

Working Programme 2009 / 2010

The European Mine, Chemical and Energy Workers Federation (EMCEF) and the European Chemical Employers Group (ECEG), in order to fulfil its joint aims laid down in the declaration on the establishment of a formalised Sector Social Dialogue Committee for the European Chemical Industry signed on 27 September 2004, approved in the Plenary Meeting of the Sector Social Dialogue Committee on 13 May 2009 the following two-year Working Programme for 2009 and 2010.

Building on the existing work being done since 2004 this Working Programme foresees activities in the following four main areas:

- (1) Education, Training and Lifelong Learning
- (2) Health and Safety, Responsible Care
- (3) Competitiveness, Employment and Industrial Policy
- (4) Capacity Building and exchange of experience

For each of the first three areas a Working Group will be set up. The Working Groups will meet normally two times a year and will report to the Plenary Meeting of the Sector Social Dialogue Committee. The task of the Working Groups is to follow European level developments in their areas of work, to discuss their potential impact on the Chemical Industry and its employees and to propose joint texts, positions or recommendations addressed to EU-institutions, the public or the national level Social Partners of the Chemical Industry in order to influence developments whenever helpful. Furthermore, the Working Groups will exchange on experiences and developments on the national level. Here, joint texts, positions or recommendations should be developed as well. The Working Groups will as well follow any additional activities or joint projects which might be run by ECEG and EMCEF in their areas of work.

In addition to these first three areas of work the Social Partners will continue to contribute to capacity building in all their national member organisations in order to help Social Dialogue to develop further both on European and national level. Existing projects to this end will be continued and additional events might be considered.

Furthermore, given the economic situation the European Chemical Industry is in at the beginning of 2009 following the global economic crisis, EMCEF and ECEG might add specific items of joint activities to this Working Programme as a reaction to this economic situation. The joint declaration of ECEG and EMCEF on the global economic crisis of April / May 2009 will be a basis for any such activities.



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Projects or initiatives which will be followed, proposed or executed by EMCEF and / or ECEG under this Working Programme will include the following:

Education, Training and Lifelong Learning

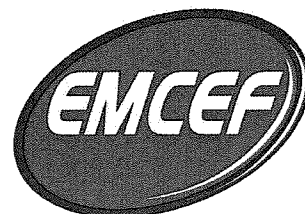
- CITIES; Comenius project operated by Fachhochschule Fresenius and several European partners since 2006; due to be finalised in 2009
- New Social Partner project, possibly in cooperation with other training institutions on skills and qualifications in the Chemical Industry
- Follow-up to the European Commission study on sectors' skills need
- Follow-up to the 2006 joint recommendations of ECEG and EMCEF 'Skills for Chemical Businesses – Understanding Society Needs'

Health and Safety, Responsible Care

- Follow-up to joint publication on good practice in national Responsible Care programmes regarding involvement of employees and their representatives
- Follow-up to the 2003 memorandum of understanding on Responsible Care between EMCEF, ECEG and Cefic
- Follow-up to Social Partner project 'Continuous improvement of health and safety as target for Social Dialogue' including possible new projects with additional downstream industry sectors
- New Social Partner project on external contractors on Chemical Industry (Seveso) sites
- PRISME²; project operated by Cefic on spreading Responsible Care to small and medium sized companies
- Cooperation in campaign(s) of the European Commission Bilbao Agency on occupational health and safety

Competitiveness, Employment and Industrial Policy

- Follow-up to Social Partner project 'Restructuring, Managing Change, Competitiveness and Employment' possibly including exchange of experiences on European Works Councils in the Chemical Industry
- New Social Partner project on demographic developments and their effects on employment in the Chemical Industry
- Following REACH implementation



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- Following implementation of EU ETS as well as any other major developments with potential social impacts in the Chemical Industry in the area of energy, climate change and emissions trading
- Activities around the development of nano-technologies, their relevance for the future competitiveness of the industry and possible regulations in this area
- Follow-up on the results of the High Level Group Chemical Industry, especially in the area of human resources

Capacity Building and exchange of experience

- Social Partner project(s) with the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin on capacity building for ECEG and EMCEF member organisations in Central and Eastern European countries

In addition, EMCEF and ECEG might organise specific projects in the form of conferences, workshops or studies looking after certain aspects – with a strong focus of the potential social impacts – of special relevance for sub-sectors and / or certain parts of the Chemical Industry including the Pharmaceutical Industry.

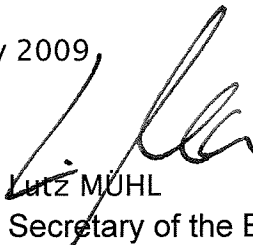
ECEG and EMCEF agree changes to the subjects listed in this work programme will be possible, if and whenever both parties agree on any additions.


In due time before the end of this Working Programme in spring 2011, the Social Partners will discuss the subjects for a follow-up Working Programme.

This Working Programme was approved by the Plenary Meeting of the Sector Social Dialogue of the Chemical Industry on 13 May 2009 and will be valid as well after the end of 2010 until the SSDC Plenary Meeting decides on a follow-up programme.

Brussels, 13 May 2009,


Simon MARSH
Chair Steering
Committee


Lutz MUHL
Secretary of the Board


Reinhard REIBSCH
Secretary General

European Chemical Employers Group
(ECEG)
Rue du Commerce 31
1000 Bruxelles
T +32 2 2908970, F +32 2 2908974
Email secretariat@eccg.org

European Mine, Chemical and
Energy Workers Federation (EMCEF)
Rue Treves 35
1000 Bruxelles
T +32 2 6262180, F +32 2 6460685
Email info@emcef.org