



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

Social Dialogue, Social Rights, Working Conditions, Adaptation to Change  
**Social Dialogue, Industrial Relations**

Brussels, 19 June 2008

**SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE "CHEMICAL INDUSTRY"**

**PLENARY MEETING**

**held on 21 May 2008 in Brussels**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Chairpersons: Simon Marsh (ECEG)

Commission representative: Dirk HADRICH (DG EMPL)

**1. Welcome by the chairpersons and the European Commission. Approval of the agenda. Approval of the Minutes of the last Plenary Meeting in November 2007**

The social partners were welcomed. The agenda of the day and the minutes of the last meeting were approved.

**2. Improvement of Health and Safety at the Workplace as Target for Social Dialogue**

Reinhard Reibsch gave an overview on the aims, results and activities of the project "Improvement of Health and Safety at the Workplace as Target for Social Dialogue"(annex 1). It was discovered that in some Member States compensation would be more important than prevention and it was concluded to launch a follow up project on an information system in cooperation with relevant downstream users.

Dirk Hadrich gave a presentation on "Improvement of health and safety – a challenge for social partners" (annex 2). He underlined that the outcome of the project would be evaluated on the basis of the final report in comparison with the planned work

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<http://www.ec.europa.eu/socialdialogue>

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/social\\_dialogue/sectorial37\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_dialogue/sectorial37_en.htm)

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programme. As mentioned already in previous meetings the second-phase consultation of the social partners on the protection of workers from exposure to CMR substances at work was launched on 16 April 2007 and the social partners were invited to give their opinion on the possible direction of any further Community action. All related documents can be found on the website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/social\\_dialogue/consultations\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_dialogue/consultations_en.htm)

In the area of employment, social affairs and equal opportunities the social partners have an important role to help shaping EU policies on related matters. The Commission would appreciate if the social partners could take their opportunities to respond in the framework of Art. 138 consultations. The Commission also believes that the social partners have good capacity within their sectoral committees to develop responsible ideas for their sectors. Social partners confirmed again their willingness to deal with the issue and to disseminate the relevant documents.

During the discussion the possibilities were explored to work on the social impact of the proposed emission trading scheme and the REACH regulation. Social partners were particularly interested to look at the social impact of ETS.

### **3. Education, Training and Lifelong Learning**

Catherine Beudon gave a presentation on "Skills and competences in the chemical industry" (annex 3). She explained relations with training institutions referring to the CITIES and the ECTN project. It was decided to develop further steps on qualification and certification.

### **4. Restructuring, Managing Change, Competitiveness and Employment**

Lutz Mühl gave an overview on the aims, activities and lessons learned through the project "Restructuring, Managing Change, Competitiveness and Employment" (annex 4). The situation in the Member States of EU27 would be very different. Affiliates would be invited to pick up the ideas of the project and to further implement them. The timeframe for the publication and closure of the project is August 2008.

Fernando Vasquez explained on behalf of DG EMPL the role of EU to adapt to new challenges, to anticipate consequences of policies influencing the sector and the approach of the Commission to take the various economic, competitive and social aspects into account. Industry should not wait for any crisis and negative implications should be eliminated or prevented as much as possible in advance. An anticipating partnership approach would be essential to prepare for coming changes.

EMCEF agreed to send comments on the ECEG document within 2 weeks.

### **5. Report on activities in the Working Group on Health and Safety and Responsible Care**

Jochen Wilkens reported on latest developments of the Responsible Care brochure. Within one week the final draft should be circulated for comments before 27 June. The

first public presentation by EMCEF was planned for the conference in Manchester (22-24.10.08). The programme of this conference was presented.

Furthermore, he presented the proposal for a CSR project on Responsible Care "Capacity building in SMEs"(annex 5). EMCEF and ECEG agreed to support this project.

#### **6. Industrial Policy, Competitiveness and Employment: Emission Trading Scheme review proposal**

Joachim F. Krueger presented CEFIC's view on the ETS review proposal and implications for energy intensive industries; the chemical industry case (annex 6).

Social partners decided to further examine and discuss the social impact of the new ETS.

#### **7. Industrial Policy, Competitiveness and Employment: High Level Group Chemical Industry**

Luc De Meyer reported on the latest activities of the High Level Group Chemical Industry (annex 7).

#### **8. Any other business**

Next meetings:

7 July 2008 (WG)

29 September 2008 (WG)

5 December 2008 (WG)

The annexes can be downloaded from the "library" on the website of the SSDC Chemicals Industry: [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/social\\_dialogue/sectorial37\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_dialogue/sectorial37_en.htm)