

European Chemical Logistics Information Council

ECLIC Newsletter

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ECLIC and the digital eECD proof their value during covid-19

The ECLIC association, founded by essenscia-Cefic, ECTA and EFTCO in 2018, aims at facilitating secured data sharing among industrial actors related to chemical logistics via an application platform allowing to transform the current manual and paper driven logistics processes into more integrated, collaborative, electronic and real time processes of data sharing.

ECLIC vzw is meanwhile offering, as first Use Case, the electronic EFTCO cleaning document or digital eECD for more than 18 months across Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. With Covid-19, the digital eECD process got more attention from several European shippers, carriers and cleaning stations as it creates new and better ways of working together. Even though the alternative solutions to work paperless via e-documents and exchange data in real time amongst different chemical logistics actors does exist for some time, logistics paper documents are today still the norm at cleaning and (un)loading sites and the transition from paper to digital turned out to be much slower than expected for many good reasons as for instance “required change in way of working”, conflicting project priorities, integration with another legacy system, etcetera..... However, more recently, the current paper way of working is being challenged given paper is a carrier of the covid-19 virus and new health risk factor that perfectly can be reduced. While the digital eECD process has already demonstrated its value in terms of improved compliance, sustainability, product quality and efficiency, the health & safety factor for the logistics personnel is a new element driving the digital e-docs way of working forward. To be more specific, since the covid-19 outbreak, ECLIC has seen an increase in eECD usage of more than 25% across the more than 40 eECD subscribed companies.

Furthermore, new synergies between eECD and other logistics documents like ePPL, eECO and eCMR are being explored as explained further in this ECLIC newsletter.

More recently, Yves Verschueren, Managing Director essenscia and chairman of ECLIC, did meet with the office of Pascal Arimont, member of the European Parlement, to address the importance and opportunities of digitalization within the chemical industry (see picture).



ECLIC is launching the ePPL and eECO in Q4 2020

As of Q4 2020, ECLIC will launch the electronic “Proof Previous Load (ePPL)” and electronic “EFTCO Cleaning Order (eECO)” process to replace these 2 existing paper documents. The digital ePPL and eECO process will not only help to harmonize the way of working together between cleaners, carriers and loaders it will also further support the semi-dedicated and dedicated bulk container product flows and will further increase the eECD value and usage. These new digital processes have been developed in Q2-Q3 2020 with a core group of eECD subscribed companies and with the support of our IT partners NxtPort, Nallian and Pionira. The eECO and ePPL offering is part of the existing eECD licence subscription and has been funded by the founding associations so no extra licence subscription costs are required to use these new functionalities. We already want to thank all the contributing IT & business teams for their expertise and efforts to make the eECO and ePPL a new and next success.

Electronic Proof of Previous Load							
EPPL 0000 0000 0125							
1	Transport company info Transportco1 Transportlaan 101 B-2000 Antwerpen BE						
2	Loader info Chemco1 Chemielaan 1 B-2000 Antwerpen BE			Loading location load station A			
3	Planned load info <i>Product:</i> Liquid Bulk Red 1225 <i>Loader reference:</i> 1246598 <i>Loading date:</i> 26/08/2020						
4	Equipment and previous load info <i>Type of vehicle:</i> TANKCONTAINER <i>Unique identifying number:</i> ECTA1117891						
4.1	Compartment 1 (ePPL Counter = 1, Last cleaning = 10/08/2020 14:26 (UTC))						
Load	Article number	Product	Loader ref nr	Carrier ref nr	Loading date	UN N°	ADR class
1	n/a	NRL test product 1	n/a	n/a	21/08/2020 16:14 (UTC)	1111	n/a

Test example
No PAPER required

Testimonial BASF: We are committed to use the new ePPL use case. Together with the eECD it enables us to create a uniform digital process to check cleaned and uncleaned equipment before loading. This digital process brings improved compliance and process quality. The ease of use compared to the current situation means less time wasted and less room for errors in every step of the complete process. It enables us to trigger automatic notifications to clean in case of dedicated equipment. By this way we avoid time-intensive checks and reduce the risk of product quality problems. We are convinced this digital collaboration platform provides opportunities to re-design our site-logistics processes and shift towards pro-active steering.

The digital eECD was initiated at BASF Ludwigshafen

Last quarter, the eECD application was translated into the German language making it easier for the German speaking user community to initiate and process digital eECD documents.

Testimonial BASF: We set the first successful steps to introduce the digital ECD process in Ludwigshafen. Thanks to the enthusiasm and good cooperation between all parties involved, in a matter of weeks, we were able to jointly prepare, test, train and operationalize a complete loading station with the new process. The application is recently also available in German, which makes the use for our loading personnel even more comfortable. Other loading stations are in evaluation in close alignment with the responsible Business Units and will soon be piloted. This will be a good basis to prepare for a further roll out. We are convinced that this new way of digital collaboration will bring us forward in terms of quality, safety, efficiency and effectiveness and will help us to even better fulfill our customer's needs.

LynX Automation is the first IT cleaning software vendor to offer the integrated digital eECD market solution

Exchanging eECD data through the ECLIC platform requires that existing cleaning data from cleaning stations are being re-used throughout the digital eECD process. Most cleaning stations do have already these data stored in own or third party system software. To avoid that these cleaning data need to be typed over for each cleaning transaction by the cleaning operator, the ECLIC platform offers an open source eECD API to their eECD subscribers and IT cleaning vendor companies across Europe. Typical cleaning software vendors are LynX Automation, Lucrasoft, C-bank,... Through this open eECD API infrastructure, the cleaning stations can contact their IT vendor to offer the eECD solution and can avoid the company-individual deployment of the API platform interface.

LynX Automation, has been committed from the start to the eECD project and prepared as a leading pioneer the roll out the new digital eECD solution to its customers. It was first to offer the digital eECD market solution.



Testimonial LynX Automation: Optimisation of internal process eventually reaches a point where the investment costs exceed the financial return. The new ECLIC platform extends the scope of data flow from internal to external processes. This expands the boundaries for process flow optimisation unlocking previously unavailable business opportunities.

LynX Automation recognises the potential of this platform and supports it with a free add-on to our software. This enables seamless integration of our software with the ECLIC platform allowing our clients to benefit from this new technology.

ECLIC 2025 Roadmap and update on eCMR-ETA- equipment pre-notification ECLIC Use Case “proof of concepts”

The “not for profit” ECLIC data exchange platform got established in 2018 by the founding association essenscia-Cefic, EFTCO & ECTA and with the electronic EFTCO Cleaning Document as a first Use Case. The main objective of ECLIC is to facilitate a more harmonized digital collaboration by exchanging specific data amongst all chemical logistics actors and respecting data ownership, ensuring data quality and avoiding any improper data monetization while installing a neutral ECLIC data governance model. At the start of 2020, it was agreed to extend the ECLIC platform with ePPL and eECO processes (see above) and start to develop the design of 3 new data exchange pilots with eCMR, ETA and equipment pre-notification data. Meanwhile, a new ECLIC 2025 roadmap & vision got established which summarized and visualized in the picture below. As we look towards 2025, ECLIC has put the ambition to evolve towards a chemical logistics federated data exchange platform while ensuring ECLIC can support both Business to Business (B2B) and Business to Government (B2G) interactions. These plans will be worked out as of 2021.

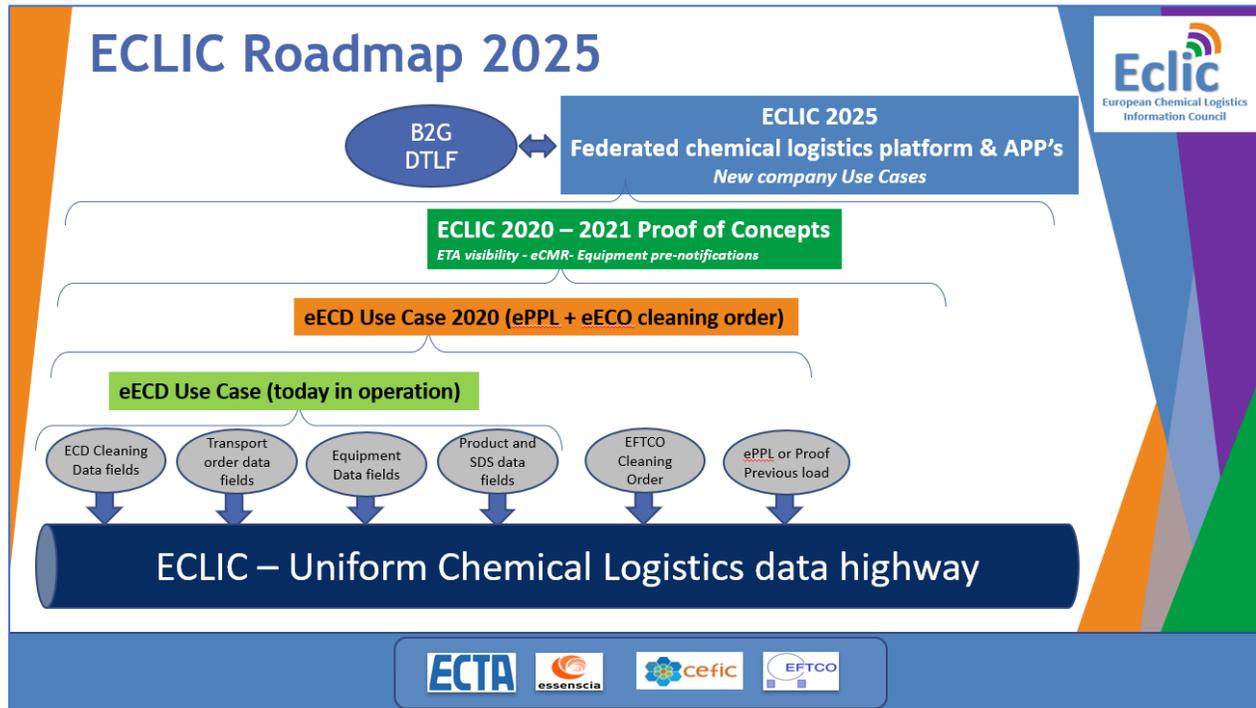


Figure 1: ECLIC federated platform B2B and B2G roadmap supporting the trend to move from an internal company view to an external & collaborative ecosystem chemical logistics mindset.

Testimonial Evonik : the ECLIC eCMR-ETA pilot update: On August 20, the EU have publicized the new eFTI regulation which aims to further replace paper e-freight documents like the eCMR and eCIM in the coming years. While the target to replace these papers is an enormous digital mindset challenge for all governments to be ready to cope with digital freight documents in the next 4 years, it's an equally big challenge for individual carriers and shippers. To explore what that digital e-freight paper challenge means in practice from a logistics process and IT perspective, Evonik has embarked on an eCMR pilot with some carriers, ECLIC and Pionira to further investigate the opportunities. Being already familiar with the digital eECD process since the start, makes the step up easier. At the same time, new digital opportunities like supply chain visibility and obtaining an ETA status in combination with eECD and eCMR are further explored opportunities across the logistics chain.

The future ECD is digital: EFTCO ensures the ECD quality status also within the further implementation phase of the eECD 2.0

Because of the slower adoption of the digital eECD usage compared to what originally has been forecasted in 2018, EFTCO is convinced of the urgency to increase the use and acceptance of the digital eECD and therefore alternative solutions are being investigated. This resulted in a new eECD 2.0 conceptual process that will be worked out in 2020-2021.

Although EFTCO needs to take care that the rules of our association and the rules for the use of the ECD are respected, we must be realistic to proceed in the right strategic direction with the use of the eECD:

- An immediate reaction is needed to increase the digital eECD use rate amongst all actors being cleaning stations, carriers and shippers
- EFTCO accepted therefore the eECD 2.0 process implementation which conceptually will result in printing of the digital eECD as a valid EFTCO cleaning document and alternative to the current paper ECD

EFTCO added some more conditions to guarantee that the digital eECD is kept on the same or better quality and fraude level compared to what we have with the paper ECD today.

After further investigation from a technical and business point of view EFTCO will define the conditions to approve the use of printed paper eECD`s in the eECD 2.0 process.

When all these conditions will be met, EFTCO will declare the validity of the printed eECD with a QR code equal with the preprinted paper ECD for a limited period.

ECLIC wants to thank all contributing teams, software providers and eECD subscribed companies to further build this new chemical logistics ecosystem making supply chains more efficient, compliant and sustainable for each of their customers.

The future Chemical Logistics is digital








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ECLIC ecosystem - subscribed companies

Chemical Companies



Transport & Logistics Companies



Cleaning Companies



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