



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

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

Brussels, 20 December 2007

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

**WORKING GROUP MEETING**

**held on 5 December 2007 in Brussels**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Chairpersons: Reinhard REIBSCH (EMCEF) and Ladislav NOVAK (ECEG)

Commission representative: Dirk HADRICH (DG EMPL)

**1. Welcome by the chairpersons and the European Commission. Approval of the agenda.**

The social partners were welcomed by the chairpersons and the Commission. The agenda was approved.

**2. Responsible care developments on EU and global level**

Irina Dimitresco (CEFIC) explained the Programme Council Build Trust and the commitments of industry to be taken in the framework of Responsible Care (annex 1). At international level the "Responsible Care Global Charter" aims at further improving performance, to deliver business value, to address product management, to enhance credibility and to speak with a common voice. New Issue Clusters and the CEFIC RC

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award 2007 were presented. A CEFIC RC conference took place from 24-26 October 2007 in Paris and a similar conference is planned for October 2008 in the UK. A first draft programme for this conference should be prepared during February 2008.

EMCEF confirmed its interest in the preparation and participation to the CEFIC RC conferences that should be developed as social partner initiatives. The role of enterprises in the society should be an issue of discussion.

It was decided to establish a working group of two worker and two employer representatives. This group should explore what was developed concerning RC in the sectoral social dialogue committee, what examples can be found at company level, what social elements should be considered and what transnational aspects should be treated.

### **3. Social partner publication of good practice in Responsible Care**

Jochen Wilkens explained a first draft document setting content and structure of the planned brochure. Though some describing crossings were still missing the structure of the project was discussed. It was found that some regional examples, role models and best practice cases would be missing.

Furthermore, it was proposed to add examples of certain enterprises. However, it could be difficult to consult all EU enterprises.

The affiliates were asked to send contributions, comments or proposals for text changes by end January 2008 to ECEG or EMCEF. In addition to this general request, specific people will be contacted by Reinhard Reibsch and Jochen Wilkens with the intention to further develop of the brochure. Simon Marsh declared his interest to contribute.

### **4. Report from project 'health and safety' as target for social dialogue**

Reinhard Reibsch explained some aspects of the project which are important for different activities. The workshops that took place were helpful to better understand the specific situation in central and Eastern Europe. There would be a lot of restructuring in this region and significant challenges would be the state ownership of certain companies. During the Spanish workshop on 28 November 2007 discussions involved the agricultural downstream users and it was learnt about user responsibilities and possibilities to improve. Workshops with hairdressers and personal care downstream users are under preparation.

It was concluded that consumer protection will become more importance. Initiatives should be considered to explore the possibilities of the social partners in central and Eastern Europe, to develop assistance for the agricultural users and to explore the possible ways to influence other sectors.

It was claimed that other sectors would not be sufficiently linked to the chemical sector. The programme of the final conference of 12-13 February 2008 should be distributed within the next week with the aim to get many participants involved.

## **5. High Level Group chemical industry**

Reinhard Reibsch said there was no further meeting of this group between the first meeting in September and the next meeting on 18 December 2007. The working group 'Innovation and human resources' would be highly relevant for the committee since issues of aging society and retirement of experienced workers should be treated.

Franco Bisegna (CEFIC) recalled the mandate and the timetable of the HLG (annex 2).

The forthcoming meeting of the HLG on 18 April 2008 was expected to be a very important one for the chemical industry.

## **6. Project restructuring, managing change, competitiveness and employment**

Lutz Mühl recalled the aim of the project to gather best practice experiences and to develop a document about joint lessons learnt (annex 3).

Comments were made concerning the current situation of the new Member States, their infrastructure and their raw materials. Furthermore, different ways of restructuring and its management were discussed.

## **7. EU policy on energy and climate change – Overview on activities – Discussion of possible position of the social partners**

Franco Bisegna (CEFIC) reported about EU energy policy perspectives, the world's top CO<sub>2</sub> emitters, the additional future efforts to be taken, the sectors consuming a lot of energy in comparison with their CO<sub>2</sub> emission and plans to increase energy efficiency (annex 4).

Initiatives of the European Commission are under preparation and expected for the beginning of 2008.

## **8. Any other business**

Next meetings:

29 February 2008 (WG)

21 May 2008 (PL)

7 July 2008 (WG)

29 September 2008 (WG)

5 December 2008 (WG)

The annexes can be downloaded from the "archive" 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)