



Newsletter No. 17

June-July 2025

Dear reader,

Welcome back to the ECEG's newsletter, where we unveil the latest updates from ECEG, our member organisations and partners, along with insights into recent initiatives from the EU institutions.

We are happy to announce that Eleonora Isopo has been confirmed as the new Director General of ECEG. After successfully serving as Acting Director General of the association since January 2025, Eleonora has demonstrated strong leadership and dedication in representing chemical employers at European level.

In this edition, we present the jointly published statement with industriAll Europe, addressing the fair employment of Third Country Nationals in subcontracting chains, as well as highlight key moments from recent meetings, including the industriAll Europe Congress and ECEG contributions to the hearings on the Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030 and fair transition to climate neutrality. We also share progress on the ChemSkills project and other EU-funded initiatives.

And that's not all – there is much more to discover inside!
Enjoy your read,
The ECEG's Team

ECEG's News

Social Partners' joint statement on fair employment of Third Country Nationals in subcontracting chains



On 30th June, ECEG and industriAll Europe jointly published a statement addressing the **fair employment of Third Country Nationals (TCNs)** in subcontracting chains. This initiative reflects the shared responsibility of EU sectoral social partners to:

- safeguarding the **safety** and **well-being of all workers** in the EU, including TCNs and
- **upholding human rights** in subcontracting chains.

The document also outlines a set of **concrete recommendations**, aimed at ensuring fair treatment of workers, preventing exploitation and enhancing transparency in subcontracting arrangements. This joint initiative underscores the proactive role of EU social partners in shaping inclusive and sustainable labour markets while strengthening trust and accountability in complex employment chains.

News

Joint statement

ECEG's WG on Industrial Policy and Competitiveness

18th June, online

Last month, the ECEG's Working Group on Industrial Policy and Competitiveness convened virtually to address **key priorities** and **challenges** related to European industrial relations. The meeting served as an important platform for in-depth discussions on critical EU legislative files with direct implications for our sector.

Participants exchanged on several major dossiers, including the revision of the **European Works Council Directive**, the **implementation of the Pay Transparency Directive** and the ongoing work on the **Traineeships Directive**.

In addition to legislative updates, members shared valuable perspectives on national priorities in the field of EU social affairs, enriching the conversation with diverse viewpoints and experiences. A key point of discussion was ECEG's draft response to the

Quality Jobs Roadmap, reflecting our shared commitment to promoting high-quality employment within the chemical sector.

A heartfelt thank you to all members who participated and contributed to these forward-looking and constructive discussions! Your engagement is instrumental in ensuring that the voice of our sector continues to be heard in shaping Europe's industrial and social policy landscape.



External Meetings and Events

industriAll Europe Congress

3rd - 5th June, Budapest



From 3rd and 5th June, ECEG's Director General participated in the **4th industriAll Congress** held in Budapest.

The three-day event brought together trade union representatives from across Europe for a dynamic exchange on some of the most pressing challenges facing the European labour landscape.

Key themes included the response to global industrial and economic shifts, the protection and promotion of quality jobs in Europe, youth engagement, and the future of trade union membership. These discussions underscored the shared commitment to **strengthening social dialogue** and shaping a **resilient and inclusive European labour market**.

A major highlight of the Congress was the election of the new leadership team for the **2025-2029 mandate**. With 98% of the votes in favour, the newly elected team includes:

- **M. Vassiliadis** as President of industriAll Europe,
- **J. Kirton-Darling** as General Secretary and
- **Barthes** as Deputy General Secretary.

On behalf of ECEG, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected leadership team and look forward to a continued constructive cooperation in the years ahead.

Dedicated hearing with Social Partners on Fair Transition to Climate Neutrality

13th June, online

On 13th June, ECEG participated in the European Commission's dedicated hearing on **Fair Transition to Climate Neutrality**.

The meeting was part of the first implementation review of the [Council Recommendation on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality](#). Social partners from employers and trade unions were invited to provide input and share examples of policy measures and best practices introduced since 2023. The aim was to collect perspectives on how the Recommendation is being applied at national level and to assess the meaningful involvement of stakeholders in shaping, implementing and monitoring fair transition policies in Member States.

ECEG highlighted its contribution to the [Transition Pathway for the Chemical Industry](#), especially in the chapters dedicated to skills and the social dimension.

Among the recommended actions, the **ChemSkills** Blueprint was presented as a key initiative for sectoral cooperation in addressing the green and digital transitions. As part of the project's preliminary outcomes, critical job profiles necessary for this transition were also highlighted.

ECEG concluded that a successful transition must be guided by a **strong social dialogue**, key to balancing sustainability, competitiveness and employment, securing a future where both businesses and workers prosper.

Dedicated hearing with Social Partners on the Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030

26th June, online

On 26th June, ECEG took part in the European Commission's dedicated hearing with social partners to support the development of the upcoming **EU Gender Equality Strategy 2026–2030**. Jointly organised by DG EMPL and DG JUST, the consultation marked a key step in shaping the EU's future direction on gender equality, building on the Roadmap for Women's Rights adopted earlier this year.

The hearing gathered representatives from employers' and workers' organisations to provide input on critical issues such as **labour market participation, gender-based violence, economic empowerment, work-life balance, and equal employment opportunities**. ECEG highlighted the sectoral dimensions of these challenges and emphasised the need to increase women's labour market participation and address the persistent gender stereotypes, particularly those affecting women's entry into STEM fields and industrial roles.

ECEG welcomed the Commission's approach of structured dialogue with social partners and reaffirmed its commitment to contributing constructively to the EU's gender equality objectives, especially where they intersect with labour market dynamics, industrial policy and European competitiveness.

The Gender Equality Strategy 2026–2030 is expected to be presented on International Women's Day 2026.



EU Projects

ChemSkills – Enabling the Green and Digital Skills Transformation of the Chemical Industry

Future Skills Survey

As part of the **ChemSkills** initiative, we kindly invite you to contribute and support the dissemination of our project **survey** aimed at identifying the skills needs in the chemical industry and its key subsectors. The insights gathered will help ensure that training programmes developed within the project are aligned with industry needs and workforce demands.

The **deadline** for submission is **19th September EOB**.

Survey

Future scenarios workshop

On 11th June, project partners participated in a consortium-internal online workshop on future scenarios. The primary objective of this gathering was to lay the foundation for **developing common future scenarios** relevant to the chemical industry at large and its specific subsectors. Participants were divided into two groups to reflect on two key trends:

- The role of **chemicals** as critical for **defence** and **strategic autonomy**.
- The **geopolitical shift** and **talent attraction**.

Each group considered the potential technological, environmental, economic, and legal implications of these trends, identified the most affected stakeholders, and discussed possible actions to address the challenges.

Online consortium meeting

On 11th June, the ChemSkills consortium reunited online for their online meeting. The session served as an opportunity to clarify administrative requirements for the upcoming **periodic reporting** period and to address questions from the partners.

The ChemSkills consortium will meet again in person on **20-22 October 2025** in Milan for their **internal meeting** and **public conference**, kindly organised by [Federchimica](#).

SkiLMeeT Webinar: “The Future of Skills in the Context of the Twin Transition”

On 5th June, ECEG had the pleasure to present the preliminary results of the ChemSkills project at the **SkiLMeeT** online webinar “*The Future of Skills in the Context of the Twin Transition*”.

The [SkiLMeeT](#), *Skills for the Labour Market in the Digital and Green Transformation*, is a Horizon research project carried out by eight research institutions, exploring how the digital and green transformation of European economies is changing the demand for skills. It analyses the scope of skills shortages and mismatches, identifies their drivers and proposes innovative ways to reduce skills gaps.

Stay updated on the latest ChemSkills developments by subscribing to our newsletter, visiting our website, and following us on social media!



Skills4Eii – Skills Alliance for the Green, Digital and Social Transformation of the Energy Intensive Industries

The Skills4Eii partners have launched an **online stakeholder survey** to explore mega-trends and future workforce skills across energy-intensive industry sectors. These include steel, cement, chemicals, glass, paper, non-ferrous metals, oil refining, mining & minerals, ceramics, water & waste treatment, engineering and logistics.

The survey takes **less than 10 minutes to complete**, and responses are welcome until **31st August EOB**.

Survey

AI@Work – How artificial intelligence contributes to competitiveness and workforce planning

On 30th June, EEI members gathered in Brussels for the kick-off of the **AI@Work** project “**How artificial intelligence contributes to competitiveness and workforce planning**”. This EU-funded initiative will run for the next two years under the leadership of [Ceemet](#) and with the support of the [Institute of Applied Industrial Engineering and Ergonomics \(ifaa\)](#) and the [German Economic Institute \(iw\)](#).

As project’s associated partner and Board member of the EEI, ECEG is committed to providing a perspective from the chemical sector on the use of AI, sharing practical business cases, supporting a shared understanding of opportunities and risks and developing guiding principles for the responsible use of AI in workforce planning and management.



How artificial intelligence contributes to competitiveness and workforce planning



Co-funded by
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Stay updated!



Next meetings

- **24 September 2025, Berlin**
ECEG's Board & General Assembly
ECEG's Steering Committee
- **1 October 2025, Brussels**
ECEG's WG Education & LLL
- **2 October 2025, Brussels**
SSDC Working Group
- **22 October 2025, Milan and online**
ChemSkills project public conference
- **9 December 2025, Brussels**
SSDC Plenary

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