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**Jean-Paul Peres, Chairman**  
Responsible Care Europe

“The chemical industry is a key provider of solutions for a sustainable future.” This recognition from the European Commission’s High Level Group on the Competitiveness of the Chemical Industry is also recognition of our industry’s commitment to Responsible Care.

Our continued effort to address societal concerns through Responsible Care enables us to contribute to sustainable development, to enhance competitiveness and to advance the safety of chemicals – the three strategic objectives of Cefic in 2010.

A unique opportunity to promote these objectives is the International Year of Chemistry 2011. Cefic and many other associations and companies in Europe and around the world team up under the lead of UNESCO and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry to encourage interest in chemistry among young people, and to generate enthusiasm for the creative future of chemistry.

The Responsible Care family has grown in 2010, with the Gulf Petrochemical and Chemical Association (GPCA) now sitting on the ICCA’s Responsible Care Leadership Group. Cefic, together with the American Chemistry Council, has been supporting GPCA as a mentor association. Other target countries for ICCA and Cefic outreach include China and India, the Russian Federation and the Ukraine. In 2010 Cefic signed a formal agreement with the Ukraine Chemists Union to cooperate on the implementation of Responsible Care in this country.

In this year’s report we cover Europe’s strengthened focus on small and medium-sized enterprises. Over 90 percent of European chemical companies are SMEs. Over the past two years Cefic has piloted a new approach, “prisme<sup>2</sup>”, to involve SMEs in Responsible Care and in 2010 we started to roll it out to all Cefic members with the launch of a SME toolkit with freely accessible and validated tools on all elements of Responsible Care and sustainable development.

Key partners in this approach are the trade unions, partners of chemical associations in the European Social Dialogue, of which Responsible Care is an integral element.

Closely related to the cooperation with trade unions is Cefic’s partnership with the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work. In 2010-11, Cefic is again an official campaign partner in EU-OSHA’s Healthy Workplaces Campaign to raise awareness for occupational safety and reduce work-related accidents.

Reporting on key performance indicators is an important element underpinning industry’s transparency in Responsible Care. The European data published in this report is based on surveys conducted by national associations among their membership.

National associations are key partners in progressing Responsible Care in their countries; with this report we start to highlight projects developed in national Responsible Care programmes.

A diverse range of projects is also showcased in the latest European Responsible Care Awards scheme which this year received a record number of entries.

Responsible Care has made encouraging progress in the transport of chemicals in recent years. As well as safety issues, our report describes how Cefic is now focusing on the environmental impact of logistics.

Other pages cover the Long-range Research Initiative, a well-established and important contribution to sustainability, through which the chemical industry invests significant resources into research on the potential impact of chemicals on human health and the environment; and implementation of the Global Product Strategy (GPS) through which our industry promotes the safe use of chemical products around the world.

This report brings you some of the highlights over the past year. It demonstrates the scope of our Responsible Care initiative, its ongoing growth, and effectiveness as an important enabler for continuous improvement in the chemical industry and throughout the value chain.

I hope you find it informative, and welcome your feedback.