

POLAND: PIPC

In 2009 and into 2010 the Polish Chamber of Chemical Industry, PIPC, and the Polish Responsible Care Secretariat continued to focus efforts on a wide range of activities including reporting industry performance against Responsible Care indicators; communication (PIPC produces and circulates monthly newsletters for members and external stakeholders); and our annual Responsible Care conference, the Ecological Forum, among others.

The annual Ecological Forum in Torun has become a landmark in the European Responsible Care calendar, enabling our association and member companies to showcase their achievements and communicate with stakeholders. During the 2009 conference the first certificates confirming compliance with the European Responsible Care Management System were granted to three PIPC member companies: Petrochemia Blachowania S.A., Warter S. J. and Azoty Tarnów S.A.

This development marks a significant step forward for the Polish Responsible Care programme under its Global Charter commitment to move toward third party verification.

One of our successful and very well-established activities is the "Tree for a bottle" campaign, now in its 8th year. Under this initiative the chemical industry engages with educational institutions schoolchildren and local communities in order to raise awareness of caring for the environment.

The campaign received public recognition at the highest level, to the extent that it is now run under the patronage of the Ministry of Environment. We also introduced a new photo competition whereby participants identify environments under threat.

Winners are recognized both at company level, and at national level in a process coordinated by the Responsible Care Secretariat.

Anna Gietka (anna.gietka@pipc.org.pl)

The chemical industry in Poland

Turnover € 10.33 billion

Number of companies 1,824

Employees 251,000

PORTUGAL: APEQ

APEQ has been actively revising performance indicators over a number of years. These indicators allow Responsible Care companies to track and evaluate their performance, help them to better communicate with stakeholders, and enable them to set targets to achieve continuous performance improvement.

In 2009 APEQ introduced a new set of indicators covering five categories. Organizational indicators include company licenses, certifications and qualitative indicators; Economic indicators look at the economic value generated by a business, and at market presence. Social indicators cover training, employee remuneration and benefits, occupational safety practices, and the safety of processes. Product stewardship indicators focus on client satisfaction and waste management. Plus, of course, we continue to gather data under a set of environmental indicators. In this regard, APEQ seeks alignment with the data reported to the authorities and published in the European Pollutants Release and Transfer Register to avoid inconsistencies and duplication of work for our members.

Our new performance indicators allow chemical companies in Portugal to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability in an objective and transparent way. For the future APEQ intends to further enhance its set of performance indicators by aligning them with the Global Reporting Initiative.

José Ribeiro (jrbeiro@apequimica.pt)

The chemical industry in Portugal

Turnover € 3.51 billion

Number of companies 46

Employees 5,146

SPAIN: Feique

In 2010, Feique reinforced its strategy to align Responsible Care with Corporate Social Responsibility. While the current Spanish Responsible Care programme goes beyond many CSR requirements in the areas of environment, health and safety, Feique decided to take a further step forward toward CSR with the development of an ongoing cooperation with Foretica, Spain's leading independent CSR organisation.

We are now working with Foretica to develop sector specific guidelines for the adoption of a full CSR programme including a set of indicators.

During 2009 a special work group composed of sector companies and Feique representatives worked on the adaptation of eight areas of indicators proposed by Foretica in order to make them applicable to the business reality of the Spanish chemical industry. This was done with particular concern for the needs of SMEs.

Our target is to establish the full set of area indicators on three different compliance levels: 'basic', 'advanced' and 'excellence'. This flexibility will allow companies to approach a systematic and measurable CSR programme with specific indicators.

Feique's new positioning on CSR is also reflected in the fact that it participates as a full member in the recently created Spanish National CSR Council which involves public administration, business sectors, retailers, manufacturers, consumer associations and NGOs.

Jesús Soriano (jsm@feique.org)

The chemical industry in Spain

Turnover € 52.59 billion

Number of companies 3,508

Employees 133,900

Next year's report will feature a similar sample of achievements from other countries.

Note: industry figures provided in this section refer to 2008 except for Portugal where figures are from 2007.