



Work Programme 2012/2013

The European Mine, Chemical and Energy Workers' Federation (EMCEF) and the European Chemical Employers Group (ECEG), in order to fulfill their joint aims laid down in the declaration on the establishment of a formalised Sector Social Dialogue Committee (SSDC) for the European chemical industry signed on 27 September 2004, approved in the plenary meeting of the SSDC on 13 October 2011 the following two-year working programme for 2012 and 2013.

Building on the existing work being done since 2004 this work programme foresees activities in the following two main areas:

- (1) Competitiveness, employment and industrial policy
- (2) Education, health & safety and demographic change

Working area (1) will focus on issues such as pensions, the follow-up on the High Level Group (HLG) on the Competitiveness of the European Chemicals Industry, sustainable development, REACH and GHS implementation and CSR. Working area (2) will focus on issues such as training, lifelong learning, the Agenda for New Skills and Jobs, EU transparency instruments, mobility of employees, Responsible Care and different challenges related to demographic change (lack of skilled workforce etc.).

Social dialogue in these areas will emphasise the specific challenges the European chemical industry and its employees face and will contribute to the EU's growth strategy Europe 2020.

For each of the two areas a working group will be set up. The working groups will normally meet twice a year and will report to the plenary of the SSDC. The task of the working groups is to follow EU-level developments in their respective areas of work, to discuss their potential impact on the chemical industry and its employees and to propose joint positions or recommendations which, as joint texts of the chemical social partners, can be addressed to the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers, but also to the general public as well as to national or regional level governments and parliaments. Furthermore, the working groups will exchange on experiences and developments at national level. They may also follow additional activities or projects which might be run by ECEG and EMCEF, respectively. In this respect, an additional plenary meeting will be organised in the framework of the annual social partners' conference.

In 2012, EMCEF and ECEG will, in accordance with the provisions laid down in the "European Framework Agreement on Competence Profiles for Process Operator and First Line Supervisor in the Chemical Industry" signed on 15 April 2011, report for the first time on actions based on this agreement to the SSDC. Furthermore, ECEG and EMCEF might

consider setting up a Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the chemical industry.¹ This depends, however, on a joint assessment that an SSC will have an added value in terms of anticipating skills and competences for the industry and its employees.

Projects or initiatives which will be proposed or carried out by EMCEF and/or ECEG under this work programme will include the following:

Competitiveness, employment and industrial policy

- Following implementation of REACH and ETS as well as any other major developments with potential social impact on the chemical industry in the area of energy and climate policy
- Follow-up on the results of the HLG on the Competitiveness of the European Chemicals Industry
- European Social affairs
- Following initiatives taken at EU level in the wake of the Green Paper “towards adequate, sustainable and safe European pensions systems”
- Following the Commission Communication “An Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era”
- Monitor developments in sub-sectors (pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, etc.)

Education, health & safety and demographic change

- Follow-up on the Framework Agreement signed on 15 April 2011
- Discussion on setting up an SSC for the chemical industry
- Responsible Care: Follow-up on the 2003 memorandum of understanding on Responsible Care between EMCEF, ECEG and Cefic²
- Nanotechnologies: Activities around the development of nanotechnologies and their political regulation with a focus on OSHE aspects.
- New social partner project on external contractors on chemical industry (Seveso) sites
- Closer cooperation with European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (OSHA)
- Active participation in follow-up project “The Impact of Demographic Change on the Chemical Industry in Europe”³

Whenever the social partners consider it necessary, they will issue joint statements to influence the decision-making process in the respective policy areas.

In addition, EMCEF and ECEG might carry out specific projects in the form of conferences, workshop or studies dealing with certain aspects – with a strong focus on the potential social impact – which are of particular relevance for sub-sectors and/or certain parts of the chemical industry including the pharmaceutical industry.

¹ In November 2010, the European Commission adopted the Communication “An Agenda for new skills and jobs: A European contribution towards full employment” as part of its strategy Europe 2020. In line with earlier Communications presented in December 2008 and June 2009, the Commission indicated that “it supports the creation of Sector Skills Councils at European level when an initiative comes from stakeholders such as social partners or the relevant observatories”. In December 2010, as part of the Bruges Communiqué on enhanced European cooperation in vocational education and training (VET), European Ministers for VET, the European social partners and the Commission underlined the role of the European SSCs in improving the quality and efficiency of VET as well as its attractiveness and relevance by strengthening the anticipation of skills and competences development.

² Conseil Européen de l'Industrie Chimique/European Chemical Industry Council

³ Managed by FECCIA (Fédération Européenne des Cadres de la Chimie et des Industries Annexes/European Federation of Managerial Staff in the Chemical and Allied Industries)

ECEG and EMCEF agree that changes to the subjects listed in this work programme will be possible if and whenever both parties agree on any additions.

In due time before the end of this work programme in spring 2013, the social partners will discuss the subjects for a follow-up work programme.

This work programme was approved by the plenary meeting of the SSDC of the chemical industry on 13 October 2011.

Brussels, 13 October 2011

Simon MARSH
Chair Steering
Committee
ECEG

Andreas OGRINZ
Secretary of the Board
ECEG

Michael WOLTERS
Secretary General
EMCEF