

## BELGIUM: essenscia

The Federation for Chemistry and Life Sciences Industries, essenscia, presented its first report on Sustainable Development at the end of 2009, an initiative involving an extensive stakeholder dialogue process. Our report covers the complete sector's performance with a set of indicators based on the UN's Global Reporting Initiative. All data are based on official sources and accessible to the public.

The "Sustainable Development Report 2009" is based on the 3 Ps of Sustainability: People, Profit and Planet; we also added a fourth P for Products in order to address the role of chemicals in society in helping meet the challenges the world is facing.

So, for example, key economic (Profit) figures include information about research and development – the chemical industry in Belgium is responsible for more than half of R&D expenditure in the country's private sector. The productivity of our sector's workforce is 50% higher than in the rest of Belgian industry, and most of the People it employs are highly qualified. More than 25% are women. Although the salary package is around 20% higher than the industry average, the Belgian chemical sector still faces major difficulties in attracting young talents, a key challenge for us in the future.

The report also highlights that health and safety records are approximately three times better than those of other manufacturing industries. Over the last 20 years, greenhouse gas emissions (Planet) per unit of production have decreased by 60%. And in order to reduce waste, our members give priority to recycling and reuse, particularly (but not exclusively) for industrial packaging.

The Belgian chemical industry is constantly improving the contribution of its Products vis-à-vis the five global challenges of energy, raw materials, water, food and health.

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**The chemical industry in Belgium**

Turnover € 54.62 billion

Number of companies 770

Employees 95,000

## GERMANY: VCI

VCI collects performance data from member companies through the new online database established in 2007. At around the same time, we introduced a new third party verification process based on the external certification of the VCI Responsible Care report. This approach includes the revision of reporting methods and interpretation of results as well as sample spot checks of large and small company sites.

In the reporting of environmental performance, VCI is the first association in Europe to consistently align parameters for emissions with the national PRTR register.

We developed guidelines for the safe production and use of nanomaterials in 2008, which were subsequently adopted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in its own deliberations. To assess the implementation of the guidance in the industry, 40 companies that manufacture and use nanomaterials participated in a detailed self-assessment. Our member companies ensure transparency by making their information on nanotechnology available in open dialogue with interest groups.

Throughout the VCI membership, risk management systems are in place on a broad basis. VCI fosters Responsible Care in many other areas as well: in 2009, as part of the implementation of Security as a new element in our Responsible Care programme, we conducted a workshop on export control.

TUIS, the transport accident information and emergency response system of the German chemical industry, is the flagship within the European emergency response network. Since its set up in 1982, public fire services have made use of TUIS over 25,000 times. Outside of TUIS, plant fire departments help fight tank farm fires in emergency drills. This practice was adopted in the aftermath of a major accident in the UK and follows recommendations devised by the German Commission for Plant Safety.

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**The chemical industry in Germany**

Turnover € 169.34 billion

Number of companies 2,153

Employees 429,000