



**Newsletter No.1  
October 2022**

## **ECEG's Meetings**

### **ECEG's 20th Anniversary**

**13 September 2022, Bozar**



On 13 September, ECEG celebrated its 20th anniversary.

The event brought together our membership, including the first president of the ECEG Jean-Marie Biot, social partner representatives, ECEG's colleagues from other

sectoral associations, including CEFIC, and representatives from the Commission and the Council.

We would like to wholeheartedly thank the distinguished speakers, [Michael Vassiliadis](#) (President of [industriAll Europe](#)) and Stefan Olsson (Deputy Director General of the DG Employment), the participants who joined us for the celebration, and those who were not able to attend the event but supported the ECEG throughout these 20 years.

We look forward to strengthening our cooperation in the years to come.

[View the photos](#)

## **ECEG's meeting with the Director General of DG EMPL, Joost Korte**

**13 September 2022, Brussels**

ECEG's administration had a high level meeting with the **Director General of DG EMPL, Joost Korte**. The main topics discussed were the following:

- **Current state** of play of the industry and consequences of the **energy crisis** on the sector.
- **Upcoming initiatives and actions** by the Commission on the European Sectoral Social Dialogue.
- **European Works Councils** and the possible revision of the related Directive. The Commission recommends not to reopen the file but it is expecting the report from the European Parliament.

Joost Korte invited the ECEG to suggest **proposals for the upcoming legislative period 2024-2029**. Among already suggested ones, our membership proposed the **reduction of taxes on CO2 emissions**.

Should you have any further suggestion, please contact the ECEG's Secretariat at [secretariat@eccg.org](mailto:secretariat@eccg.org).

## ECEG's Board and General Assembly Meeting

7 October 2022, Brussels

ECEG's annual Board and GA meeting took place on 7 October. The quorum for decision-making was reached.

The members gave a mandate to the ECEG Secretariat to lobby/advocate on the following topics:

- **Labour shortage**, which is also linked to the European Commission's 2023 work programme on legal migration.
- To follow the **ongoing negotiations of the EU cross-sectoral social partners**, BusinessEurope and ETUC on Telework and right to disconnect by providing sector specific data.
- **Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive**. To follow the file jointly with Cefic and BusinessEurope.
- **European Works Councils**. ECEG was invited to join the task force. Elisa Hansel, the head of BAVC's Brussels office will represent the ECEG.

## ECEG's Steering Committee & WG Education & LLL meetings

13 October 2022, Milan



On 13 October, ECEG's Secretariat and its members gathered in Milan for the meetings of the **Steering Committee and the WG Education & LLL**.

The events were kindly hosted by the ECEG's Italian member, Federchimica, which welcomed the participants with a private visit to the Sforzesco Castle.

During the meetings, we discussed relevant topics for the chemical industry, including, amongst all, the main consequences of the current **energy crisis** for the sector, the latest developments in terms of **EU social affairs** and **skills dossiers**, as well as the objectives of the **European Year of Youth 2022** initiative and **long term sickness/dropouts**.

A dedicated call on the later will be scheduled **end of November/beginning of December**. The Doodle link has been circulated already.

Many thanks to the participants for the fruitful discussion and to Federchimica for the warm hospitality!



## ECEG's Activities

**#YouthInChem22**

**Young Chemical Influencer 2022 contest**



**European Year of Youth 2022**  
Building a better chemical future

Find out more about the challenge:  
[eceg.org/year-of-youth](http://eceg.org/year-of-youth)

#EYY2022 | #YouthInChem22  
IG & TikTok: @eceg\_Brussels

## 2022 is the European Year of Youth

ECEG and its national member associations launched the “**Young Chemical Influencer 2022**” contest, which aims at increasing interest in students to engage and work in the chemical sector. The contest is addressed to **young students under 35**

**years old**, studying in the **field of chemistry or related subjects** (University, PhD and VET) and **resident in Europe**.

Read More

## How to apply?

To be a Young Chemical Influencer, students simply need to produce a short video and upload it on their Instagram or TikTok account **by 14 November 2022 at 11.59 p.m.** (CET), including the official **@eceg\_brussels** tag in the video and/or in the caption and using the official contest hashtags **#EYY2022** and **#YouthInChem22**.

As of 20 October, videos can also be sent directly to [secretariat@eceg.org](mailto:secretariat@eceg.org) and they will then be posted directly on ECEG's social media channels.

## What prizes?

The two winners will be announced on **12 December 2022**, and they will receive a double prize, consisting of:

- A **trip to Brussels**, with the opportunity to attend meetings with institution representatives, labour market stakeholders, and other players in the sector.
- A prize of **EUR 500** will be awarded from national chemical associations according to the nationality of the winner.

Feel free to share it among your contacts and network!

## Social Partners project “Identifying and Meeting Digital Skills Needs”

In September ECEG, [Ledarna](#) (Swedish Federation of managerial staff in the chemical industry) and [FECCIA](#) (European Federation of Managerial Staff in the Chemical and Allied Industries) held the last Steering Group meeting on the project “**Identifying and Meeting Digital Skills Needs in the European Chemical, Pharmaceutical, Rubber, and Plastics Industry**”, which started in January 2020.

The project was developed around several Steering Group meetings, 5 workshops and two stakeholder conferences.

The Final Conference took place in June 2022 and we are now at the final stage of the project, which will be officially **closed in November**.

Two main deliverables of the project application will be published and distributed, namely:

- **Curricula framework on digital skills** (generic, supporting and specific ones) in the chemical industry (for VET and Universities) for employers, managers and blue-collar workers.

The study will be available in: English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian and Spanish. Distribution is expected end of November.

- A research study conducted by the German institute on employability in Ludwigshafen, which identified **skills needs for now and the future for employers, managers and workers** in the chemical, pharmaceutical, rubber and plastics industries. To simplify the process of skills identification, job clusters were created.

The research is also based on literature research and interviews with representatives from companies, trade unions and managers.



## Institutions

### European Commission's Work Programme 2023

On **18 October**, the European Commission published its work programme for 2023. It includes both **new legislative and non-legislative proposals**, as well as the **already issued ones** which are still to be finalised.

Based on the Board's guidelines, ECEG has adhered to follow the below topics.

## New proposals

1. **Social economy package** expected in the form of a Council Recommendation - non legislative. New social framework conditions will be developed. Foreseen for Q2 2023.
2. **Legal migration** to recognize the qualifications of third country nationals. It is not yet clear whether it will be a non-legislative or a legislative action. Expected in Q3 2023.
3. **Fostering better traineeships**. Non legislative action to reinforce quality framework for traineeships. Expected in Q2 2023.

## Existing proposals

4. Directive on **Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence** and amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937. Issued on 23 February.
5. Directive on strengthening the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work or work of equal value between men and women through **pay transparency** and **enforcement mechanisms**. Issued on 4 March 2021.

## Directive on pay transparency and enforcement mechanisms

The first trilogue meeting on the pay transparency Directive under the current Czech Presidency took place on 06 October 2022. Discussions are still around general definitions and criteria, and negotiations are progressing really slowly. Therefore, substantial parts of the proposed Directive have not been discussed yet.

The next meeting in the Council is expected on 27 October.



## News from members and partners

### essencia's Innovation Award

18 October 2022, Brussels



On 18 October, our Belgian member, [essencia](#) held its annual Innovation Award event at The SQUARE, Brussels.

The prestigious prize went to [Agfa-Gevaert](#), thanks to Zirfon, a new revolutionary membrane technology for green hydrogen. The Innovation Award was presented by **Princess Astrid**, in the presence of **Prime Minister Alexander De Croo**. The other finalists were [GSK](#), [Power to Methanol](#), [Quantoom Biosciences](#) and [Soudal](#).

Congratulations to the winner of the prize and the finalists, as well as to [essencia](#) for an unforgettable event!

# Photochimica chemistry photography competition

by European Young Chemists' Network

Photochimica chemistry photography competition

## 2022 Theme Chemistry in Everyday Life



Upload your photo to social media and tag [@eycn.eu](#) and [@roysocchem](#) with [#Photochimica2022](#) by **13 November** to enter.



[Read More](#)

European Young Chemists' Network is promoting a photo competition on social media, **Chemistry in Everyday Life**.

Participants are invited to share their photo showing the day-to-day impact and influence of chemistry.

The deadline for submission is **13 November** (UTC).



## Next meetings

- **26-27 October 2022**, Budapest  
Workshop 3 of the Social Partners project "On the road to climate neutrality 2050"
- **23 November 2022**, Brussels  
SSDC Chemical Industry, Plenary Meeting
- **19 January 2023**, Online  
Steering Group meeting "On the road to climate neutrality 2050"
- **24 January 2023**, Brussels  
ECEG-Ceemet event at the European Parliament on Career guidance
- **07-08 March 2023**, Germany  
Conference "On the Road to Climate neutrality 2050"
- **13 March 2023**, Online  
SSDC Meeting, Expert Group meeting 1
- **15 March 2023**, London  
ECEG's Board Meeting