



EUROPEAN CHEMICAL
REGIONS NETWORK

ECRN Inside News

2009

November / December Edition

Dear members and friends of the ECRN,

Firstly, I thank in the name of the ECRN Secretariat all our members and supporters for the successful cooperation in 2009! We organized remarkable events together from our HLG Follow-Up Conference to our successful 7th Congress of the ECRN which were only possible with the help of motivated members of our network. At these events, we brought together stakeholders and representatives from all over Europe and addressed our messages to deciders. We were active in positioning our regional perspective in the High Level Group and we can consider ourselves as one of the most encouraged members of this dialogue with the Commission. Reading the HLG report with our input is the best proof of our work herein. But also within our association we were active and developed further. Here we were active in redesigning and structuring our internal processes, as can be seen at one glance on our website.

What we also should not forget is that in this economically challenging year 2009 ECRN members succeeded in the application of the Interreg project "ChemClust" which will focus on a crucial factor for us: innovation. We can summarize: we are on a good path for our association and we look forward to the next year which will arrive with the start of the new Commission. The ECRN looks forward to continue the well-established relations and to welcome new partners to our network.

I wish you a merry Christmas and a good start in 2010! See you soon at our next meetings and

Best wishes,

Michael Hack

Director of the ECRN
Network Secretariat



ECRN Team in December 2009!

ECRN

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ECRN Inside News

ECRN Affairs

7th Congress of the European Chemical Regions in Liège – ECRN declaration on innovation

More than 100 chemical stakeholders from all over Europe representing regional, national and European institutions, industry, science and associations got together in Liège on 6th November 2009 at the occasion of the 7th Congress of the European Chemical Regions to discuss in what ways the European regions are moving forward to implement innovative and sustainable ways to ensure competitiveness of the chemical sector. This year's Congress was organized in cooperation with member region Wallonia. After the opening of the Congress by the Minister of Economy and Vice-President of the Walloon Government, Jean-Claude Marcourt, and by ECRN President and Minister of Economy and Labour of Saxony-Anhalt, Dr. Reiner Haseloff, high-class speakers from chemical associations, European and regional institutions, industry and universities presented their expert views and experiences on innovative processes and solutions on

the regional level and discussed them with the participants. In the morning, ECRN Executive Board members had adopted a joint Congress Declaration with the positions from all ECRN members on how to meet the current economic challenges in a most efficient way. This latest joint position paper of the European chemical regions was distributed among the congress participants and will now be communicated to European policymakers and other chemical stakeholders.

The ECRN would like to thank its member region Wallonia for the great hospitality in Liège and all participants from the other member regions for contributing by their presence and active contributions to the success of this event! In order to access the ECRN Congress Declaration, the congress report and some of the presentations given, please visit the ECRN website on www.ecrn.net

Executive Board meeting on 6th November 2009 in Liège

In the morning of the 7th ECRN Congress, the ECRN Executive Board met for the last time in 2009. After a report of activities of the Director of the ECRN Secretariat Michael Hack and a presen-

tation of the ChemClust approval, a main item on the agenda was the adoption of the joint ECRN Declaration on meeting the economic challenges of today, ...



7th Congress of the European Chemical Regions



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... which was distributed later on during the 7th Congress on the same day and which will be distributed among European policy-makers in the months to come. Furthermore, ECRN President Dr. Reiner Haseloff informed the Board members on the official application for ECRN membership of the English Yorkshire & Humber region

which will now enter the approval procedure. The detailed minutes of the Executive Board meeting have been sent to the ECRN members by email.

In case of any further questions, please contact the ECRN Secretariat.

ECRN Parliamentary Evening on 18th November 2009 in Brussels

In a period of important political and structural changes on the European arena after the Parliamentary elections in June this year and shortly before the coming into power of the Lisbon Treaty, this year's second Parliamentary Evening of the European Chemical Regions took place on 18th November 2009 in Brussels and was hosted by ECRN member region North Rhine-Westphalia.

After a welcome from Hans H. Stein (Director of the Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the EU) and a short presentation of the ECRN's aims and expectations towards European policymakers by ECRN Vice-President and Director of Industrial Policy Department in the Ministry for Economic Affairs of North Rhine-Westphalia Karl-Uwe Büttof, political tendencies and approaches as well as role and practical needs concerning the chemical industry sector were presented

by the Chairman of the ITRE Committee of the European Parliament Mr. Herbert Reul, and by Dr. Alfred Oberholz, formerly Evonik Industries. The presentations were well received by the audience as they showed a common understanding of how important the chemical sector is for Europe and its regions

After the speeches, MEPs and participants from public and private organisations had the opportunity for intensive dialogue and exchange of opinion and experience on how European policymakers currently meet the regional needs and interests. The ECRN thanks host region North Rhine-Westphalia for its great hospitality and all participants for their interest.

For further questions, please contact the ECRN Secretariat.



ECRN Affairs

Last Permanent Working Group meeting of the year 2009 and seminar on recent policy developments on 18th November 2009 in Brussels

In the morning of 18th November, the last PWG meeting of 2009 took place in the Representation of North Rhine-Westphalia to the EU in Brussels. After the report of activities of ECRN Director Michael Hack, Thomas Steinmetz from member region Saxony-Anhalt gave an update on the ChemClust application project. This was followed by an update on energy policies which was given by Thomas Rieke from member region Saxony-Anhalt. As for the next item on the agenda, Gabriele Schramm from member region Hesse who is currently working in the ECRN Secretariat introduced to the participants the new "best practices" – section on the ECRN website and shortly presented the examples which have already been received from the regions. She warmly invited all ECRN members to actively contribute to this initiative in order to fill the new internet section with many interesting projects. After a short overview by Michael Hack on next meetings and planning in 2010, which are also communicated to the member regions by email and via the ECRN website, Thomas Wobben from

Saxony Anhalt presented the latest European Commission Document on key technologies and how the Commission plans to deal with these technologies in the future. ECRN activities in this regard will be discussed in the months to come. The minutes of the PWG meeting will be sent to the ECRN members.

After the PWG meeting, ECRN members had the chance to get an interesting insight into recent policy developments and lobbying activities of the chemical industry on the European level, as the Assistant of an MEP and a lobbyist from CEFIC presented their experiences and expectations concerning European developments and policies in the years to come. After the presentations, participants had the chance to ask several questions which they actively made use of.

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Other Info

Hearing on effective implementation of the Research Framework Programme

A hearing of the ITRE Committee of the European Parliament regarding the topic "Implementing the Research Framework Programme - How to reduce red-tape and increase effectiveness?" took place on the 10th of November 2009. The hearing was lead by MEP Mr. Reul and was open to the public. In the focus of the presentations and discussions was the question how it would be possible to minimize the charges of administration in favour of higher effectiveness and a better cost-benefit ratio. The representatives of universities, research institutions and industry revealed that the comp-

lexness of the application procedure and the management of the funds within the Research Framework Programme have to be reduced in order to enable particularly SME's a simplified access to European Research Funds. The results of this hearing will expand into the strategic considerations concerning the future 8th Research Framework Programme.

For more information about the hearing please visit the website of the European Parliament www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/

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.

Very recent news: The new calls for applications for 2010 for the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) are now open and can be found by following the respective link in the table below.

In case of any suggestions or questions, please feel free to contact the ECRN Secretariat.

Call Identifier	Call Title	Funding	Eligibility Conditions	Deadline	Website
	Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP)	Erasmus Grundtvig Comenius Leonardo da Vinci	The funding calls for the Lifelong Learning Programme are now available on the website.	Deadlines differ for every sub-programme.	http://ec.europa.eu/education/llp/doc848_en.htm
FP7-REGIONS-2010-1	Regions of knowledge calls	FP7-Capacities	applicable under certain conditions to non-profit bodies, secondary and higher education establishments, research organisations and SMEs	14 January 2010 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CapacitiesDetailsCallPage&call_id=211
FP7-2010-GC-ELECTRO-CHEMICAL-STORAGE	Sustainable automotive electrochemical storage (Call for proposals)	FP7-Cooperation	applicable under certain conditions to non-profit bodies, secondary and higher education establishments, research organisations and SMEs	15 January 2010 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooprationDetailsCallPage&call_id=289
FP7-ERANET-2010-RTD	Environment (including Climate Change) Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology General Activities Health Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies Transport (including Aeronautics)	FP7-Cooperation	applicable under certain conditions to non-profit bodies, secondary and higher education establishments, research organisations and SMEs	19 January 2010 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooprationDetailsCallPage&call_id=272
FP7-NMP-2010-CSA-4	Theme 4 – NMP - Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies – CSAs (Call for proposals)	FP7-Cooperation	applicable under certain conditions to non-profit bodies, secondary and higher education establishments, research organisations and SMEs	02 February 2010 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooprationDetailsCallPage&call_id=261
FP7-ENERGY-2010-2	FP7-ENERGY-2010-2 (Call for proposals)	FP7-Cooperation	applicable under certain conditions to non-profit bodies, secondary and higher education establishments, research organisations and SMEs	04 March 2010 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooprationDetailsCallPage&call_id=264

Press clippings

EU chemical industry expected to follow a modest and fragile recovery in 2010

As stated on the Cefic website on the 17th of November 2009, the European Chemical Industry Council expects output in the chemical industry (excluding pharmaceuticals) to decline by about 12% in 2009. Expectations for 2010 show a growth of nearly 5% compared to 2009.

This means output in 2009 will fall even further than was foreseen last May. More positively, as stated by cefic, there is now evidence from published production data, and not just from forward-looking business confidence surveys, that the bottom has been reached, and most chemicals sectors in most major EU countries are seeing some recov-

ery. Basic chemicals – petrochemicals, polymers and inorganics – remain the hardest hit, having suffered sharp falls in demand from important customer markets such as automotive and construction. In contrast to the sharp fall in chemicals output in the second half of 2008, recovery so far has been relatively muted according to the association. There is no sign of any major rebuilding of inventories by downstream customers, which suggests a prevailing mood of caution and continuing difficult credit and liquidity conditions.

For more information, please refer to ww.cefic.be/files/NewsReleases



Expected recovery for the chemical industry in 2010

ECHA opens web pages on restrictions

On the 5th of November 2009, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has published on its website a new subsection concerning restrictions. The new web pages describe existing restrictions as well as the procedure for new restrictions.

If a substance poses an unacceptable risk to health or to the environment, it can be restricted under the Restriction process described in Title VIII of the Reach Regulation. The Restriction will operate as a "safety net" to manage risks that are not addressed by the other REACH processes. Proposals for Restrictions can be prepared by Member States or by ECHA on request of the European Commission.

This new Restriction subsection on ECHA's website has been created to

give an easy access to core information on restrictions to member states competent authorities and stakeholders. It also facilitates access to the relevant guidance documents and the submission format to be used by authorities when a Restriction proposal is being prepared. It also explains the main actors and steps to be taken to arrive of a new or modified restriction.

The restriction web pages will be further developed in the months to come.

For further information, visit the ECHA website www.echa.eu



A new subsection concerning restrictions is published on the ECHA-website

Press clippings

IEA urges low-carbon energy investments

According to a EurActiv article published on Thursday 12 November, the world will need to spend an additional \$10.5 trillion in the next two decades on energy efficiency and low-carbon energy to avoid runaway climate change, as stated by the International Energy Agency (IEA).

The agency published its annual World Energy Outlook on 10th November 2009 detailing what needs to be done to move to a sustainable energy future.

The report says fossil fuels will remain the main energy source globally, as three quarters of new energy demand is expected to be met by these fossil sources. Over half of the increase will take place

in China and India, reflecting a shift of energy politics towards Asia, the report outlined.

The IEA estimates that the world has enough energy resources to cover the projected demand increase well beyond 2030 but this would come at a high cost for the environment and energy security. "The continuation of current trends would have dire consequences for climate change," it said.

For more information, please visit the link www.euractiv.com/en/nce.



CO2 auctioning creates EU stir

According to a EurActiv article published on the 1st of December 2009, the European Commission is leaning towards spot auctioning for emission allowances for the next trading period due to start in 2013, prompting the electricity industry to warn that prices will go up if allowances are not made available early enough.

The EU executive has indicated in consultations on the forthcoming regulation on allowance auctioning for the 2013-2020 period that the start of auctions will be postponed, sources told EurActiv.

The revised directive on the EU's emissions trading scheme foresees that auctioning of allowances for

the period 2013 onwards will start by 2011 in order to ensure that carbon and electricity markets function properly.

But the Commission now appears to be sceptical about starting futures auctioning, preferring to wait until 2013 for spot trading.

The news alarmed the European electricity industry, which is responsible for 60% of the emissions covered by the EU ETS and the only sector to face full auctioning from 2013.

For more information, please visit the link www.euractiv.com/en/nce.



Agence Europe - Summary

EU and Copenhagen summit

According to an Agence Europe article from the 24th of November 2009, rising above a handful of sceptics, there is broad agreement among MEPs and the European Parliament is determined to throw its political weight around in Copenhagen to help the European Union ensure that the United Nations talks on combating climate change (COP 15, 7-18 December 2009) are crowned with success. By success, the EP understands an ambitious, global and binding deal to restrict the rise in air temperature on the surface of the planet to no more than 2 degrees Celsius, along with the signing of a legally binding global treaty in 2010 on combating climate change.

At a long debate in Strasbourg on 24 November on the EU's strategy ahead of the Copenhagen summit, MEPs ensured the European Commission and the Swedish Presidency that it would be giving its full backing to EU efforts and would be sending

a large delegation of MEPs to the talks. Agreement must not be struck at any old price, however, and should include all countries, including the United States, China and other large emerging economies, in order to avoid damaging the competitiveness of European industry.

According to another Agence Europe article from the 19th of November 2009, EU27 environment ministers were invited to an extraordinary informal session of the Environment Council on Monday 23 November in Brussels, exclusively on climate. The extraordinary Council was convened by Andreas Carlgren, Swedish Environment Minister and President-in-Office of the Council, to take stock of the international preparations for the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen.

As seen earlier, the EU's disappointment was great in Barcelona on 6th November 2009 after the final

session of climate negotiations in preparation for Copenhagen. This meeting of experts saw all the protagonists refuse to budge from their positions and developing countries threaten to leave the talks if the post-2012 agreement tears up the Kyoto Protocol and if the rich countries do not give commitments on much more ambitious reduction targets, on technology transfer and on substantial financial aid.

For further information on these articles, please consult the Agence Europe website.



Agence Europe - Summary

Energy security in Europe in winter 2009/2010

According to an Agence Europe article from the 18th of November 2009, all 27 EU member states and the states belonging to the Energy Community (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) are well prepared for possible cuts in gas supplies this winter. On 18 November, the Gas Co-ordination Group, which brings together member states' experts and industry and consumer representatives with the

European Commission, went through in detail the state of preparedness of EU member states and the Energy Community for a further gas crisis in winter 2009-2010 and found that levels or participation are quite good.

According to an earlier Agence Europe article from the 16th of November 2009, that day, at a meeting in Moscow as part of the EU-Russia Energy Dialogue, Andris Piebalgs and Russian Energy Minister Sergei Shmatko signed a memorandum on an

Early Warning Mechanism that includes a clear definition of the circumstances that would trigger the mechanism. In practice, the idea is that the EU or Russia will inform the other of any likely interruption, of oil, gas or electricity supply, including exchanging assessments of the situation.

For further information on these articles, please consult the Agence Europe website.



EU member states seem to be well prepared for possible cuts in gas supplies.

**European
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