
New President elected for the European Chemical Regions Network (ECRN)

PRESS RELEASE | BRUSSELS | 28 JUNE 2013

The General Assembly of the **European Chemical Regions Network (ECRN)** elected Mr. **Hartmut Möllring**, the Minister of Science and Economic Affairs of Saxony-Anhalt (Germany), as the new President of ECRN on 25 June 2013.

Other new elections to the Executive Board of ECRN included **Francesco Baroni**, the Central Director for Programming and Finance in Lombardy (Italy), **Jaroslav Komínek**, the Councillor for Transport and Road Management in Ústi (Czech Republic), and **Twan Beurskens**, the Minister for Economic Affairs in Limburg (the Netherlands). Furthermore, **Herbert Manley**, Councillor and Executive Member for Growth and Innovation in Cheshire West and Chester (UK) was re-elected for a new term in the board.

The main topic of the General Assembly was the adoption of a **joint position paper on the EU Industrial Policy**. The ECRN supports the European Commission's approach for a new integrated approach to industrial policy. The main issues from the regional perspective are reliable energy, resource efficiency and employment policy. They are seen as the main drivers for the future success of the chemical industry in the European chemical regions.

The ECRN works hard to ensure that the regional perspective is integrated in the discussions at the EU-level. On the day of the General Assembly the representatives of the ECRN Executive Board participated in a high-level **roundtable meeting at the European Commission**. The meeting took place under the leadership of Antonio Tajani, the European Commission Vice-President and Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship, and Kurt Bock, the President of the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) and the CEO of BASF. Moreover, representatives from Member States, chemical unions, NGOs and other stakeholders contributed to the discussion. The discussion focused particularly on important issues of energy and climate policy. Other topics were the positioning of the European chemical industry in the global competition and ways to increase the attractiveness of chemical regions for investment.

The ECRN called on the European Commission to encourage **cooperation**, to increase and strengthen **innovation**, and to foster **smart and sustainable growth** in Europe.

Background

The European Chemical Regions Network (ECRN) is an association with 19 member regions from 8 EU Member States (Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Poland, the Netherlands, and the UK). The aim of the ECRN is to improve the competitiveness of chemical regions, facilitate sharing of experiences, collaboration and joint projects between regions, and to represent the common interests of the chemical regions in Europe.

For further information, please see the ECRN website (www.ecrn.net) or contact the ECRN Secretariat (+32-2-7410-947, ecrn@ecrn.net)