



13 June 2017

## Memorandum of understanding on Responsible Care® between ECEG, industriAll Europe and Cefic

The European Chemical Employers Group (ECEG), industriAll European Trade Union (industriAll Europe), and the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) are aligned to renew their Memorandum of Understanding signed on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2003<sup>1</sup>, concerning the extension of the permanent dialogue between the Chemical Sectoral Social Partners and Cefic to the Responsible Care programme,

having in mind,

- that the chemical industry is one of Europe's most international, competitive and successful sectors. It accounts for about 17% of global production, employs directly about 1.2 million people in Europe and makes a wide range of products that are essential to other industry sectors and society<sup>2</sup>;
- the rising competition and ongoing production shift towards Asia, and, as a consequence, the necessity for the European chemical industry to increase the competitiveness of the sector, create quality jobs, encourage training and Life Long Learning and promote high educational and safety standards at workplaces;
- the Common Declaration of 4<sup>th</sup> December 2002 signed by ECEG and EMCEF (currently industriAll Europe) to start a voluntary permanent dialogue between the social partners of the European Chemical Industry in order to contribute to the creation of a favourable climate for the competitiveness of the sector and the employment in the industry and in order to develop the social dimension of Europe;
- the commitment of all three parties to contribute to sustainable development in Europe, through the activities of the chemical industry, as declared in the Common Declaration on "Framework conditions for a sustainable chemical industry in Europe" of 6 September 2011<sup>3</sup>;
- that Responsible Care is the global voluntary initiative managed on a country-by-country basis by the National Chemical Industry Federations and their member companies, which in Europe is co-ordinated by Cefic; and that the initiative has demonstrated the ability to constantly make improvements in health, safety, environmental and security performance in chemical companies' operations and throughout the value chain, and to communicate with stakeholders in an open manner;

<sup>1</sup> Memorandum of Understanding on Responsible Care, signed by ECEG, Cefic and EMCEF on 21 May 2003

<sup>2</sup> Figures, statistical year 2015

<sup>3</sup> Framework conditions for a sustainable chemical industry in Europe, signed by ECEG, Cefic and EMCEF on 6 September 2011



- that the Responsible Care Global Charter has expanded and extended the process of continuous improvement beyond chemicals manufacturing to other activities, especially those associated with the use and handling of chemical products along the value chain;
- that the aim of Responsible Care is to improve and communicate the health, safety, environmental and security performance of the industry, thus protecting employees, neighbours, consumers and the environment; and that the initiative has received commendation from external organisations including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for the significant contribution it brings to sustainable development;
- that implementation of sustainable development, i.e. high levels of health, safety, environmental and security standards, remains a priority in order to further improve performance and requires the commitment of and contributions from many stakeholders; hence, successful implementation of Responsible Care in Europe is one of the principal ways through which the employers and employees and their representatives in the chemical industry can make their contribution to sustainable development;
- that high-level national projects<sup>4</sup> provide tangible results and are best-practice examples in Responsible Care.

In order to develop the involvement of workers and their representatives, ECEG, industriAll Europe and Cefic have agreed:

- to establish a dedicated Joint Monitoring Group composed of up to three representatives from each association; industriAll Europe, ECEG and Cefic. This group will meet at least once a year with the aim of reviewing progress and exchanging information on the consistent implementation of Responsible Care in Europe. The meeting takes place in person. An agenda will be suggested ahead of each meeting;
- to achieve effectiveness by maintaining a continuity of members, whilst at the same time inviting experts when specific matters are being discussed;
- to set agendas for the meetings of the Joint Monitoring Group which are agreed by them;
- that ECEG and industriAll Europe are invited to actively participate in the assessment of applications for the Responsible Care Award conferred by Cefic, and attend events such as the Responsible Care conference, whenever organised by Cefic;
- to organise, if possible, an annual visit of a company/chemical plant to get a closer look at companies' H&S policy.
- to promote, as far as possible, meetings with national associations in order to learn about the practices of co-operation at national level.

<sup>4</sup> Best-practice examples: German initiative Chemie<sup>3</sup>, Finnish Social Partners' project "Good morning, good tomorrow"



ECEG, industriAll Europe and Cefic consider that the agendas could include:

- review of the improvements in the health, safety in the workplace, as well as environmental and security performance of the chemical industry in Europe;
- identification of training needs related to the European Responsible Care initiative;
- employee training and education practices in health, safety, environmental and security performance;
- development of a simple procedure to exchange information relating to product concerns and on significant HS&E accidents in the chemical industry;
- share information on best practices on Responsible Care, taking into account the winners of the Responsible Care Award conferred by Cefic, and to promote an active contribution from employees and their representatives;
- involve affiliates of all three parties throughout their geographical coverage in order to ensure capacity building, improve competitiveness and growth rates, attract young talents for the sector and play their role in health, safety, environmental and security performance.

ECEG, industriAll Europe and Cefic shall inform their members about the activities arising from the Memorandum. They will review this Memorandum three years from the date of signature to check progress and if necessary, develop and improve the partnership.

This version dated the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017, is signed by officials of the three parties as the definitive version of the Memorandum of Understanding on Responsible Care subject to final approval by the three parties.

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The **European Chemical Employers Group (ECEG)** represents the chemical, pharmaceutical, rubber and plastics industries in Europe. As a Brussels-based social affairs organisation it is a recognised Social Partner and a consultation body of the European Institutions and other stakeholders. With approximately 3.3 million direct employees in more than 94.000 enterprises, the sector is one of the biggest and most dynamic industries in the EU.

**IndustriAll European Trade Union** is the voice of industrial workers all over Europe. It represents 6.9 million workers across supply chains in manufacturing, mining and energy sectors on the European level.

**CEFIC**, the European Chemical Industry Council, founded in 1972, is the voice of 29,000 large, medium and small chemical companies in Europe, which provide 1.2 million jobs and account for 17% of world chemicals production.