



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
Consumer, Environmental and Health Technologies

High Level Group on the Competitiveness of the European Chemicals Industry

Industrial competitiveness is of central importance for the Commission. Part of the Commission efforts to support the competitiveness of the chemicals industry was the set-up of a High Level Group (HLG) on the Competitiveness of the European Chemicals Industry in the European Union in 2007.

In 2009, the HLG issued 39 recommendations to support the competitiveness of the European chemicals industries, addressed to a wide range of actors, including the European Commission, Member States, Chemicals Regions and industry. In its Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative "An Integrated Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era", the Commission underlined the potential contribution of the chemicals industry to providing solutions to critical societal challenges and the importance of further following up the High Level Group on the competitiveness of the chemicals industry.

In 2011, the Commission issued a [report on the implementation of the HLG recommendations](#) which gives an overview of actions undertaken by all relevant stakeholders.

In 2012, on request of the European Chemical Regions Network, the Commission launched a study "[Analysis of policies in chemical regions to support the competitiveness of the chemicals industry](#)", with the key objective to provide information that would assist public authorities in designing strategies, policies and programmes to support and strengthen the international competitiveness of the European Chemicals Industry.

The overall purpose of this High Level Group (HLG) was to conduct a sound economic and statistical analysis of the factors determining the rapid structural change in the chemicals sector, and the competitive position of the European chemicals industry. Based on this analysis the High Level Group formulated a set of sector-specific policy recommendations that can be put into action by the Community, Member States, or by industry itself, in order to enhance the competitiveness of the European chemicals industry in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

The [Group members](#) were Commissioners, representatives of the chemicals industry and its downstream users, trade unions, academia, environmental NGO's and consumer organisations. They benefited of the contribution of experts organised in thematic working groups whose main role was to bring robust factual knowledge to feed the High Level Group discussion.

All official documents of the High Level Group are made available, together with the preparation work of the thematic Working Groups (WG).

- Final Report
- Work programme
- Thoughtstarter
- Research, Innovation and Human Resources: Conclusions and Recommendations
- Energy, Feedstock, Infrastructure and Logistics: conclusions of the discussions

As requested by the Council, the Commission prepared in 2010 a Report on the implementation of the HLG recommendation which was presented and discussed in a conference in Brussels on February 10, 2011.

Recommended readings:

- Report on the Implementation of the HLG recommendations
- Analysis of policies in chemical regions to support the competitiveness of the chemicals industry
- Competitiveness and Industrial Policy documents