



ECRN Inside News

2009

September Edition

Dear members and friends of the ECRN,

The summer break lays behind us and September has arrived with the ECRN internal meetings and an open seminar on innovation in our regions. We have gained much ambition and new ideas from these events - and we will keep up with our work and the input from our members.

Currently we are focused on the preparation of our 7th Congress of the European Chemical Regions which will take place on the 6th November in Liège (B). Innovation will be the main topic of this year's congress and we have a remarkable agenda for this day with high-level speakers. The invitations are sent out in September- and please

forward these to interested stakeholders in your region.

Innovation is and will stay an important field for the ECRN. This is why we want also to reflect on the projects on innovation in our member regions - and how our regions have used the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) as an example. We will come back on this and for now I wish you an enjoyable lecture on our Inside News!

Best wishes,

Michael Hack

Director of the ECRN Network Secretariat



ECRN Team in September 2009!

ECRN
September 2009

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ECRN Inside News

ECRN Affairs

Successful ECRN Seminar on Innovation and guided visit to "Living tomorrow" exhibition

On the afternoon of the 17th September 2009, with its seminar on innovation in chemical regions the ECRN started into the new season after the summer break. Speakers from the chemical industry, clusters, regional agencies and European networks discussed with the participants cross innovation, innovation networks and open innovation in chemical regions. After the seminar participants had the chance to continue discussions and exchange of experience in an informal setting while profiting from Spanish and Catalonian specialties which were offered in cooperation with

ECRN member region Catalonia. The ECRN thanks all speakers and participants for their active contributions, member region Catalonia for this culinary highlight and Saxony-Anhalt for hosting the event in Brussels!

In the morning of the same day, essenscia Wallonia had invited ECRN members to a guided visit to the "Living Tomorrow" exhibition project in Vilvoorde, where it was demonstrated impressively how sustainable living and working could look like in the future. ECRN thanks essenscia Wallonia for this interesting event.



ECRN Seminar on Innovation on 17th Sept. 09



Members of ECRN at the Living Tomorrow exposition in Vilvoorde

Permanent Working Group meeting on 18th September

On the day after the skills working group meeting and ECRN seminar on innovation, this year's third Permanent Working Group meeting took place.

After the welcome and report from the Director of the ECRN Secretariat in Brussels, he gave an overview on the upcoming ECRN events in the next months, especially the 7th Congress and the MEP evening in November. Then some ideas concerning future cooperation development within the ECRN were discussed. They will be further developed in the coming months. At the end of the PWG meeting, member regions Lombardy and Hesse shortly presented their current

focus on environmental issues and after an announcement from Saxony-Anhalt to present an update on energy issues at the next PWG meeting, the day ended with a short resumé of Cllr Manley concerning the results of the first skills working group meeting the day before.

The minutes of the PWG meeting will be sent to ECRN members by email.

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



Entrance of Living Tomorrow exposition

ECRN Inside News

ECRN Affairs

First meeting of ECRN Skills Working Group

In the morning of the 17th September 2009, the first official meeting of the ECRN skills working Group took place in Brussels. After an introduction by Cllr Herbert Manley from Cheshire, ECRN representatives from Tees Valley and North Rhine-Westphalia presented the situations and examples of best practice from their regions. Afterwards an open discussion followed on which further steps ECRN re-

gions could put into practice together in order to foster skills development in their regions. At the end of the meeting a roadmap was decided upon.

For more information on meeting results and the next meeting dates, please contact the Cheshire region which is the lead partner of the skills working group.

Count down for ECRN November events: 7th ECRN Congress on 6th Nov. and MEP Evening, Seminar and PWG meeting on 18th Nov. 2009

The preparation for the 7th Congress of the European Chemical Regions which will this year take place in Liège in cooperation with our member region Wallonia is on its way, and the official invitations will be sent in the coming days. For those interested in the current draft agenda of the Congress, visit the ECRN website! 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 its member regions which are kindly asked to promote the event among their regional MEPs. On the same day, also the last Permanent Working Group meeting of the year will take place and furthermore, a seminar on recent policy developments is in planning. Further information will be provided in the coming weeks.

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

New face inside the Brussels Office

Dear Partners and Associates,

My name is Ruben Vanhees, I am 23 years old and I am Belgian and this year I am about to start a master in European Business in Brussels. To gain some work-experience before my graduation, I decided to join the ECRN team as an intern for about 3 months. Since I am interested in the European institutions and their policy, I think this internship can offer me some experience I need for my future career.

Ruben Vanhees, Trainee at ECRN.



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



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

Partner Search: lavender & REACH

Rhône-Alpes is a producer of lavender in Europe, and the lavender branch is now faced with the REACH process of registrations as "chemical substances". Testing of eco-toxicity is in the case of lavender oils and essences difficult to carry out, however, since they consist of a huge range of components, so a particular testing method is required.

Are there any other producers of lavender or essential oils of the same family among the ECRN member regions who face the same problems concerning REACH and who would be interested in an exchange of experience etc.?

If yes, or in case of any questions related to this issue, please get in touch with the ECRN Secre-

tariat or directly with Ms. Hortense Lutz from member region Rhône-Alpes (hlutz@rhonealpes.fr ; Tel: 0033 (0)4 72 59 54 77) . Michael Hack mentioned the issue at the last PWG meeting and also made clear that further "calls for partners" in the future are very welcome and will be distributed among the regions!



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	Website
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-Nov-09	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=290
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-Dec-09	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=277
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-Nov-09	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=276
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-Jan-10	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CapacitiesDetailsCallPage&call_id=211

Press clippings

MEPs rescue EU chemicals agency from financial mire

As stated on Euractiv on 3 September 2009, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) responsible for implementing the new EU laws on chemicals has been saved from financial paralysis after the European Parliament voted to overrule national governments' attempts to force a €4.7 million budget cut.

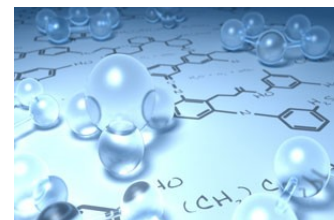
The EU regulation on the Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals (REACH) was agreed in December 2006. It will ultimately cover all chemicals placed on the European market, including 'old' products commercialized prior to 1981 before health and safety testing was required.

The European Chemicals Agency,

which is based in Helsinki, was established in 2007 to implement REACH and has begun its work with a staff of over 300. This was envisaged to reach 320 by the end of 2009, with a further 102 to be added in 2010.

ECHA is due to become an independent agency in 2010 and its income will then be derived from fees paid by companies registering products under the REACH process. In November 2010, companies will have to submit full registration for 'old' chemicals, thus expanding the role of the chemicals agency.

For more information, please refer to www.euractiv.com/en/science



ECHA's financial paralysis has been averted

Study claims that chemical industry proposes effective tools for climate protection

As stated on the Cefic website, the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), hosted in Rome by the Italian Parliament and the Italian Government, has published a global report on the carbon life cycle analysis of chemical products.

This report, with independent analytical work done by Mc Kinsey consultancy, claims that greenhouse gas emission savings enabled by the chemical industry are more than double the industry's emissions. The report therefore concludes that the chemical industry can bring effective climate protection and helps this December's Copenhagen negotiations on climate change to deliver.

As the G8 members have agreed to observe the temperature target, time has come for an appropriate climate protection toolbox, as Cefic states. According to Cefic, the publication of the report "Innovations for Greenhouse Gas Reductions", made in connection with the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate meeting in L'Aquila, shows how chemical products may provide efficient tools for a sustainable development of mankind with respect to its environment.

ICCA President Christian Jourquin, CEO of Solvay, said: "This study highlights the vital role of the chemical ...



ICCA has published a global report on the carbon life cycle analysis of chemical products

Press clippings

...industry as enabler of solutions to decarbonise the global economy by making products that save energy and create a net emission reduction along the chemical value chain."

Analyses were carried out for over 100 individual chemical product applications. The report found that for every unit of greenhouse gases emitted directly and indirectly by the chemical industry, this industry enabled 2-3 units of emission savings via the products and technologies provided to other industries

and consumers. In other words, products of the chemical industry enabled greenhouse gas savings 2-3 times greater than their emissions, if the findings are correct.

This information was accessed on the 25th of September. For more information, please refer to www.cefic.be.



Agence Europe - Summary

No future for Europe without active involvement of regions and cities, says Committee of Regions President

According to an Agence Europe article from the 14th of September 2009, marking the Swedish Presidency of the European Union, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) held its Bureau meeting in Uppsala on 10-11 September. At this meeting, the institution's political executive body officially adopted a raft of recommendations from Europe's regions and cities to the new European Commission. These will be presented to MEPs in the coming weeks, in anticipation of the approaching hearings of

the commissioners designate, the Committee says. Local and regional support for innovation at a time of crisis was also broached in a discussion with the representatives of Swedish local and regional authorities and with a statement from Mats Odell. This extraordinary meeting of the CoR Bureau took place against a background of the Committee's desire to use the transitional period, which began with last June's European elections, to draw the other institutions' attention to

its recommendations.

As stated by Agence Europe, given the CoR's close relations with the European Parliament, President Luc Van den Brande will, at the working meeting scheduled for 22 September, provide European Parliament President Jerzy Buzek with a thematic summary of the recommendations on climate change, the environment and natural resources, cohesion policy, and multi-level governance, the ...

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

The Committee of the Regions held its Bureau meeting in Uppsala on 10-11 September.



... CoR says in a press release. At their meeting, Van den Brande will also discuss how the CoR can take part in the hearings of the commis-

sioners designate, either by being directly represented at the hearings or via MEPs to whom the document will be presented.

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

State of waste water improves in large cities but much remains to be done

According to an Agence Europe article from the 24th of August 2009, the state of waste water treatment in the EU is improving but more remains to be done, especially in large towns and cities. This was pointed out in the report on implementation of Directive 91/271/EEC on the treatment of urban waste water for the period 2005/2006. Published early August by the European Commission, the report is a synthesis of the information provided by 18 member states out of 27 by the 30 November 2008 deadline.

The directive provides for the compulsory collection and treatment of all waste water. The report shows

that 93% of waste water in the EU is collected. Collection rates in the older member states are near absolute while in the newer member states collection rates range from 70% to 100% apart from Romania (47%) and Cyprus (49%). Eighty-seven percent of waste water undergoes biological treatment known as secondary treatment, as stipulated in the directive. As stated by Agence Europe, in most older member states, this is close to 100% but Belgium, France and Portugal are far below. Newer member states are making good progress but Cyprus, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia must do more.

Treatment imposed by the directive to eliminate nutrients or bacteriological pollution of water in sensitive areas is in place for 72% of the population in these areas (13% only in Portugal compared to 100% in Austria, Germany and Netherlands). Over 90% of waste water collected in Europe's largest cities undergoes the biological treatment required but, in sensitive areas, only half of waste water receives adequate treatment, and four of these areas receive practically no biological treatment whatsoever.

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



The state of waste water treatment in the EU is improving but more remains to be done.



Over 90% of waste water collected in Europe's largest cities undergoes the biological treatment required.

**European
Chemical Regions
Network**



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