Responsible Care®
Brussels Breakout Group Discussions
Debbie Jackson (Careline) & Bernhard Thier (Cefic)
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Establish dedicated, cross-functional crisis management team

Keep external partners (e.g. hospitals) informed about exposures & toxicological risks

Conduct regular drills and exercises with your workforce & involve relevant external partners in trainings

Establish & test your crisis communication procedures

Keep communities constantly informed and involved – don’t wait for a crisis to happen

Organize regular media trainings for staff & keep up good contact with media
Process Safety, Occupational Safety & Health

- Use lagging & leading indicators to assess your process safety management
- Improve transparency about incidents and share best practices
- Use performance data and best practice examples in communication
- Conduct regular audits

- OHS: established indicators & reporting has triggered progress achieved
- To maintain employee awareness & build up a corporate safety culture:
  - Management must *live* safety; reinforce safe behaviour & address unsafe behaviour
  - Explain why safety procedures are relevant
  - Continuous dialogue among workers through regular safety meetings
  - Use visual communication tools
REACH & Responsible Care / Product Stewardship

- REACH triggers the dialogue about the safe use of chemicals between supplier and customer (registrant defines the supported uses)
- It provides & regulates supply of hazardous product information through the value chain
- Autorisation will speed up substitution of SVHCs
- Responsible Care triggers the sharing of best practice & capacity building – support of SMEs to set up REACH dossiers crucial in REACH phase II
- Concern about bureaucratic procedures that SMEs might not be able to master
- Industry’s Global Product Strategy improves free information on chemicals in layman language (safety summaries: 1500 uploads on ICCA portal)
Public Perception of Chemicals

- ‘Chemical industry sells chemicals = hazard’ vs ‘Retailers sell comfort, beauty, technology = benefits’

- How can the chemical industry show that chemicals are the source of the benefits?

- Public focus on hazards (instead of risks) is driven by fears … this accelerates development of new (but not always more sustainable) products

- Industry should show stronger visible support for safe products

- Debate on chemicals is too polarised and reduced to chemical industry on the one hand and public (often voiced by NGOs) on the other

- Public debate must involve all stakeholders including downstream users and their role
Sustainability & the Role of Responsible Care

- Responsible Care is an important pillar of SD but not the complete package.
- On the other hand, RC should be open and flexible to address new concerns.
- RC is a good support for companies building up a sustainability strategy e.g. through its requirements to report against KPIs, improve transparency and verify implementation of procedures.
- RC should trigger more dialogue with regulators and improve cooperation on EHS standards of downstream users (especially SMEs).
- RC Focus on clean manufacturing & safe management of chemicals.
- Responsible Care is the chemical industry’s ‘brand’ for its contribution to sustainable development.
Six discussion groups were led by national RC coordinators:

- Aris Tsaousakis (Greece)
- Anna Gietka (Poland)
- Sjoerd Looijs (The Netherlands)
- Alain Pierrat (France)
- José Ribeiro (Portugal)
- Silvia Surova (Slovak Republic)
Many Thanks for Your Attention! Questions?

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