

Looking back at the ECTA Annual Meeting 2018

The latest trends and developments in the chemical supply chain

On Thursday 29 November 2018 the ECTA Annual Meeting took place at the Hyatt Regency Düsseldorf. After their internal board meeting the participants representing Europe's logistics enterprises, CEFIC and the chemical industry joined in the well filled conference room to learn the latest trends and developments in the chemical supply chain. Evert de Jong of ECTA updated the audience on Responsible Care and the SQAS programme 2019.

Catching TCM's particular interest was ECTA's general manager Peter Devos' presentation focusing on the eECD project: Is a digital ECD becoming the new paperless norm across Europe as of 2019?

After many years of "concept" development within EFTCO and related stakeholders, the electronic EFTCO Cleaning Document "eECD" is no longer just a concept. The chemical industry has turned the eECD start up key to "ON" and the concept is now a working digital process.

As a matter of fact, since ECTA, the Belgian ESSENSCIA taking care of CEFIC for the Chemical and Tank Storage



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Companies, and EFTCO on behalf of the tank cleaning stations, joined forces in 2016-17 a common ground has been found for an eECD business case and a

funding approval resulting in an eECD pilot demonstration in September 2018. Within this eECD pilot phase, about 20 companies in the Antwerp/Rotterdam/Ruhr area managed to further test "this pilot" during Q4 2018 with satisfactory results so that the digital eECD process moved to the eECD startup and go live phase as of now. The start of 2019 will coincide with the start of rolling out the eECD within Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and France while the roll out at EU level amongst 600 companies is planned as of 2020 at the latest.

The milestone in 2018 was the



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establishment by the mentioned participants of the non-profit organisation ECLIC (European Chemical Logistics Information Council). To learn why ECLIC has been founded within Chemical Logistics, visit www.eclic.eu.

ECLIC is the common vehicle taking care of the eECD production start-up as a business and on the basis of transparency and open book. The initial funding, the eECD subscription and licence tariffs are calculated to pay back the investment in 2021 with a continued self-funding thereafter, possibly with

minor increases of 5 eurocents. With more than 3 million cleaning documents issued last year and the number still increasing, the potential to stay a self-funding system is certainly there.

Peter Devos demonstrated how the eECD will bring pro-active visibility in the supply chain. This eECD opens new digital windows within Chemical Logistics. ECLIC inhibits enables a data sharing vision ensuring respect to B2B data ownership, guaranteeing data quality and security while agreeing on data sharing rules amongst the stakeholders.

ECLIC brings people and companies digitally together to serve the customers better while improving safety, compliance and efficiency in the supply chain.

As is true for other businesses around the world, to stay successful in tank cleaning is becoming a matter of getting digitally connected. ■

For more information

Read all about ECLIC on www.eclic.eu in particular who is involved and the conditions to access the eECD. This article was written by Hugo Kerkhofs, past president of EFTCO and of CLM Chemical Logistics Management