



European Chemical Employers Group

Activities since May 2007 in the

**Chemical Industry Sector Social Dialogue
Working Group**

Industrial Policy, Competitiveness and Employment

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□ What do we do? – The Working Programme 2007 / 2008

- In 2007 and 2008 the Social Partners will focus their work on the following three areas:

- Industrial Policy, Competitiveness and Employment
- Education, Training and Lifelong Learning
- Responsible Care, Health and Safety

- Industrial Policy will cover subjects like

- High Level Group Chemical Industry of the EU Commission
- Implementation of REACH
- Energy Policy & Climate Change
- Restructuring & Employment perspectives
- Demographic Changes



Industrial Policy, Competitiveness and Employment



- Since the adoption of the Working Programme in May 2007 the Working Group met on
 - 4 July 2007 in Brussels and on
 - 18 September 2007 in Brussels

 - The next meetings will be very likely on
 - 5 December 2007 in Brussels and on
 - 29 February 2008 again in Brussels
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Industrial Policy, Competitiveness and Employment



- Among others, subjects on the agenda so far were
 - High Level Group Chemical Industry
 - Update by the EU Commission on 4 July and
 - Report by EMCEF on 18 September on the first meeting
 - Communication of the EU Commission on “Mid-term review of industrial policy - A contribution to the EU’s Growth and Jobs Strategy”
 - Presentation by the EU Commission on 18 September
 - Emissions Trading
 - Update by Cefic on 4 July 2007
 - White Bio-Technology
 - Presentation of an overview of the sector by EMCEF
 - Social Partner Project “Restructuring, Managing Change, Competitiveness and Employment”
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Industrial Policy, Competitiveness and Employment



- Proposal for possible subjects for next meetings
 - High Level Group Chemical Industry
 - Regular reporting on the discussions and developments
 - If helpful discuss the possibility of a joint input on certain subjects
 - Energy Policy & Climate Change
 - Presentation of the EU Commission proposals on the subject and discussion
 - Follow-up to the Restructuring Project
 - Discussing the draft joint paper on “lessons learned” once it is available in early 2008
 - Exchange of national facts and figures, experiences and activities regarding demographic changes
 - Presentation of EU and national statistics
 - Presentation of national activities
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Project “Restructuring, Managing Change, Competitiveness and Employment”



- First steps so far: Workshops for EU15 and EU10+2 countries
 - 10 & 11 September 2007 in Wiesbaden, Germany
 - 25 & 26 September 2007 in Prague, Czech Republic
- Next step: European Social Partner Conference 2007 on 9 November 2007 in Lisbon
- Aims of the Project
 - Discuss good practice in “managing change”
 - Get commitment from trade unions and employer representatives for joint statements on restructuring in the Chemical Industry, possible future restructuring needs and the way how best to handle the challenges around restructuring
 - Joint “lessons learned” to be drafted after the events and agreed in spring Plenary Meeting 2008

Project “Restructuring, Managing Change, Competitiveness and Employment”



- In order to collect facts and information around restructuring in the EU Chemical Industry within the Programmes of the workshops in Wiesbaden and Prague presentations were given by
 - the Dublin Foundation’s European Monitoring Centre for Change (EMCC) on statistical evidence about restructuring
 - the European Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities on the EU Commissions approach to Restructuring
 - the London School of Economics (partner in the project as external experts) on the economic situation of the EU Chemical Industry and the possible future challenges
 - Companies and Federations from Sweden, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Czech Republic and Bulgaria

Project “Restructuring, Managing Change, Competitiveness and Employment”



- A Summary of the workshops and further information on the project will be given at the start of the Social Partner Conference by ECEG and by the Foundation for advanced Social Trust (FAST) from Bulgaria, which is following the project as the second external expert organisation
- At the end of the Conference ECEG and EMCEF will present first ideas for possible subject for the joint “lessons learned”
- After the Conference ECEG and EMCEF secretariats will discuss the input received during the workshops and the Conference from the presentations and discussions of participants
- A meeting of the Steering team of the project from the Secretariats on 27 February will draft a first version of the joint “lessons learned” to be discussed afterwards inside ECEG and EMCEF
- The Plenary Meeting on 21 May 2008 should approve the final document