



EUROPEAN CHEMICAL
REGIONS NETWORK

ECRN - NEWS ::

07 November 2007

ECRN participates in HLG on Chemical Industry

The European Chemical Regions Network has been invited by the European Commission to become a member of the High Level Group (HLG) on the Competitiveness of the Chemical Industry in Europe. ECRN President Dr. Rainer Haseloff participated in the kick off Meeting, which took place on the 10th September 2007 in Brussels.

In recent years the activities of the European Chemical Regions Network have been enhanced by the Commission's participation in these consultations. It is the first time that a network of regions has taken part in such a high level dialogue. ECRN President Dr. Rainer Haseloff, supported by his Sherpa Thomas Wobben, will represent the ECRN within the HLG. Other Regions will join the thematic Ad-hoc Groups to bring the ECRN's input into the discussions. The following Groups will be founded under the HLG: innovation and human resources, trade, energy and raw materials, logistics and regional aspects, economy and social requirements.

ECRN President Haseloff outlined in his statement the role of the ECRN and the chemical regions in finding solutions on the ground to key questions regarding competitiveness. He referred to the ECRN as a network, which represents nearly 1 million employees in the chemical sector in Europe. He thanked the Commission for inviting the ECRN as the first regional network to take part in such a high level dialogue and he promised that the ECRN



ECRN President and Minister of Economy Saxony-Anhalt Rainer Haseloff meets the Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of BASF, Jürgen Hambrecht

will play a pro-active role in the future work of the HLG. In this sense he stated that it will be important to find adequate solutions for energy intensive industries in the future design of EU climate and energy policy. Furthermore he suggested using the HLG for a concerted effort to further develop the integration of chemical sites in central and Eastern Europe. He also announced that the ECRN is currently working with CEFIC on a joint initiative to bring the European technology platform approach closer to the regions. Finally he invited the European Commission to use chemical regions as test beds for better regulation in the future. More information about the work of the HLG is provided on the next pages

UPCOMING ECRN ACTIVITIES

5th ECRN Congress

- 29./30. November 2007
Ludwigshafen, Germany

Working Group Meeting

- February 2008
Brussels

Nord Est Sud Ouest
INTERREG III C

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Industry
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Leonardo Rubber

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Launch of High Level Group on Chemical Industry

The European Commission launched the work of the High Level Group (HLG) on the Competitiveness of the Chemicals Industry on 10th September 2007. The group consists of senior policy-makers from the public and private sectors together with representatives of civil society. It will examine the factors that determine the competitiveness of the European chemicals industry and will conduct an economic and statistical analysis of the structural changes taking place in the chemicals industry, dealing with questions linked to the sustainable development of the industry. The group is expected to formulate a set of sector-specific policy recommendations by spring 2009.

European Commission Vice President, Günter Verheugen, responsible for enterprise and industry policy and chair of the HLG, stated that the EU chemicals industry is a world leader today and makes an enormous contribution to growth and jobs in Europe. However, there are clear signs that it is facing unprecedented challenges both from the effects of global change and the expectations of our citizens. With this initiative the EU aims to ensure the right framework conditions for the chemicals industry to continue operating and investing in the EU on a sustainable basis.



Talks beside the HLG: ECRN President and Minister of Economy Saxony-Anhalt Reiner Haseloff and Vice-President of the European Commission Günther Verheugen

The initiative forms part of the EU's partnership for growth and jobs. The establishment of this Group was first announced in the Communication on Industrial Policy of October 2005 as one of the sector-specific industrial policy initiatives.

In addition to the participation of further Commissioners whose competences cover key issues to be examined by the Group, it also comprises high-level Member State representatives, various regions, the EU chemicals industry and its downstream industries, academia, trade unions, environmental Non Governmental Organisations (NGO's), and consumer organisations. The European Parliament has also been invited to nominate members of the group. In order to address specific questions and promote reflection, the HLG will seek expertise or contributions from ad-hoc groups of experts.

ECRN – Links

- European Chemical Regions Network
www.ecrn.net
- Saxony-Anhalt (Germany) – Lead Partner
www.sachsen-anhalt.de
- North Rhine-Westphalia (Germany)
www.nrw.de
- Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit (UK)
www.teesvalley-jsu.gov.uk
- Government of Catalonia (Spain)
www.gencat.net
- Voivodeship of Masovia (Polen)
www.mazovia.pl
- Province of Limburg (The Netherlands)
www.limburg.nl
- Lower Saxony (Germany)
www.niedersachsen.de
- Piedmont Region (Italy)
www.regione.piemonte.it
- County Council of Huelva (Spain)
www.diphuelva.es
- Lombardy Region Government (Italy)
www.artigianato.regione.lombardia.it
- Ida Viru County Government (Estonia)
www.ivmv.ee
- Principality of Asturias (Spain)
www.idepa.es
- Cheshire County Council (UK)
www.cheshire.gov.uk
- Rhineland Palatinate (Germany)
www.rlp.de
- Schleswig Holstein (Germany)
www.schleswig-holstein.de
- Hessen (Germany)
www.hessen.de
- Ústí Region (Czech Republic)
www.kr-ustecky.cz
- Flanders (Belgium)
www.flanders.be

Ist HLG Ad Hoc Group Meeting on Innovation and Human Resources

The High Level Group on the competitiveness of the European Chemicals Industry is established. The first ad hoc group has finished its work on innovation and human resources. Although the final paper for the Sherpa is still in work, ECRN-participant Dirk Meyer concludes: "All members stressed the extraordinary importance of a strong chemical industry for Europe's economy in toto. Being at the start of almost every value chains, chemicals industry plays a key role in Europe's innovation system. Any step forward here has an impact on the following chain – and vice versa. Therefore chemicals industry plays a major role in solving mankind's challenges like climate change, energy resources etc."

To remain this key role chemical industry has to speed up with some developments as there is a better integration along the value chain (esp. between industry, scientific institutions and downstream users/consumers), a more intensive focus on SME and their R+D-activities and the encouragement of new business models to create and speed up innovation.

Ian Click, author of ECRN's study "Skills, Training and Education" presented its results and made quite clear: If chemicals industry wants to rely in future on a well skilled workforce – which is essential for innovation and growth – all players have to intensify their planning, communication and cooperation. Thus, regional clusters are a possible solution to solve for example the coming lack of well skilled employees. Regional authorities, industry and training institutions can easily adjust their measures – and by the way visualise the importance of chemicals industry.

Communication, another result of the ad hoc group's work, has to be improved by the industry itself. The image changed away from a "trouble-making business" towards a very heterogeneous branch. While the public expects sustainable solutions and the chemicals industry has them in store the branch should develop an image of an enabling industry.

The ad hoc group thus recommends from the High Level Group to endorse a strong and integrated manufacturing base in the European Union.

ECRN presented during Interreg IVC Kick off Conference

The European Chemical Regions Network has been selected as best-practice example from the Interreg Programme to give a presentation about its achievements during the Kick-off Conference of the new Interreg IVC programme in Lisbon on the 21st of September 2007. Thomas Wobben from the Representation of Saxony-Anhalt spoke to 800 participants about the results of the network cooperation especially in view of influencing the European

Decision-Making Process. The ECRN is also planning to develop a follow up project within the recently published first call of Interreg IVC with a focus on the development of regional technology platforms on sustainable chemistry.



DICIDA Conference 2007

DICIDA-UK – “The Development Initiative for Chemical Industry Dependent Areas” held their annual conference at the Daresbury Laboratory in Runcorn, Cheshire, on the 11th and 12th October 2007.

The DICIDA-UK network provides a forum where all local authorities and public sector agencies in areas with a concentration of employment in the chemicals industry can join forces to secure a safe future for their communities.

The aims of DICIDA-UK are to:

- (a) Ensure that national government and European Union policies and programmes assist the continued growth of the chemical industry in and across the Member States; and
- (b) Enable local regions to cope with the economic, social and environmental problems created by the restructuring of the chemicals industry

The conference attracted delegates from across the UK, all of whom have an inte-

rest in the long term sustainability of the chemicals industry. An array of stimulating speakers presented talks on a wide range of sector related topics, including an update by the Health and Safety Executive on the implementation of REACH; details of the Chemical Industries Association Reputation Strategy, with contributions from industry on how they are effectively managing reputation within their localities. In addition, the Conference featured a presentation by the National Skills Academy; the DTI Chemicals Unit, as well as a tour of the world renowned Daresbury Laboratory.

At the conference dinner, which was held on the evening of the 11th at the nearby Daresbury De-Vere Hotel, the keynote speaker, Reverend David Felix, gave an interesting talk on the life and times of Lewis Carroll, who was born locally, and was the author of the children’s book, *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*.



Participants of DICIDA Conference 2007

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Outlook for the ECRN e.V. in 2008



Michael Hack – Director ECRN e.V.

Three main activities will characterize the year 2008 for the ECRN e.V.:

- The strengthen of the association with the implementation of the Brussels Office
- The European Demands: High Level Group and Interreg 4c
- The Acquisition of new members

The Year 2008 will be the start in a new phase of the ECRN e.V. With the implementation of the Brussels Office, the ECRN will have an influential input to the European Institutions.

The ECRN will strengthen its own network with long-lasting improvements of the communication with its members. First steps will be the identification of experts in our regions concerning REACH, Environmental Policy, Economics, Energy and Human Resources. We will provide an excellence of expertise concerning our main focus:

The regional perspective on the Chemical Industry and its Competitiveness.

ECRN will be recognized as the relevant partner for the European Institutions, Regions and Chemical Industry concerning any questions regarding region politics. We are the reliable communicator of the European Chemical Regions and their aim to stay successful.

The word ECRN will be spread further: we will contact and get in touch with all relevant MEPs, Commission Officers, Regional Offices and other Associations in Brussels.

This will enable the ECRN to be considered of any European Project in our field.

Our active participation in the High Level Group on the Competitiveness of the European Chemical Industry will strengthen our position to the Commission and has an immediate effect on the long-term policy-setting. We will use this opportunity to give our regions a strong voice. Our participation will intensify our internal communication structures and will hold us strongly together. Further Interreg 4c projects will give the ECRN the option to grow faster and f. ex. to settle a stable relationship to Eastern Europe.

The acquisition of new regions should be mentioned in this context. We are aiming to enhance our network significantly throughout our activities. Setting-up and keeping the contact with the relevant regions will assist us to increase our association sending an explicit signal:

Joining the ECRN is a clear commitment from the member-regions towards the Chemical Industry and potential Investors for a sustainable long-term relationship.

We are looking forward to an outstanding year and its challenges.

Michael Hack

Director of the ECRN e.V. Network Secretariat

Rubber Knowledge

EU PROJECT: Development of Innovative Methods for Rubber Technology Know-how Transfer to Increase Competitive Power of Rubber Manufacturing Industry in EU - Rubber Knowledge

The most recent trends reflect that in the rubber manufacturing companies there exist vast unexploited, so-called »silent«, knowledge about the rubber manufacturing technology. It means that there is a large number of competent experts, however, the challenge is how to transfer their knowledge to other associates in the most efficient manner. Given the experiences from the practice, we have estimated that our experts require additional pedagogic and andragogic expertise to be able to efficiently transfer their knowledge, as well as a manual containing a set of required contents from the area of rubber manufacturing. In order to achieve this goal, an initiative was given by the company Savatech d.o.o. from Slovenia and on 1 January 2007 we started an international project titled »Rubber knowledge«. The project will be underway two years until the end of the year 2008.

In addition to the company Savatech d.o.o. there are another six European partnership organisation involved in this project: *Stiftung Bildung & Handwerk*, *ISW – Gesellschaft für Wissenschaftliche Beratung und Dienstleistung mbH* and *Kastner Print Consulting* from Germany, *Bit Media e-Learning Solution GmbH & CoKG* from Austria, *GOP Ltd* from Great Britain and *Glotta Nova* from Slovenia.

We will train and qualify experts in partnership organisations to become efficient knowledge developers – internal trainers. Furthermore, we will compile a manual which will serve as study literature and

material, respectively. The manual will be prepared in Slovene, English and German.

The project will result in the knowledge that employees in the rubber manufacturing industry in the EU area will acquire to facilitate their mobility and employability in EU. One of the project goals is to create a partnership system for training and qualifying in the area of the rubber manufacturing technology in EU. We will arrange days during which knowledge managers will be able to exchange experience and expertise with their colleagues from foreign companies, thereby creating an extensive and useful knowledge basis in the rubber manufacturing technology. Finally, the success of the project will be estimated, the project results disseminated and serious considerations will be given as to in what way the results could be implemented in other industrial branches: will in the future internal trainers be able to make use of similar methods for various target groups, irrespective of the industrial sector they are employed in.

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Flanders

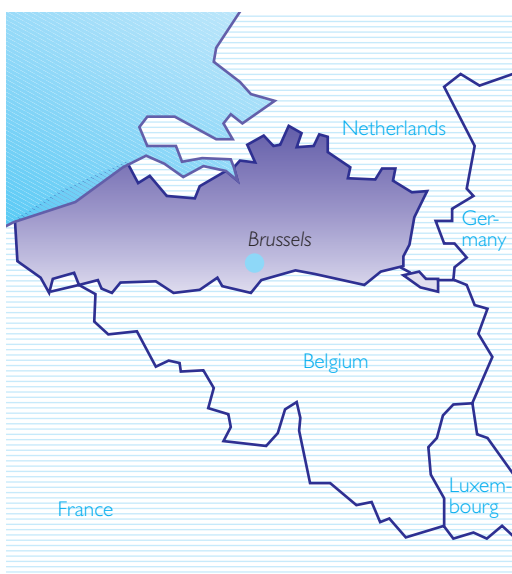
Flanders is a dynamic region strategically sited at the heart of Europe's wealthiest and most productive area. It is a region at the very crossroads of European trade and commerce a point where ideas, experiences and people have come together to create a bustling center of hi-tech manufacture and innovative thinking. In centuries past, Flanders was a leading player in the Hanseatic League, trading cloth, fur and wine, among other products, and even establishing the city of Bruges as the home to Europe's first-ever stock exchange.

From cars to diamonds

Today, the traditional strengths of trade, innovation and quality remain although the focus of these has, of course, changed. Nowadays, the region's leading industries include the automotive, life sciences, chemicals, plastics, logistics and food sectors in addition to luxury segments, such as diamond trading, fashion, textiles, specialty chocolate production and a brewing tradition that goes back a thousand years.

From biotech to nanotechnology

The region's long tradition of innovation in the arts, sciences and industry continues today through heavy funding of R&D across the sectors and in future-oriented specialist areas, such as biotech,



stem-cell research, ICT and nanotechnology. The city of Antwerp is home to Europe's second largest port, while the modern transport and communications infrastructure provides the foundation for diverse production and logistics operations that make the most of the region's strategic location.

Chemical industry

Over 500 companies redound to the success of Flanders' chemical industry. They produce a wide variety of basic and intermediate products for a diverse scope of markets. Between them, they generate an annual turnover of € 37 billion. Directly and indirectly, they provide work for some 160,000 people, or 10% of Flanders' active population. The Port of Antwerp is host to Europe's largest chemicals cluster where more than 300 different chemicals are produced. When considering the 'big six' petrochemical commodities – ethylene, propylene, butadiene, benzene, toluene, and xylene – Antwerp has a combined output of 4.793 million tonnes a year. The port is also the main hub for the European pipeline network.

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Hessen

Hessen is located in the heart of Europe and is one of the strongest economic regions. For a number of years now, Hessen has been ranked as the strongest economic state in Germany. Indeed, Hessen has the highest per capita GDP.

This dynamic growth has led to results. Hessen has experienced the fastest structural transition to a service-based economy in Germany. Additional factors for success include the broad range of industries and the strong internationalization of Hessen's economy.

No other economic region in Germany is more international than Hessen. With more than 1,000 American, Japanese and Korean companies here, Hessen has become the headquarters to more international companies than any other German state.

The magnet is Frankfurt am Main – the most important transportation hub in Europe and also at the center of a digital information and communication network.

Markets, customers and suppliers throughout Europe can all be reached quickly and directly from the transportation hub in Hessen. The Frankfurt Airport, with 50 million passengers annually, is the largest



HESSEN



Industrial Park Höchst

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airport on continental Europe and connects all the major global business centers. Germany's major road and rail hubs are also in close proximity to the airport.

The diversity of Hessen's economy is the driving factor for its success. More than 85% of all firms are small or medium-sized companies. Many of these companies are active on global markets with innovative technologies – making these excellent partners for cooperations or joint ventures.

The majority of Hessen's 350,000 companies operate in the services sector. The largest industrial sector in terms of revenue is the chemical industry followed by mechanical engineering, automotive and electrical engineering.

The Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industry in Hessen

- With more than 20 billion € the strongest industry in Hessen by turnover.
- The largest industrial exporter.
- Companies of world-wide renown as Abbott, Altana, Braun Melsungen, Clariant, Evonik, Fresenius, Goldwell, Merck, Procter & Gamble, Röhm, Sasol, and Sanofi-Aventis are located here.
- 14% of all employees and 21% of turnover in the industrial sector.
- State government focus on the fast-growing biotechnology sector and nanotechnologies.

FACTS & FIGURES

- Inhabitants: 6 million
- Area: 21.115 sq km
- Population density: 288 inhabitants per sq km
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP): 204 billion €
- Main sectors:
 - Services** (67% of GDP, Financials, Insurers, Logistics, Communication, Business Service Industries)
 - Industry** (23% of GDP, Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals, Motor Vehicles, Electrical Engineering, Machinery)

Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industry

- Number of companies in total: 187
- Number of employees: 57.400
- Export rate: 62%
- Sector structure by sales:
 - Pharmaceuticals (47%),
 - basic chemicals (35%),
 - paints, varnishes, printing inks (6%),
 - other chemical products (6%),
 - Detergents and Personal Care Products (3%)