

The High Level Group on the Competitiveness of the European Chemicals Industry

European Social Dialogue in the Chemical industry
13 Mai 2009

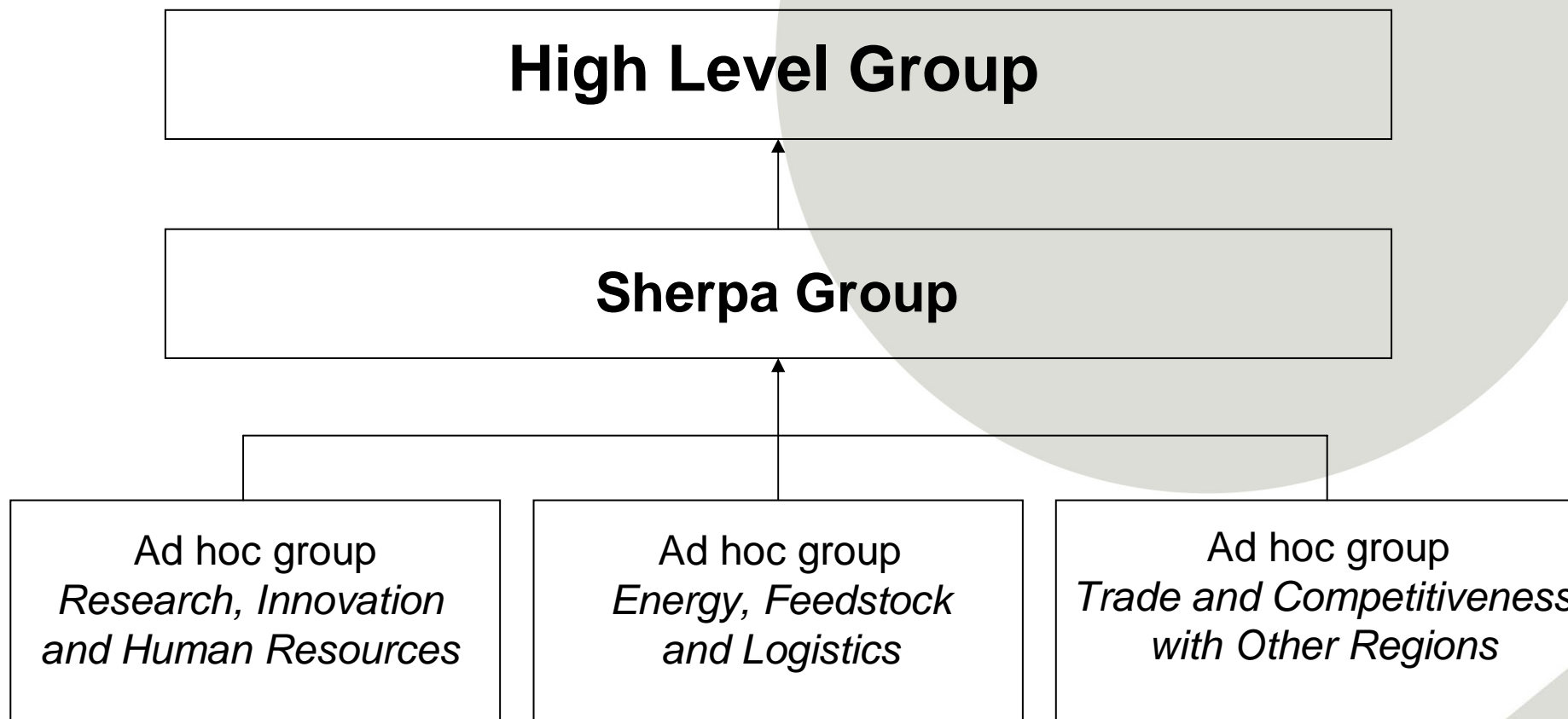


European Commission
Enterprise and Industry

The High Level Group

- Established on 14 June 2007 with Commission Decision 2007/418/EC
- Main objectives:
 - Economic and statistical analysis of the competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry
 - Formulate a number of sector specific recommendations to improve competitiveness
- 27 Members: Commission, 8 Member States, industry, NGO's, academia and trade unions

Work organisation



Internet site: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/chemicals/hlg/hlg2/hlg_index.htm

The strategic importance of the chemicals industry

Chemical solutions are indispensable to address a number of key issues of global importance, in particular:

- **Energy supply and climate change**
- **Clean water**
- **Food** (fertilisers, plant protection products, food preservatives)
- **Health** (pharmaceutical ingredients, new materials, home and personal care products)

The chemicals industry has as well an important responsibility for its own emissions, energy and raw materials use and efficiency, safety of its products and processes for human health and environment

Main challenges faced by the European chemicals industry

- Rapid increase of international competition
- Feedstock availability
- Environment, in particular climate change

Responses: more innovation and research

- Exploit major business opportunities resulting from mega-trends
- Strengthen innovation clusters and open innovation, facilitate cooperation
- Increase R&D and effectiveness of innovation, encourage more efforts from private sector
- More attention to development in HR needs

Responses: responsible use of natural resources

- Securing reliable access to oil, gas, a stable long term electricity supply at competitive prices are priorities
- Broader use of bio-based feedstock to replace hydrocarbons
- Climate change policy and the revision of the Emission Trading Directive

Responses: open markets with fair competition

- Favourable access to fast growing emerging markets
- Further trade liberalisation through a reduction or elimination of tariffs multilaterally and bilaterally
- Trade Defence Instruments will remain important to counter unfair practices

Human resources

The HLG dealt basically with:

- Role of HR in the innovation process
- Shortage of skills including new ones
- Chemistry students
- Entrepreneurship