

High Level Group Chemical industry

Activities until now



Background

- EU Commission announced set-up of a working group in Communication on Industrial Policy already in 2005
- As HLG was not intended to be involved in REACH debate, kick-off was postponed several times
- It is the 3rd HLG after Automotive Industry and Energy/Environment
- Altogether 7 cross-sectoral and 7 sector-specific initiatives have been launched since 2005

Task

- Fixed in decision of the EU Commission of 24 June 2007:
 - „to conduct economic and statistical analyses of the factors determining the structural changes in the chemical industry as well as other factors that influence the competitive position of the European chemical industry
 - to assist the Commission in questions related to the competitiveness of the chemical industry
 - To formulate a set of sector-specific policy recommendations addressed to policy makers at the Community and national level, industry and society organisations”

Members

- Members of the HLG have been appointed by the EU Commission for 2 years
- 8 representatives from industry, 8 from member states, 3 from EP, 5 from societal organisations including 1 mandate for trade unions + 6 members of the EU Commission
- Demand from the social dialogue to be involved was neglected
- List and further information is available on the homepage of the EU Commission

1. Meeting of the HLG

- Kick-off-meeting has taken place on 10 September 2007 – „Thought starter“
- Program of the HLG including set-up of subgroups was discussed and adopted
- „Sherpa“ group prepares documents for HLG meetings with support of EU Commission
- 6 Subgroups were meant to discuss more in detail and to prepare recommendations – 3 or 4 meetings have taken place

2. Meeting of the HLG

- Meeting on 18 of December 2007 was chaired by EU Commissioner Potocnik
- Ad hoc group conclusions on „Research, Innovation and Human Resources “ were presented, discussed and slightly amended
- Ad hoc group on „Energy, Feedstock, Infrastructure and Logistics“ has been set up

Human Resources

- Out of 5 pages of conclusions only half a page deals with human resources
- 3 items have been mentioned:
 - members states should help step up promotion of chemical and science education, starting with primary schools
 - Chemistry or/and engineering faculties should define the profiles of new professions in cooperation with industry
 - Industry in cooperation with education and employment agencies, should intensify efforts to forecast their requirements of human resources

3. Meeting of the HLG

- Meeting took place on 18 April 2008
- Ad hoc group report and conclusions on Energy, Feedstock, Infrastructure and Logistics were discussed
- Final report on research and innovation was adopted
- New ad hoc group on „Trade and competition with other regions was set up

4. Meeting of the HLG

- Meeting took place on 27 October 2008
- Ad hoc group report on Trade and Competitiveness with other regions was presented and discussed
- Report discussed in previous meeting was adopted
- Follow-up conference initiated by ECRN was presented

Upcoming meetings

- Sherpa meeting in January will discuss final report
- In addition to conclusions adopted, other aspects can also be picked up
- Economic crisis and ETS will be most likely addressed
- Human resources could be picked up as well – first talks with other HLG members have taken place

More information

- Documents from the HLG will be published by the EU Commission:

http://www.ec.europa.eu/enterprise/chemicals/hlg/index_en.htm