



**Newsletter No. 6**

**April-May 2023**

Dear reader,

Our Team welcomes you back to the ECEG's monthly 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.

Exclusively in this number, you will read about the launch of the European Year of Skills, the ECEG's Rollout Workshop in the framework of the SPIRE-SAIS project and our participation in several events.

... and much more!

Enjoy the reading!

# ECEG's Meetings

## BusinessEurope's Equal Opportunities Network

25 May 2023, Brussels

On Thursday, **25 May** ECEG participated at the **Equal Opportunities Network**, a recurring *rendez-vous* organised by the [BusinessEurope](#)'s social affairs department.

Among the main topics, the discussion focused on:

- Update on the adoption of the **Pay Transparency Directive**;
- The Directive on **combating violence against women and domestic violence**;

- The Package on **binding standards for equality bodies**;
- The application of the **Work-life balance directive**.

Concerning the Pay Transparency Directive, the final text was published on **17 May**. It is to enter into force in June 2023. Member States have **three years** to transpose the Directive into their national systems.

ECEG will closely monitor its transposition and implementation via its membership.

## ECEG's Rollout Workshop

*“How to address the labour shortage issue with the right skills in the European Chemical sector?”*

9 May 2023, Brussels



On Tuesday, **9 May** the ECEG organised a Rollout Workshop *“How to address the labour shortage issue with the right skills in the European chemical sector?”*.

The hybrid workshop was held in the framework of the **4-year EU-funded [SPIRE-SAIS project](#)**.

The project counts **24 partners** and **13 associated partners** with a great variety of **stakeholders**, both at cross-sectoral level and representing specific sectors, such as cement, ceramics, chemicals, engineering, non-ferrous metals, minerals, pulp & paper, refining, steel and water. ECEG is part of its consortium, covering the chemical sector.

The goals of this project are:

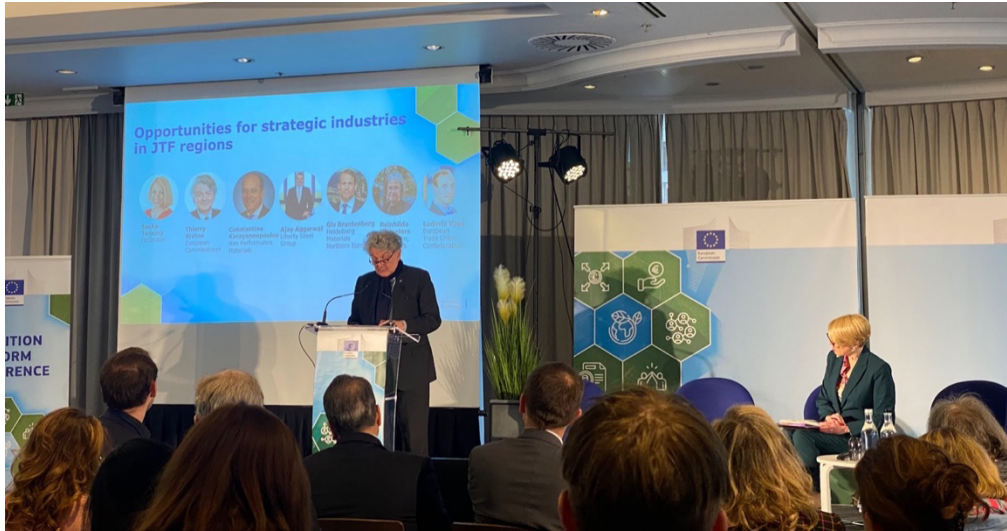
- Develop an industry-driven and proactive skills strategy;
- Identify new skills, including digital skills and allow proactive practical activities to meet future skills needs;
- Assist the wider implementation and exploitation of industrial symbiosis and energy efficiency across the energy-intensive industrial sectors represented in SPIRE.

After an overall presentation of the project, the meeting focused on the following topics:

- Best practices to **increase the attractiveness of the sector**, including activities from our Belgian member, [essencia](#);
- **Labour shortage** and effective strategies to tackle this alarming issue;
- The newly awarded **Blueprint project** “*ChemSkills: enabling the green and digital skills transformation of the chemical industry*”.

# The 7th edition of the Just Transition Platform Conference

25-27 April 2023, Brussels



The 7th edition of the **Just Transition Platform Conference** took place in Brussels on **25-27 April 2023**. It was hosted by **DG REGIO** and **DG ENER**.

The objective was to share experiences on just transition towards a climate-neutral Europe with stakeholders from national, local and regional authorities as well as social partners. Commissioner for Internal Market, **Thierry Breton**, Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, **Elisa Ferreira**, and Commissioner for Energy, **Kadri Simson** attended the conference.

The event focused on the implementation of the **Just Transition Fund** to be tapped into by the regions and industries of strategic importance. Specific sessions addressed various topics, such as energy security and energy transition, international dimension of just transition, effective governance mechanisms for monitoring and implementation of just transition, and available technical assistance to support stakeholders on the ground.



## ECEG's Activities

### Joint Business statement on the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CS3D)

ECEG joined the European business community representatives in supporting the objectives of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive but urging the co-legislators to **work on a reasonable approach** that is manageable for companies in practice.

The European economy, including SMEs, needs a **workable, balanced** and **proportionated** Due Diligence framework.



The joint statement was published ahead of the EP's Plenary session and the foreseen [report](#) on the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence and amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937 on **31 May**.

Read more



## Institutions

### Migration Partnership Facility (MPF) Focus session on the new Talent Pool initiative

26 May 2023, Brussels

On Friday, **26 May** the **Migration Partnership Facility** (MPF) organised a focus session dedicated to the development of the new **EU Talent Pool** initiative. As a member of the EU Labour Mobility Practitioners' Network, the ECEG participated in the meeting and closely followed the discussion. The debate focused on the Commission's plan to prepare and adopt a legislative proposal establishing an EU Talent Pool by Q4 2023.

The EU Talent Pool would address the major challenges related to international recruitment, it would facilitate the matching between vacancies in the EU and skilled third-country nationals and allow to attract the latter in a targeted manner.

The Call for Evidence providing a detailed explanation of the planned initiative is publicly available (in all EU languages) on the website "[Have Your Say](#)".

### European Year of Skills

9 May 2023, Strasbourg

While 2022 was the European Year of Youth, 2023 has been proclaimed as the European Year of Skills.

On 14 September 2022, in her State of the Union address, European Commission's President, Ursula Von der Leyen, announced the intention of launching a year that puts skills development and lifelong learning at the centre stage. After reaching a political agreement on 7 March 2023, the **European Commission launched its [European Year of Skills](#)** on Tuesday, **9 May** – on Europe's Day –, via a dedicated festival in Strasbourg.

“

*The European Year of Skills aims to address skills gaps in the European Union and boost the EU skills strategy, which will help reskill people with a focus on digital and green technology skills.*

*This will require helping people get the right skills for quality jobs and helping companies, in particular small and medium enterprises by highlighting national efforts as well as -existing and new EU initiatives and EU funding possibilities. It will support skills-related activities and events across Europe*

”

— European Commission

There are **4 priorities** expected from the European Year of Skills:

1. **Attracting People** – Attracting people from third countries when needed within the Union;
2. **Matching Aspirations** – Matching people’s aspirations and skills-set with labour market opportunities;
3. **Skills Relevance** – Strengthening skills relevance through close cooperation;
4. **Investment** – Increased, more effective and inclusive investment.

ECEG expresses its support for the EU initiative and is committed to actively participating and organising events in this contest.



## Next meetings

- **05 June 2023**, Brussels  
WG Education & LLL meeting
- **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
- **01 December 2023**, Brussels  
WG Education & LLL meeting

Are you a new subscriber? Check out our [newsletter archive](#) to catch up!