



## **ECRN Joint Position**

### **Joint Declaration of the ECRN Presidium**

**12.05.2005, Warsaw**

**[www.ecrn.net](http://www.ecrn.net)**



**PROJECT PART-FINANCED  
BY THE EUROPEAN UNION**

North East South West  
**INTERREG IIIC**



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During the 3rd Meeting of the ECRN Presidium on the 12th May 2005 the following declaration has been approved.

In the upcoming months, the European Union has to take major decisions for the future of the Community Policy. From the perspective of the chemical regions, it is important to take the right decisions concerning the support of growth, competitiveness and employment in Europe.

This is especially relevant for the future chemical policy in Europe, the implementation of the newly focused Lisbon Agenda and a quick decision making on the future financing of the European Union.

**The European Chemical Regulation (REACH) must be simplified**

The impact assessment of the European chemical industry and downstream users that has been presented to a high-level expert group on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2005 has made it clear that especially small and medium-sized enterprises will have to cope with high cost burdens caused by the present proposal.

The ECRN Presidium stresses its demand for a paradigm change from a purely volume based approach of the registration of substances towards an approach also based on the exposure and the characteristics of substances.

This contains

- A registration of chemicals according to the degree of intrinsic hazard and exposure.
- The development of a pre-registration procedure with the procurement of necessary data about substance characteristics as a precondition for the prioritisation of the proper registration system.



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- The simplified establishment of registration consortia for the creation of product and producer lists on the basis of the pre-registration with the European Chemicals Agency.
- The registration on the basis of “one substance one registration” by strengthening the role of the Chemicals Agency in the process of the development of consortia.
- The development of clear and transparent rules for the allocation of costs of the registration procedure for consortia.

The European Chemical Regions Network has submitted own amendments for the first reading of the REACH regulation in the European Parliament, based on these positions.

Furthermore, the results of the cooperation project SPORT (Strategic Partnership for REACH Testing) between the European Commission and chemical enterprises for the registration of chemicals in the framework of REACH will be presented in the next weeks. The European Chemical Regions Network has actively participated in this discussion and expects the results of this project to be integrated in an amended REACH proposal. Therefore, the ECRN asks the European Commission to present a modified proposal after the first reading of the European Parliament.

**Stronger focus on competitiveness**

The European Chemical Regions Network welcomes the new focus of the Lisbon Strategy towards the objectives growth and employment as well as sustainable development. Only a clear orientation on important priorities can achieve substantial results.



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This also includes the impact assessment of new EU regulations and directives at European level in respect to the consequences for the European competitiveness.

At the same time, the European Chemical Regions Network proposes a stronger cooperation between chemical enterprises, chemical regions and the European Commission in the future for the initiation and shaping of new measures for the support of competitiveness, innovation and sustainability in Europe.

Therefore, the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Congress of Chemical Regions on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2005 in Milan will discuss this topic and develop concrete proposals for a future cooperation.

**A fast agreement on the future financial perspective of the EU is necessary**

Many objectives and strategies of the European Union that have been discussed in the last months can only be realised if the necessary budget for the EU is available

The Luxemburg Presidency has articulated to present concrete proposals for a future financing of the European Union in the beginning of June. At the moment, the positions of the member states about the amount and the allocation of resources vary substantially. The amount for structural funds should not be reduced and more resources should be devoted to research and innovation.

The European Chemical Regions Network fully agrees with the European Parliament, that a fast decision about the future budget of the EU for the period 2007 to 2013 is necessary in order to avoid delays in the implementation of EU assisting programmes in the end of 2006.

Particular intensive planning and programming steps have to be implemented for the use of structural funds in the regions. Theses preparation process cannot be completed in time until the end of 2006 if there is no general agreement on the budget of the next financing period in June.



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Therefore the European Chemical Regions Network asks all participating stakeholders to reach a general agreement on the future financing of the EU before the summer break.



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**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](http://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](http://www.interreg3c.net).