the importance of the European chemical industry as one of the EU's most international, competitive and successful industries, covering a wide range of activities, products and supplies.

However, after analyzing competitive trends and sector data, the report suggests that Europe, producing 24 per cent of the world's chemicals, is losing share in growing global chemicals market. The total value of European sales is

growing, but the overall world sales are growing even faster.

The European chemical sector is nevertheless described as strong and vibrant. For the latest developments in the sector, Cefic reports increase of production in July (6.5% increase compared to July 2009) and predicts a potential year-end double-digit growth. The overall situation in the EU chemicals sector is seen as gradually improving.

More information and access to the report at the Cefic website: www.cefic.org



Cefic has published its annual "Facts & Figures" report on the European Chemical Industry

Latest news on pipeline projects

AgenceEurope (11 October) reports that Poland and Russia are finalizing their agreement on a contract for transferring gas to Poland and to Western Europe in the forthcoming decades. The contract still needs to be discussed with the Commission to ensure adherence to EU rules on e.g. fair competition. However, a final agreement is expected in the coming weeks.

EurActiv (8 October), on the other hand, suggests that investment decisions regarding Nabucco pipeline will be delayed until 2011 due to ongoing negotiations on gas supplies. Nabucco and Russia-sponsored South Stream are competing for access to Shah Deniz gas fields in Azerbaijan.

While South Stream and Nabucco are the largest pipeline projects competing for Europe's "Southern Gas Corridor", contestants include also several smaller projects. As too many simultaneous projects are not feasible, some of the projects will need to be dropped or merged to bigger projects. The decision, however, is not based purely on business, but also on political dimensions. The greatest political considerations revolve around the control and security of energy supplies. The project promoters call for a stronger role by the European Commission.

More information: <http://euractiv.com/en/energy/europes-southern-gas-corridor-great-pipeline-race-links-dossier-498558> and AgenceEurope



Negotiations and uncertainty on large pipeline projects continue while bilateral agreements move forward.

ECHA calls for comments on proposed restrictions on mercury

On 24 September, ECHA started a public consultation on two proposed new restrictions; one on mercury in measurement devices and another on phenylmercury substances. The proposals aim to reduce mercury emissions and thus protect health and environment. The consultations conclude on 24 March 2011, but submission of comments by 24 December is encouraged, as ECHA committees will start their work in January 2011.

ECHA has reviewed safer alternatives to measuring devices containing mercury, and proposes to restrict mercury in several industrial and professional measuring devices (e.g. thermo- and barometers and strain gauges). Mercury in devices for the general public is already restricted, and the new proposal would also prohibit industrial and professional devices containing mercury in the EU market.

Norway has proposed the restriction of five phenylmercury substances (used as catalysts in the production of polyurethane coatings, adhesives, sealants etc.), as the lifecycle of these compounds leads to the release of mercury to the environment. Norway suggests that these substances should not be manufactured, marketed or used in mixtures in concentrations above 0.01%. The restriction would however allow time for finding feasible alternatives for replacements.

Comments can be submitted via the ECHA website and they will be taken into account by the ECHA Committees in their analyses. The final opinions of the committees are scheduled for September 2011, after which the Commission will decide on potential new restrictions.

ECHA Press Release:
http://echa.europa.eu/news/pr/201009/pr_10_18_restrictions_mercury_20100924_en.asp

EU encourages use of green energy

EU's new "Energy 2020" strategy is expected to be published in November. Striving for a sustainable and secure energy system, the strategy will aim for reductions in emissions and extensive investments in a more sustainable energy infrastructure.

Despite efforts to cut consumption, gas and electricity demand are forecast to increase and the EU is calling for improved energy efficiency and use of renewable

energy to cut costs and minimize environmental impacts. However, unlike the greenhouse gas reduction and renewables targets, which are sealed into EU law, energy efficiency is not yet a binding obligation on Member States.

Member States and regions are still urged to take concrete measures on energy efficiency and invest more in fight against climate change.

More information: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/index_en.htm



The European Chemicals Agency is holding a public consultation on proposed restrictions on mercury and phenylmercury. Comments should be submitted by 24 December.



Proposed restrictions include mercury in professional and industrial measuring devices and five phenylmercury substances used as production catalysts.



The EU calls on regional and national governments to pay more attention to environmental issues and increase the use of green energy.

New post-Lisbon comitology

The Lisbon Treaty changed the framework for sharing and delegating powers between the Commission, the Council and the Parliament. It also changes the former comitology procedure to a new legal framework of legislative and non-legislative acts. The old comitology procedure will be abolished and the implementation of basic legislative acts will be carried out through delegated and implementing acts. However, in practice, majority of technical measures for EU laws and regulations will continue to be drafted by the Commission, assisted by numerous committees.

Legislative acts are adopted by the Parliament and the Council, while the Commission is involved in implementing the non-legislative acts. These non-legislative acts can be either delegated acts or implementing acts, which differ in nature and scope of power conferred to the Commission.

For delegated acts, the Commission is given the power to adopt detailed measures. The Council and the Parliament control the Commission's exercise of power and they can revoke the delegation or object to a proposed measure if deemed necessary. For implementing acts, the context is different. The Member States are responsible for implementing the acts, but the Commission exercises power to set uniform implementing conditions. The procedure for implementing acts resembles that of the old comitology, but it will be subject to newly defined rules.

In exercising its power with regards to implementing acts, the Commission is aided by committees of experts through advisory and examination procedure. As a general rule, the advisory committees deliver opinions on drafts, but the Commission decides on the measures to be taken. However, for certain policies (e.g. common commercial policy, health & safety, and environmental protection) or implementing measures of general scope, the examination committee delivers an opinion upon which the Commission has to take action. For delegated acts, the Commission may also consult groups of experts in the course of the preparatory work, but the experts do not have an institutional role in the decision-making procedure.

The Treaty thus gives the Commission the power to propose and adopt delegated acts in consultation with network of National Experts. Only once adopted by the Commission, the delegated acts can be vetoed or revoked by the Council or the Parliament.

The new regulation entered into force on 1 October 2010 and the old comitology procedure is repealed from 1 December 2010.

More information: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0083:FIN:EN:PDF> and http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/008-72106-096-04-15-901-20100406STO72095-2010-06-04-2010/default_en.htm



The Lisbon Treaty changes the framework for adopting EU legislation. The new framework introduces delegated and implementing acts that will replace the former comitology procedure.



The new regulation entered into force on 1 October 2010 and the old comitology procedure is repealed from 1 December 2010.

Events in Member Regions

K2010 Trade Fair in Düsseldorf 27 October—3 November

K2010, the 18th International Trade Fair for Plastics and Rubber, is organized in Düsseldorf, Germany, from 27 October to 3 November.

Some 3100 exhibitors will present their latest developments for all sectors of the industry, and companies from 57 countries, including market leaders as well as niche suppliers and newcomers. The previous fair, K2007, attracted more than 240000 visitors from 86 countries. The main product groups include e.g. raw materials, auxiliaries, semi-finished products, tech-

nical parts, machinery and equipment, and services.

The trade fair serves as a forum and a communication and business platform, where the experts and information from the industry comes together and exchange views on meeting future challenges with new innovations.

An online portal for the fair allows the interested parties to familiarize themselves with the event, the exhibitors and products already in advance at www.k-online.de.

“Open Chemical Innovation” Conference on 18 November

“Open Chemical Innovation: your business in Top Gear” –conference will be organized at Chemelot Campus, Sittard-Geleen (The Netherlands, Province of Limburg) on 18 November.

Open innovation is a new approach to business development based on extensive collaboration with third parties, and striving for faster and more effective outcomes and reducing risk and time to market. The approach seeks to increase focus on the surrounding business environment and enhance the ability to identify new opportunities.

The conference focuses on how success can be achieved by en-

couraging open innovation in R&D, product development and marketing. The conference aims to increase understanding of the mindset, methods and tools for open innovation, and to encourage sharing of experiences and lessons learnt in Open Chemical Innovations.

Expected conference participants include chemical companies, national and regional governmental bodies, educational institutes and development companies focusing on chemical technology.

The conference is free of charge. More information and registration: www.openchemicalinnovation.com



The 18th International Trade Fair for Plastics and Rubber, K2010, will be held in Düsseldorf from 27 October to 3 November



Open innovations in the chemical industry will be discussed at “Open Chemical Innovation: your business in top gear” conference on 18 November.

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 for any suggestions or questions.



Call Identifier	Call Title	Funding Scheme	Eligibility Conditions	Deadline	Website
FP7-NMP-2011-LARGE-5	Theme 4 – NMP - Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies – LARGE 2011	FP7	At least 3 independent legal entities, each of which is established in a different Member State or an Associated Country	First stage: 4 November 2010	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=User-Site.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=370#infopack
FP7-NMP-2011-SMALL-5	Theme 4 – NMP - Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies – SMALL 2011	FP7	At least 3 independent legal entities from different countries for Collaborative Projects; At least 4 independent legal entities for Specific Cooperation Action (at least 2 must be established in different Member State or Associated Country, and the other 2 in different international cooperation partner countries)	4 November 2010	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=User-Site.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=369#infopack
FP7-ENERGY-2011-1	Energy Call Part 1	FP7	Collaborative Project, Coordination Action: at least 3 independent legal entities from different Member States or Associated Countries; Supporting actions: at least 1 independent legal entity	16 November 2010	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=User-Site.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=315#infopack
FP7-INFRA-STRUCTURES-2011-1	Research Infrastructures	FP7	Research infrastructures and their stakeholders, public authorities, technological partners, Research institutes, Universities, Industry, SMEs, potential end users; generally at least three legal entities established in different Member States or Associated Countries	25 November 2010	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=User-Site.CapacitiesDetailsCallPage&call_id=364#infopack
FP7-2011-GC-ELECTRO-CHEMICAL-STORAGE	Sustainable Automotive Electrochemical Storage	FP7	At least 3 independent legal entities for Coordinating Actions, each from different Member State or Associated Country; at least 1 independent legal entity for Supporting Actions	2 December 2010	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=User-Site.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=349#infopack
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	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CapacitiesDetailsCallPage&call_id=338
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	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=User-Site.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=312
	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.	http://ec.europa.eu/education/llp/doc848_en.htm
	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	http://ec.europa.eu/cip/documents/work-programmes/index_en.htm

**European
Chemical Regions
Network**



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