



3rd European Congress of Chemical Regions

**“Sustainability and Co-operation of
Chemical Regions in Europe”**

– Congress Volume –
Summary

06th October 2005
fieramilanocity, Italy

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Agenda of the 3rd European Congress of Chemical Regions

Agenda

Thursday, 6th of October 2005

9.20 - 9.40 **Opening of the Congress**

- **Adriano De Maio**, Representative of the President for High Education, Research and Innovation of Lombardy Region
- **Dr. Horst Rehberger**, Minister for Economy and Labour of Saxony-Anhalt and President ECRN
- **Giorgio Squinzi**, President FEDERCHIMICA and Ceo Mapei Spa
- **Diana Bracco**, President Assolombarda

09.45 – 11.15 **Chemical Industry, a motor for sustainability in Europe**

Moderator: Mark Pembleton, Cheshire County Council, UK

- Chemical Industry as a driving force for the Lombardy region
Adriano De Maio, Representative of the President for High Education, Research and Innovation of Lombardy Region
- The European Agenda for Sustainability a challenge for Europe and the Regions
Roberto Santaniello, European Commission, Head of Commission Office in Milan
- The European Chemical Regions Network as a Model for interregional co-operation in Europe
Dr. Horst Rehberger, Minister for Economy and Labour of Saxony-Anhalt and President ECRN
- Chemical regions as a partner for the chemical industry in Europe
Thomas Jostmann, Executive Director CEFIC

11.15 – 11.30 **C o f f e e B r e a k**

11.30 – 13.00 New Perspectives for REACH

Moderator: Bert Kersten, Minister of Environment, Province of Limburg

- Presentation of the SPORT Results
Lena Perenius, CEFIC
- SPORT – the Commission's response
Geert Dancet, Head of Unit 'REACH', European Commission
- The REACH debate – Lessons learned so far at regional level
Magne Haugseng, DICIDA
- Regional simulations and exposure scenarios - an example from North Rhine-Westphalia
Karl-Uwe Bütöf, Head of Department Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and ECRN Vice President
- The impact of REACH in accession countries – the Ida Viru case
David O'Brock, Member of the Board of The Viru Liimid Ltd., Estonia
- The Scientific and Technical contribution of DG JRC to the European Chemical Policy Now and in the Future
Steven Eisenreich, Head of Unit Toxicology and Chemical Substances, DG JRC

13.00 – 14.15 L u n c h a n d P r e s s C o n f e r e n c e

14.15 – 15.45 European Research and Innovation in chemical regions

Moderator: Tony Richmond, OBE, Vice-President ECRN

- Research and Innovation as a challenge for chemical industry and the regions
Amilcare Collina, Research Development and Innovation Committee FEDERCHIMICA
- The European Research Agenda and its challenge for chemical industry and the regions
Andrea Tilche, Head of Unit "Environmental Technologies and Pollution Prevention", European Commission

- The state of play of the European Technology Platform on Sustainable Chemistry

Dr. Marian Mours, CEFIC

- European Research and Innovation from the enterprise perspective
Ellen de Brabander, DSM Deputy Chief Technology Officer, Limburg
- The Centre for Process Innovation – best practice from the North East
Steve Spruce, CEO Centre for Process Innovation, UK

15.45 – 16.00 C o f f e e B r e a k

16.00– 17.00 Growth and new Structural funds in chemical regions

Moderator: Andreas Fiedler, ECRN Secretariat

- The role of Structural Funds for Chemical regions
Dr. Wolfgang Krüger, Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy Brandenburg

Intermediate results of ECRN studies:

- Chemical Parks as regional growth engine for European Chemical Regions
Dr. Dietmar Bender, BASF Schwarzheide GmbH, CeChemNet Partner
- Impact on environmental legislation on regional development
Eduard Figuerola, Catalunya
- Interaction between industry and educators in chemical regions
Ian Click, Humber Chemical Focus, UK
- Waste Land Improvement in Chemical Regions
David Kendall, Chemicals North West, UK

17.00 –17.30 Close of Session

- **Dr. Horst Rehberger**, ECRN President

17.30 – 18.30 General Assembly of the ECRN-Members

- Adoption of Declaration
- Election of Presidium

Summary Report

Andreas Fiedler, isw GmbH; Halle

***Lynne Brear, TEES Valley Joint Strategy Unit;
Middlesbrough***

***Nicola Johnston, Cheshire County Council,
Brussels Office***

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Chemical Industry, a motor for sustainability in Europe

Moderator: Mark Pembleton, Cheshire County Council, UK

Chemical industry as a driving force for the Lombardy region

Prof. Adriano de Maio, Representative of the President for High Education, Research and Innovation of Lombardy Region

On behalf of President Formigoni, Prof. Adriano de Maio welcomed the participants of the Congress. He stated his happiness to unite the European Chemical Regions in Milano and articulated the strong interest of Lombardy region to further develop the cooperation at international level to the benefit of the regions. For a long time, Lombardy has dedicated a lot of energy into the development of interregional cooperation. The exchange of experience had a positive impact on the competitiveness of Lombardy and the excellent position of the Lombard economy and research is a good contribution for further cooperation. European Legislation such as REACH has a big influence on the development of the chemical industry. For Lombardy the chemical cluster is one of the most important economic factors (being the second biggest chemical region in Europe in terms of employees) that needs to be supported also in the future. 32.7% of the chemical enterprises and 41.2 % of the chemical employees in Italy are located in Lombardy. On this basis, Lombardy region want to play an active role for the development of the chemical regions in Europe. Especially the strengthening of Research and Development activities as well as the support of the SMEs are crucial important. The established cooperation in the ECRN will help to strengthen the competitiveness of the chemical regions and ensure sustainable development in this context.

Sustainability and cooperation of chemical regions in Europe

Roberto Santaniello, European Commission; Head of Commission Office in Milan

On behalf of Stavros Dimas, EU Commissioner for Environment, Mr Santaniello presented a speech directed to the participants of the Congress and highlighting the position of the Commissioner. Mr. Dimas welcomed the initiative of the European Chemical Regions Network to organise a broad discussion about European policies at regional level. He started in explaining the environmental objectives of the European Commission in the future chemical policy. The REACH proposal will provide the public with the information about potential hazards. It will also ensure that products and processes are being well controlled - and that action is taken if chemicals are deemed dangerous. Moreover, REACH will make industry responsible for the safety of its chemicals. The level of health and environmental protection and thus quality of life will be enhanced. Moreover, REACH has been designed to maintain and even enhance industry's competitiveness. Mr. Dimas is convinced that REACH will foster a new type of innovation in which environmental and health effects are taken into account from the stage when new substances are being developed. But also chemical innovation will be strengthened, by launching new and safer substances on the market. REACH is part of the European Union's global leadership in the field of environmental protection. It is in line with the re-launched Lisbon strategy, which aims to restore dynamic growth and create jobs, while respecting the environment and health. It will create new market opportunities for EU chemicals and consumer articles. It will set high chemical safety standards and provide the EU with a 'first mover' advantage.

The European Chemical Regions Network as a Model for interregional co-operation in Europe

Dr. Horst Rehberger, Minister for Economy and Labour of Saxony-Anhalt and President ECRN

Dr. Rehberger stated the growing importance of the European Union in many aspects of social and economic development. Especially the plan for new European chemical policy has raised the attention of the chemical sector and therefore it was a logical consequence that several chemical regions have joined their forces in the ECRN in order to represent their common interest in the European decision making process. The ECRN has actively participated in the discussion about the REACH proposal and proposed own amendments for the first reading in the European Parliament. The main positions are summarised in the “Milan Declaration” that will be approved by the Congress today, which asks for simple, transparent and efficient procedures that respect the objectives of the environment and consumer protection as well as the competitiveness of the enterprises, especially SME. The ECRN has developed a fruitful partnership with the chemical industry that is reflected in the recognition of CEFIC or in the strategy dialog “Chemistry” that is implemented in Saxony-Anhalt. Another focus of the network is the support of research and development in chemical regions. The ECRN supports the development of the European Technology Platform “Sustainable Chemistry” and sees a potential for research fields such as nanotechnology, material science and biotechnology. The restructuring and modernisation of chemical parks is another topic of cooperation in the network. The extensive experience of the transformation process caused by globalisation and restructuring of the chemical industry is interesting especially for the new Members of the European Union. The use of structural funds in this area is an important contribution for the support of a competitive chemical cluster. Therefore the future EU Regional Policy should be further developed and the ECRN offers its knowledge about best practice solutions. This interregional exchange of experience is supported in the framework of five thematic ECRN studies in the areas: cooperation of science and industry, strategies for skills development, management of chemical parks, environment and legislation and land improvement.

These examples show the variety of activities of the ECRN that has achieved a recognition as stakeholders of the chemical region in Europe. We are looking forward to further strengthen our efforts to the benefit of all members.

Chemical regions as a partner for the chemical industry in Europe

Thomas Jostmann, Executive Director CEFIC

The chemical industry in Europe is one of the most developed industry sectors in the world. It stands now for roughly 1/3 of the entire global chemical turnover and is employing more than 1.7 million employees. It is obviously playing a very important role as major employer in the European community even though some major key success factors to run a chemical business successfully within Europe have changed dramatically over the past years. The legal framework conditions are becoming increasingly complex, which does not encourage new investments in Europe. There has been a declining capital expenditures in the “big 5” in Europe which has not been to the favour of the new member states. However, the chemical industry is one of the most innovative sectors of the manufacturing industries. Nevertheless it should improve this advantage by turning this into profitable growth and revenues. Regarding the Research and Development spending Mr Jostmann welcomed the raising budget in the European Union but he asked for less bureaucratic procedure especially to support the access of SMEs to these funds. Finally he stressed the important role of chemical regions in the future development of the chemical cluster. He welcomed the active participation of the ECRN in the debate about the future EU chemical policy and he stated that the chemical regions should play a “magic role” in:

1. Improving attractiveness of the European production infrastructure to attract foreign investments,
2. Chemical regions as predominant economic factor to raise political awareness for the chemical industry,
3. Collective efforts to facilitate research & science and innovation by providing network, resources and know how,
4. Chemical regions as birthplace of start-up companies and emerging markets,
5. Chemical regions as partner for sustainable development and responsible care.

New Perspectives for REACH

Moderator: Bert Kersten, Minister of Environment, Province of Limburg

Mr Kersten opened discussions on REACH at the Congress. Limburg has a special programme to stimulate investment in the chemical sector while improving environmental conditions. The key word for discussions on sustainable development must be Balance. Regions are interested in EU Policy and REACH and want Regulation that is practical and has less rules so that it improves competitiveness. Above all what is needed is a workable solution; we must not create a monster. A level playing field is required that does not put the goals of the Lisbon Strategy at stake. Security of supply is critical. There must be no bureaucratic nonsense, the industry is too important for that.

SPORT Results

Lena Perenius, CEFIC (Part 1)

Ms Perenius gave an overview about the state of play of REACH and asked to come back to speak about REACH following Mr Dancet's presentation. The first reading in Parliament is now in progress and they are looking to agree a Common Position. A planned second reading and possibly a conciliation procedure are planned for April 07 but this is by no means certain. The Council will discuss REACH during October and a vote in plenary is to be held between 14th and 17th November 2005 with the ambition of reaching political agreement at the end of November.

SPORT – The Commission's Response

Gert Dancet, Head of REACH Unit

Mr Dancet considered that implementation by the planned date of April 2007 was optimistic, as is the planned Adoption by 2006. If conciliation procedures are invoked then delay is inevitable.

The Strategic Partnership on REACH Testing (SPORT) commenced in November last year as a project proposed by CEFIC. Partnerships were set up to test REACH and make use of existing tools with the European Chemicals Bureau playing the role of the Agency and the Commission acting as a helpdesk, but not intervening in the project. The key purpose of SPORT was to detect problems with the workability, identify what guidance materials would be needed and to build up experience of using the proposed system. Nine EU states were involved in SPORT, testing 8 substances. The lead company for each substance was supervised by a Working Group that reported to a Steering Group.

Reversal of the burden of proof requires a change of mindset that makes risk management systems become increasingly important. A new concept of 'exposure scenarios' is to be introduced with a definition of what this means. There is increased downstream user involvement that requires better communication within the supply chain. Changes will be needed to REACH Implementation Programmes (RIP) 3.10, 3.2 and 3.5 to address recommendations made in the SPORT report.

SPORT clearly demonstrated that neither companies nor authorities fully understand the new system. New tools will be necessary and it will be at least one year before guidance will be available, at least in the English language, if not in all EU languages. Data sharing and confidentiality issues need to be resolved and extra guidance is needed on exposure scenarios. Practical guidance, tools and IT systems need to be in place at an early stage to enable companies and authorities to become familiar with the system in advance of it being brought into force.

SPORT Results

Lena Perenius, CEFIC (Part 2)

SPORT has broken new ground as this is the first time that Stakeholders have been able to simulate REACH and test the proposed Regulation. This would probably not have been possible without the previous North Rhine Westphalia trial. SPORT confirmed that there is a need to improve the workability. Key words are; simplification, clarity and a preparedness for change. Requirements are too demanding and will require simplification, particularly for SMEs. A lot of data is held by companies, that are not required to register until later in the process. Exploitation of existing information needs to be maximised by introducing a requirement for pre-registration data.

Many of the actors have different understanding regarding roles and responsibilities. Legal clarity is required and guides on consortia are essential. It should also be possible to Register groups of substances. The shift of responsibility from authorities to companies will take time to understand and to change existing mindsets. Work processes and procedures will need to be adjusted. Pre-tested, clear and appropriate guidance is needed. Tools and methodologies are being addressed by RIPs and work has started in industry. REACH will not be workable without significant simplification.

Lessons Learned at Regional Level

Magne Haugseng, Tees Valley JSU (DICIDA)

Industry is successful and we want it to stay that way; it generates wealth and sustains our Regions. What is bad for industry is bad for our Regions. Through the ECRN Network we can have a wider engagement in policy development such as REACH.

It will bring enormous challenges particularly for downstream users and will increase costs through product alterations and consortia management etc. SMEs will be disproportionately hit by REACH.

If a company has 50 substances, they will need to go through the process 50 times and could have to participate in 50 consortia. The role for Regions is to try to reduce this impact and build up a dialogue to work with companies.

Large volume producers will have an advantage. Smaller quantity production is a problem, particularly where response time equates to competitive advantage. The role for the ECRN Network is to ensure parity of access and equality of impact and that SMEs are not disproportionately affected. This need to be achieved to maintain our Regions prosperity. We need an independent forum to voice industry concerns to national government and the EU and ECRN can play an important role in this process. We have a regional role to co-ordinate and facilitate. We are able to provide the socio-economic perspective and can use our political connections in the Regions and in Europe.

Regional simulations and exposure scenarios an Example for North Rhine-Westphalia

Karl-Uwe Büttof, Head of Department Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and ECRN Vice President

North Rhine-Westphalia was the first Region of the EU to do a simulation of REACH and it is an example of what an active role regions can play. The results were first published in 2003 and were well timed to influence Stakeholders at an early stage. There was broad participation within the region. The results of the simulation still stand and are confirmed by the outcome of SPORT. It took a lot of time and resources, and thus a lot of commitment from everyone involved.

There were major differences between the simulation run by NRW and SPORT. NRW concentrated on supply chains whereas SPORT focussed on substances. Results from the NRW study showed that clear and pragmatic rules have to be established to reduce the efforts required to compile substance data. Exposure scenarios and categories are required with test requirements based on exposure scenarios.

SMEs are not in a position to cope with REACH and do not have the knowledge or capacity to meet its requirements. Guidance and a help desk will be needed.

REACH needs to be made workable for all involved. NRW consider exposure categories to be of paramount importance.

A software tool was developed for the textile supply chain to ascertain risks. The software developed is user-friendly and could be adaptable for other supply chains.

Simulation is a powerful tool. At Regional level it can have far reaching results and can trigger projects at a European level. The results are not ignored and proven results are able to influence EU Legislation. Regions must take an active role asap.

The impact of REACH in accession countries – the Ida Viru case –

David O'Brock, Viru Liimid AS

The situation for New Entrant countries is difficult because they have a number of chemicals not used previously in the EU. All chemicals will now need to be Registered and it is anticipated that dialogue could be difficult between Estonia and Helsinki.

Two specific sectors of chemical industry are based in Estonia; shale oil and rare metal. Most delegates at the Congress will have on them a part of Estonia's industry in the form of the metals used as components in mobile phones and computers.

Non EU countries play a vital role in the chemical industry of Estonia. A lot of chemicals are not used in the EU but are exported outside of the EU and many substances are imported. These chemicals will all have to be registered.

There is a lack of experience, know-how and risk assessors in Estonia and no GLP laboratories, and a low capacity for R&D and innovation. Available (surrogate) data is considered to be either inadequate or too old.

Many companies were privatised early on with Ida Viru remaining the centre for Estonian chemicals. A lot of companies are being pressurised into moving quickly and this is sometimes seen as an extra cover charge to 'join the EU club'.

Companies will have to invest considerably to adopt EU requirements. It is considered to be the right thing for industry to take responsibility and they will work through it.

The Scientific and Technical contribution of DG JRC to the European Chemical Policy Now and in the Future –

Steven Eisenreich, Head of Unit Toxicology and Chemical Substances, DG JRC

The European Chemicals Bureau was set up at Ispra to assist the EU with the implementation of Legislation and to provide a scientific input. It will provide support on REACH until the Agency is set up in Helsinki. Development of Technical Guidance is being undertaken through REACH Implementation Projects (RIPs). This involves collaboration with the Commission, Industry and other Stakeholders.

JRC is convinced that REACH can work. They are working currently on RIPs on the process of REACH on an IT tool, on the production of technical guidance and on risk assessment. Next year will be spend on scoping studies.

RIP 2 will establish IT to support REACH it is being developed using experience from development of the IUCLID 5 database and will include additional tools.

Technical Guidance Documents are being produced to assist in the production of dossiers for Chemical Safety Reports and tools are being prepared for use by Authorities. Use is being made of the extensive experience that the JRC already has in Risk Assessment.

Conclusion

Bert Kersten, Minister of Environment, Province of Limburg

There remains a lot of work that needs to be done to make REACH workable and ready to be implemented. Environmental Legislation such as REACH is important for economic development, but it can be in conflict with the aim of sustainable chemistry. Not only REACH, but also CO₂ emission trading are important issues for sustainability. Current allocation rules cause problems such as: No polluter-pays, but polluter-earns principle, by granting allowances based on historical emissions. Windfall profits for electricity producers at the expense of industrial competitiveness and consumer welfare.

It does not stimulate innovation.

The ECRN will debate the future of the European Emission Trading System at the end of this year in Limburg and will feed information into the discussions taking place on the second Emission Trading period. The Minister stated that he is looking forward to a successful meeting in Maastricht in December.

European Research and innovation in chemical regions

Moderator: Cllr Tony Richmond, OBE, Vice-President ECRN

“Research and Innovation: a challenge for the development industry and the regions”

Amilcare Collina, Research, Development and Innovation Committee,
FEDERCHIMICA

Lombardy is recognised world leader in the chemical industry with a high level of investment in R&D. However, it is important to recognise that the general public are not always aware of the value and importance of the chemical industry sector as a major contributor to the economy and to innovation. In a recent survey, 70% of chemical companies stated that they are innovative. Chemistry makes a massive contribution to our quality of life. It is all around us in public health, pollution, health and safety; however, often public perception is unaware that the industry is both sustainable and in knowledge transfer terms, fosters high levels of innovation.

The vast majority of chemicals are not used directly by consumers and the general public do not always understand the true impacts of chemicals. It is however essential for continued growth for success that the industry views the push for even greater sustainability as an incentive and opportunity rather than viewing ever increasing regulation as a penalising burden. There is also a need for improved communication between consumers and industry as regards sustainable solutions. It is therefore vitally important that the ECRN network further develops connections between the public sector and industry. Knowledge sharing between chemical regions will be beneficial for all and the speaker concluded by emphasising that this will help to front up to the challenge of innovation and ensure sustainable development for the chemical industry.

“The European Research Agenda and its challenge for the chemical industry and the regions”

Andrea Tilche, Head of Unit, Environmental Technologies and Pollution Prevention, European Commission

The speaker began by presenting an overview of the current state of play in the debate as the EU's research framework programme moves from the FP6 programming period to FP7. He described how the Sixth Framework Programme was characterised as an instrument for developing the European Research Area.

European Research Area (ERA) and its Regional Dimension: concepts

The ERA, is a new vision for European research to re-invent the European research landscape through large scale integration of resources and overall organisational improvement. Local and regional factors and operators are important for research policy - a message primarily addressed to the EU Member States and Regions. A Commission Communication on the Regional Dimension has been adopted on 03/10/01 (COM(2001)549)

The speaker went on to present an analysis of R&D demonstrating the areas of European weaknesses: EU-US R&D gap may be summarised as € 130 bn every year & growing. There is a Public funding gap € 25 bn and a Business funding gap € 105 bn. Within the EU, Sweden and Finland top the table in relation to R&D expenditure as a % of GDP. However the EU average expenditure is significantly lower at approximately 1.93% of EU GDP (2000).

Research Framework Programme 7 (FP7)

Main new elements compared to FP6 are: Annual budget doubled (EUR 5 billion to 10 billion); Basic research (~ EUR 1.5 billion per year); Capacities Specific Programme - Regional Dimension; Simplification of procedures and Logistical and administrative tasks transferred to external structures.

The speaker was keen to stress that the FP7 is tailored to better meet industry's needs.

Where industrially relevant, the definition of work programmes will draw on the strategic research agendas developed by industry-led technology platforms. These strategic research agendas, presenting the European dimension of research challenges, will also influence national research programmes. Furthermore, by always looking at the market potential of new inventions, they help to overcome Europe's weakness in commercialising the results of research. The FP7 Specific Programmes are: Cooperation – Collaborative research; Ideas – Frontier Research; People – Human Potential; Capacities – Research Capacity

Inside the Collaborative research there is a focus on 9 themes; Health; Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology; Information and Communication Technologies; Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies; Energy; Environment (including Climate Change); Transport (including Aeronautics); Socio-Economic Sciences and the Humanities; Security and Space. Under each theme there will be sufficient flexibility to address both emerging needs and unforeseen policy needs. Dissemination of knowledge and transfer of results will be supported in all thematic areas. Support will be implemented across all themes through: Collaborative research; Joint Technology Initiatives; Coordination of non-Community research programmes (ERA-NET; ERA-NET+; Article 169) and International Cooperation.

Chemistry in FP6 and FP7

In FP6, chemistry research has been carried out in several Thematic Priorities (Health, Nanotechnology, Food & Biotech, Environment, Energy, Transport), through ERA-Nets, Regions of Knowledge, etc. For the preparation of FP7, the SusChem Technology Platform is preparing, through expert groups and stakeholder consultations, a Strategic Research Agenda with a roadmap to 2030

In the ERA-NET scheme national and regional publicly funded programmes are being coordinated. The themes are proposed by the national funding bodies.

The EU contributes to the costs of the coordination while the Member States pay the research.

There are 3 national and regional chemistry programmes so far selected:

ERA-CHEMISTRY (Implementation of joint bottom-up European programmes in chemistry) – Chemistry, pure and applied, coordinated by DE; ACENET ERANET (ERA-NET for applied catalysis in Europe) – Applied catalysis and sustainable chemistry, coordinated by NL; ERA-NET Materials - Materials science and engineering, coordinated by FIN. 1 proposal on White biotechnology has been submitted

SusChem in the context of FP7

The FP7 contributes to and bring coherence in EU Public Research relative to: Technology Platforms ; Proposed collaborative research themes, like Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology, Health, Nanotechnologies, materials and process technologies (for a EU knowledge-based industry), Environment and Climate Change (Environment and Health, Technology assessment) and also Marie-Curie exchange programmes, R&D infrastructures projects and coordination of national research activities (ERA-NET).

SusChem is operating in the framework of the Lisbon agenda (knowledge-based and innovative competitiveness): to aid industry to move towards the New Factory concept, Moving from a resource based to a knowledge based economy; Moving from a volume based production to a more flexible and demand-oriented production of specialised chemicals.

Conclusions

Mr Tilche concluded with the following statements: The European Research Agenda is becoming increasingly more and more important. From the ERA perspective, the key contribution of Research is the implementation of the Lisbon Agenda for competitiveness, growth and job creation. Chemistry is an enabling technology; it is a promoter of innovation, embedded in most of products and processes.

Its development is a key for the growth in Europe of a knowledge-based society. Therefore chemical regions will play a fundamental role in steering this change.

“The state of play of the European Technology Platform on Sustainable Chemistry”

Dr. Marian MOURS, Research and Science, CEFIC

Dr. Mours introduced his intervention by presenting an assessment of the top ten problems facing humanity over the next 50 years and emphasising that chemistry will be crucially part of the solution to resolving these challenges: ENERGY; WATER, FOOD, ENVIRONMENT, POVERTY, TERRORISM & WAR, DISEASE, EDUCATION, DEMOCRACY, POPULATION (growth estimated as 6 billion people from 2000 to 8-10 billion in 2050).

This provides a massive incentive to increase R&D expenditure in EU chemistry following the political context of the EU strategy (2010): Aim for a ‘dynamic knowledge based society’ (Lisbon 2000); Sustainable development (Göteborg 2001); Increase R&D expenditure to 3% of GDP (Barcelona 2002). In the industry context, EU Chemical industry is vital for value chain partner industries. The Cefic Horizon 2015 study has shown that: competitiveness is at risk and innovation is a key driver for future competitiveness. Chemical innovation has disproportionate impact downstream. Hence, there is clearly a need for enhancing EU chemical R&D and innovation. However this faces challenges: such as the fact that industrial R&D expenditure is structurally lower than in competing regions and the insufficient public R&D support for chemistry.

SusChem (launched in 2004) has two major objectives: 1. Shaping the research agenda and innovation framework conditions for a sustainable EU (chemical) industry and 2. Shaping the chemistry agenda to make Sustainable Development (in the wider industrial sense) happen in Europe. SusChem covers the technology areas: industrial (or white) biotechnology; Materials technology; Reaction and Process Design as well as horizontal issues such as generic barriers and constraints to chemistry innovation in Europe. It is Platform that integrates multiple stakeholders. Around 250 people are directly involved with a participation from almost all European Member States and European Commission.

The SusChem Board includes academics and industrialists plus positions for consumer organisation and financial community.

The participants in technology groups include various SMEs and downstream users (e.g. automotive and electronics industry) and horizontal group participants include NGOs, consultants, etc.

The SusChem vision for 2025 and beyond is: The European chemical and associated industries will remain competitive based on technology leadership and innovation. Mastering the molecular scale (as in nanotechnology and biotechnology) will yield new generations of products with enhanced properties leading to new applications in many industrial sectors. Furthermore, the better use of chemistry and biotechnology will enable increased eco-efficiency of the industry. The industry will have a reputation as a reliable, safe, and responsible partner in society. Finally, Europe will provide an effective framework for chemical and biotechnological innovation and will strengthen its excellent skill base.

Thematic pillars of SusChem are: Fundamental understanding of Structure Property Relationship, Computational Material Science, Development of Analytical Techniques, from Laboratory Synthesis to Large Scale Manufacturing.

For the further development of SusChem, the definition of Strategic Research Agenda will take place on the 25 November in London. The Implementation Action Plan will be approved in July 2006 in Munich. After 2006 SusChem results should be integrated in the FP7 programmes and there should be an alignment with national initiatives, ERAnets, etc. (only about 5% of European research funding from the EU).

Dr. Mours concluded by stressing that SusChem should give a renewed impulse to EU chemistry R&D and innovation. Without chemistry sustainable development cannot be accomplished – chemistry is part of the solution!

There is an immediate focus on FP 7 but also a long-term focus including national and regional initiatives supporting the innovation for and in Europe. “Chemistry isn’t everything but everything is nothing without chemistry”

“European Research and innovation from the enterprise perspective”

Ellen de Brabander, Chief Technology Officer, DSM, Limburg

The speaker began by providing an overview of DSM. It is a recognised globally active ‘multi-specialty’ chemical company (Life Science Products, Performance Materials, Nutritional Products, Industrial Chemicals). DSM has Leadership positions in ~75% of product portfolio, it is innovation driven, R&D spend ~ € 300 million with a workforce of about 22700; H1 2005: sales € 3.9 bln (+7%); Operating profit: € 398 m (+44%)

Some facts about DSM Research: 2004 R&D expenditure: € 286 million (€ 30 million (10%) for Corporate Research (CR); € 6 million for CR related external R&D (20%). In 2004 R&D staff amounts to 1.890 employees, which is 8% of DSM’s average total workforce. There are 1,250 within Business Group R&D units, 640 within shared units; 1,250 inside, 640 outside the Netherlands under participation of 25 nationalities. The Main R&D sites at Geleen, Delft (both The Netherlands) and Kaiseraugst (Switzerland).

She then went on to highlight two major changes, which are also signalling challenge for the chemical industry: 1. Previously, the industry used to develop products, then try push them on market. Now it makes much more sense to look at needs, then start to develop new products to fill those needs. 2. Previously the industry used to work more ‘in-house’. Now it is recognised that companies cannot effectively innovate unless they work collaboratively.

DSM has a track record of successful innovation with four innovation pockets working to a 5 year plan: 1. Healthcare and prevention, healthy food and cosmetics; 2. Renewable, sufficient and clean resources; 3. Materials with advanced properties (lighter, stronger, eco-friendly); 4. Electronics, information and knowledge systems. This innovation is in view of recognised societal trends outlined in 4 categories: Global networking, Individualization, Environment, health & safety awareness, Age & World population growth as well as the technology trends of: Bio- technology, Process – technology, Nano-technology and Information –technology.

The speaker went on to stress the importance of innovation through collaboration for a company such as DSM with drivers being: Share risks and costs; Speed up projects; Access to missing competences; Monitor emerging technologies; Cross-fertilization across disciplines and sectors. However there are also risks and pitfalls that also need to be considered: How to find missing competences, Fit with partners, Agreement on conditions (e.g. IPR), How to share benefits? However, despite the drive to open innovation, DSM has witnessed its participation in EU research declining. They are taking steps though to engage in upcoming opportunities and try and reverse this trend. DSM sees a good potential in Chemistry appointed key area by Dutch Innovation Platform (Sep 05), the European Technology Platform for Sustainable Chemistry to FP7 and 'Europeanization' of national R&D initiatives, e.g. Public- private partnerships.

The presentation concluded by highlighting the following recommendations for FP7: Upfront costs should be decreased. The success rates of proposals should increase significantly, e.g. by: increasing budgets and identifying and supporting industrial growth platforms e.g. chemistry virtually absent in FP6!, Finally rules should be made for more industrial friendly participation i.e allow "positive list" of Pre-Existing Know-How, Allow unconditional deployment by affiliates, Limit financial liability to share of funding, incl. for coordinator.

“The Centre for Process Innovation - Best Practice from the North East of England”

Steve Spruce, CEO, Centre for Process Innovation, UK

Mr Spruce started by stating the CPIs VISION: “Over the next 5 years, we will create the Centre for Process Innovation as the pre-eminent innovation resource and partner for the Process Industry”. The Centre boasts 400 years experience in the chemical industry and is housed in the Wilton Centre, a multi-occupancy science park - 32 companies on site with world class analytical facilities, modern laboratory space, land & infrastructure for manufacturing, semi technical area and CPI facilitation for the process industry.

The speaker stressed the importance also of strong university and industry involvement. CPIs aim is: “We drive Innovation by reducing risks and barriers through collaboration the future inspired”

CPI as the objective to define and target research opportunities in areas that match the future needs of the Process Industry, to lower the risk to innovation through collaboration, technology provision, financial support, consultancy advice and open access facilities, to work with the Industry Clusters to support existing businesses to improve competitiveness, innovation and productivity and to develop R&D programmes towards these opportunities creating partnerships between industry and leading-edge universities.

The CPI offers a deep industry understanding: Commodity, specialty, fine and pharmaceutical, Superb networks and a leading role in national agenda. It is expert in high calibre business and technology innovators, peer recognised, Private sector business development and expert project managers. It offers facilities and services and participates in three emerging and leading technology platforms. This helps to reduce risk through collaboration and shows routes to market.

Growth and New Structural Funds in Chemical Regions

Moderator: Andreas Fiedler, ECRN Secretariat

The role of Structural Funds for Chemical regions

Dr. Wolfgang Krüger, Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy, Brandenburg

Dr. Krüger gave a short presentation about the Land Brandenburg, which is located in the East of Germany at the boarder to Poland and surrounding the capital Berlin. The chemical industry is an important industry in Brandenburg with its major locations in Schwarzheide and Schwedt. Brandenburg has recently joined the activities of the ECRN, as it feels the importance of joint efforts of chemical regions in Europe for the support of the chemical cluster. The economic policy in Brandenburg is focused on the support for economic structures and the reduction of the structural deficits. The region has identified 16 sectors of competence including chemistry that receive a special support. The Joint Task "Gemeinschaftsaufgabe" plays an important role for the attraction of investments. More than 160 projects have been supported in this framework, generating an investment of 1.8 billion € and created 3500 jobs in SMEs and Global Players. Currently Brandenburg is discussing the use of European Structural Funds after 2006 that should also bring a high contribution for the regional development.

Intermediate results of ECRN studies:

Chemical Parks as regional growth engine for European Chemical Regions

Dr. Dietmar Bender, BASF Schwarzheide GmbH, CeChemNet Partner

Dr. Bender described the importance of chemical parks for the regional development on the example of BASF Schwarzheide and CeChemNet. BASF Schwarzheide located in the south of Brandenburg has recently joined the "Central European Chemical Network" (CeChemNet) that unites six chemical sites in central Germany with the objective to attract new investors and to develop and expand existing cooperation.

CeChemNet works on the joint marketing for the presentation of the sites and the Central German Raw Materials Network to increase the international visibility of the network. The intensive cooperation helps to use the existing potential for the development of synergies between the individual sites and inside CeChemNet for the strengthening of competitive advantages. There is an active knowledge transfer between the chemical sites and joint activities to improve framework conditions. The BASF Schwarzheide site is the third largest site in Europe within the BASF Group and an important economic factor in Brandenburg (836 million Euro net sales, 2105 employees). BASF has recently opened its location for external investors that benefit from the integrated chemical production site, which has been strongly supported by the idea of “Verbundstandorte”. The future vision of the chemical and industrial cluster is based on synergies through transfer of products and services, including the chemical core production, chemical processes, customer and service providers.

Impact on environmental legislation on regional development

Eduard Figuerola, Catalunya

The study “Environment and Legislation” has been presented by Eduard Figuerola. Due to increasing concerns about environment and health protection new environmental regulations are coming in force.

The need for implementing high cost preventive and/or corrective measures may hinder the competitiveness of chemical regions in this context. Therefore, the objective of this study is to identify the main environmental issues and the way in which regions and companies manage this situation. The three regions Catalonia, Asturias, and Masovia cooperate on this topic that covers issues such as: IPPC regulations and permits, challenges to comply with BAT, Waste minimisation and treatment, availability and costs of waste management facilities, emissions of VOC and other gaseous pollutants, ground and ground water pollution and remediation, fulfilment of Kyoto Protocol and REACH.

The expected outcome of the study is the estimation of the economic impact of existing and new environmental regulation that have an effect on the chemical industry.

Furthermore it should be looked at how EU directives especially IPPC are incorporated into state members regulations and how regional authorities and companies handle the constraints posed by environmental regulations. Finally a focus will be given to the potential for mutual learning between new and older member states of the European Union.

Interaction between industry and educators in chemical regions

Ian Click, Humber Chemical Focus, UK

The regions Asturias, Lombardy, Lower Saxony, North East and North West England are working together on the topic of skills in the chemical industry. The objectives of the study are to understand and share how the key skills issues affecting the chemical sector are identified and addressed, to identify the most effective methods for this and to share information on key skills issues affecting each region.

The questionnaire covers a full range of sub sectors of the industry and all relevant types of jobs. Major questions are: What are the main and current and future skills problems the industry faces in the regions? Or What methods are being used to link industry and “educators” in order to find solutions?

Waste Land Improvement in Chemical Regions

David Kendall, Chemicals North West, UK

The topic waste land improvement has been presented by David Kendal. The objective of the study is to exchange experience on effective ways to reuse derelict land for instance by attracting developers, improving life for local communities or raising image of the region. The role of local and EU policies should be examined in order to draw conclusions what policies should be considered for amendment.

Several regional meetings have been held in the North West of England that have stressed the importance of cross section of authorities and technical experts.

The study will look at experiences from a Regional Development Agency project, the Runcorn Masterplan integrating regional firms and authorities. The study should produce an overview of the scale of problems in each region, existing experience, barriers to further work and available support.

Summary and Conclusions

Andreas Fiedler from the ECRN Secretariat summarised the presentation by stating the variety of topics that the network is working on and the large amount of best practice that is available in the partner regions. The interregional exchange of experience is the main objective of the ECRN and the implementation of studies will initiate a broad process of mutual learning between the regions. The final results of the studies should be presented by the end of the year 2005. This should give the opportunity to discuss further cooperation on several areas in order to transfer best-practice solutions from one region to another.

**Declaration of the third European Congress of Chemical
Regions on 6th October 2005**

**Declaration of the third European Congress of Chemical Regions
on 6th October 2005 in fieramilanocity, Italy**

**„Chemical Regions as Actors for Sustainability and
Cooperation in Europe“**

Introduction

This Congress marks the third time that high-level representatives from politics, local and regional authorities, industry, trade unions and research institutes have come together at the invitation of European chemical regions to discuss the critical issues regarding maintaining competitiveness and supporting sustainability in Europe on 6 October 2005 in Milan.

Against the background of rapidly increasing oil prices, continuing globalisation and more and more dissatisfying economic development in important European industrialised countries, the participants of the congress have agreed on taking a stand on current issues of European environmental and economic policy.

New Perspectives for future European Chemicals Policy

The **1st reading of proposals for future European chemicals policy** is getting into a crucial phase. Until November 2005 first consultation of Council and Parliament on the new regulation shall be finished.

ECRN has been actively involved in the debate of the European Parliament by means of modification proposal emphasising the following requirements:

- clear commitment to establishment of consistent regulations of chemicals in Europe to avoid double regulation and supporting innovation with minimal regulatory entry barriers,

- a paradigm shift from purely volume based requirements for registration towards a registration system based on exposure and substance property,
- implementation of use- and exposure categories to facilitate the registration and the communication along the supply chain,
- tiered requirements for generation of information according to the degree of intrinsic properties, amount and exposure of substances (substances of high hazard profile and high exposure leading to high risk first and substances of low risk at last),
- development of a pre-registration procedure providing necessary data on substance property as precondition for tiered registration system.
- simple structure of consortia to register a substance or a group of substances by means of establishment of product and manufacturer lists based on the pre-registration at the European Chemical Agency,
- the registration according to the principle “One Substance One Registration” (OSOR) shall not be mandatory, but a voluntary consortium shall be facilitated,
- development of clearer and more transparent regulations for the distribution of costs of the registration procedure by the European Chemical Agency. The European Chemical Agency must ensure fair conditions for competition and
- regarding possible requirements for registration similar conditions of competition for EU and non-EU manufacturers with regard to the import of articles from outside the EU must prevail.

ECRN emphasises its requirement on the European Commission to provide a revision of the REACH proposal at least after the first reading.

The most recently published report on the **SPORT Project** (Strategic Partnership on REACH Testing) points out that considerable efforts are necessary to make the currently proposed REACH system work for SME.

ECRN welcomes the fact that in the SPORT project for the first time a representative of chemical regions has been involved as European partner in a cooperation project by EU Commission, Member States and industry associations.

Under the name “**GO-REACH**” the ECRN has also taken the initiative within the 6th Framework Programme for Research to develop an IT based tool for an easy and efficient application of REACH particularly in SMEs.

Research and Development in Chemical Regions

Within the next days the EU Commission presents its **proposal on the design of European research policy** for the upcoming years. The proposal defines concrete priorities and strategies for funding that aim at strengthening EU competitiveness on international level.

In the past the ECRN has several times argued for supporting nano technologies, materials science and biotechnology on European level more than has been done so far.

For ECRN the initiative to establish European technology platforms is an essential contribution to ease communication between science and industry in Europe. However, the network has also pointed out that regions necessarily play an important role in this process, emphasising both their ecosystem and the innovative SMEs.

ECRN draws close attention particularly to the **Technology Platform “Sustainable Chemistry”** as it covers key research fields of the chemical industry in the short to long time perspective also taking into account the enabling character of chemistry for innovation in other industries as well. Hence, consideration and contribution in the work of this technology platform in the implementation of the 7th framework programme is from the ECRN’s point of view of central importance.

Chemical sites in the knowledge society

Chemical sites are further strengthening their efforts to develop innovation capacities in order to reinforce competitiveness in the global market. A new quality of development has emerged in the connection between production and knowledge locations. Two main developments should be supported in the future:

- The settlement of research infrastructure on the chemical sites, that brings together knowledge producer and knowledge user for the strengthening of innovation and
- the improvement of network structures between chemical locations and the surrounding research environment in order to initiate fruitful cooperation and to better use the regional competences and create synergy effects.

Growth and Regional Development in Chemical Regions

By publishing the **proposals for the new structural funds regulations** in July the EU Commission has made a significant contribution to the overall orientation of future regional policy in Europe. In the past many chemical regions have used structural funds to facilitate the restructuring process in the chemical industry actively.

The ECRN calls for quick agreement between EU member states on the financial framework of the European Union in order not to increase the already obvious delays in the approval of the new funding programmes.

Moreover, the ECRN affirms its interest in accelerating the exchange of experience on successful models in regional development together with the EU Commission and regions concerned. In this respect, we welcome the altered position of the EU Commission on continuing the support for **interregional cooperation** in the framework of objective “territorial cooperation”. At the same time the chemical regions are asked to make arrangements in their operational programmes for future interregional cooperation.

Contribution to Lisbon Strategy and Enlargement

Regional networks of chemical sites have proved their success in raising the regional competitiveness. These location networks have also an added value at national and European level by contributing to the objectives of the Lisbon Agenda for the strengthening of competitiveness. The creation of synergy effects at European level in the areas of feedstock cooperation, marketing, etc should be further strengthened in the future. Furthermore the interregional exchange of experience between the regions from the old and new member states should be enforced to facilitate the process of enlargement. New challenges as the Trans-European Networks for raw material pipelines can help to overcome development barriers in the boarder regions and benefit the development of the European chemical industry in relation to other global players.

The restructuring of the chemical industry that is characterised by outsourcing and concentration of core activities is facilitated by the creation of industry related services (such as logistic, IT, marketing, finance, communication). The opportunities for employment growth and innovation should be further supported in this area.

The ECRN therefore welcomes the recent proposals of the European Commission to **withdraw unnecessary plans for new regulations** but also asks for further initiatives to ease the administrative burden of existing rules and regulations. The network reiterates the demand for comprehensive impact assessments of new policies regarding competitiveness and sustainability.

Simplification of procedures as for example anticipated by the Commission for the new research programmes is a crucial element to ensure effectiveness and efficiency.

Chemical Regions as Actors for Sustainability in Europe

The consequences of **climate change** are not limited to administrative borders and can only be slowed down by adopting global solutions. The EU Commission currently prepares a position on the **second round of allocation for emission trading** that member states need to implement in the next year.

The ECRN appeals for early and in-depth inclusion of the experiences made in the first round of allocation into the guidelines for the second round.

Initial assessments have shown the following shortcomings:

- current allocation rules are biased towards reduction of production in energy intensive industries,
- electricity prices have contributed to windfall profits for electricity producers at the expense of industrial competitiveness and consumer welfare,
- current allocation rules cause serious distortions within and between sectors; production plants with similar performance receive different allocations in different Member States,
- the general failure to (fully) reward companies for early action is not only unjustified but it will lead to the situation that new investments to reduce emissions are not stimulated in most cases and
- investment in new plants lack the security and predictability of the allocation of emission allowances in many Member States.

Therefore the ECRN is initially proposing the following:

- investment in Combined Heat and Power should be a preferred option and regulation should give credit for and/or encouragement for its introduction,
- based on the experiences with the first allocation plan the allocation of the second phase must be simplified taking the following demands into account:

- avoiding of multiple optional allocation methods,
- reducing the exemptions to a minimum necessary for ensuring the market mechanism,
- increasing the legal security for all participants of the scheme and
- lowering of the transaction costs for existing companies and new entries.

In order to have sustainable framework conditions for the next generation of chemical infrastructure in Europe, immediate solutions for overcoming these problems are necessary.

Therefore the ECRN will stipulate a debate on the future of the European Trading System starting with a broad consultation at the end of this year in Limburg feeding into the second Emissions trading period.

Milan, October 6th 2005

Press Releases

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
Dienstag, 11.10.2005

Chemieregionen fürchten neue EU-Richtlinie

Enttäuschung über Umweltausschuß / „Chemikalienverordnung „Reach“ gefährdet Jobs und Investitionen“

itz. MAILAND, 10. Oktober. Die europäischen Chemiestandorte sind enttäuscht über die weitgehende Billigung der neuen Chemikalienverordnung „Reach“ im Umweltausschuß des Europäischen Parlaments, weil sie fürchten, daß die verschärften gesetzlichen Auflagen Investitionen und Arbeitsplätze gefährden. „Wir sind unzufrieden, aber nicht ernüchtert, denn letztlich kommt es auf die Entscheidung des Plenums im November an“, sagte der Präsident des Netzes der Europäischen Chemieregionen (ECRN), Sachsen-Anhalts Wirtschaftsminister Horst Rehberger (FDP), auf der Jahrestagung der Vereinigung in Mailand. „Das ECRN ist zuversichtlich, daß die Parlamentsmehrheit unsere Vorstellungen letztlich berücksichtigt.“ In der vergangenen Woche hatte es der federführende Umweltausschuß abgelehnt, den Kommissionsentwurf zur Registrierung, Evaluierung und Autorisierung von Chemikalien (Reach) so abzuschwächen, wie es zuvor der Binnenmarkt- und der Industrieausschuß im Einklang mit der Chemieindustrie beschlossen hatte (F.A.Z. vom 5. Oktober).

Rehberger forderte die Kommission auf, das Regelwerk, das die 40 bestehen-

den Richtlinien und Verordnungen in der EU ersetzen soll, nach der ersten Lesung vollständig zu überarbeiten. Reach müsse nicht nur dem Umwelt- und Verbraucherschutz, sondern auch der Wettbewerbsfähigkeit der Unternehmen verpflichtet sein. Passiere der Entwurf das Plenum und die nationalen Regierungen unverändert, schössen vor allem die Kosten von kleinen und mittleren Betrieben in die Höhe. Es drohten Standortverlagerungen, Arbeitsplatzverluste und die Einschränkung der Forschungstätigkeit, warnte der Minister. Sein Ministerium beziffert die Kosten für die von Reach verlangten Untersuchungen und Registrierungen auf mindestens 2,3 Milliarden Euro. Reach gefährde bis zu einer Million Arbeitsplätze.

Das Regelwerk sieht vor, daß die europäischen Hersteller 30 000 chemische Stoffe in einer neuen Chemieagentur anmelden und sich dort genehmigen lassen müssen. Die Industrie und die von der Chemiewirtschaft dominierten, im ECRN zusammengeschlossenen Gebietskörperschaften halten das Verfahren nicht nur für zu teuer, sondern auch für inhomogen und unpraktikabel. In seiner „Mailänder Erklärung“ fordert das

ECRN ein einheitliches Chemikalienrecht für Europa, um Doppelregelungen zu vermeiden und Innovationen nicht zu behindern. Das beabsichtigte Registrierungssystem dürfe sich nicht – wie von Reach vorgesehen – allein an den verwendeten Mengen der chemischen Substanzen orientieren, sondern an deren Exposition und Gefährlichkeit. Für Stoffe, von denen lediglich bis zu 100 Tonnen produziert würden, soll nach dem Willen des ECRN ein vereinfachtes Verfahren gelten. Zudem müßten, um fairen Wettbewerb zu gewährleisten, auch die nach Europa importierten Chemierzeugnisse und Vorprodukte der Registrierungspflicht unterliegen.

Dem ECRN gehören 13 Chemieregionen aus sieben europäischen Ländern an, aus Deutschland Nordrhein-Westfalen, Niedersachsen und Sachsen-Anhalt. Die Vereinigung repräsentiert nach eigenen Angaben eine der Schlüsselbranchen der EU: Auf die Chemieindustrie entfielen 10 Prozent der Verarbeitenden Industrie, mit mehr als 1,7 Millionen Beschäftigten und einem Umsatz von rund 500 Milliarden Euro im Jahr sei der Wirtschaftszweig der drittgrößte Arbeitgeber der Gemeinschaft. 96 Prozent der Unternehmen zählten zum Mittelstand.

Source: Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung – 11.10.2005

Chemie-Regionen kämpfen gegen EU

Furcht vor Belastungen durch Stoff-Richtlinie

VON STEFFEN HÖHNE

Mailand/MZ. Das Ringen um die geplante europäische Chemikalienrichtlinie wird härter. Das Europäische Chemieregionen Netzwerk (ECRN) sieht die Wettbewerbsfähigkeit der europäischen Chemiestandorte durch Empfehlungen des EU-Umweltausschusses zu verschärften Richtlinien gefährdet und fordert eine Revision. „Es macht keinen Sinn, striktere Normen einzuführen, wenn dadurch die Produktion ins Ausland abwandert“, sagte der ECRN-Präsident und Sachsen-Anhalts Wirtschaftsminister, Horst Rehberger (FDP), auf dem 3. Kongress des Netzwerkes in Mailand.

„Vor allem mittelständischen Firmen würde die Einführung neuer Produkte erschwert.“

PEGGY PADUR
CHEMIENETZWERK CeCHEMNET

Hintergrund der neuen Richtlinie ist der Versuch der EU, alle im Umlauf befindlichen Stoffe auf ihre Gefährlichkeit für Mensch und Umwelt zu erfassen. Gemäß den Entwürfen müssten 30 000 Stoffe registriert und auf ihre langfristigen Wechselwirkungen untersucht werden. Die Unternehmen fürchten Milliarden-Belastungen, weil künftig einzelne Chemikalien, die sich unter anderem in Waschmitteln oder Lacken befinden, bei der neuen Agentur angemeldet und im

Falle einer möglichen Gefahr auch einem Zulassungsverfahren unterworfen werden.

„Schon heute werden in den USA doppelt so viele Stoffe neu zugelassen wie in Europa“, so Rehberger. Dieser Prozess würde sich weiter beschleunigen und die ohnehin unter Konkurrenzdruck stehende Chemieindustrie weiter belasten. Dies hätte auch enorme Folgen für die Chemie in Sachsen-Anhalt. „Vor allem mittelständischen Firmen würde die Einführung neuer Produkte erschwert“, meinte Peggy Padur vom Chemienetzwerk CeChemNet, einem Zusammenschluss der Chemieparcs Sachsen-Anhalts und BASF Schwarzheide.

ECRN, wozu 13 Chemieregionen aus sieben Ländern gehören, fordert in einer „Mailänder Erklärung“ daher eine Reihe von Korrekturen wie die abgestufte Registrierung von Chemikalien in Abhängigkeit von Toxizität und Menge der Stoffe. Neben einer gemeinsamen Politik bei der Chemikaliengesetzgebung wollen die Regionen wirtschaftlich stärker kooperieren. Erster Schritt war die Gründung eines Vereins.

Zudem warben mitteldeutsche Chemieparcs wie Leuna oder Zeitz bei italienischen Unternehmen um Investitionen. „Die Infrastruktur der Parks muss noch mit mehr Firmen gefüllt werden“, sagte Padur. Dabei unterstützten italienischen Unternehmen, die bereits in Sachsen-Anhalt tätig sind, die Suche.

Source: Mitteldeutsche Zeitung – 08.10.2005

Stärke stärkt Standort Zeitz

Großinvestition im Chemiepark - 96 Jobs

Von STEFFEN HÖHNE

Malland/MZ. Der Chemiepark Zeitz steht vor einer Großinvestition. „Wir wollen für 49,9 Millionen Euro in Zeitz eine neue Stärke-Fabrik errichten“, sagte Investor Andreas Czaplok auf dem Kongress der Europäischen Chemieregionen in Malland. Die neugegründete Firma „Food Retail and Produktion CS“ will Anfang nächsten Jahres mit dem Bau der neuen Anlagen beginnen. Ende 2006 soll die Fabrik ihren Betrieb aufnehmen.

„Die Entscheidung zeigt, dass das Chemiedreieck weiter Neuansiedlungen anzieht.“

HORST REHBERGER
WIRTSCHAFTSMINISTER

Jährlich sollen in Zeitz aus Weizen rund 120 000 Tonnen Stärke produziert werden. Laut Czaplok entstehen 96 direkte Arbeitsplätze. Dafür werden noch Mitarbeiter im Management und Facharbeiter gesucht. Zeitz setzte sich nach den Worten der Investoren gegen mehrere Standorte in Deutschland und auch Osteuropa durch. „Vor allem die gute Rohstoffversorgung und Lage war für uns ausschlaggebend“, sagte Czaplok. Über den Stoffverbund mit Leuna erhält die Stärke-Fabrik Wasserstoff, der für die Produktion unabdingbar ist.

Die jährlich 140 000 Tonnen Weizen für die Produktion sollen überwiegend von Landwirten aus der Region kommen. Dafür seien mit dem Bauernverband schon Gespräche aufgenommen worden. „Wir wollen mit unserer Fabrik der dritt-

größte Stärkeproduzent in Deutschland werden“, kündigte Czaplok an. Laut Geschäftsplan soll das Unternehmen einen jährlichen Umsatz von 35 bis 40 Millionen Euro erwirtschaften. „Der Stärke-Markt wächst jährlich noch um drei bis vier Prozent“, so Czaplok. Daran wolle man partizipieren. Die Weizenstärke, die als besonders hochwertig gilt, wird zur Produktion von Ketchup, Schokolade oder in der Pharmazie eingesetzt.

Der Geschäftsführer des Zeitzer Chemieparks, Peter Schwarz, sieht die Investition als wichtigen Schritt zur weiteren Entwicklung des Standortes. „Es zählt sich jetzt aus, dass wir unsere Infrastruktur erneuert und ausgebaut haben“, so Schwarz. Seit 2001 arbeitet das italienische Chemieunternehmen Radici mit 300 Beschäftigten am Standort. Auch Südzucker investierte im letzten Jahr in eine neue Bioethanolanlage, die große Mengen an Weizen benötigt.

Am Bau der neuen Stärke-Fabrik werden ebenfalls Italiener beteiligt sein. Die Firma Rossi-Catelli erhielt den Zuschlag als Generalunternehmer für die Anlagen und Gebäude. Auch die bis zuletzt unsichere Finanzierung steht nach Aussage der Investoren. „Ein strategischer Investor und eine namhafte deutsche Bank unterstützen uns“, erklärte Czaplok. Zudem fördert das Land die Investition. Sachsen-Anhalts Wirtschaftsminister Horst Rehberger (FDP) sagte: „Die Entscheidung der Investoren zeigt, dass das Chemiedreieck weiter Neuansiedlungen anzieht.“ Jede neue Fabrik trage dazu bei, den Stoffkreislauf in der Chemieindustrie zu stärken.

Source: Mitteldeutsche Zeitung – 08.10.2005

Assolombarda Press Release – 06.10.2005

Il 3° Congresso Europeo delle Regioni chimiche esprime preoccupazione sull'applicabilità del REACH

Più di 300 partecipanti si sono riuniti in Fiera Milano per discutere delle principali tematiche relative alla politica industriale e dell'ambiente, che toccano direttamente l'industria chimica. All'incontro sono intervenuti, tra gli altri, il Presidente di Assolombarda, Diana Bracco, il Sottosegretario Alta Formazione, Ricerca e Innovazione della Regione Lombardia, Adriano De Maio e il Presidente di Federchimica, Girogio Squinzi

Milano, **6 ottobre 2005** – Il 3° Congresso Europeo delle Regioni chimiche ospitato oggi alla Fiera di Milano ritiene che i risultati delle votazioni del Parlamento europeo ancora non risolvano i problemi burocratici e di applicabilità della nuova regolamentazione per la futura politica chimica in Europa (REACH).

“La Rete europea delle Regioni chimiche ha da sempre sostenuto la necessità di una profonda revisione della proposta REACH della Commissione in modo da renderla applicabile soprattutto per le PMI” sostiene il Presidente della rete oltre che Ministro per l'Economia e l'Occupazione della Sassonia Anhalt, Horst Rehberger.

Il Presidente di Regione Lombardia, Roberto Formigoni, rappresentato in questa sede dal suo Delegato per l'Alta Formazione, la Ricerca e l'Innovazione, Adriano De Maio, ha dato il benvenuto ai partecipanti del Congresso evidenziando il ruolo trainante dell'industria chimica in Regione Lombardia. “La nuova regolamentazione delle sostanze chimiche in Europa deve stimolare la ricerca e l'innovazione in modo che l'Europa possa mantenere la sua posizione di leader in un'economia globale.”

“Accogliamo con favore l'iniziativa delle Regioni chimiche di includere la dimensione regionale nell'ambito della politica di coesione promossa in seno all'Unione Europea. Gli effetti della regolamentazione europea influiscono direttamente sulle Amministrazioni Regionali e sulle industrie chimiche. E' fondamentale che queste esperienze siano prese in considerazione prima che la nuova regolamentazione sia recepita a livello di istituzioni europee. Questa è la ragione per cui CEFIC considera l'ECRN come uno strumento per una migliore governance Europea” ha commentato Thomas Jostman, Executive Director di CEFIC (Federazione Europea delle Industrie Chimiche) al Congresso di Milano.

Più di 300 partecipanti si sono riuniti in Fiera a Milano per discutere delle principali tematiche relative alla politica industriale e dell'ambiente, che toccano direttamente l'industria chimica e le Regioni chimiche. E' stata approvata una dichiarazione in cui ECRN riconosce il proprio ruolo di attore europeo sempre più coinvolto nelle strategie delle Regioni chimiche in Europa. Questa convinzione è sostenuta anche da una dichiarazione scritta del Commissario Europeo per l'Ambiente, Stavros Dimas, indirizzata ai partecipanti durante il Congresso.

Nel corso del Congresso la rete delle Regioni chimiche è giunta all'approvazione di uno statuto comune per il riconoscimento di ECRN quale associazione europea.

In conclusione è stato eletto il nuovo Presidium della rete. Per il prossimo anno i seguenti membri prenderanno parte al Presidium ECRN: Horst Rehberger, Ministro dell'Economia e del Lavoro della regione Sassonia-Anhalt (Presidente di ECRN)/ Germania, Bert Kersten, Ministro dell'ambiente della Provincia del Limburg/ Paesi Bassi, Councillor Tony Richmond / Councillor Andrew Needham, Regno Unito, Karl Uwe Bütof, Direttore del Dipartimento del Ministero degli Affari Economici e dell'Energia dello Stato del Nord Rhine-Westfalia, Germania, Joan Pau Clar Guevara, Vice Direttore dell'Industria, Generalitat Catalonia, Spagna, Ago Silde, County Governor Ida Viru, Estonia. Il prossimo Congresso delle Regioni chimiche si terrà in Catalonia nel 2006. Per ulteriori informazioni visitare il sito: www.ecrn.net

Per ulteriori informazioni

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Approfondimenti dal quotidiano IL SOLE 24 ORE Press Release – 07.10.2005

Chimica in allarme sui costi Ue

MILANO - L'industria chimica italiana potrebbe pagare un sovrapprezzo di 1,2 miliardi di euro. Un costo dovuto all'eurocrazia, alle procedure amministrative necessarie per registrare i composti chimici secondo la nuova normativa Reach, appena approvata dall'Unione europea. Gli esperti della Federchimica stimano che ci saranno eurocosti ancora più rilevanti: per le 530mila imprese italiane che utilizzano prodotti chimici (vernici, lubrificanti, additivi, colori, smalti, inchiostri, adesivi) il regolamento europeo potrebbe costare 5,8 miliardi di euro. Il regolamento europeo Reach - che impone di registrare tutti i composti chimici e controllarne il rischio, inclusi i composti già diffusissimi e conosciuti da sempre - rappresenta una spesa destinata alla sicurezza dei consumatori e alla difesa dell'ambiente. E le aziende chimiche italiane sono pronte ad affrontare questi nuovi investimenti, se non fosse per l'indigestione da eccesso normativo e da perdita di competitività.

Quale la risposta delle imprese chimiche? Promuovere la conoscenza fra le piccole e medie imprese del settore - quelle meno strutturate a gestire l'eccesso cartaceo di burocrazia - e dare loro assistenza. «Servirebbe un centro che accompagnasse le aziende in questi adempimenti. Penso a un centro per la ricerca e l'innovazione chimica a Milano - afferma Diana Bracco, imprenditrice chimica e presidente dell'Assolombarda - visto che in Lombardia le imprese chimiche fanno più innovazione e ricerca che nelle altre aree, ma non ancora abbastanza. Le nostre imprese dovrebbero intensificare gli sforzi per innovare di più e in modo più efficace».

Il tema del Reach e delle sfide della ricerca è stato raccolto da Adriano De Maio, sottosegretario alla Ricerca della Regione Lombardia, e Giorgio Squinzi, presidente della Federchimica, in occasione del terzo convegno dell'Ecrn, la Rete Europea delle Regioni Chimiche, in corso a Milano in contemporanea con le rassegne Rich-Mach, Milanoenergia, Acqua e Expobiotech alla Fiera di Milano. La Lombardia, dopotutto, è la seconda "regione chimica" d'Europa per numero di imprese e per produzione, alle spalle della Sassonia Anhalt (Germania).

«C'è un grande rischio che insieme dobbiamo combattere. Quello che fa pensare a molti - protesta Squinzi della Federchimica - che in Europa l'industria non sia più centrale e strategica, e ancor di più la nostra industria. Per cui si può appesantirla con normative inutilmente gravose».

Nei giorni scorsi il Parlamento Europeo di Strasburgo infatti ha approvato il regolamento Reach, rendendolo più stringente rispetto al testo messo a punto dalla Commissione di Bruxelles. Tant'è che Altroconsumo, Legambiente, Greenpeace e Wwf avevano espresso plauso per il voto di Strasburgo per «l'obbligo di sostituzione delle sostanze tossiche con alternative più sicure», visto che non si conosce la pericolosità di 30mila sui 100mila composti in commercio.

Più cauti i sindacati: in un documento, la Fulc osserva che l'innovazione e l'ambiente sono centrali ma è cruciale anche «l'impatto che il Reach ha sui costi e sulla gestione, in particolare nelle Pmi, per il rischio potenziale di chiusura e delocalizzazione delle produzioni».

J.G.

Source/ Link:

<http://europanotizie.ilsole24ore.com/EuropaNotizie/Approfondimenti/20051007/SS20051007017CAA.jsp>

ECRN Press Release – 06.10.2005

3rd European Congress of Chemical Regions is worried about REACH workability

Milan, Italy – The 3rd Congress of the European Chemical Regions Network held in Milan on October 6th considered that the results of the votes of the European Parliament's Environment Committee do not solve yet problems of bureaucracy and workability of the new regulation for the future chemicals policy in Europe (REACH).

"The European Chemical Regions Network always advocated a fundamental revision of the REACH proposal of the European Commission in order to make it workable and more SME friendly." said the **President of the network and Minister for Economy and Labour of Saxony-Anhalt, Dr. Horst Rehberger**.

The **President of the Region of Lombardy, Roberto Formigoni**, welcomed the participants of the Congress by highlighting the leading role of the chemical industry in his region. "The new chemicals regulation in Europe must stimulate Research and innovation so that Europe can maintain its position in a global economy."

"We very much welcome the initiative of the chemical regions to include the regional dimension into EU policy development. At regional level public authorities and chemical companies gain direct experience of the effect and impact of European legislation. It is vital that these experiences are taken into account before new regulations are initiated at EU-level. That is why CEFIC sees the ECRN as an instrument for better governance in Europe," said **Thomas Jostman, Executive Director of the European Chemical Industry Federation (CEFIC)** at the Congress in Milan.

More than 300 participants gathered in the Fiera di Milano to discuss key aspects of industrial and environmental policy, which directly affect the chemical industry and the chemical regions.

A declaration was adopted in which the ECRN welcomed its growing recognition as a genuine European stakeholder on behalf of chemical regions in Europe.

This was also underlined by a written statement the Commissioner for Environmental Affairs, Stavros Dimas, addressed to the conference participants.

Alongside the congress the chemical regions network agreed upon joint statutes for setting up the ECRN as an association in Europe.

Finally the new Presidium of the network was elected. For the coming year the following members will be part of the ECRN Presidium:

- Dr. Horst Rehberger, Minister for Business and Labour of Saxony-Anhalt (ECRN President), Germany
- Bert Kersten, Minister for Environment of the Province of Limburg, Netherlands
- Councillor Tony Richmond / Councillor Andrew Needham, United Kingdom
- Karl Uwe Bütof, Head of Department Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany
- Joan Pau Clar Guevara, Deputy Director for Industry, Generalitat Catalunya, Spain
- Ago Silde, County Governor Ida Viru, Estonia

Lombardy Region and Masowia will nominate their representatives for Italy and Poland in the next weeks.

The next congress of chemical regions will take place in Catalonia in October 2006. Further information on the network can be found at: www.ecrn.net.

- Ends -

For more Information

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Notes for Editors:

ECRN: The “European Chemical Regions Network” has the objective to exchange experiences about the joint challenges for chemical regions and initiate a mutual learning for the strengthening of the chemical sector. Joint positions on relevant policy issues are developed to raise the regional voice in the European decision making process. The partner regions are Saxony-Anhalt as the coordinator, North Rhine Westphalia and Lower Saxony (GER), Huelva, Asturias and Catalunya (SPA), Lombardia and Piemonte (ITA), North East and North West of England (UK), Limburg (NL), Masovia (PL) and Ida-Viru (EST). Contacts to further chemical regions have been established to enlarge the network and become a stakeholder at European level. The total project budget is 1.639.000 €, 61% of which is funded by the European Union. More details about the ECRN can be found on its website at www.ecrn.net.

INTERREG IIIC is an EU-funded programme that helps Europe’s regions form partnerships to work together on common projects. These projects enable regions to share knowledge and experience that will help them develop new solutions to economic, environmental and social challenges. 98 percent of all European Union regions are involved in INTERREG IIIC projects. There are more than 250 INTERREG IIIC projects running involving 2500 local and regional actors from 50 countries; 20 percent of these are from new EU Members. More information on INTERREG IIIC can be found on www.interreg3c.net.

PICTURES



Fiera Milano – Congress Venue



TV Coverage during the Congress



Panel: New Perspectives for REACH



Panel: European Research and Innovation in Chemical Regions



Panel: Growth and New Structural Funds in Chemical Regions



Business to Business meeting of CeChemNet delegation



Handshake Dr. Rehberger and Prof. de Maio



Partners of the European Chemical Regions Network



Evening Reception of Regione Lombardia



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