



ECRN Inside News

2009

October Edition

Dear members and friends of the ECRN,

Innovation and the promotion of our association through our events: these are the main topics this month for the ECRN Secretariat. We concentrate our work on the preparation of our 7th Congress on 6th November as well as our Parliamentary Evening on the 18th November 2009. Innovation is the dominant and key topic for our congress. Therefore, we consequently chose the title: "Chemical Regions- Incubators for Innovation".

Writing about promoting our association: we have launched our new website which is surely worth a visit. We updated the content and the design is now based on the layout of our publications. On this

website we will also publish best practices from our member region. For this task, our new intern Gabriele Schramm from the Hessian environmental administration will take due care of. You are very invited to supply us with best practices in our strategic fields innovation, logistics and skills development. At our next Executive Board Meeting we also put this initiative on the agenda.

We look forward meeting you there and at our events in November!

Sincerely yours,

Michael Hack
Director of the ECRN Network Secretariat

ECRN
October 2009

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ECRN Team in October 2009!



ECRN Affairs

ECRN contributes at Europe Innova Annual Partnering Event

ECRN Director Michael Hack was invited to the Europe Innova Partnering Event to contribute to the panel discussion "Promoting new forms of clusters" in September 2009. He highlighted the various cluster initiatives which exist in the ECRN regions and referred to the Interreg IVC application "ChemClust" of several ECRN member regions. Since innovation is one of the network's strategic topics, the Europe In-

nova event was an excellent opportunity to present the ECRN activities to European stakeholders and especially to the European Commission. Especially the idea of a feedback process of the regions towards the European Commission received positive acknowledgement. ECRN will develop a dedicated questionnaire in this field. For more information on Europe Innova, please check www.europe-innova.eu



Europe Innova

First strategic dialogue in Asturias

In September 2009, ECRN member region Asturias organised another session of strategic dialogues between different chemical stakeholders from its region in which energy issues were the key topic. The participants from private and public sector and academia were given the opportunity for open discussion and exchange of opinion and experi-

ECRN Director Michael Hack warmly welcomed the Asturian engagement in this respect and called upon other ECRN regions to follow this positive and rewarding path of establishing these kinds of dialogues.

In case of any questions, contact the ECRN Network Secretariat.



GOBIERNO DEL
PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS

First strategic dialogue in Asturias member region.

Status update ECRN November events 2009

The preparations for the 7th Congress of the European Chemical Regions which will this year take place in Liège on 6th November in cooperation with our member region Wallonia are reaching a final phase. The invitations have been sent and we receive registrations every day, so please register your participation in case you have not done it yet (comfortably online via the ECRN website www.ecrn.net) since there is only limited space available.

Two weeks after the Congress, this year's second Parliamentary Evening will take place on 18th November, hosted by ECRN member region North Rhine-Westphalia in their Brussels office. After the very positive response to the first MEP Evening in February, we hope to repeat this success. The ECRN therefore needs the support from the member regions and we kindly ask you to promote the event among your regional MEPs...



7th Congress of the European Chemical Regions will take place in Liège/ Wallonia

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... Please also keep in mind to register your own participation in case you plan to attend the evening by sending us an email to office@ecrn.net. On the morning of the 18th November, also the last Permanent Working Group meeting

of the year will take place and in the afternoon, a seminar on recent policy developments will follow.

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

New trainee at ECRN Secretariat

Dear Partners,

My name is Gabriele Schramm and I am the new intern in the ECRN team. I am a German public officer at the Hessian environmental administration which is located in Giessen, a university town near Frankfurt. In my home authority - the Regional Government of Middlehesse - I establish environmental permits for new comprehensive installations or existing installation which will be changed especially in the iron, steel and metal industry. I'm responsible for the implementation of a lot of European Directives in my daily work. I have extensive experiences regarding the enforcement of Environmental Impact Assessments, Strategic Environmental Assessments for plans or programs and the application of the IPPC Directive in Germany. On this reason I was a member of the German expert team which was active in the process of EU enlargement. The official name of this procedure is "Twinning program". Twinning aims to help beneficiary countries in the development of modern and efficient administrations and by implementing the acquis communautaire.

From 2006 until the summer of this year I was very often in Romania and gave presentations or made training workshops about implementation and problems concerning above mentioned EU Directives. Furthermore I led discussions and gave recommendations, suggestions and proposals to the Romanian colleagues in the environmental authorities.

Now I have obtained the possibility to make an internship at the ECRN Network Secretariat in Bruxelles for three months. I look forward to a very interesting time in this institution. I will gain further experiences in the area of the Chemical Industry, become acquainted with the included member regions and also regarding the collaboration between the different regions.

My special task will be of special interest for you: I will start to acquire an internet page concerning "Best practices" for innovation, skills and logistics. For a good result I need your promotion therefore I look forward to a successful cooperation.



MEP evening on the 18th of November will be hosted by the North-Rhine-Westphalian Region.

Selection of Funding Calls

Below you will find an up to date list for your information about 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. Please note that

for the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP), all calls for 2009 are closed. The new calls for applications for 2010 will be published only in autumn 2009.

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

Call Identifier	Call Title	Funding Scheme	Eligibility Conditions	Deadline
FP7-2010-NMP-ENV-ENERGY-ICT-EeB	Energy-efficient Buildings	FP7-Cooperation	applicable under certain conditions to non-profit bodies, secondary and higher education establishments, research organisations and SMEs	03 November 2009 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)
FP7-NMP-2010-EU-USA	Theme 4 – NMP - Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies – EU-United States	FP7-Cooperation	applicable under certain conditions to non-profit bodies, secondary and higher education establishments, research organisations and SMEs	30 November 2009 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)
FP7-NMP-2010-LARGE-4	Theme 4 – NMP - Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies – LARGE 2010	FP7-Cooperation	applicable under certain conditions to non-profit bodies, secondary and higher education establishments, research organisations and SMEs	08 December 2009 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)
FP7-NMP-2010-EU-Mexico	Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies	FP7-Cooperation	applicable under certain conditions to non-profit bodies, secondary and higher education establishments, research organisations and SMEs	15 December 2009 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)
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)

Press clippings

Chemical Industry welcomes prospect of EU – Korea Free Trade Agreement

As stated on their website, on the 15th of October 2009, Cefic has learned with great satisfaction of the initialing of the Free Trade Agreement between the EU and South Korea and expresses the hope that it will enter into force soon. Cefic Director Alain Perroy welcomes the initialing of the Agreement and underlines the fact that the success of the European chemical industry depends to a large extent on the openness of the international economy. "Especially in these times of economic crisis we plead for the continuation of a trade policy which rejects protectionism at home and focuses on opening up markets abroad", he said.

Cefic hopes that the EU – South Korea deal will mark the beginning

of a potential new wave of Free Trade Agreements. A successful conclusion of the negotiations will give a positive sign to the EU's trading partners that Europe is committed to the fight against looming protectionism in the world. In 2008 the EU chemical industry exported Euro 3.449 bn. worth of chemicals to South Korea while importing Euro 1.632 bn., thus generating a trade surplus of Euro 1.817 bn.

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



The Republic of Korea

Less than two months left to deadline for users of chemicals to inform suppliers

As stated on the Echa website on the 19th of September 2009, there are less than two months left for the Downstream Users of chemical substances to inform their suppliers of the use they make of the substance. The deadline, *30 November 2009*, applies only if the substance needs to be registered before 1 December 2010.

All users of chemicals should inform their suppliers about their use of a substance if they want the supplier to consider the use in relation to the registration. Before informing the supplier, they are advised to check the use mappings prepared by their relevant industry association, and/or any communication from their supplier about the uses he intends to cover. Alternatively, they can assess later the use and fulfill the related duties themselves.

If the users do not communicate

their use and it is not covered by their supplier's Exposure Scenarios, they will eventually need to prepare a Chemical Safety Assessment themselves once the substance has been registered. They need to provide the information in writing to their supplier on both the use and the conditions under which the substance is used. ECHA has published a Fact Sheet that provides background information and further details about the Downstream Users' right to inform their suppliers of the use they make of the substance. In addition, there is REACH guidance available, and tools have been developed by industry to help them. Industry associations may also assist.

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



Only 2 months left for the Downstream Users of chemical substances to inform their suppliers.

Press clippings

EU to review nanomaterials

According to a EurActiv article published on Tuesday 13 October, the EU executive plans to respond positively to the European Parliament's call for a number of EU policies and regulations covering health and environmental safety issues related to nanomaterials to be reviewed.

During a nanoregulation conference on 9 October, Environment Commissioner Stavros Dima said that the Commission will review all relevant legislation within two years to ensure safety for all applications of nanomaterials in prod-

ucts with potential health, environmental or safety impacts over their life cycle. He added that many different Commission services must contribute in response to the broad range of requests. The statement represents the first response to MEPs' call for a clear regulatory and policy framework on nanomaterials.

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

Public consultation on simplification of EU financial rules until 18th of December

The European Commission wants to facilitate the EU financial regulations and all citizens and organizations are welcome to contribute to this process of simplification via a public consultation.

As part of its second revision of the financial rules for EU-funded programmes, the European Commission launched a public consultation inviting beneficiaries and managers of public funds to send in their views on how to make the rules for grants and contracts more effective for everyone. The open consultation is an opportunity for all interested parties to share their practical experience so the Commission can, among other things, improve access to grants and simplify its own handling of financial files. This is especially important as the EU begins to prepare the ground for a new generation of programmes in 2014.

It firstly looks at improving the

process of public calls for proposals in the award of grants. Experience here has shown that procedures are often too long and cumbersome. The consultation is an opportunity to express opinions and suggest concrete improvements.

Further information about this possibility can be found under http://ec.europa.eu/budget/index_de.htm. The public consultation will run until December 18th 2009. Your participation is possible under the consultation website: <http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/consultations>.



Agence Europe - Summary

European and American mayors want to increase regional climate change cooperation

According to an Agence Europe article from the 8th of October 2009, Vice-President of the US Conference of Mayors Elizabeth B. Kautz met CoR President Luc Van den Brande and Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs, invited by the Committee of the Regions (CoR), to take part in the high-level debate on climate change on 7 October, to discuss how best to improve cooperation between her associa-

tion and its EU equivalent, the Covenant of Mayors. Mayors on both sides of the Atlantic have pledged to work together to highlight the key role played by the local and regional level in adapting to the effects of climate change. They want this role, a joint press release says, to be recognised in the conclusions of the UN climate change summit in Copenhagen. The press release goes on saying that

also other possible opportunities for cooperation, including "green" twinning programmes were discussed that would allow cities in the US and Europe to share best practice on climate change adaptation and mitigation, and combine their efforts to raise awareness among citizens.

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

Carbon capture and storage: essential element of global plan to fight climate change

According to an Agence Europe article from the 14th of October 2009, at a meeting in London for the third ministerial meeting of the Carbon Capture and Storage Forum, Commissioner Andris Piebalgs and the ministers of 21 countries lent their support to carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology as a "key component" of the international plan to fight climate change. Shortly before the climate conference in Copenhagen, the ministerial declaration calls for support for large-scale projects, for an ex-

change of information and for a reinforcement of capacity in CCS, a technology which helps to reduce emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels by large emitters by capturing CO₂ and storing it underground. "Public authorities must continue to support promoting the development and deployment of CCS technologies if we want to be successful in fighting climate change. However, it is also time for significant private sector investments in order to commercialise demonstration

projects", said Mr Piebalgs. It is worth noting that since the European Council of December 2007, the EU has put together a full raft of legal aid, financial and industrial measures for the development of CCS technologies, including the "CCS" directive, the framework for state aid to protect the environment, and financial support of €1.05 billion to demonstration projects.

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



European and American cooperation in tackling climate change.



CCS, Carbon Capture and Storage as a 'key component' of the international plan to fight climate change.



**European
Chemical Regions
Network**



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