



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES DG

Social Dialogue, Industrial Relations

**DRAFT**

Subject: Minutes of the meeting

Meeting: Sectoral social dialogue committee, Chemical Industry  
Working Group REACH

Time and place: 20-02-2006  
Centre Borschette, 36 Rue Froissart, Brussels

**1. Welcome by the Chairpersons and the EU Commission and technical announcements**

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda is approved.

**3. Update on the European Institutions' consultation on REACH and further steps and timetable**

- **Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, Member of the European Parliament (tbc)**
- **Reaction and position from EMCEF**
- **Reaction and position from ECEG / Cefic**
- **Discussion**

Mr Jostmann is presenting the state of play. See attached file.  
He highlights the results of the plenary vote in the EP on November 17<sup>th</sup> which completed the 1<sup>st</sup> reading. The Council struck a political agreement on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The Commission published a document in September 2005. The different positions will be assessed. The Commission basically agrees with the Council. Cefic is focussing on the major points.

Discussion:

- Pelin: We are not satisfied with the treatment of intermediary substances, advocacy is still necessary. What role do trade unions play in the advocacy process?
- Lahaut: A common position in the Council might arrive in May.
- van Dongen, Reibsch: The comparison of the positions should be made available to the trade unions.
- Jostmann: The social partners should be closely aligned in the stakeholder dialogue of the RIP process.

- Reibsch: ETUC has in the past mostly criticised view of the industry. Now they have changed their view and are closer to EMCEF positions.

#### **4. Report on state of play on the joint initiative of the Social Partners of the European Chemical Industry regarding downstream user industries**

Mr Lahaut is making a presentation on chemicals in downstream industries. See attached file. He addresses the necessity to disseminate results of the cooperation with downstream industries.

Discussion:

- van Dongen: Is specific information for pregnant women available?
- Laurent/Lefèvre: The aspect of information for the worker should be added.
- Pelin: The initiative SCALE is geared towards information for vulnerable parts of the population.
- Reibsch: A lot of information is available, but still existing protection measures are not used. The social partners have to focus on workers and less on the consumer.

#### **5. Social Partners Project Conference on REACH and Health and Safety in Central and Eastern Europe on 23/24 March 2006 in Prague and Workshop on REACH and Health and Safety in EU accession countries in Bucharest on 29/30 May 2006**

Mr Reibsch presents the content of the conference in Prague and of the workshop in Bucharest. The document has been sent out to the committee members.

Discussion:

- Pelin: The events are fully in line with the Cefic strategy to involve the new Member States and the Candidate Countries.

#### **6. Any other business**

Chairman of the meeting: Reinhard Reibsch

Commission representative: Markus Handke