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Fecc

FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DU COMMERCE CHIMIQUE

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF CHEMICAL DISTRIBUTORS

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FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

Fecc

FEDERATION EUROPEENNE
DU COMMERCE CHIMIQUE

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF
CHEMICAL DISTRIBUTORS



The Federation of European Chemical Distributors (FECC) represents the European chemical distribution and trading industry, including importers. These enterprises employ 20,000 people and have annual sales of around 30 billion euro. *FECC* coordinates 15 national associations that represent over 1,000 chemical distribution companies, most of them small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

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Foreword

Since *FECC* was formed in 1954, Europe has witnessed rapid and accelerating changes. The rubble of post-War reconstruction created the foundations for a six-nation coal and steel community that has developed into the multinational framework that is the European Union today.

A series of diverse national economies have become a single market sharing, for the most part, a common currency. Diverse rules and regulations have been replaced by harmonised policies and regulations on a range of social and economic issues, including human rights, health and safety, agriculture, the environment, competition, energy, transport and trade.

The European Union's enlargement to 25 member countries on 1 May has finally ended the political division of Europe between east and west.

This is the context in which *FECC* has operated for the last fifty years. It also identifies many of the challenges it faces in the years ahead.

The need for the industry to support *FECC* has never been greater – *FECC* has a vital role to play in advocating a positive regulatory framework that ensures the success of our industry and the future development and growth of our businesses.

Jim Norman

President, *FECC*



The first 50 years



Brenntag is pleased to sponsor this brochure marking *FECC*'s 50th anniversary.

Fifty years ago, the idea that the individual nation states of Europe could ever combine to become a major political and economic player on the world stage was thought unrealistic – a noble, but slightly unworlly, response to the devastation suffered by the continent in two world wars.

Over the last half-century, however, the dreams of these early visionaries have been made real. Europe is no longer a geographical expression. It has an elected Parliament, institutions, common policies, monetary union and a single market. These are major achievements of which we all can be proud.

During the last fifty years, the chemical sector has also seen major changes. From a sector primarily serving national markets, the industry has developed a pan-European and global perspective. Of course, we have had to face the ups and downs of the business cycle, waves of mergers and acquisitions, and increasingly strict regulation – and we will, no doubt, continue to do so.

All of these factors underline the importance of our European Association – *FECC* – and its growing relevance to the success of our businesses. Brenntag is pleased to be able to support *FECC* – and we look forward to continuing to do so during the next fifty years.

Klaus Engel
Chairman and CEO

Global distribution

Brenntag is the world's leading chemical distribution business. Operating from more than 300 locations, the company has annual sales of 4.3 billion euros and employs more than 8,900 people.

Its commitment to providing added value to its global customers – through industry-leading supply chain logistics, single sourcing and on-line services – underline the company's position in world markets.

Brenntag is the number one distributor in Central, Eastern and Northern Europe, the third largest distributor in North America and the market leader in Latin America.

Formed 130 years ago in Berlin, Brenntag's chemical distribution network now crosses continents and spans time zones and, throughout its history, it has pursued a policy of sustainable development.

In 1999, it took a major leap forward with its landmark acquisition of Holland Chemical International (HCI) contributing annual sales of 1.1 billion euros and its position as the leading distributor in Latin America as well as major market shares in Scandinavia, Central and Eastern Europe and the United States. The strategic HCI acquisition reinforced Brenntag's global network. The company's comprehensive product portfolio now ranges across the oil and gas industry, personal care, food, plastics, coatings, water treatment, textile and leather, rubber and latex and paper industries.

Brenntag aims to set standards for the industry, not just in efficient logistics and customer value, but also by creating benchmarks for safety, quality and environmental management – from ISO9001 and ISO14001 to the independent third-party assessment required by European Single Assessment Document (ESAD).

1954

FECC founded
FECC Congress – Bad Godesburg, Germany
Eurovision television network launched



1955

FECC Congress – Milan, Italy



1956



XVI Olympic Games – Melbourne, Australia
FECC Congress – Tours, France

1957

Treaty of Rome establishes the European Economic Community (EEC) with six members – Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands

1958

West Side Story – musical by Leonard Bernstein



The growth of FECC



The Rheinhôtel Dressen,
Bad Godesburg, Bonn.

In 1954, the German Chemical Distributors Association (VCH) convened a meeting of eight other National Associations in Bad Godesburg, a suburb of Bonn. The main item on the agenda was the need for the industry to be represented at the European level. This move was prompted by the emergence of European institutions such as the supranational 'High Authority' for the European Coal and Steel Community, established by the Treaty of Paris in 1951.

At Bad Godesburg, in addition to members of the German Association, were representatives of the National Associations of Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, France, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The meeting agreed that it was necessary for the industry to agree common positions and co-ordinate its activities at the European level. It was resolved to create a 'Liaison Office of Chemical Traders'. The President of the German Association, H Carroux, became its first President and Dr H Vogelsang of VCH its first Secretary.

In 1957, the six countries that had created a common market in steel and coal – Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands – signed the Treaty of Rome. It created two further institutions - the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and the European Economic Community (EEC). The EEC expanded the concept of a common market by removing trade barriers and allowing the free movement of goods, services and people between the signatory countries. Customs duties on manufactured goods were to be abolished and common policies, notably on agriculture and trade, were to be introduced.

1951 – The signing of the
Treaty of Paris creating the
Steel and Coal Community.



The next major development, in 1960, was the suggestion, by the United Kingdom, that the EEC should be expanded to form a transatlantic free trade area. After France vetoed this proposal, the United Kingdom was instrumental in the formation of the European Free Trade Area (EFTA) for countries that were not members of the EEC. The original EFTA members were Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Austria, Portugal and the United Kingdom. EFTA negotiated agreements with the EEC ensuring uniformity in many areas of economic policy.

In the same year, 1960, the 'Liaison Office of Chemical Traders' became the European Federation of Chemical Trade (FECC) based in Ostend, Belgium. FECC adopted a constitution that would allow it to be formally recognised by the EEC and other international organisations. The process of becoming a recognised federation resulted in a strengthening of relations between the member National Associations as well as the development of common policies regarding FECC's relations with both EFTA and the EEC.

Two years later, FECC was officially recognised by the EEC. On 13 February 1962, a meeting between the EEC and FECC representatives was held in the offices of Giuseppe Caron, Vice-President of the EEC Commission. Present, on behalf of the EEC, were the Commission's Director of the Internal Market, its Director of Industry and the Head of the Commission's Chemical Directorate. FECC's President, H Beutelspacher (Italian Association) led FECC's eleven-man team at the meeting.

1957 – The Treaty of Rome
creates the EEC and Euratom.



1962 – The European Commission - FECC is officially recognised by
the EEC at a meeting with the Vice-President of the Commission,
Giuseppe Caron.



British Motor Corporation launches new mini-car



XVII Olympic Games – Rome, Italy
FECC Congress – Ostend, Belgium



43 year old John Fitzgerald Kennedy sworn in as the youngest President of USA.



FECC officially recognised by the EEC
Astronaut John Glenn orbits the earth



FECC Congress – Vienna, Austria



1973 – United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark join the EEC – Premier Edward Heath signs the British Accession Treaty.



1973 – *FECC*'s first headquarters in Brussels.



The meeting agreed to initiate an ongoing dialogue between the EEC and *FECC* focusing on four key areas – competition policy, the harmonisation of regulations, trade and developments relating to the internal market. In 1962, the process of economic integration took an important step forward with the creation of a Customs Union that reduced duties by 60% as well as abolishing quotas on industrial products within the EEC.

In 1965, the EEC merged the executive structures of the three institutions (Coal and Steel, Euratom and EEC). From this point onwards, there would be a single Commission, a single Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. These measures came into effect on 1 July 1967.

From the perspective of the chemical distribution industry, the process of European integration and harmonisation began to accelerate. The period 1967-70 resulted in several important pieces of legislation that figured prominently on the agenda of the newly formed *FECC* Technical Committee. In 1967, the EC directive on the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous goods was adopted. In 1968, custom tariffs were completely abolished between EEC member states and a common external tariff adopted for products from third countries. The following year, the ADR/RID* Agreement on the international transport of goods was implemented. In 1970, the EEC adopted a system of Value Added Tax (VAT).

From 1970, *FECC*'s General Assemblies were linked to *FECC* Congresses. The Congress became an annual event after that date, being hosted by National Associations and focusing on contemporary issues for the industry.

FECC's first permanent office in Brussels was created in 1973 in order to facilitate the continuing dialogue on a range of legislative and technical issues with the EEC. The same year also saw the first publication of *FECC*'s Bulletin published in German, French and English.

*ADR = Accord Européen Relatif au Transport International des Marchandises Dangereuses par Route.

*RID = Règlements Internationale Relatif au Transport des Marchandises par Chemin de Fer.

During the early 1970s, the EU's first enlargement – from six to nine members – was paralleled by an expansion in *FECC* membership.

The United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark became members of the EEC in 1972. The United Kingdom Association, BCDTA, also formally became a member of *FECC* in 1972 with the Dutch Association (VHCP) re-affiliating to *FECC* in the same year. During the following year the National Associations of Sweden and Spain also joined *FECC*.

The early 1970s was a period of worldwide monetary instability, aggravated by the oil crises of 1973 and 1974. The resulting global recession persuaded the EEC of the need for economic convergence and monetary union and would lead, in 1979, to the creation of the European Monetary System.

In the meantime, the EEC continued to develop as an institution. The Paris Summit in December 1974, decided to hold direct elections to the European Parliament and to create the European Regional Development Fund. The following year, the EEC signed the first Lomé convention between the Community and 46 African, Caribbean and Pacific states. In legislative terms, the EEC published its policy on consumer protection in 1975 and its proposals for legislation on product liability in 1976.

In 1978, the National Associations of Finland and Norway joined *FECC*. In July of the same year at the European Council in Bremen, France and Germany proposed a scheme for closer monetary union between EEC member states. The European Monetary System (EMS), designed to help to stabilise exchange rates, began to operate in March of the following year.

In June 1978, the first direct elections to the 410-seat European Parliament were held.

Tokyo Olympic Games held

Major Edward White becomes first astronaut to walk in space



Worst storms for 1,000 years destroy priceless works of art in Florence, Italy.

Concorde, the world's first supersonic airliner is rolled out at Toulouse, France.



Mexico Olympics



1982 – the first contacts between FECC and NACD in the United States.

As the EEC expanded, so did **FECC** membership. The National Association of Denmark joined **FECC** in 1980 and Greece became the tenth member state to join the EEC in 1981. The following year the Irish Association also joined **FECC** and 1982 also saw the first contacts between the National Association of Chemical Distributors in the United States and **FECC**.

Also in 1982, the EEC adopted the Seveso Directive designed to create a new regulatory framework to control the risks associated with industrial activities involving dangerous substances.

The Seveso incident occurred six years before, in July 1976. A chemical plant in Northern Italy released a large amount of dioxin into the atmosphere. It killed over 3,000 animals with a further 70,000 being slaughtered to prevent dioxin entering the food chain. The dioxin also laid waste to large amounts of vegetation. The impact on human beings proved less than first feared. Though grave concerns were expressed at the time and many people suffered from contact with the toxic gas, the release did not have the expected long-term impact on human health. Seveso had far-reaching consequences. Trust in the chemical industry was undermined. Ultimately, public unease was reflected in legislative action by the EEC to establish a stricter regulatory for the industry through the Seveso directives.

From 1982 onwards, an increasing number of legislative measures focused on the protection of human health and the environment from the affects of chemicals. In 1983, the EEC published a draft directive on dangerous preparations along with a further directive covering technical standards and regulations. In November 1983, the first official contacts between **FECC** and the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) took place.

In 1984, **FECC** celebrated its 30th anniversary with a special reception in Paris Town Hall. In June of that year, the second direct elections to the European Parliament were held and, in December, the third Lomé Convention was signed – now covering 66 African, Caribbean and Pacific states.

The EEC finalised its directive on the liability for defective products in 1985 as well as adopting a directive on packaging waste. The Commission also published a White Paper on the Internal Market – proposals containing no fewer than 300 separate measures – with a target completion date of 1992.

In the following year, 1986, two more countries – Spain and Portugal – joined the EEC, taking the total number of member states to twelve. In the same year, the Single European Act was signed. The Act amended previous treaties and gave the European Parliament a greater influence on a range of policy issues by creating a procedure for two readings for legislation in the Parliament and two in the Council.

FECC's Newsletter of July 1986 illustrates some of the key issues being discussed at that time. The Newsletter reported on developments with the Single European Act. It also sought the views of member Associations on the EEC's proposals on the export and import of certain dangerous chemicals as well as updating its members on the progress of no fewer than fifteen separate legislative proposals, ranging from the law relating to commercial agents and the classification and labelling of pesticides, to the transfrontier shipment of hazardous waste and the EEC's environment programme.

In 1988, the National Association of Spain joined **FECC** and in June of the following year, the third direct elections to the European Parliament took place.

On 9 November 1989 the world's attention focused on events in the centre of Berlin. On that cold November night, the unthinkable happened – the Berlin Wall fell. Erected in 1962, the Wall had become a symbol of the division of Europe between east and west. As daylight came over a Berlin no longer divided, and pictures of celebrating Berliners filled the world's television screens, it was clear that a new political age had dawned. The reunification of Germany followed. Within two years, the Soviet Union had collapsed and become fifteen independent republics.

1990 – Reunification poster, Friedrichstrasse, Berlin.



1983 – FECC's first official contacts with Cefic – the European Chemistry Industry Council.



1984 – FECC celebrates its 30th anniversary at a special reception at Paris Town Hall

Neil Armstrong sets foot on the moon



FECC Congress – Lisbon, Portugal



FECC Congress – Versailles, France



National Associations of United Kingdom and the Netherlands join FECC
FECC Congress – Milan, Italy

United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark join EEC
FECC's first headquarters in Brussels
FECC Congress – Brussels, Belgium



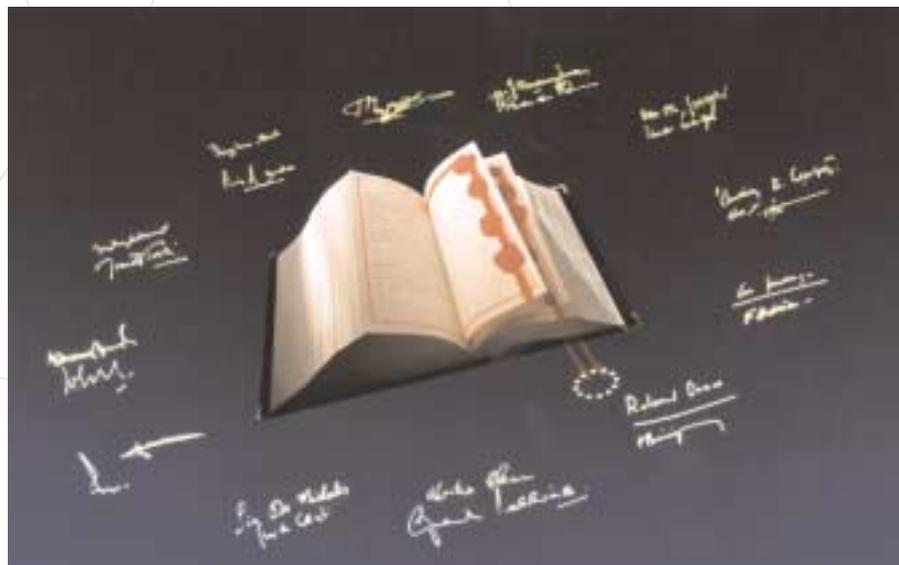
FECC and the National Association of Chemical Distributors of the United States formed the International Council of Chemical Trade Associations (ICCTA) in 1991. ICCTA aims to coordinate the industry's worldwide strategy and representation on key issues of common interest. Its founding members were the National Associations of Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom and the United States.

In February 1992, the Maastricht Treaty was signed. It changed the name of the EEC to the European Union (EU) and signalled the way forward to economic and monetary union as well as creating the European Central Bank. The Treaty gave the European Parliament joint decision-making powers with the Council in a wide range of policy areas, created a Common Security Policy and founded the European Police Office (Europol).

In 1993, FECC began to participate in the work of Cefic with representatives sitting on five Cefic Committees – on the environment, product security, transport, EDI, and precursors for chemical weapons. Work on the internal market was also completed in 1993.

Two years later, in 1995, the EU was further enlarged to fifteen member states with the membership of Austria, Finland and Sweden. Five countries of Central and Eastern Europe – Slovakia, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Bulgaria – apply to join the EU. In 1996, Slovenia and the Czech Republic join them, by also applying for membership.

1992 – The Maastricht Treaty is signed.



1997 – The Amsterdam Treaty is signed.



1998 – European Chemical News announces the 'new' FECC.

The Amsterdam Treaty of 1997, which updated the Maastricht Treaty, aimed to prepare the EU for its eastward enlargement. It also incorporated into EU law the Schengen Agreements that abolished border checks for all member states except the United Kingdom and Ireland. Through the Amsterdam Treaty, the European Parliament was granted co-decision powers with the Council of Ministers on a range of issues, including employment, social policy, health, transport and the environment.

The National Association of the Czech Republic joined FECC in 1997.

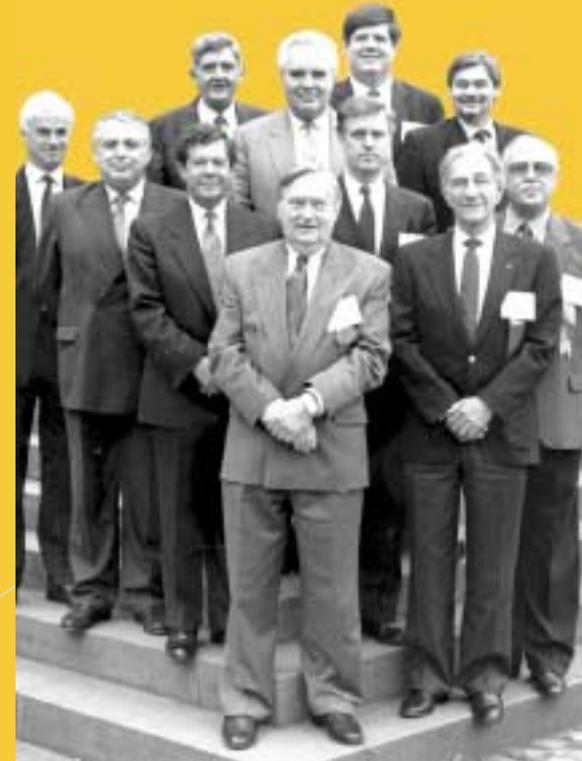
In 1998, the 'new' FECC came into being with direct company members having equal status with National Associations. FECC would also be funded 50:50 by National Associations and company members. The European Chemical News commenting on the creation of the 'new' FECC described it as 'the beginning of a new era'.



FECC Congress Edinburgh 1992



◀ Looking down from the Scott Monument towards the Edinburgh skyline to Ramsay Garden and the Castle with the National Gallery in the foreground.



Host Robbie Buckland, BCDTA Vice-President (centre) with National Association Presidents and other key delegates to the Edinburgh Congress.

FECC Presidents took the unusual step of passing a formal resolution calling for the European Commission to take urgent action on its new proposals on Packaging and Packaging Waste. The resolution expressed concern that the Commission's proposals would duplicate similar legislation currently being developed by member states and would create new non-tariff barriers to trade. The Presidents called for a moratorium on the Commission's proposals to allow time for harmonised regulations to be developed.



Hugo Lever, Cefic Director-General, gave Congress a report on key Cefic policies and developments in the immediate future.



David Gee, a former Director of Friends of the Earth, addressed Congress on the role of the chemical industry in environmental protection. He called upon the industry to adopt sustainable policies to minimise its impact on the environment, establish effective environmental management systems and accept a cradle to the grave responsibility for its products.



BCDTA Chairman, Michael Cohn welcomes delegates to the Congress.



Helmut Struger, Neuber, was a member of a panel of speakers outlining the problems and opportunities in relation to trading with the emerging markets of Eastern Europe.



Jeffery Ellwood, Univar Europe, chaired a session focusing on the policies towards distributors being adopted by chemical producers. The session featured contributions from Conrad Eckenschwiller, Rhône Poulenc; Marc Fermont, Dow Europe; Chris Tane, ICI Chemicals & Polymers; and, Philippe Vigoureux, BP Chemicals.

Paris Summit – Heads of State decided to hold direct elections to the European Parliament
FECC Congress – Brighton, United Kingdom

FECC Congress – Berlin, Germany
 Anatoly Karpov, aged 23, becomes world's youngest chess champion



FECC Congress – Vienna, Austria



FECC Congress – Stockholm, Sweden



National Associations of Norway and Finland join **FECC**
 June – first direct elections to the European Parliament
FECC Congress – Lisbon, Portugal

Today's **FECC**



Giorgio Bonetti, the first President of the 'new' FECC.

Today's **FECC** came into being on 14 June 1998 when its General Assembly approved a new constitution, structure and focus for the organisation.

Announcing the decision to restructure the **FECC**, Giorgio Bonetti, its President, said, "The strengthened organisation offers the industry an independent and distinctive voice on Europe-wide issues whilst, at the same time, providing more effective representation through close co-operation with its sister organisations, such as the NACD (United States), CACD (Canada) and Cefic (European Chemical Industry Council)."

New constitution and structure

For the first time, **FECC** had individual direct company members in addition to its traditional membership of National Associations. Both types of members had equal status.

Chemical manufacturers were able to join **FECC** as Associate Members and have established the European Suppliers Advisory Council (ESAC) within the **FECC** structure.

A Board of twelve members governs **FECC** – six representatives of direct company members and six representatives of National Associations. Board members serve a two-year term of office. The Secretary-Generals of National Associations have observer status at Board meetings and their representatives are elected for one year. The Board can appoint additional members for specific reasons and its meetings are held at least every quarter.

FECC's President, Vice President and Treasurer serve a two-year term and are elected, from the members of the Board, by the annual General Assembly. The Board also appoints a Director-General who is responsible for the day-to-day administration of **FECC** and for carrying out the policies agreed by the Board.

The new constitution and structure created an efficient organisation to represent the interests of chemical distributors at European and international levels and is able to respond to the future challenges facing the industry.

New focus

FECC's three main objectives are: to monitor and influence European legislation; to promote the chemical distribution industry; and, to promote Responsible Care.

Legislation

Monitoring and influencing legislation is a key focus for **FECC** – particularly as the industry continues to operate within an increasingly strict regulatory framework.

FECC has developed excellent working relationships at political and official levels with the institutions of the European Union and with the representatives of member states in Brussels. It has also developed pro-active relationships with an extensive network of European and international business organisations representing the chemical sector. **FECC** also ensures that its policies are communicated to the specialist and general media.

Promoting the industry

It is generally accepted that the chemical industry's image is often distorted by biased media reporting and further damaged by the campaigning activities of some environmental groups. It is therefore an article of faith among industry organisations that every opportunity must be taken to emphasise the important role played by the industry and by chemical products in modern society.

FECC has been a long-term activist in this campaign and consistently promotes positive industry messages through its lobbying activities, media statements and educational initiatives at European and international levels.



The European Flag is almost as old as the FECC. Its history dates from 1955 – the year after FECC was first established.

The Council of Europe – an organisation set up in the 1940s to protect human rights and promote European culture - initially adopted the circle of twelve gold stars on a blue background after much debate about what would be an appropriate image to use as a 'European' emblem.

Twelve gold stars were chosen for a variety of reasons. Several traditions maintain that twelve is a symbol of perfection; there were twelve apostles; there are twelve hours on a clock face - twelve in the day and twelve in the night; and there are twelve months in a year. The circle was chosen as a symbol of unity.

The Council of Europe encouraged other European institutions to adopt the flag. In 1983, it became the symbol of the European Parliament and, in 1985, the flag was adopted by the Heads of State as the official emblem of the EEC, which would later become the European Union.

FECC Congress – Amsterdam, Netherlands



FECC Congress – Cannes, France
Moscow Olympics

FECC Congress – Venice, Italy.
First flight of US space shuttle
Columbia



First contacts between FECC and NACD in the United States.
FECC Congress – Stratford-upon-Avon,
United Kingdom.
Hair-thin glass fibres begin to replace conventional
cables in the world's telephone networks.



FECC's first official contacts with Cefic – the European
Chemical Industry Council
FECC Congress – Sanderfjord, Norway



Responsible Care began in Canada in 1985 and has since become a worldwide programme. It has been adopted by 49 countries, manufacturing more than 85% of the world's chemicals.

Responsible Care

Promoting Responsible Care - the industry's voluntary programme to achieve continuous improvements in health, safety and environmental management - is a core activity for FECC.

In 1999, the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) and FECC signed a Partnership Agreement to promote Responsible Care throughout the supply chain.

The first result of this initiative was the joint development and launch of the European Single Assessment Document (ESAD) for chemical distributors. This document measures the commitment of distributors to Responsible Care and provides a common tool that allows suppliers to evaluate, against their individual requirements the safety, health and environmental performances of their distributors.

FECC is at the forefront of the campaign to persuade suppliers of chemicals to deal only with chemical distributors that are in full compliance with Responsible Care.

The Nice Treaty in 2001 prepared the ground for the most significant enlargement in the history of the EU – with ten further countries scheduled to become members in 2004. The Treaty aimed to facilitate the decision-making process for a Union that would have 25 member countries by increasing the use of qualified majority voting. It also redistributed the number of seats in the European Parliament as well as the representation of member states on the Commission to accommodate representatives from new member states.

In 2001, the Commission published its far-reaching and radical White Paper, *A Strategy for a Future Chemicals Policy*. With the intention of increasing the protection for human health and the environment from the effects of harmful chemicals, the White Paper proposed a new regulatory structure for the chemical industry. The REACH* system would require all substances manufactured or imported into the EU in quantities greater than one tonne to be registered. The costs of the new regulatory system, including the testing costs, would be paid by the industry.

* REACH = Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation of Chemicals.



FECC made its preliminary response to the Commission in April 2001. It welcomed the legislative objectives of the White Paper but expressed serious concerns about its impact on small and medium-sized enterprises (SME), its complexity and the risk that the REACH system – which would only apply within the EU – would damage the industry's competitiveness and undermine free trade.

These concerns were shared by FECC members and, within a very short time, the White Paper's proposals became the subject of an ongoing multinational lobbying initiative with FECC co-ordinating the campaign the European level.

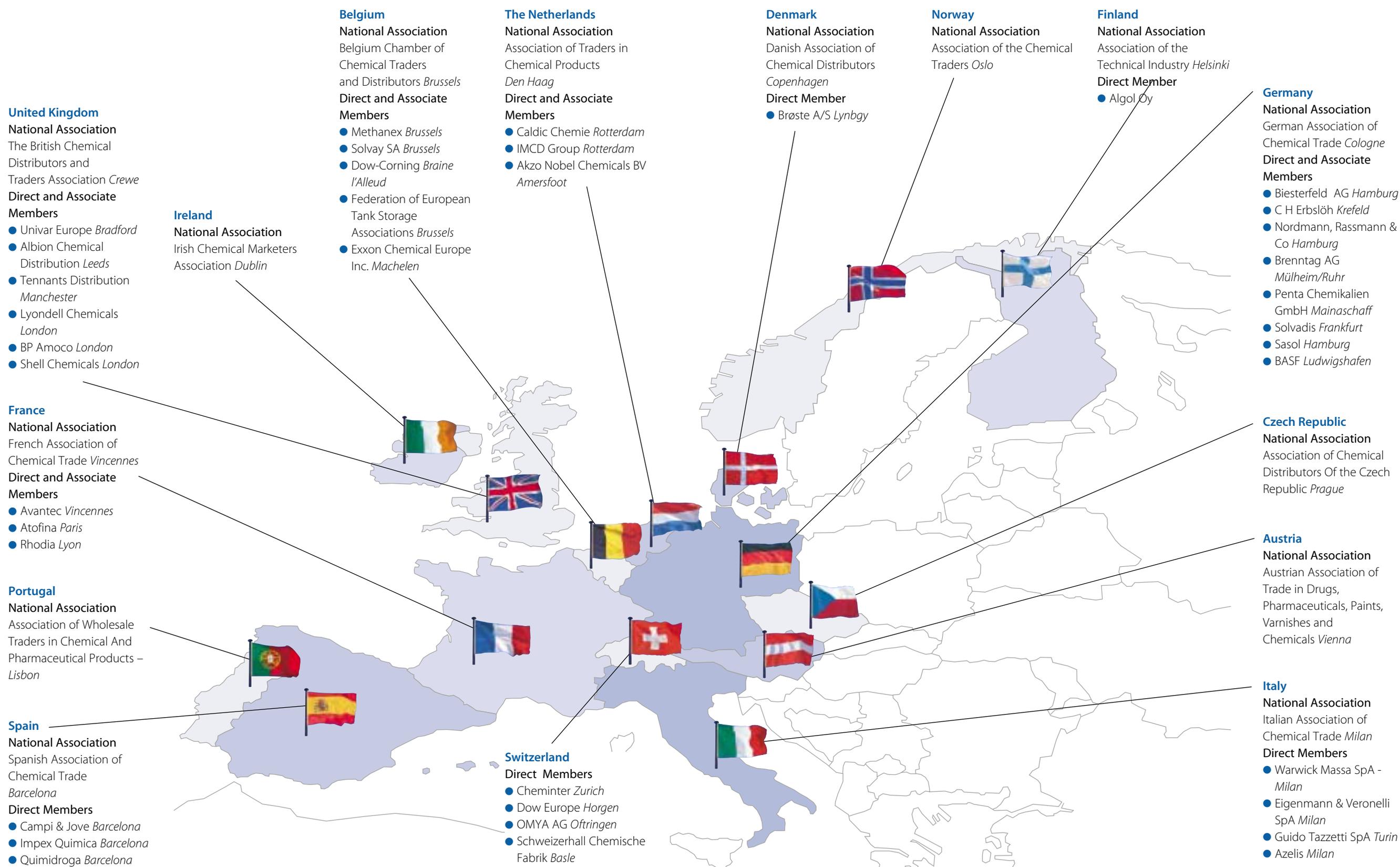
In May 2001, FECC welcomed the new agreement on the control of major hazards involving dangerous substances (the Seveso II directive) which improved the level of information on dangerous substances available to the public, created a harmonised technical risk database, and improved levels of emergency training.

On 1 January 2002, the EU's movement towards a single currency became a reality when the euro replaced the national currencies in 12 of the 15 member states - Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, and Finland.

In 2003, Cefic and FECC extended their Responsible Care agreement to cover Product Stewardship. Operating within Responsible Care and sharing the same central objective of raising industry standards of health, safety and environmental management, Product Stewardship applies these principles to products.

The Cefic-FECC guidance identifies how responsibility for Product Stewardship should be shared between chemical suppliers and distributors. It considers these responsibilities at each stage of the chemical supply chain – from product development to sales, from packaging to storage, and from transport to safety documentation.

FECC membership



FECC Congress Dresden, Germany 1996



◀ The Semperopera, Dresden's most popular tourist attraction, and the venue for the opera performance that formed the opening event of the 1996 Congress. Originally built in 1841 and described as 'the most beautiful theatre in the world', the Semperopera hosted the first performances of many works by Strauss and Wagner.



The Congress host, President of the German Association, Günter Späth welcomes FECC President, Arnold de Beco.



Dresden's Zwinger – the baroque palace that now houses the City's art gallery and museums.



The Congress hotel – The Kempinski – a building that was formerly a palace built in 1709.



In his keynote address, Erhart Meyer-Galow, CEO, Hüls AG, told delegates that distributors had to be 'better, faster and lower-priced if they are to take advantage of the changes taking place in the chemical industry'. He identified three key issues affecting the industry: structural change, process optimisation and the price-cost differential.



Giorgio Bonetti, President of the Italian Association, urged delegates to think now about the implications of a single European currency and the benefits that could result for chemical distributors.



At the Dresden Congress, FECC endorsed the International Council of Chemical Trade Association's (ICCTA) framework for the worldwide development of Responsible Care and Responsible Distribution programmes. FECC President, Arnold de Beco said, 'we are pleased to support the ICCTA initiative. It strengthens the development of a Europe-wide framework for Responsible Care'.

FECC celebrates its 30th anniversary at Paris Town Hall
Los Angeles Olympics
FECC Congress – Knocke, Ireland



FECC Congress – Montreux, Switzerland.
Titanic liner finally located and photographed on Atlantic seabed.



Spain and Portugal join EEC.
Single European Act signed
FECC Congress – Munich, Germany.
Soviet reactor at Chernobyl catches fire.

FECC Congress – Póvoa de Varzim, Portugal
Wall Street has worst day ever, Hong Kong Market closes for week, London records biggest fall in share prices this century.



National Association of Spain joins *FECC*
FECC Congress – Helsinki, Finland.
1988 Seoul Olympics.



FECC – representing members' interests

FECC's represents its members' interests through the creation of policies that safeguard the development and growth of the chemical distribution sector. This means advocating a regulatory framework that enhances the industry's competitiveness, promotes innovation and ensures the long-term profitability of its constituent businesses.

Company members are central to the policy-making process and many of Europe's leading technical experts serve on *FECC*'s Standing Committees and Task Groups.

Four Standing Committees and two Task Groups report to *FECC*'s Board.

Standing Committees

Responsible Care

The work of the Committee aims to strengthen, develop and promote Responsible Care across Europe for all *FECC* members. Its objectives are to increase the number of *FECC* member companies committed to Responsible Care; to organise workshops in member states designed to increase levels of compliance; and, to offer practical advice and information, when requested, to National Associations. Issues covered by the Committee include:

- Harmonisation of the European Responsible Care programmes throughout Europe;
- Partnership Agreements;
- Product Stewardship;
- Indices of Performance;
- Harmonised verification procedures.

Safety, Health and the Environment

The Committee monitors EU legislative developments concerning chemical products, the storage of chemicals and environmental protection. It also maintains close links at national and international level with industry groups sharing similar policy interests. Issues covered by the Committee include:

- European Union's future chemicals policy (REACH);
- Major accident hazards (Seveso II);
- Integrated Product Policy (IPP);
- Integrated Pollution, Prevention and Control (IPPC);
- Safety of chemicals;
- Classification, labelling and packaging of dangerous substances;
- Environmental liability.

Logistics

Focusing on international legislation concerning the transport and handling of chemicals, the Logistics Committee also develops *FECC* policy positions on current issues and recommends actions to be taken by *FECC*'s Board. The Committee has a close working relationship with industry organisations at national and international level. Issues covered by the Committee include:

- ADR* – RID* – IMDG – restructuring and harmonisation;
- Training and examination of Safety Advisers;
- Training of professional drivers;
- Harmonisation of classification and labelling;
- Accident statistics.

* ADR = Accord Européen Relatif au Transport International des Marchandises Dangereuses par Route. *
RID = Règlements Internationale Relatif au Transport des Marchandises par Chemin de Fer.

Berlin Wall falls
 FECC Congress – Paris, France
 Birth of new Hungarian republic



German reunification
 FECC Congress – Sorrento, Italy
 Nelson Mandela, African National Congress leader freed

Formation of ICCTA –
 International Council of
 Chemical Trade Associations
 FECC Congress – Gothenburg,
 Sweden

Maastricht Treaty
 FECC Congress – Edinburgh, Scotland
 Barcelona Olympics



FECC Congress – Brussels, Belgium
 European Single Market
 encompasses 375 million people.



Good Trade and Distribution Practice on Starting Materials for medicinal products

The Committee monitors initiatives taken by the European Commission, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Committee for the Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals (ICH) in relation to Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and Good Trade and Distribution Practice (GTDP). It focuses on initiatives affecting distributors operating in the chemical supply chain between chemical producers and pharmaceutical company end users. Issues covered by the Committee include:

- Quality standards for starting materials;
- Communication of position statement to relevant bodies;
- International co-ordination of policy.

Special Working Groups and Task Forces

European Suppliers Advisory Council (ESAC)

ESAC is a voluntary initiative by Europe's major chemical manufacturers also holding Associate Membership of FECC. It provides a forum in which the producers can develop their own views on current issues relating to chemical distributors and make proposals and recommendations to FECC's Board. Though independent from FECC's internal structure, it provides secretarial support to the ESAC Committee – which is represented at FECC Board meetings by its Chairman. Issues covered by ESAC include:

- Relationships and issues affecting suppliers and distributors;
- European Single Assessment Document (ESAD);
- European Union Competition law;
- Supply chain management;
- Product Stewardship.

European Single Assessment Document (ESAD)

The Task Force is responsible for all aspects of the ESAD initiative. It receives active and direct support from ESAC members in the promotion and further development of ESAD. Issues covered by the Working Group include:

- Questionnaire and guidance notes for Assessors and Auditors;
- Co-ordination with existing systems and monitoring ESAD development;
- Training and accreditation scheme for ESAD Assessors;
- Establishing a management structure and database.

Policy Networks

FECC maintains a close working relationship with key industry organisations in order to maximise its sphere of influence on behalf of its members on key policy issues.

International Council of Chemical Trade Associations (ICCTA)

ICCTA is the worldwide organisation for chemical distributors and traders and was created in 1991 by the FECC and the National Association of Chemical Distributors (NACD) of the United States. Its founding members were the national associations of Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom and the United States.

The Council now has nineteen member associations and aims to co-ordinate the industry's worldwide strategy and representation on key issues of common interest. Particularly, it promotes the spirit, principles and practices of Responsible Care and Responsible Distribution and international free trade as well as fair competition within the World Trade Organisation's framework.

ICCTA holds two meetings each year – one in Europe and one in North America – and is governed by a Council made up of all its member associations. In the intervening periods, actions are dealt with by a Steering Committee consisting of the ICCTA President, the ICCTA Secretary-General, and three representatives from Europe and three from North/South America.

FECC Congress – Cascais, Portugal



EU enlarged to fifteen member states with the membership of Austria, Finland and Sweden
FECC Congress – Amsterdam, Netherlands

FECC Congress – Dresden, Germany



National Association of Czech Republic joins FECC
Amsterdam Treaty
FECC Congress – Taormina, Sicily



Formation of the 'new' FECC
FECC Congress – Copenhagen, Denmark

The members of ICCTA:

Europe:

- Portugal – Associação de Grossistas de Produtos Química e Farmacêuticos
- Spain – Asociación Española del Comercio Químico
- Italy – Associazione Italiana Commercio Chimico
- Austria – Bundesgremium des Handels mit Drogen, Pharmazeutika, Farben, Lacken und Chemikalien
- Belgium – Chambre Belge du Commerce Chimique
- Denmark – Kemikalienbranchen
- Ireland – Irish Chemical Marketers Association
- Norway – Kjemikalieleverandorenes Forening
- Czech Republic – Svaz Chemickelo Prumyslu Ceske Republiky
- Finland – Teknisen Kaupan Liitto
- United Kingdom – The British Chemical Distributors and Traders Association
- France – Union Française du Commerce Chimique
- Germany – Verband Chemiehandel (VCH)
- The Netherlands – Verbond van Handelaren in Chemische Producten

North and South America and Africa

- Canadian Association of Chemical Distributors
- United States – National Association of Chemical Distributors
- Mexico – La Asociación Nacional de la Industria Química
- Brazil – Associação Brasileira Do Comércio de Produtos Químicos
- Morocco – Association Marocaine de l'Industrie Chimique

European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic)

FECC's relationship with Cefic operates at many levels, but is particularly important in the context of Responsible Care. In 1999, FECC and Cefic signed an agreement to co-operate in promoting and developing Responsible Care and its objectives, such as improved standards of health, safety and environmental management.

The Cefic-FECC Responsible Care Conference has become an annual feature in the industry's calendar of events – with delegates from throughout Europe attending. The Cefic-FECC Conference provides an important forum for the exchange of information and experience, to benchmark best practice and to address key performance issues which will improve the reputation of the industry.

Union of Employers' Confederations of Europe (UNICE)

UNICE brings together the main European employers' confederations and provides an important and powerful interface between business and the European institutions. UNICE operates across industrial and commercial sectors and has 36 member federations from 29 countries. FECC maintains a close interest in UNICE's work and particularly its Working Groups focusing on issues of interest to the chemical distribution industry.

Downstream Users of Chemicals Co-ordination Group (DUCC)

FECC has forged strong links with key policy networks, such as DUCC, which was founded in 2001 in response to the publication of the European Union's White Paper on its Future Chemicals Policy (REACH). It provides a platform for associations representing companies that manufacture chemical products designed for downstream users, particularly consumers.

Annual Congresses

Congresses have been a key event in FECC's calendar since 1970. Attracting delegates from all over the world, Congresses are normally held in June at venues throughout Europe and provide an important platform for FECC's policies. Expert speakers address contemporary issues of importance to the industry and the annual Congress also provides a valuable forum for the exchange information and for networking between FECC members.

FECC Congress Taormina, Sicily 1997

◀ Taormina's cliff-top Greek Theatre provided the spectacular backdrop for an unforgettable entertainment at the end of the 1997 Congress in Sicily. As delegates waited for the show to begin, a massive balloon rose like the sun from behind the ruins of the theatre. As it cleared the ancient walls, the audience saw for the first time that a young trapeze artist was suspended below the balloon. A spellbound audience watched as the balloon slowly floated above the dramatic setting of the Bay of Giardini Naxos.



Professor James A Anderson of the North Western University of Chicago gave the keynote address at the Congress focusing on the need for the distribution industry to be more flexible and responsive to its customers' needs. He suggested distributors should create 'adaptive channels' which were 'progressive, co-operative arrangements between channel partners to fulfil infrequent, yet critical customers' requirements.'



◀ Frauke Druckrey, Responsible Care Co-ordinator of the German chemical manufacturers association, VCI, examined the link between sustainable development and Responsible Care.



◀ Colin Wainwright, Director of the UK Association, BCDTA, focused on the way forward for Responsible Care, particularly in a pan-European context.



▶ Hans Dijkhorst, BP's Distributor Marketing Manager (Europe), explained his company's new strategy in relation its distribution network for its range of solvents in Europe.



◀ Mark Kramer, Executive Vice-President, Ellis & Everard (US Holdings) considered the progress the industry was making towards developing global distribution channels and the importance of improving the flexibility and productivity of the industry's asset base.

Cefic-FECC Responsible Care Partnership Agreement
FECC Congress – Dublin, Ireland



FECC Congress – Barcelona, Spain



Nice Treaty
FECC Congress – Vienna, Austria
White Paper – A strategy for a future chemicals policy



Single currency, the euro, adopted by 12 of the 15 EU member states
FECC Congress – Cannes, France



FECC-Cefic Responsible Care agreement extended to cover Product Stewardship
FECC Congress – Berlin, Germany

FECC tomorrow

There are many challenges facing *FECC* in the years ahead. Many of these are political and macro-economic challenges faced by the European Union as a whole; others are regulatory and structural challenges specific to the chemical industry and the chemical supply chain.

Political challenges

Over the next ten years, more countries will join the European Union (EU). In its first fifty years, the EU grew from the original six nations to a Union of 15 member states. On 1 May 2004, in the biggest single act of enlargement in its history, the number of member states grew to 25 – when some of the former communist countries of Eastern Europe, along with Cyprus and Malta, joined the EU. There are more candidate countries waiting in the wings. Bulgaria and Romania are expected to join the EU in 2007, followed at a later stage by Turkey.

In 2007, an enlarged EU of 27 countries will have a population of nearly 500 million people – around 8% of the world's population and the world's third largest population, after China and India.

Macro-economic challenges

In relative terms, Europe enjoys a high standard of living – with about 65% of people of working age having a job. The EU has targeted employment rates of 67% by 2005 and 70% by 2010. During 2001-02, the last period for which figures are available, it created 1.7 million more jobs.

On the other hand, unemployment, at 8% for the EU as a whole, stands at historically low levels – though it is higher than the United States (6%) or Japan (5%). Inflation, one of the EU's persistent economic problems during the last twenty years, is now steady at 2% - the inflation target set by the European Central Bank, which controls interest rates within the euro-zone.

Though these patterns are not uniform across all member states, taken together they provide a favourable climate for business – with increasing numbers of more affluent consumers fuelling higher levels of demand.

However, there are long-term trends that may weaken future economic growth.

Throughout Europe, every economy faces the same demographic problem. Falling birth rates mean that fewer people in work have to support increasing numbers of pensioners. This trend is forecast to accelerate. By 2020 there will be over 60 million people between 65-70 years of age and a further 25 million aged 80 and over.

In addition, Research and Development (R&D) spending – the key to future competitiveness – is declining. In 2001, R&D spending was less than 2% of the EU's Gross Domestic Product, compared to the United States and Japan where spending has been running at around 3% for the whole of the last decade.

Trading challenges

The EU has become a major trading power. In the ten years, 1990-2000, the EU's trade with the rest of the world doubled in value and, at 19%, now almost matches the share of world trade enjoyed by its major trading rival, the United States (20%). In relation to services – such as banking, tourism, insurance and transport – the EU has a 25% share of world trade, against the United States' share of 20%.

As an archetypal trading sector, the chemical distribution industry has a clear vested interest in the further development of trade – between EU member states and with the rest of the world. Barriers to trade and the removal of customs duties have resulted in trade between EU members doubling in value between 1990-2000. In terms of external trade, chemical distributors will be the beneficiaries from further liberalisation and globalisation.

FECC has expressed its concern that the EU's determination to create a new regulatory framework for the chemical industry will damage the international competitiveness of the sector and may also create non-tariff barriers to trade.



Regulatory challenges

The most significant regulatory challenge for **FECC** arises from the EU's future chemicals policy – the REACH system. The European Parliament will debate the proposals later in 2004 and the draft legislation contains an implementation schedule extending to 2012.

Though **FECC** supports the overall objectives of the proposed legislation, it does not believe that the REACH system achieves a proportionate and sustainable balance between the protection of human health and the environment and the needs of industry and wealth creation. As currently proposed, the REACH system is too burdensome and too resource intensive – particularly for the small and medium-sized enterprises making up over 95% of chemical sector.

FECC favours of a testing regime which intelligently prioritises substances of real concern and which does not rely on a blanket tonnage-based approach.

The chemical industry is committed to higher standards through a Global Harmonisation System (GHS) and its implementation by 2008 – a timescale that is in conflict with the REACH timetable. **FECC** believes that the REACH system should be adapted to the requirements of GHS immediately. In the long term, tackling this process now is a more effective use of industry and regulatory resources. It may also help to prevent legal challenges to the REACH process by the EU's major trading partners.

The REACH proposals will continue to absorb significant industry resources in the medium term because of its implications for the growth and profitability of Europe's chemical distribution industry.

International challenges

Many of the international challenges facing the EU also influence the external business environment in which **FECC** members operate – with scientific or technological developments and life science discoveries often resulting in rapid and radical change.

Europe and its business community are also affected by upheavals elsewhere in the world – whether it's the growth of religious fervour in the Islamic world, disease or worldwide epidemics, a vulnerable economy in crisis, the relocation of industries and employment to the Far East, or the further acceleration of globalisation. These global trends can rarely be influenced by the individual nation state. They require a collective response from a world power, such as the EU.

On the EU's medium term agenda is the question of the draft European Constitution. It is designed to make the EU's decision-making system more transparent by clarifying what powers and responsibilities belong to the EU and those belonging to its member states. It makes clear that European integration depends on two kinds of legitimacy, 'the directly expressed will of the people and the legitimacy of national governments'.



'A day will come when all the nations of this continent, without losing their distinct qualities or their glorious individuality, will fuse together in a higher unity and form the European brotherhood'.

Victor Hugo, 1849

FECC Presidents, Treasurers and Secretaries

Presidents

1954 H Carroux
Germany

1955-60 V Masure
France

1960-62 H Beutelspacher
Italy

1963-65 P Fontaine
Belgium

1966-68 H C von Carlowitz
Austria

1968-70 K Weinstock
Germany

1971-73 J Langlois
France

1974-75 H Beutelspacher
Italy

1975-76 E Weiss
Italy

1977-79 Dr Fischer-Bothof
Germany

1980-82 R Pargeter
UK

1983-85 G Quarré
France

1986-88 E Beltrami
Italy

1989-91 Dr Fischer-Bothof
Germany

1992-94 R Buckland
UK

1995-97 A de Beco
France

1998-99 G Bonetti
Italy

2000-04 E Nordmann
Germany

Secretaries/ Director-General

1954 H Vogelsang
Germany

1955-65 C Boyer-Vidal
France

1966-68 K van Overloop Jnr.
Belgium

1968-70 H Vogelsang
Germany

1971-73 P Lips
France

1974-75 F Kahlberg
Italy

1977-79 B Stephan
Germany

1980-82 C J Wainwright
UK

1983-85 P Sellier
France

1986-88 I Bussoli
Italy

1989-91 B Stephan
Germany

1992-94 C J Wainwright
UK

1995-97 P Muller
France

1998-2004 H Out
The Netherlands

Treasurers

1955-65 C Boyer-Vidal
France

1966-79 A van Overloop
Belgium

1980-97 M Desmaele
Belgium

1998-99 H Struger
Austria

2000-02 A Hol
Netherlands

2003-04 P van der Slikke
Netherlands

FECC General Assemblies and Congresses

	General Assembly	Congress
1954	Bad Godesberg	Bad Godesberg
1955	Milan	Milan
1956	Tours	Tours
1957	Bad Godesberg	
1958	Paris	
1959	Brussels	
1960	Hamburg and Paris	Ostend
1961	Rome	
1962	Lisbon	
1963	Brussels	Vienna
1964	Zurich and Hamburg	
1965	Zurich, Aachen and Brussels	
1966	The Hague	Vienna
1967	Zurich and Brussels	
1968	Vienna	
1969	Cologne	
<i>From 1970 onwards, General Assemblies were linked to the Congress</i>		
1970	Lisbon	1988 Helsinki
1971	Versailles	1989 Paris
1972	Milan	1990 Sorrento
1973	Brussels	1991 Gothenburg
1974	Brighton	1992 Edinburgh
1975	Berlin	1993 Brussels
1976	Vienna	1994 Cascais
1977	Stockholm	1995 Amsterdam
1978	Lisbon	1996 Dresden
1979	Amsterdam	1997 Taormina
1980	Cannes	1998 Copenhagen
1981	Venice	1999 Dublin
1982	Stratford-upon-Avon	2000 Barcelona
1983	Sandefjord	2001 Vienna
1984	Knokke	2002 Cannes
1985	Montreux	2003 Berlin
1986	Munich	2004 Rimini
1987	Povoa de Varzim	

The image features the word "Fecc" in a large, white, sans-serif font, centered horizontally. The background is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the European Union flag, showing the blue field with the twelve yellow stars arranged in a circle. The text "Fecc" is superimposed over the flag, with the stars appearing behind and around the letters.

Fecc

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