

Rejuvenation of the European Responsible Care®

The Programme Council will be asked to endorse the RC Rejuvenation project objectives and to give the RC Issue Team the mandate to deliver and report to PC on tasks, timeline and budget.

Background

Responsible Care® (RC) is the chemical industry's voluntary initiative under which companies with operations along the chemical supply chain, work together, through their national associations. At national level, member associations are responsible for the detailed implementation of Responsible Care in their countries. The European Chemical Industry adopted RC for the first time in the UK in 1989. The EU Chapter expanded swiftly to the other European countries. A scattered nation-by-nation pre-vailed to the expansion based on Responsible Care guiding principles and differences exist from one country to the other.

Relevance to chemical industry

Responsible Care remains a fundamental pillar of the global industry's commitment to improving its HSE performances. Since inception in 1989, the ICCA RC Global charter changed in 2014. The industry has adopted widely International ISO standards on OSH and environmental preservation. The European industry is embracing progressively Sustainability concepts and Corporate Social responsibility has become the new societal expectation. The European RC lacks alignment and consistency with all of these chapters resulting in substantial confusion and overlaps for Chemical companies (SMEs in particular). Failing to upgrade the European RC might lead to a loss of relevance and loss of European impetus.

Rejuvenation project objectives

This project is a call to re-invent a new business case for RC in Europe whilst seeking to enhance industry's reputation and trust. The following objectives will drive it forward.

- Simplify: To guide Members () whilst bridging RC with ISO norms and standards(14000-18000- 51000) series)
- Harmonize: To pave the way for a global harmonization of Responsible Care element in a framework of international approved norms (CSR, ISOs),
- Unify: To reposition the RC brand on societal reference whilst embracing the references to Sustainable Development
- Include: To be inclusive of SMEs
- Strengthen: Within the voluntary framework of RC, to foster mandatory reporting and verification of KPIs by 2020
- Share: Develop a "best practice RC Reference Document" to support newcomers to RC and/or SMEs. This could additionally provide a practical description of RC to all stakeholders.
- Engrain: To develop hand-in-hand with National Federations
- Improve: To set up key success indicators and timeline for this project

Stakeholders

- National government entities and International organizations (UN-Environment; OPCW).
- Sister organizations (Fecc, ECTA, ECEG, IndustriAll, ICCA RCLG).

Governance

- Lead: PC HSE, Responsible Care and Logistics
- Across PCs: Product Stewardship, Climate Change & Energy, Sustainability Forum, Specialty Chemicals, Eurochlor, Petrochemicals Europe