

## Worker health and safety is a top priority of the Chemical industry.

For the EU chemicals industry, the protection of workers and enhancing health and safety in the workplace is a key priority. As well as implementing existing legislation, chemical industry is committed to continuously improving its worker's health through the worldwide Responsible Care programme and a combination of voluntary initiatives and specific action programmes.

### **Cefic and ECEG welcome EU proposal to harmonise rules protecting workers**

On 13 May 2016 the Commission presented its proposal aiming to facilitate the implementation of the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive by introducing Europe-wide binding exposure limit values for a number of agents.

Having EU-wide harmonised exposure limits is an important step towards reducing work related cancer across the 28 EU member states.

### **From a future perspective Cefic and ECEG believe that:**

- Developing consistent EU-wide occupational exposure limits under the Carcinogen and Mutagen Directive, as appropriate based on impact assessment and scientific evidence, will bring benefits to workers and business;
- The current process for setting European Union's occupational exposure limits should be simplified;
- Increased cooperation between the European regulatory bodies to improve the synergies between REACH and OSH legislation should be envisaged to maximize the effectiveness of EU legislation;
- Legislation needs to go hand in hand with raising awareness and exchanging good practices to reduce occupational exposure to carcinogens & mutagens. Cefic and ECEG members are committed to contribute to such actions.

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#### **About Cefic**

Cefic, the European Chemical Industry Council, founded in 1972, is the voice of 29,000 large, medium and small chemical companies in Europe, which provide 1.2 million jobs and account for 17% of world chemicals production.

#### **About ECEG**

The European Chemical Employers Group (ECEG) represents the chemical, pharmaceutical, rubber and plastics industries in Europe. As a Brussels-based social affairs organisation it is a recognised social partner and a consultation body of the European Institutions and other stakeholders. With approximately 2.25 million direct employees in more than 27.000 companies, the sector is one of the biggest and most dynamic industries in the EU.