

Press Release – The Hague, November 7, 2019

Chemical Industry Employment Leaders Sign Joint Recommendations on Digital Transformation



The Hague, November 7, 2019 – Today at a joint conference in The Hague, the European Chemical Employers Group (ECEG) and industriAll European Trade Union (industriAll Europe) signed a set of recommendations about the impact and the way forward regarding digitalisation in the chemical industry. The event is the culmination of a two-year project (*Our Future Workplace – Digital Transformation in the Chemical Industry*) which took a deep dive into the views of industriAll Europe and ECEG's members, company representatives, and experts, and gives concrete and constructive areas for future cooperation and effort.

Managing the transition and involving and engaging the workforce are the broadest challenges found in the process of digital transformation. With this in mind, specific recommendations include **mobile working and flexible time arrangements, performance monitoring, qualifications, modern safety challenges, work-life balance, and employee buy-in and participation**.

The project found that an initial wave of integrating new technology (**phase 1**) has already taken place, including developments such as digitising analogue data and deploying cloud solutions. Now, industry players are taking on **phase 2**, which includes innovations like the Industrial Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, and virtual and augmented reality. Utilizing and profiting from these technologies will require a digitally skilled and capable workforce.

ECEG's Director General, Emma Argutyan, highlighted the significance of the project and the positive outcomes: "While today we are at the final stage of our project, we look forward to continuing our joint work on mastering the challenges of digital transformation and skills needs in the chemical industry".

16 experts from 8 EU Member States steered the two-year project, which was conducted by the research institute Prognos AG. Looking beyond these conclusions and the final conference, the social partners of the chemical, pharmaceutical, rubber and plastics industries are determined to continue their work in this area.

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For further details on the conference, survey, and project, please consult the project's website here:
<http://www.ourfutureworkplace.eu/en/>

About ECEG
ECEG, the European Chemical Employers Group, founded in 2002, is a recognised European Sectoral Social Partner, representing the chemicals, pharmaceuticals, rubber and plastics industries in Europe. Our sector provides approximately 3.3 million direct jobs in more than 94.000 enterprises.