

CONFERENCE REPORT

ECTA Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency Hotel Dusseldorf, DE
28th November 2013

“THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT IN EUROPEAN TRANSPORT”

ECTA MISSION STATEMENT

ECTA’s mission is to improve the standards of efficiency, safety and security as well as the environmental and social impacts of the transport and logistics of chemical goods in Europe.

The ECTA Annual Meeting was held at the prestigious hotel Hyatt Regency in Dusseldorf Germany with positive comments from members on the hotel and location.



The ECTA Annual Meeting was preceded by the Ordinary General Meeting of ECTA member companies. ECTA events offer you a high level forum where the owners, CEO’s and top managers of the chemical/transport industry come together and network to share their practical knowledge and “hands-on” best practices on safety, human resources, security and efficiency in chemical transport.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND MANAGING DIRECTOR

The President welcomed the attendees and hoped that all would gain something from today’s meeting and conference. The President opened the conference by stating that the theme of this year’s conference was the



changing environment in European Transport. This would bring to the table discussions on:

- Presentation on Nordic Regulations, Weights and Dimensions
- Connecting Tarragona to the European rail network
- Efficiency gains in the supply chain
- Update on NEW guidelines for BBS Safe Driving and Un/Loading
- ECTA database for recording accidents/incidents with trend analysis
- Europe / Middle East developments



Comment was made on a further year of consolidation for ECTA which will result in a positive P&L position at year end.

Members at present total 101 inclusive of affiliated (6), the most pleasing aspect is the Responsible Care members which now totals 58. In the beginning of 2012, ECTA had 85 full members and 45 RC members.

The Ordinary membership base rose by 16% for the year to date with an increase of 30% for Responsible Care membership.

Therefore, we achieved our goal of targeting 100 companies and we are very proud of this result.

The ECTA Board's decision to expand the ordinary membership and Responsible Care membership base to additional sectors, being Tank Cleaning and Warehousing, as mentioned before did not materialise as expected with only existing members extending the RC approval to those who had tank cleaning or warehousing activities. This extension of Responsible Care will remain as an objective for the future, thereby extending RC to the total logistics supply chain. Once again showing external stakeholders and producers ECTA's continuing commitment.

The President made comment on the continuing economic uncertainty that the industry faces and considered it critically important to keep communication lines of all

players open in the supply chain to assist with any synergies that may be identified.

It was once again the considered opinion that 2014 would also be a challenging year as far as logistics was concerned and that greater efforts would be required to affect synergies and efficiency gains within the logistics transportation chain.

In this area ECTA have continued with the

Industry Advisory Council (IAC) forum, with members from Producers, Cefic and LSP's that meet on a regular basis to discuss pressing matters within the industry, and to see what actions can be formulated to overcome such situations.

ECTA continue to be an official partner to the Healthy Workplaces campaign on Risk Assessment organized by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA). The campaign aims at reducing work-related accidents and illness, by promoting risk assessment as the first step to a sustainable prevention culture.

To complement the above, the best practice guidelines that were completed during the year have been sent to EU-OSHA for publication on their website.

The new guidelines can be accessed [on our ECTA website.](#)



The above are targeting HSSE and efficiency gains improvement throughout the supply chain; once again members of these working groups are from both sides of the divide.

Once again the ongoing threat of increasing road taxes, coupled with CO2 taxes, is ever present.

The above, allied with pending legislation changes and other punitive measures, makes it imperative that the logistics industry is proactive in mitigating such onerous measures

to maintain a competitive edge in the market place.

At the same time updates on the operation and set up of the Technical & Responsible Care Committee were further explained highlighting the good cross section of expertise to cater for the ECTA and its members and the RC programme. During 2014 this will encompass the upgrade of the CO2 KPI reporting to meet EN 16258.

CONFERENCE



The conference agenda comprised ten speakers from different sectors discussing areas such as: Nordic Regulations, Weights and Dimensions, European rail network, Efficiency gains in the supply chain, NEW guidelines for BBS Safe Driving and Un/Loading, database for recording accidents/incidents with trend analysis and finally the evening speaker talking about Middle East and Europe development.

The presentations were well received with a number of lively questions being raised afterwards.



During the dinner, Marc Houtermans gave a presentation on the impact of shale gas and other global developments on the supply chain in Europe.

The presentation was well received by all members and once again a number of questions were raised.

The presentations can be seen on www.ecta.com

CONCLUSION



With more than 100 members and non-members attending, the Dusseldorf conference was considered to be successful with the format and themes, location and excellent networking opportunities. It has been mentioned that the format for 2014 should change to possibly look at reducing the presentations given this would allow time for a better focus on networking and

more specific areas of logistics for attendees. This approach would at the same time allow more time for open discussion that hopefully lead to key points for pursuing during the following year by way of contact meetings etc. All in all a very positive conference with a number of suggestions from attendees on the future format and way forward for ECTA.

