



ECRN Inside News

2010

September Edition

Dear members of the ECRN,

After the summer break there is – as every year – a lot to organize for the last half of the year.

Obviously, our 8th Congress of the European Chemical Regions is the main annual event for our association and therefore our focal point.

The registration for the congress is open via our website and we have already received numerous confirmations.

We look forward to the presentations and statements of high-level representatives from the regions, industry and associations at the Congress on the 7th October.

After the opening panel which carries the title "Learning from the High Level Group: new perspectives for concerted actions?" we will discuss afterwards two HLG topics with a specific regional objective: Energy and Feedstock as well as Chemical Logistics. But I would like to use this opportunity to draw your attention on our re-

ception on the evening of the 6th October. This event will be a great occasion to discuss one of our main issues – energy – further. For the evening reception at the Errera Huis in Brussels we received the confirmation of Commissioner Günther Oettinger, Prime-Minister of Flanders Kris Peeters, Essencia President Wout De Geest and ECRN President Dr. Reiner Haseloff.

Please check our website in the next days in order to have a detailed idea of the agenda of these days.

We look forward to meeting you there!

Best wishes,

Michael Hack

Director of the ECRN Network Secretariat

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News

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ECRN Team in September 2010



Permanent Working Group Meeting on the 9th September 2010

The third PWG meeting of 2010 was held on the 9th of September, hosted by member region Tees Valley.

After the welcoming speeches, short introductions to Tees Valley industry and Tees Valley unlimited and a report of activities by Michael Hack, an overview of the High Level Group follow-up and HLG Chemical Workshop-feedback were discussed, followed by a presentation on National High Level Group in Belgium.

The day continued by planning of the upcoming ECRN Congress and other events. Moreover, a review

of topics discussed at the HLG follow-up in Germany was presented. Furthermore, under the theme of Chemical Logistics, presentations of the case of Novara and the LOSAMEDCHEM project were given, and at the end of the PWG meeting, member region Lombardy presented new ideas for cooperation. We thank member region Tees Valley for the great hospitality!

The minutes of the PWG meeting will be sent to ECRN members by email. Please don't hesitate to contact the ECRN Secretariat with any questions you may have.



The ECRN Permanent Working Group meeting was held on 9 September in Tees Valley

Reminder: Registration for the 8th ECRN Congress

The 8th ECRN Congress will take place on 7th October 2010 in Brussels and the registration for the event and the networking reception on 6th October at the Ererahuis can be done on the ECRN website (www.ecrn.net). Please register your participation before 28th September, in case you have not yet done so.

The theme of the Congress is "Chemical Regions Reflecting High Level Group Recommendations", and the focus will be on the current state of the implementation of results of the High Level Group on Chemistry.

The Congress is organized in cooperation with ECRN members Flanders and Wallonia and constitutes an event with the support of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

A meeting of the ECRN Executive Board will be held before the Congress. The details of this meeting will be communicated to you as soon as possible.

The ECRN is looking forward to welcoming you on 6th and 7th October in Brussels! In case of any questions, please contact the ECRN Secretariat.



This year's ECRN Congress is co-organized by ECRN members Flanders and Wallonia with the support of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

New Trainee at the ECRN Secretariat

Dear ECRN members,

My name is Miia Itänen and from September to December I will be the intern at the ECRN secretariat.

I am currently finishing a Double Master's degree in International and European business at Université catholique de Louvain and Aalto University School of Economics (Finland).

Prior to my studies in Belgium, I worked at IBM Finland as an assistant in Governmental Programs and Community Relations and at

ECRN I am hoping to gain practical experience in EU affairs before my graduation. I am also looking forward to learning more about the chemical industry and cooperation between the ECRN member regions and I am expecting to spend an interesting and insightful time here at ECRN.

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

Best Regards,
Miia Itänen



A new trainee has joined the ECRN Team in the beginning of September

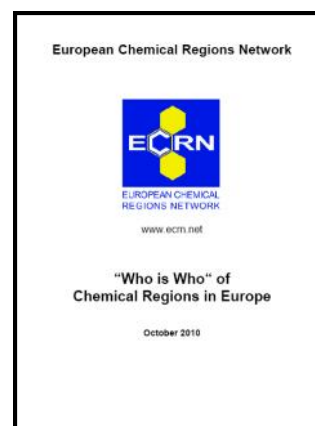
Updated "Who is Who of the Chemical Regions" available soon

The "Who is Who of Chemical Regions" is currently being updated and the new version will be published and available online before the ECRN Congress on 7th October 2010.

"Who-is-Who" provides an introduction to the 22 ECRN member regions. The document compiles comprehensive information about the chemical industry in the participating regions and about the key players for economic develop-

ment at regional level. It is meant to be a tool to widen the knowledge about chemical regions in Europe and to allow closer cooperation between regional actors and with other stakeholders.

The updated document will be available online at the ECRN website www.ecrn.net.



Updated version of "Who Is Who" will be available online before the ECRN Congress on 7th October 2010

News from Member Regions

'Chemical and innovation in Lombardy'

Regione Lombardia's project in partnership with Milan Chamber of Commerce

The chemical sector in Italy, accounting for annual turnover of 6 billion Euros (equal to 7% of the European and 2.3% of the worldwide figures), relies on innovation and research. Over 75% of chemical companies in Italy are located in the ECRN member region Lombardy. Multinational structures account for 30% of the companies, while the others are Italian SMEs. 40% of people working in chemistry in Italy are employed by companies located in Lombardy.

The region is in the forefront regarding the production of semi-finished goods and active principles; but it is also engaged in the research field mainly through prestigious research centers, such as San Raffaele, Politecnico di Milano, University of Milano Pharmacy Faculty, among others.

The Lombardy region and Promos, a Special Agency of the Milan Chamber of Commerce for development of international activities, have joined forces for a project titled "Chemical and Innovation". The project aims to endorse R&D, innovation and technology transfer of the chemical sector at the pre-competitive stage by bringing together the scientific community and company R&D departments through organizing a seminar event in Italy and a study visit abroad.

The project consists of two phases; the first focused on innovation and the second on internationalization. The first phase included an international high level seminar organized in Lombardy, while the second phase consists of a study tour in the USA, including meetings with research centers,

laboratories and local companies.

The seminar for the chemical sector was organized in cooperation with ECRN, and it took place during the CHEM-MED event in Milan on 24/27 November 2009. The best practices of Lombardian companies were presented and discussions were held on research funding in Lombardy and worldwide. As financial support of R&D activities is crucial for the Lombardy SMEs for growing up and developing new products, the speakers of the event included, for instance, representatives of international venture capital funds.

The study tour in the USA will be organized by Lombardy, Promos, University centers, and SMEs. The tour will reach California and Massachusetts, regions with which Lombardy has previously cooperated in research projects. Visits to cutting edge university laboratories and research centers (Stanford, University of California Los Angeles, Berkeley, Harvard, Boston University), groundbreaking companies (Celera, Amgen, Becton Dickinson, Chisom) and venture capital funds (Garage Technology, Sequoia Capital, Fidelity ventures, Bioadvance, Audax Group) will be included in the tour. In addition to the visits and meetings, a seminar will be organized in Massachusetts to present the state of the art of Chemistry in Lombardy and the potential improvement at International level.

Regione Lombardia

Head of University and Research Director

Armando De Crinito



Regione Lombardia



**CAMERA DI
COMMERCIO
MILANO**

Regione Lombardia collaborates with Milan Chamber of Commerce in "Chemical and Innovation" project, seeking to enhance R&D, innovation, technology transfer and thus the overall competitiveness of the Italian chemical sector



The main components of the project are a high-level seminar and a "study tour" in the USA

Press Clippings

EU to limit the use of carbon credits from industrial gas projects in ETS

As reported by EurActiv on 26/31 August, the European Commission is preparing measures to limit the use of carbon credits from industrial gas projects in its cap-and-trade system after 2012. The Climate Action Commissioner Connie Hedegaard seeks to introduce further quality restrictions on the use of credits in the post-2012 Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).

In particular, the UN Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) credits and offsets are in need of a reform. Under the EU ETS, firms have been able to meet a part of their emission reduction obligations by buying international offsets generated under the CDM through cheaper emission reductions in developing countries. Now the EU wishes to leverage its role as the leading market for international carbon credits, and pave the way for the new global standards.

The EU hopes to continue the use of CDM beyond 2012, albeit substantially reformed, including enhanced environmental integrity and increased focus on Least Developed Countries in offsetting. Meanwhile, the EU will continue to lead the way with activities and assessments to improve the effectiveness of the offsetting mechanisms.

Hedegaard states that the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) has been successful in some aspects but has also been criticized for instance related to environmental integrity. As a first step towards a more advanced carbon market, the CDM needs to be changed in terms of administration, geographical balance and

plans are needed for more powerful successor mechanisms for reducing emissions. Speeding up the need for reforms are the actors in the carbon market, who are calling for more clarity on what credits the EU ETS will accept post-2012.

The CDM as an offsetting mechanism is insufficient for future needs. Therefore incremental CDM improvements and a move to new specialized sectoral level market mechanisms is needed. The Commission is looking to incentivize this development through its domestic legislation by exploring as a first step stricter quality requirements on the use of credits in the post-2012 EU ETS.

The Commission's proposal for the new measures will be published before the high-level climate conference in Cancun, set to take place between 29 November and 10 December, but it will only be formally adopted next year.

The Commissioner's statements can be accessed at

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/10/387&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en> and <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/10/408&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Further information is available at EurActiv

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/climate-environment/eu-restrict-credits-industrial-gas-projects-ets-news-497194>



The EU wants to introduce stricter rules on the use of carbon credits in the post-2012 Emissions Trading Scheme



The Commission's proposal for new measures on the use of carbon credits will be discussed in the high-level climate conference later this year

Press Clippings

Update on European pipeline projects

As August turned into September, several pipeline- and gas projects have been discussed in the press. On 26 August, EurActiv reported that Russian Gazprom is pressuring Lithuania to hold its plans to unbundle and open the gas sector, as it would hurt Gazprom's investments in the country. According to Agence Europe on 27 August, Lithuania and Poland are looking into possibilities to connect their gas systems. The interconnected system would help Lithuania to reduce its reliance on Russian gas provision and to contribute to the joint EU infrastructure for electricity and gas, while Poland could enhance its position as a gas supplier for its neighbors.

Moreover, on 31 August, EurActiv reported that Germany and Poland are arguing about Poland receiving an EU grant to construct a gas terminal on its Baltic coast. Germany opposes the project due to environmental concerns, while the Polish press argues that the cause of Germany's unease is that the new terminal would compete with the Nord Stream gas pipeline. The decision to grant EU subsidies will be taken by the end of September.

According to Agence Europe on 31 August and 2 September, the European Commission announced reservations concerning the draft gas agreement between Poland and Russia. Gazprom and Polish PGNiG concluded an agreement in January on gas supplies and transit, but the Commission questions the conformity of the agreement with European rules. The agreement extends until 2045, allowing for the transport of Russian gas towards countries of Western Europe, crossing Poland through the Iamal-Europe gas pipeline.

The Commission is concerned about the possibilities for other operators to access the pipeline and the equitable tariff levels, as required by the EU rules. However, Poland remains optimistic on ratifying the contract in the coming weeks.

On 6 September, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC, part of the World Bank) signed a mandate letter for the Nabucco pipeline project and started the appraisal process that should lead to the organizations providing around 4 billion Euro in financing for the scheme.

The Nabucco pipeline is the flagship project for meeting future EU gas demand and will diversify Europe's pool of natural gas suppliers and routes to lessen dependence on Russia, and the European Commission thus welcomed the mandate as it moves Nabucco closer to realization. Export credit agencies and international banks are expected to begin their appraisal of Nabucco soon after the international financial institutions. Commitments from potential lenders are expected to be sought in 2011.

Work on Nabucco is expected to begin in early 2012, and by 2015 the pipeline should be operational, transporting 31 billion cubic meters of gas per year from the Caspian Sea and Middle East to Austria via Turkey and Eastern Europe.

Nabucco has been criticized for political and environmental reasons and its opponents are skeptical about the project's overall economic viability. However, the banks stressed that the appraisal of the 3,300-kilometre pipeline project



Several pipeline and gas projects have made headlines in past weeks; new agreements have been made and old decisions have been criticized



The Nabucco pipeline took an important step forward as three international financial institutions started 4 billion Euro loan appraisals for the project

Press Clippings

would ensure financing to the highest environmental and social standards.

Nabucco and other pipeline projects, including South Stream, Transcaspian and Transadriatic gas pipelines, and the Azerbaijan-Georgia-Romania interconnector, are further discussed also at the second international conference on the global and Caspian gas infrastructure in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 15 and 16 September. The topics of the conference include the gas potential of the Caspian Sea region, the reform of the world gas markets, intergovernmental cooperation and infrastructure projects in the region. The Commission President Barroso and Energy Commissioner Oettinger are attending the conference to participate in the talks.

Further information available on European Voice <http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/2010/09/nabucco-pipeline-gets-funding-boost-/68785.aspx>, EIB press release <http://www.eib.org/about/press/2010/2010-142-eib-ebd-and-ifc-start-appraisal-of-nabucco-pipeline.htm?lang=en>, Bankwatch press release <http://www.bankwatch.org/newsroom/releases.shtml?x=2256842>, EurActiv <http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/gazprom-pressures-lithuania-over-gas-unbundling-news-497190>, <http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/poland-smells-german-foul-play-over-gas-terminal-news-497285>, and Agence Europe.



International talks continue on further pipeline projects and infrastructure enhancements

Unspent EU crisis funds re-allocated to energy efficiency

Innovative projects in European regions to improve energy efficiency could get up to €115 million in EU funds that would otherwise go unspent under changes to EU rules on financial assistance for energy projects approved by the Industry, Research and Energy Committee. According to the European Parliament press release on 2 September, the unspent recovery plan money from the European Energy Recovery Programme (EERP) could be used on projects to improve energy efficiency in the regions.

If the Parliament formally approves the move, local and regional councils across the EU will be able to make use of the €115 for heat/power networks, intelligent

energy transport systems, and other regional and local projects in energy efficiency and renewable energy. Eligible projects will need to have a rapid and significant impact on economic recovery, boost energy security and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

The Parliament will vote on the change of rules in October, and the funds for priority projects will be allocated by the end of the year.

The press release is available at http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/051-80658-242-08-36-909-20100830IPR80657-30-08-2010-2010-false/default_en.htm



The European Energy Recovery Programme, started in 2009 and worth a total of €3.98 billion, aimed to fuel economic recovery by funding energy projects such as cross-border gas and electricity interconnectors, offshore wind parks, and Carbon Capture and Storage projects (CCS). Now the unspent funds are to be re-allocated to energy efficiency projects.

Press Clippings

Energy Council Brussels 6 September 2010

EU energy ministers met in Brussels on 6 and 7 September to discuss the European energy policy, energy efficiency and infrastructure package that will be presented by the Commission in November.

The ministers agreed that stricter measures need to be taken to meet the 20% energy saving target by 2020. The Council saw cooperation with the industry as important, and Minister Magette, on behalf of the Belgian Presidency of the EU, proposed to launch an "Energy Round Table Conference" for industry, financial and public sectors stakeholders in the field of

energy in Europe. On the sidelines of the meeting, a coalition of business and professional associations and NGOs called on the Energy Council for new financial schemes and delivery mechanisms, proper implementation and enforcement of existing and future policy instruments, and adoption of specific binding targets and higher political priority for energy efficiency measures.

Belgian EU presidency press release <http://www.eutrio.be/pressrelease/informal-energy-council-development-modern-and-integrated-european-grid>



The EU Energy Ministers gathered in Brussels in the beginning of September to discuss the European Energy Policy and EU's new energy efficiency action plan

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
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 Member State or Associated Country, and no 2 of which are established in the same Member State or Associated Country	First stage: 4 November 2010	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?function=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=370#infopack
FP7-NMP-2011-SMALL-5	Theme 4 – NMP - Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies – SMALL 2011	FP7	Collaborative Project: At least 3 independent legal entities, each of which is established in a MS or AC, and no 2 of which are established in the same MS or AC; Specific cooperation Action (SICA) dedicated to international cooperation partner countries: At least 4 independent legal entities. Of these, 2 must be established in different MS or AC. The other 2 must be established in different international cooperation partner countries (ICPC)	4 November 2010	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?function=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=369#infopack

Selection of Funding Calls

Call Identifier	Call Title	Funding Scheme	Eligibility Conditions	Deadline	Website
FP7-ENERGY-2011-1	Energy Call Part 1	FP7	Collaborative Project, Coordination Action: at least 3 independent legal entities, each of which is established in a Member State or Associated Country, and no 2 of which are established in the same Member State or Associated Country; supporting actions: at least 1 independent legal entity	16 November 2010	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=315#infopak
FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2011-1	Research Infrastructures	FP7	Research infrastructures and their stakeholders, public authorities, technological partners, Research institutes, Universities, Industry, including SMEs, Potential endusers; for most parts: at least three legal entities established in different member states and associated countries	25 November 2010	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CapacitiesDetailsCallPage&call_id=364#infopak
FP7-2011-GC-ELECTRO-CHEMICAL-STORAGE	Sustainable Automotive Electrochemical Storage	FP7	coordinating actions: at least 3 independent legal entities, each of which is established in a Member State or Associated Country, and no 2 of which are established in the same Member State or Associated Country; supporting actions: at least 1 independent legal entity	2 December 2010	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=349#infopak
FP7-REGIONS-2011-1	Regions of Knowledge	FP7	Consortia of partners representing a minimum of three regional research-driven clusters from at least three different EU Member States and/or Associated Countries. Research-driven clusters must be composed of at least three types of legal entities (so called 'triple helix'), namely legal entities conducting research, 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	The minimum number of participants in an ERA-NET consortium is 3 independent legal entities which finance or manage publicly funded national or regional programmes. Each of these must be established in a different Member State or Associated Country	22 February 2011	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=312
	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/llp/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 organizations, NGOs and other organizations, public authorities	Deadlines differ for the different parts of the programme	http://ec.europa.eu/cip/documents/work-programmes/index_en.htm

**European
Chemical Regions
Network**



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