



Taking care

An overview of who said what at the European Chemical Transport Association's Responsible Care workshop in Brussels, Belgium

On 12 September 2019, the 10th Responsible Care (RC) workshop was held in Brussels, Belgium by ECTA, the European Chemical Transport Association. In slides presented by Bernhard Haidacher (LKW Walter) and Remo Rigassi (Bertschi), RC director Evert de Jong praised the support of members and customers helping to develop very specific tools and goals, such as KPI reporting, annual improvement plans and RC Level I and II templates in SQAS modules, in a rapidly changing industrial world.

He is looking with ambition to 2050, with Zero Logistics Emissions, Zero Logistic Injury Incidents and Zero Logistic Paper Use – the three Zeros – putting forward the ECTA Responsible Care programme 2025. At all times, ECTA Responsible Care needs continued fine-tuning with the chemical industry while adding the new dimensions of sustainability, plastic

waste and digital logistics collaboration.

Giulia Casasole, responsible care manager at Cefic, put forward the new European Responsible Care management framework and self-assessment tool for chemical manufacturers. This new RC self-assessment helps to define RC improvement areas and can help companies who want to prepare for a full SQAS assessment. The information on how to use this tool is available on the Responsible Care webpage (Appendix of the RC management framework).

Giles Hobson of the National Chemical Emergency Centre (NCEC) in Oxford, UK, examined how Level 1 Emergency Response is taken care of right after a serious transportation incident. Reference was made to Cefic's Intervention in Chemical transport Emergencies, or ICE, Guidelines – Level 1 ER best practice. Nick Bailey of UK-based environmental

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consultant Ambipar discussed dealing with other incidents, such as packaging failure, tanker rollover, an acid spill or a derailing of several vehicles.

Konstantin Kubenz of German freight forwarder Kube & Kubenz shared his company's experience in the operation of LNG heavy-load vehicles. It is expected that the 2025 legislative framework for carbon dioxide emissions can be met, however not by 2030. Furthermore, LNG vehicles carry a higher investment cost, as well as facing uncertain LNG pricing and a government toll policy. Although Germany has infrastructure currently under construction, the European service station network develops at different speeds. The future use of alternatives for LNG vehicles with dangerous goods remains uncertain.

Victor Trapani, SQAS manager at Cefic, addressed SQAS achievements and changes of the past year, which included recommendations for consecutive assessments, more information in the new Pre-Assessment Document and new software for assessors (web version). He also mentioned the recognition of SQAS by Together for Sustainability, a joint initiative founded by chemical companies in 2011 that focuses on the promotion of sustainability practices in the chemical industry's supply chain. The SQAS performance of the year was highlighted with a record high number of assessments (1,020), of which 248 were for tank cleaning stations. Actions from the SQAS taskforce after a SWOT analysis concerned promotion, communication and training, system/IT, content of questionnaires, and the use of data, as well as considering giving ECTA and

EFICO a vote in the SQAS Executive Committee and/or General Assembly.

Trapani ended by addressing an opportunity for SQAS to use the system to assess plastics lost in the supply chain, as authorities are already calling for a certification system in Europe to avoid such losses. SQAS's

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Technical & Accreditation Committee has all the resources to develop it.

Andreas Zink, ECTA president and Peter Devos, ECTA managing director, concluded the RC workshop by thanking the T&RC committee and all participants for their interactive participation, summarising that safety topics such as emergency response preparation and working at height, sustainability topics such as alternative fuels, low-carbon solutions and plastic waste reduction, digital collaboration, and SQAS, will remain at the forefront of minds in 2020.

The ECTA Responsible Care film can be viewed on YouTube, with thanks to the entire T&RC committee: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJEFHvFcLOM>

For more information:

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