



## **Report - Brussels, 03 December 2019**

### **Parliamentary Breakfast Meeting of the EU Chemical Social Partners, hosted by Mr Dennis Radtke (EPP)**

**Brussels, 03 December 2019** –The European Chemical Social Partners, the European Chemical Employers Group (ECEG) and industriAll European Trade Union (industriAll Europe) organized a breakfast meeting at the European Parliament, hosted by the MEP Dennis Radtke (EPP).

Members of the European Parliament, officers of the European Commission (DG EMPL), the affiliates of both associations, as well as other sectoral representatives gathered to discuss manifestos for the 9th legislature. In addition, ECEG and industriAll Europe shared views on the social partners' joint work programme 2020-2022. Moreover, they exchanged on future priorities of the chemical sector, with a specific focus on the social policy initiatives of the new Commission.

The event was opened by Mr Dennis Radtke, who underlined the importance of Social Dialogue at all levels, moreover the key topics in the agenda of the European Parliament for the upcoming years. "Social partnership has a major role to play over the next 5 legislative years and we should bring Social Partners at the focus of our attention when discussing our future political actions", he said.

The mobility package, the social security coordination system and the debate on the European minimum wage will be high on the agenda of the EMPL Committee. A special attention will be devoted also to the energy transition and digitalisation, two major challenges which need to be adequately addressed in the near future.

ECEG's President, Dr Klaus-Peter Stiller and industriAll Europe's Secretary General, Luc Triangle presented the respective Manifestos for 2019-2024 and highlighted the importance of collaboration in order to ensure the competitiveness of the sector.

Autonomous social dialogue, sustainable employment and investments in Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) represent the three pillars of the ECEG's policy recommendations, since they have a "direct impact on the sector's performance and competitiveness, [...] especially if seen in the global context of sharp competition with other regions", said Dr Klaus-Peter Stiller.

The recent achievements of the sectoral social dialogue were presented by ECEG's Director General, Emma Argutyán and industriAll Europe's Senior Political Advisor, Maike Niggemann. It was followed by the contribution of Neste's Senior Vice President Ms Hannele Jakosuo-Jansson who illustrated the role of social dialogue in enabling right skills and competences. In addition, she underlined that "skills needs is a European issue [and] employers, employees and decision-makers must co-operate closely to strive towards a mutual goal".

In conclusion, it became clear that future challenges such as climate change, industrial energy transition, skills shortages, digitalisation, etc. can be effectively addressed only through a joint responsibility of industry, trade unions and politics.

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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.