



Newsletter No. 9

November-December 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 and partners' activities, as well as provide insights on the latest developments in the EU institutions.

2023 is coming to an end and the ECEG could not miss its yearly wrap-up tradition! Over this year, the ECEG's Team has worked really hard. Below is a short glimpse of the activities/achievements:

- ECEG - [Ceemet](#) event at the European Parliament dedicated to [Career Guidance](#) (24 January) and to motivating the young generation to embark on STEM careers.
- ECEG - [industriAll Europe](#)'s final conference of the two year EU funded project "[On the Road to Climate Neutrality 2050](#)" in Rome in March.
- The biannual **Tripartite Social Summit** where the ECEG's President, Jonas Hagelqvist, shared ECEG's priorities with the presidents of the European Commission and the European Council, alongside the Swedish leadership, which held the EU Presidency.
- ECEG's Policy Executive, Eleonora Isopo, participated at the high-level Education Conference "[Skills for a Green Transition – for a Competitive Europe](#)" hosted by the Swedish EU presidency in Stockholm, where she contributed to the panel discussion on the challenges and possibilities of skills transition.
- Rollout Workshop "*How to address the labour shortage issue with the right skills in the European chemical sector?*", organised in May in the framework of the EU-funded [SPIRE-SAIS project](#).

- ECEG hosted its Young Chemical Influencers, the winners of the **#YouthInChem22** contest in June.
- Further on, ECEG issued its **Manifesto ahead of the 2024 European elections** and kicked off its **Blueprint project** “*ChemSkills: enabling the green and digital skills transformation of the chemical industry*” in September alongside the consortium’s 33 members.
- The ECEG published several **position papers**, amongst others, on **Skills and Labour Shortage in the European Chemical Industry**.
- ...and of course, ECEG had plenty of meetings, including the Board, General Assembly, Steering Committee, WG Education & LLL and Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee ones.

2023 is not yet over! Enjoy your reading with the latest updates on the last two months.

ECEG's Meetings

Site visits at the port of Rotterdam

01 November, Rotterdam



ECEG visited the port of Rotterdam alongside the delegation lead by our Finnish member, [Kemianteollisuus](#). The port is one of the world's major centers for oil refineries and chemical companies. The delegation had the pleasure to learn about the:

- Vocational training in process and maintenance with [STC Group](#) Brielle, and
- Corporate Social Responsibility, talent acquisition strategies, and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) initiatives in [Neste](#) and [LyondellBasell](#).

Spanish Presidency Conference “Shaping the future of EU legal migration: Where are we and where do we want to go?”

16-17 November, Online

On 16-17 November, ECEG followed online the Conference “**Shaping the future of EU legal migration: Where are we and where do we want to go?**”, organised by the **Spanish Presidency**.

EU institutions, the Spanish Government representatives and key stakeholders discussed the topics of skills and labour shortages in a number of professions and sectors, while regarding the EU's legislative proposals for attracting skilled third country nationals as one of the possible solutions.

[Watch the event](#)

LMPN event “*Labour Mobility and Skills Shortages: Connecting the Dots*”

21-22 November 2023, Brussels

On 21-22 November, ECEG participated in the **LMPN event** on “*Labour Mobility and Skills Shortages: Connecting the Dots*”.

The event was hosted by the MPF Labour Mobility Practitioners’ Network, which gathers over 150 members from both EU and national authorities, private sector, International Organisations, NGOs and think tanks/academia that have extensive experience researching, designing, and implementing labour mobility initiatives.

The event aimed to contributing to the effective design and implementation of the Talent Partnership policy framework by offering an opportunity for LMPN members and relevant stakeholders to exchange, learn and improve the implementation of the labour migration initiatives in the EU.

Joint Conference of the ACV-CSC (The Belgian Confederation of Christian Trade Unions) and EZA (The European Centre for Workers’ Questions)

29 November 2023, Liège

Emma Argutyan, ECEG’s Director General had a pleasure of contributing to the panel discussion at the EU funded project’s conference, “***The Green Deal and employment: A strong and just transition through strengthened social dialogue within the EU***”.

She enlisted four main challenges which the sector faces in meeting the twin transition:

1. Lack of attractiveness of the chemical sector;
2. Skills shortage;
3. Demographic change (the average age of employees is above 45 years old);
4. Reskilling and upskilling of the workforce.

Emma also spoke about the essential requirements for effective EU policy in the context of the green and digital transition alongside the role of social dialogue and collaboration with other stakeholders to meeting the twin transition.

Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee's Plenary

30 November 2023, Brussels

European Chemical Social Partners (ECEG & industrial European Trade Union) held the annual plenary meeting hosted by the European Commission.

In addition, the European Economic and Social Committee's (EESC) representative shared the committee's opinion of April 2023 on the same topic.

The discussion points included, amongst others, the **mental health at work**. The representative of health and safety at work, DG EMPL presented the Commission's communication of 7 June 2023 with the planned peer review of legislative and enforcement approaches to address psychosocial risks at work in the Member States with a view to present an EU-level initiative on the psychosocial risks in the medium term.

Social partners exchanged on the postponed **revision of REACH**, and received an update from the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) on the **PFAS restriction proposal**.

Members from both sides shared national social partners' activities around the **green transition**.

WG Education & LLL

01 December 2023, Brussels

On 01 December, ECEG hosted its **Working Group Education & LLL** meeting in Brussels.

Members exchanged on the following topics:

- ECEG's position paper on **Labour and skills shortages**;
- EU initiatives on **Talent mobility** and the **Recognition of qualifications of third-country nationals**;
- Updates on the recast of the **Single Permit** and **Long-term residence Directives**;
- The latest updates on the Co-funded Blueprint **ChemSkills project**.

ECEG's Team warmly thanks all the participants for their active engagement.

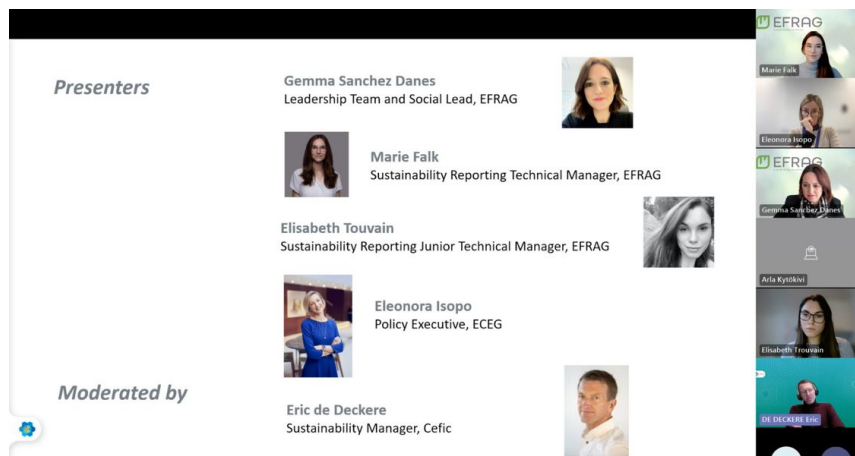
7th Session of Learning Network on the European Sustainability Reporting Standards: “ESRS S1 Own Workforce”

05 December 2023, Online

On 05 December, ECEG’s Policy Executive, Eleonora Isopo, participated as a speaker at the “**7th Session of the Learning Network on the European Sustainability Reporting Standards**” organised by Cefic and related to the topic of “**ESRS S1 Own Workforce**”.

Besides experts from EFRAG, Eleonora focused her presentation on the main challenges which companies are expected to encounter under “ESRS S1 Own Workforce” reporting, but also on how they can alleviate the administrative burden resulting from it.

Watch the webinar





ChemSkills project

It has been almost four months since the official launch of the EU co-funded Blueprint project: “**ChemSkills**: enabling the green and digital skills transformation of the chemical industry”.

After the kick-off meeting in Brussels, all the Work Packages (WPs) autonomously meet online once a month to coordinate their tasks within their respective group.

ECEG is involved in coordination meetings with the WP Leaders to monitor the latest project developments, synchronise the progress in different WPs, exchange good practices and align the project vision.

WP3 (Sectoral Skills Intelligence and Education Provision), led by [VSB-TUO](#), has been working on the methodology of the desk research, surveys and webinars foreseen for the first year of the project. On this basis, Work Packages 5 to 10 – Plastics, Consumer Chemicals, Fertilizers, Rubber, Pharmaceuticals, Petrochemicals – will conduct sector-specific research.

Would you like to be updated on the project? Visit the ChemSkills website and follow the official social media accounts!





Institutions

Skills and Talent Package

15 November 2023

The European Commission published the **Skills & Talent Mobility Package**, a deliverable of the European Year of Skills.

The package is to respond to the persisting skills & labour shortages in the EU, in a range of sectors, and at various skills' levels. The overall objective of the initiative is to make the EU a more attractive marketplace, and to facilitate mobility within, while developing labour migration in cooperation with third-country partners.

The package consists of:

- A [Communication on Skills & Talent Mobility](#);
- A [Proposal for a Regulation establishing an EU Talent Pool & Talent Partnerships](#);
- A [Recommendation on the recognition of qualifications of third-country nationals in EU Member States](#) and
- A [Proposal for a Council Recommendation “Europe on the Move”](#).

Migration Directives

23 November 2023

The EU Member States agreed on the negotiating mandate on the **Long-term Resident Directive**, which is amending the 2003 EU Directive.

The Council proposal establishes new conditions to acquiring the **EU long-term resident status** to reside in one of the Member States for at least five years. These conditions include the:

- Possibility to cumulate residence periods in different Member States up to two years;
- Ability to demonstrate access to stable and regular income and to sickness insurance;

Additional integration conditions may also be requested by Member States.

The EU long-term resident status would give rights to intra-EU mobility based on several conditions. In addition, EU long-term residents would enjoy the same treatment as EU nationals regarding access to employment, self-employment, education, vocational training and tax benefits, amongst others.

The Council will soon enter interinstitutional talks with the European Parliament to conclude a final legal text.

On the **Single Permit Directive**, trilogue discussions are still on-going.

Council of Europe

Mental health: member states to take action across multiple levels, sectors and ages

30 November 2023

In its latest conclusion on mental health, the Council called upon the member states to elaborate action plans or strategies with a cross-sectoral approach to **mental health**, addressing not only health, but also employment, education, digitalisation and AI, culture, environment, and climate factors, among other things. Council also encouraged member states and the Commission to exchange best practices and promote EU funding opportunities in the area of mental health, as well as design actions, recommendations and monitor progress.



News from Members and Partners

Chemical Industries Associations (CIA) Annual Dinner

16 November 2023



CIA hosted its annual dinner, the social high point of the UK's chemical industry which brings together key stakeholders, including government representatives, customers, and suppliers.

The dinner was very informative. We had contributions both on the industry's state of play due to unprecedented economic challenges but also unique opportunities to transform its future.



A very big thank you to the Chemical Industries Association's President, Tom Crotty and Chief Executive, Stephen Elliott for the kind invitation.

European Federation of Managerial Staff for chemical and allied industries, Feccia's Board Meeting

14-15 December 2023, Paris



Feccia kindly invited ECEG's president and the Director General to join their **Board meeting** in Paris. This came as a continuation to the traditional annual presidential level meetings.

ECEG presented and discussed its [manifesto](#) issued ahead of the EU elections in June 2024. Both associations exchanged on the regulatory burden, current relevant legislative files, and the objectives of the industry ahead of the upcoming legislator.

We thank Feccia for the kind invitation.



Next meetings

- **20 February 2024**, Brussels/Online
SSDC Working Group meeting
- **21 February 2024**, Brussels
ECEG's Steering Committee meeting
- **21 February 2024**, Brussels
ECEG's WG Education & LLL meeting
- **16-17 April 2024**, Brussels
ChemSkills project partnership meeting

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