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in the **European**  
**chemical sector**



# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No. 4

January 2023

Dear reader,

Our team hopes your 2023 has got off to a good start and, as always, welcomes you back to the ECEG's newsletter! Our monthly rendez-vous when we share the ECEG's and its members & partners' activities, as well as provide insights on the latest developments in the EU institutions.

2023 has just begun but the ECEG has already kicked off January with many activities, meetings and joint documents, which we are pleased to share with you.

Enjoy the reading!

## ECEG's Meetings

### WG Education & LLL meeting

17 January

On **17 January**, ECEG's **WG Education & LLL** gathered online for its first meeting of the year, unravelling some important issues on the current state of play of the chemical industry.

The discussion mainly focused on **skills** and **labour shortages** and, more specifically, on how national members are coping with these issues in their respective countries.

Participants were also invited to **share** with the ECEG’s Secretariat **any relevant study conducted at national level** on these topics. The main objective is to collect available data to better understand the phenomenon.

**ECEG-Ceemet joint event**  
**Career guidance in a changing world**  
**The case of the MET and chemical industries**  
**24 January, European Parliament, Brussels**



On **24 January**, ECEG and [Ceemet](#) held a joint event on “***Career guidance in a changing world of work – the case of the MET and chemical industries***”, hosted by **Ms Sylvie Brunet** (Renew Europe Group) at the European Parliament.

The event steered a discussion on how to enhance career guidance for young people (between the age of 14 and 18), to motivate them to follow STEM-related studies, VET, and as a result, to work for MET and chemical sectors.

The event also represented the unique opportunity to publish an [ECEG-Ceemet joint position paper on career guidance](#). The document puts forward proposals and recommendations on how to improve the potential of career guidance systems. It also highlights the importance of cooperation among different actors (social partners, public authorities, education systems and parents) in order to maximise their effectiveness and bring them as close as possible to the needs of the labour market.

[Read the press release](#)



## ECEG's Activities

### Joint Business Statement on the due diligence proposal (CS3D)

On 19 January, ECEG, alongside [BusinessEurope](#) and other EU business representatives signed a joint statement on **Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive** (CS3D) proposal. We expressed our overall support for the Directive but put forward several recommendations and concerns to improve the current proposal.

#### EU business community's **recommendations** and **concerns** on **Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence**

- 1 Need for **full harmonisation**
- 2 Unrealistic/unmanageable focus on **the whole value chain**
- 3 Unnecessary **regulation of directors' duties**
- 4 **Too far-reaching norms and legal uncertainty**
- 5 Need for **balanced legal liability provisions**
- 6 Need for **clear guidance**
- 7 Possibility of organising **due diligence at a group level**

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### Joint Letter on eDeclaration

The ECEG, Ceemet and [Pearle](#) shared their support for the **European Commission's proposal on eDeclaration**, which aims at standardising and simplifying the reporting obligations for postings within the European Union. However, in the joint letter, we raised a couple of points regarding its broad and consistent application.

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# Institutions

## Transition Pathways for the chemical industry

On Friday **27 January**, the European Commission unveiled its **Transition Pathway** to support the climate transition of the European chemical industry. ECEG contributed to the chapters dedicated to social affairs and skills.

This multi-stakeholder roadmap identifies **150 actions in 26 areas** and the conditions needed to make this transition and improve the resilience of the European chemicals industry.

The implementation process of the roadmap will begin in spring this year, during which specific working groups will deliver on subject specific issues. An annual meeting of stakeholders will take stock of the actions being undertaken.

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## Commission's initiatives on Social Dialogue

On **25 January**, the European Commission issued two initiatives on Social Dialogue, with the aim to further strengthen and promote it with concrete actions both at national and EU level. It consists of the:

- **Communication on strengthening social dialogue in the European Union** and
- **Proposal for a Council Recommendation on strengthening social dialogue in the European Union.**

The Communication's objective is to promote the role of social partners in EU policy making and to reinforce sectoral social dialogue at the EU level. The Commission proposes to:

- Reinforce European sectoral social dialogue by modernising its framework.

- Continue to support social partner agreements, through administrative and legal support.
- Strengthen social partners' involvement in EU policymaking,.
- Make the EU's technical and financial support for social partners more effective.
- Negotiate and conclude more social partner agreements.
- Improve the membership and representativeness of both trade unions and employers' organisations.

The Commission will also continue to **promote social dialogue internationally** through, for example, regular cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and others.

The Council Recommendation sets out proposals on how EU countries can further strengthen social dialogue and collective bargaining at national level. It looks at consultation of social partners, new forms of work and atypical employment and how to increase capacity of workers and employers' organisations. The Commission highlighted that the Recommendation fully respects national traditions as well as social partners' autonomy, allowing Member States to determine how to best achieve these objectives considering national specificities.

### **Next steps**

The Commission will closely work with the European social partners to put in place the actions listed in the Communication.

As for the Council Recommendation, Member States are to submit a set of measures to the Commission, priorly discussed with national social partners. The implementation of measures will be monitored within the European Semester framework.

[Read the Communication](#)

[Read the Council Recommendation](#)

## Pay transparency

On **25 January**, the EMPL and FEMM Committees of the European Parliament formally adopted the Directive on strengthening the application of the principle of equal pay through **pay transparency** and enforcement mechanisms.

Directive will enter **into force 20 days after publication** in the Official Journal and Member States will then need to transpose the new elements of the Directive **into national law within three years**.

## Directive on adequate minimum wages

Sweden joined Denmark in its appeal to annul the **Directive on Adequate minimum wages** adopted in June 2022. On 18 January, the Danish government has lodged the case on challenging the directive with the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU).



## Next meetings

- **08 March 2023**, Rome  
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 & Extraordinary GA
- **24 March 2023**, Brussels  
ECEG’s Steering Committee
- **06 June 2023**, Brussels  
SSDC Meeting, Expert Group meeting 2
- **02-06 October 2023**, Bratislava  
ECEG’s Board & GA (Exact day TBD)  
ECEG’s Steering Committee (Exact day TBD)
- **30 November 2023**, Brussels  
SSDC Plenary meeting

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