

PRESS RELEASE

The Formaldehyde Value Chain Alliance promoting worker safety receives the European Association's Silver Collaboration Award



Brussels, - 29.03.2019 - The alliance of the formaldehyde producers and workers has been praised for their work in improving the safety of workers in the formaldehyde sector.

The Alliance fostered collaboration between formaldehyde producers (Formacare – a sector group of Cefic), trade unions represented by ETUC (European Trade Union Confederation) and industriAll European Trade Union, and employers' association ECEG (European Chemicals Employers Group). As a result of this collaboration, all four parties agreed to tighten the EU-wide binding occupational exposure limit (BOEL) for formaldehyde and decrease the maximum allowed exposure threshold from up to 2ppm to 0,3 ppm. Following the agreement reached by the Alliance members, this value has been approved by the European Parliament earlier in March during the revision of the EU Directive on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work (Directive 2004/37/EC).

Esther Lynch, Confederal Secretary of ETUC saluted *“a campaign enabling major achievement towards the protection of European workers”* while Lars Eric Johansson, chairman of Formacare deemed the joint work *“a fruitful and long-lasting collaboration that ought to ‘become a role model for manufacturers of other substances”*. Emma Argutyán, Director General of the ECEG added *“such an alliance is a good example of a well-functioning social dialogue with all stakeholders involved”*.

The next steps of the Alliance are to accelerate the implementation of this exposure limit before the Directive enters into force.

Formaldehyde is a chemical widely used in applications such as glues for wood panels, coatings for paints, high-end plastics etc. The formaldehyde industry provides direct jobs to 30.000 people in Europe, with as much as 1,7 million jobs in downstream sectors being supported by formaldehyde applications.

About Cefic

Cefic, the European Chemical Industry Council, founded in 1972, is the voice of large, medium and small chemical companies across Europe, which provide 1.2 million jobs and account for 16% of world chemicals production.

About Formacare

Formacare is the Formaldehyde sector group of Cefic, the European Chemical Industry Council. We are representing the interests of most European producers of formaldehyde, paraformaldehyde, aminoplast glues and resins as well as polyols

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About ETUC

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) speaks with a single voice on behalf of European workers to have a stronger say in EU decision-making and it aims to ensure that the EU is not just a single market for goods and services, but is also a Social Europe.

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About industriAll Europe

IndustriAll European Trade Union represents the voice of 7 million working men and women within 180 national trade unions across supply chains in the metal, chemical, energy, mining, textile, clothing and footwear sectors and related industries and activities.

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About ECEG

The European Chemical Employers Group (ECEG) represents the employers' interests of the chemical, pharmaceutical, rubber and plastics industries in Europe with approximately 3.3 million direct employees in more than 94.000 enterprises. As a Brussels-based social affairs organisation it is a recognised social partner and a consultation body of the European Institutions and other stakeholders.

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