



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

Employment and Social Governance
Social dialogue

SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

**Working Group
Health & Safety, Responsible Care, Education, Training & Lifelong Learning**

Meeting 12 December 2015

Minutes

Chairs: Simon Marsh and Sylvain Lefebvre

1. Opening and approval of the draft agenda

Referring to the dramatic terrorist attacks in Paris, the chairs welcomed the delegates that managed to come to Brussels despite the high alert level and the resulting security measures.

Stefaan Ceuppens (SC) referred to the outcomes of the informal working group on communication that had presented its recommendations at the Liaison Forum on 7 December and invited the participants to reflect which elements could be of relevance for their committee. He also invited the committee to scrutinize the 2016 Commission Work Programme for points of interest, for possible contributions by the social partners.

The draft agenda was approved.

2. ESCO – European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations – Preliminary results of the online consultation

Katrien Vander Kuylen (KVDK) reminded the committee of the objectives and main features of ESCO (see presentation in [annex](#)) and called upon further contributions from experts of the chemical sector to the online ESCO consultation – which had been extended until 31 December.

Responding to delegates comments/questions, KVDK explained that: it is fully acknowledged that social partners are key stakeholders in this context; that the development process has been changed (compared to the first phase) at the request of social partners (among others); it is true that the time given for contributions was relatively short, but this would not be the last opportunity for providing input, since a continuous process of improvement will be put in place.

Laurent Selles reported on the work of the French "Observatoire des industries chimiques"¹, which is quite in line with the ESCO approach. He however expressed some reservations regarding the very specific nature of certain occupations included in ESCO.

3. REACH – Social partners' role in disseminating information on info cards

Lindsay Jackson presented ECHA's info cards on chemical substances, which will be launched on 20 January 2016, amongst others through breakfast meetings in Brussels (see presentation in [annex](#)). She explained that the info cards are not aimed at replacing the – often very detailed – safety data sheets, but rather to offer a more accessible, complementary tool.

She called upon the social partners to contribute to spreading these info cards within the industry, e.g. through internet/social media/videos, adding the European social partners' logos to related documents where appropriate, distributing posters/leaflets, organising training sessions, etc...

Social partners agreed to cooperate with ECHA in this context.

4. European Alliance for Apprenticeships

Norbert Schöbel presented the ongoing and future activities in the context of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships (presentation in [annex](#)).

Jan Reynaert presented the initiatives undertaken by essenscia, the Belgian Federation for Chemistry and Life Sciences industries (ECEG member), to foster closer cooperation with the education sector (see presentation in [annex](#)).

Magdalena Mazik-Gorzalanczyk (FAVEO – Foundation for professional and intercultural education) presented the cooperation in the context of a Polish-Czech-German project which aims at promoting dual learning, fostering labour market relevance of VET, and increasing the number of apprenticeships in companies.

5. Sector Skills Council – Sector Skills Alliance

While the new Sector Skills Alliance framework still raises a number of questions, the social partners did confirm their interest to jointly work on the skills topic. It was agreed that the secretariats would meet early January in order to discuss the way forward, including a possible submission of a project application under the current call for proposals.

6. Sustainable healthcare

Andy Powrie-Smith (EFPIA) gave a comprehensive presentation on the evolution of healthcare and of the pharmaceutical industry over the past decades, and shared his views on a future "outcomes driven, sustainable healthcare" (see presentation in [annex](#)).

Social partners welcomed the presentation as useful input for possible future joint work on issues related to the pharmaceutical industry.

¹ <http://www.observatoireindustrieschimiques.com/web/index.php>

7. Responsible Care – First discussion on new MoU

Hartwig Wendt (CEFIC) presented the revised Responsible Care Global Charter² and a number of activities that are being undertaken under this framework (see presentation in annex). He welcomed any cooperation with social partners that would further foster outreach of the campaign, including beyond the EU.

Taru Reinikainen (trade union, Pro) and Jaana Neuvonen (Finnish Chemical Industry Association) presented Finnish examples of RC actions/projects for which the Finnish social partners had received the OHS RC Award 2015 (see presentations in annex). Iris Wolf also mentioned that joint initiatives are being prepared by German social partners.

CEFIC, ECEG and industriAll agreed to consider updating their 2003 Memorandum of Understanding on RC, and give new impetus to their cooperation in this respect.

8. REFIT Evaluation of the EU Directives on Occupational Safety and Health

SC briefly presented the state of play of the ongoing "ex-post evaluation" of the EU OSH legislative acquis (see presentation in annex).

The committee adopted a joint declaration on the EU OSH Directives³.

9. Update ECVET Forum 2015 – "Flexible Qualifications for a changing labour market – Applying the ECVET principles to strengthen the development and use of the skills needed by the labour market"

Silke Voigt briefly reported on the recent ECVET Forum (European Credit System for Vocational Education & Training), which brought together representatives of the ECVET community and business⁴.

10. Any other business

It was reminded that the committee's joint declaration ahead of COP21 was signed on 26 November 2016. The secretariats were mandated to analyse the outcomes of COP21 in view of future positions of the SSDC.

The events that took place in Helsinki in the context of the roadmap project, and their outcomes, were recalled. Implementation of the roadmap and the resulting 2016 work programme will continue, including work on an agreement on new competency profiles.

Participation in the upcoming OSHA campaign (Healthy Workplaces for All Ages) will be considered.

² <http://www.icca-chem.org/Public/Responsible%20Care/RC-Global%20Charter.pdf>

³ See social dialogue texts database: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=521&langId=en>

⁴ See the report on the Forum in edition 24 of the ECVET Magazine: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news-and-press/news/ecvet-magazine-no-24-december-2015>

It would be considered if and how to jointly disseminate the CCMI opinion on "Nanotechnology for a competitive chemical industry"⁵ (due for adoption on 9 December).

Annexes

- Point 2 – Presentation ESCO online consultation
- Point 3 – Presentation Social partners and the Info Cards
- Point 4 – Presentation European Alliance for Apprenticeships
- Point 4 – Presentation Building a stronger partnership between the chemical industry and education
- Point 6 – Presentation Sustainable Healthcare
- Point 7 – Presentation Evolution of Responsible Care in the Chemical Industry
- Point 7 – Presentation Responsible Care programme in Finland
- Point 7 – Presentation Good Morning – Good Tomorrow
- Point 8 – Presentation Ex-post evaluation of EU OSH legislative acquis

Participants

Employer representatives

Ms Emma Argutyán-Kahlmeyer (EU)
Ms Katharina Göbel (DE)
Mr Koen Laenens (BE)
Mr Simon Marsh (UK)
Ms Jaana Neuvonen (FI)
Mr Jan Reynaert (BE)
Mr Laurent Selles (FR)
Ms Ruth Steinhoff (DE)
Ms Silke Voigt (EU)
Mr Jochen Wilkens (DE)

Employee representatives

Mr Helmut Krodel (DE)
Ms Yseult Lallemand (EU)
Mr Sylvain Lefebvre (EU)
Ms Magdalena Mazik-Gorzelańczyk (PL)
Ms Dimitra Penidis (BG)
Ms Taru Reinikainen (FI)
Mr Bruno Vannoni (FR)
Ms Iris Wolf (DE)

⁵ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?toc=OJ%3AC%3A2016%3A071%3ATOC&uri=uriserv%3AOJ.C_.2016.071.01.027.01.ENG

European Commission

Mr Stefaan Ceuppens (EMPL.A.2 – Social dialogue)
Mr Dieter Coussée (EMPL.E.3 – VET, Apprenticeships and Adult Learning)
Ms Lindsay Jackson (ECHA – through videoconference from Helsinki)
Mr Norbert Schöbel (EMPL.E.3 – VET, Apprenticeships and Adult Learning)
Ms Katrien Vander Kuylen (ESCO Secretariat)

Other participants

Mr Andy Powrie-Smith (EFPIA)
Mr Hartwig Wendt (CEFIC)