



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Employment and Social Legislation, Social Dialogue  
**Social Dialogue, Industrial Relations**

Brussels, 4 April 2011

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

**WORKING GROUP MEETING**

**held on 3 March 2011 in Brussels**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**I) Working group "Competitiveness, Employment and Industrial Policy"**

Chairpersons: Reinhard Reibsch (EMCEF) and Jochen Wilkens (ECEG)

**1. Opening and welcome**

The social partners were welcomed by Reinhard Reibsch (EMCEF), Jochen Wilkens (ECEG) and Dirk Hadrich (DG EMPL).

**2. Approval of the agenda and approval of minutes of the last meeting**

The agenda and the minutes of last meeting were approved.

**3. A European industrial policy from the chemical social partners' point of view**

Lennart Grundberg (DG ENTR) gave a presentation on the "Industrial policy for the globalisation era" (annex 1). He referred to the 7 flagship initiatives underpinning the target of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and explained the key actions to be taken in future.

Bernd Lange (MEP) explained that the EP would like to see industrial policy returning back to the centre of activities. It would be important not to miss any future

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opportunities and to consider the impact of policies on industry earlier than in the past. He found that EU policies would need to be better linked with national policies and he referred to 5 political areas of particular interest: Strengthening policies of innovation, efficient using of resources, trade & market access, role of social partners and business environment.

René van Sloten (Cefic) explained Cefic's views on the EU industrial policy (annex 2). He referred to a number of challenges such as the need to get a highly skilled workforce, the moving of chemical production to Asia and the need for follow up and implementation of ideas of the High Level Group.

The social partners discussed the role of SMEs, the need for stable economic conditions, the need for fast implementation of policies and the risk relating to the ETS.

#### **4. Green Paper on Pensions: the European institutions' view and the chemical social partners' position**

David Eatock (DG EMPL) explained the drivers behind the Commission's Green Paper work, the key questions of the Green Paper, the Commission's consultation with stakeholders and the next future steps (annex 3).

Marco Reuter (EP) spoke about the procedure of the EP to deal with the issue, the subsidiarity, the entry age for retirement, the mobility of workers and the issue of solvency II.

Withold Galinat (BASF) explained the companies point of view especially concerning longer working life, the importance of occupational pensions, the safety level of pensions and the solvency protection.

Andreas Ogrinz (ECEG) referred to the importance of the occupational pension systems, the collective agreements on pensions and the joint position of the social partners on pensions.

Jorma Rusanen (EMCEF) underlined the importance of the occupational pension systems and the respect that should be given to social partners and national rules.

## **II) Working group "Health & Safety and Responsible Care"**

Chairpersons: Silvia Surová (ECEG) and Reinhard Reibsch (EMCEF)

### **1. Opening and welcome**

The social partners were welcomed by Silvia Surová (ECEG) and Reinhard Reibsch (EMCEF).

### **2. Approval of the agenda and approval of minutes of the last meeting**

The agenda and the minutes of the last meeting were approved.

### **3. OSHA Campaign on health and safety in maintenance**

Brenda O'Brien (OSHA) explained the background of OSHA's campaign on Safe Maintenance "Healthy workplaces" (annex 4). She addressed the question why maintenance is important of safety and health at work and illustrated specific hazards and risks in maintenance. Education and promotion materials could be delivered by OSHA free of charge. The closing event would be in Bilbao on 11 November 2011.

### **4. Responsible Care conference 6 and 7 of April 2011 in Brussels**

Silvia Surová (ECEG) explained the programme, background and priorities of the Responsible Care conference on 6 and 7 April 2011 in Brussels.

### **5. Second stage consultation on the amendment of certain EU Directives on health and safety at work as a result of the adoption of Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures**

Erwin Annys (Cefic) explained the position of BusinessEurope on the social partner consultation. EMCEF regretted not have been involved in the response that had been given.

### **6. Status report and discussion about common initiatives for the improvement of health and safety with other sectors**

The status of 3 initiatives with other sectors was reported: 1) agriculture sector, 2) building and construction sector, 3) hairdressers and personal care.

### **7. Any other business**

Brenda O'Brien (OSHA) explained the OSHA's work to establish sectoral Online interactive risk assessment tools (OiRA) that aim to facilitate and promote the obligatory risk assessment procedure especially for SMEs.

Silvia Surová (ECEG) explained the Regulation on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP Regulation) (annex 5). She underlined some key differences from the old DSD EU system.

#### Next meetings:

20 May 2011 (PL)  
6 July 2011 (WG)  
13 October 2011 (WG)  
9 December 2011 (WG)

The annexes can be downloaded from the "library" on the website of the SSDC Chemicals Industry: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=480&langId=en&intPageId=17>