



VCI



Topics: Environment, Health, Safety

## Chemical Industry **Responsible Care 2010**

Projects on environmental protection, health and safety

3 PREFACE

- Innovation and Responsibility

4-5 RESPONSIBLE CARE IN DIALOG

- United Nations proclaim 2011 as the "International Year of Chemistry"
- Nationwide Open Day 2011

6-7 RESPONSIBLE CARE PROJECTS

- Stable reputation of the chemical industry
- Responsible Care Awards for exemplary education

8-11 FEATURES AND INDICATORS

- Data Survey: Adaptation to European PRTR rules
- Verification Statement of the TÜV Rheinland

12-13 APPENDIX

- German Responsible Care program: guiding principles
- The Responsible Care board
- Responsible Care contacts at the VCI



## Innovation and Responsibility

The public debate frequently gives the impression that sustainable management and industrial production stand in contradiction to each other. This does not apply to the chemical industry. For us, the sustainable management of finite resources has been an important leitmotif for a long time. Energy and climate protection are good examples. Chemistry has broken the link between production growth and energy consumption: over the past two decades our output has increased by over 50 percent while energy consumption, and thus also greenhouse gas emissions, have dropped significantly. A global comparison of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and industrial economic performance shows that a more climate-friendly approach in industrial production can hardly be found anywhere else outside Germany. It is worth noting that our products help achieve further emission reductions: in the course of their life cycles, chemical products save twice the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions that their production causes. With continuous innovations, this savings effect will increase at least to a ratio of 3:1 by the year 2030.

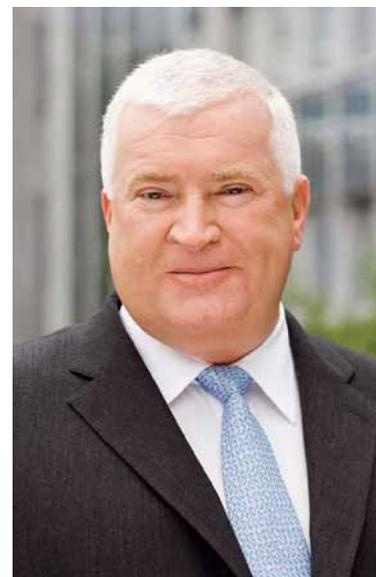
In view of the global challenges of the future, the innovations provided by industry need to be used more intensively: to save energy, to develop low-carbon technologies and to open up new energy sources. Only innovative industrial products will put us in a position to secure food for the growing world population, to develop new forms of mobility and to improve health in an ageing society. The chemical industry is an indispensable partner and problem-solver. As an "industry for industry", chemistry supplies many essential inputs to other industrial sectors. For example, new materials from chemical companies enable innovative leaps in customer industries. Wind turbines, electric vehicles and low-energy houses are not the products of individual, allegedly "green" eco-sectors; they are the outcomes of cooperation between many different industries.

As an important industry, the chemical industry also makes major contributions to the social aspects of sustainability: chemical companies provide well-paid employment and vocational training in highly qualified and future-oriented careers. Chemical employers and the chemical industrial union are an excellent example of a successful social partnership.

An international standard with guidance on social responsibility of organizations came out in November 2010. Such guidance is nothing new for the chemical industry. For over 20 years now, chemical companies have been able to orient their activities to the guiding principles of our international initiative "Responsible Care/Verantwortliches Handeln", which makes important contributions in the sense of sustainable development. Further relevant details about this initiative and other achievements in the fields of environment, safety and health are published in this Responsible Care Report.

There is an even better option to find out more: come and see us. Many chemical companies will be glad to welcome visitors to the nationwide Open Day on Saturday, 24 September 2011. Here in Germany, this action day will be the highlight of the "International Year of Chemistry 2011".

You are most cordially invited!



Dr. Klaus Engel

President  
Verband der Chemischen Industrie e.V.

## “Chemistry – our life, our future” United Nations proclaim 2011 as the “International Year of Chemistry”

Under the theme “Chemistry – our life, our future” the year 2011 has been proclaimed the “International Year of Chemistry” by the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN). The chemical industry and scientific organizations and institutes are inviting the general public to attend events in companies and universities, to visit exhibitions and to take part in competitions, with the chance to discover new, remarkable and exciting facts from the fascinating world of chemistry – throughout the year. One of the highlights will be the Open Day of the German chemical industry on Saturday, 24 September 2011.



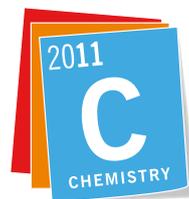
*On 30 December 2008 the 63th General Assembly in New York has proclaimed the year 2011 as the “International Year of Chemistry” (view into the General Assembly hall).*

The International Year of Chemistry 2011 is intended to create and enhance public awareness of the fundamental importance of chemistry. The focus is on the development of alternative energy sources and food for the growing world population. The International Year of Chemistry 2011 is coordinated globally by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).

Activities in Germany are coordinated by the “Forum Chemie” which consists of partner organizations from science and research, the chemical industry, and social partners within the chemical industry and the statutory accident insurance:

- Federal Employers' Organization of the Chemical Industry (BAVC)
- Employers' Liability Insurance Association Raw Materials and Chemical Industry (BG RCI)
- German Bunsen Society for Physical Chemistry (DBG)
- Chemical Industry Fund (FCI)
- German Chemical Society (GDCh)
- Society for Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology (DECHEMA)
- Mining, Chemical and Energy Industrial Union (IG BCE)
- Association of Employed Academics and Executives in the Chemical Industry (VAA)
- German Chemical Industry Association (VCI)

Websites for the International Year of Chemistry 2011 are available on the internet; Germany: [www.ijc2011.de](http://www.ijc2011.de); international: [www.ijc2011.org](http://www.ijc2011.org)



International Year of  
**CHEMISTRY**  
2011

## An insight into the chemical industry Nationwide Open Day 2011

A live experience of the fascinating world of chemistry – this can become possible on Saturday 24 September 2011, when many chemical companies and universities will open their doors.

The 7th nationwide Open Day will give visitors a direct insight into production plants and laboratories of the chemical industry and the activities of numerous universities and scientific institutes. Visitors can see for themselves what is being researched and manufactured, in order to enable a healthier and better life for people.



For two decades the chemical industry in Germany has been regularly inviting neighbours, families and friends of staff and all other interested citizens to large-scale action days. Staff in research laboratories, development centres, training facilities and production plants are looking forward to the dialog with visitors. They will also provide information about vocational training opportunities in Germany's fourth largest industry. Furthermore, they will explain safety measures and environmental protection activities.

The previous Open Day in 2006 attracted almost half a million visitors. 250 chemical companies and 30 scientific institutes throughout Germany were involved. Since 1990 nearly 2.5 million people have visited production plants and laboratories to get their own first-hand picture of chemistry.

With an announcement campaign in newspapers, magazines and on the radio the initiative "Chemistry in Dialog" is drawing attention to the Open Day 2011. The VCI and its regional associations are actively supporting companies in its implementation.

Who? When? Where? Answers to these questions will be given in 2011 on the website [www.vci.de](http://www.vci.de)



## Good for quality of life and secure jobs Representative survey shows: stable reputation of the chemical industry



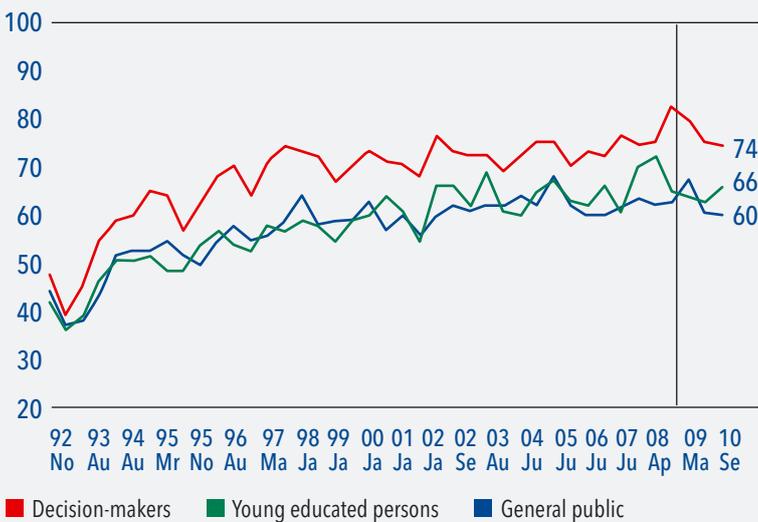
Modern chemical companies manufacture a wide range of innovative products and offer many secure, future-oriented jobs and training opportunities.

Most members of the general public in Germany see the chemical industry in a positive light and recognize the benefits provided by this industry. There is also stronger trust in chemistry, and the call for more control is getting weaker. Young educated persons are particularly critical when answering questions about responsibility. These are the most important results of a representative survey which was conducted in September 2010 by the opinion research institute TNS-Infratest on behalf of the initiative "Chemistry in Dialog" (CID).



### Overall image chemistry

The general public sees the chemical industry mainly in a positive light



Source: TNS Infratest survey from 19.08. – 17.09.2010

60 percent of the general public are mainly positive about chemistry. An impressive 74 percent of decision-makers take a positive attitude towards the chemical industry; this attitude is shared by 66 percent of young educated persons. All in all, the reputation of chemistry is stable in society.

According to the TNS-Infratest survey, the chemical industry can continue to count on wide approval by the general public in Germany: 60 percent of the respondents are mainly positive about this industry. An impressive 74 percent of decision-makers take a positive attitude towards chemistry; this attitude is shared by 66 percent of young educated persons. All in all, the reputation of chemistry in society remained stable as compared with the previous year. The chemical industry also successfully defended its rank in a comparison of industries. However, the pharmaceutical industry lost 10 percentage points in the annual comparison – as a reaction to the health reform debate.

It is encouraging that roughly half of the respondents from the general public consider the chemical industry as an industry that they can trust. This position is also taken by 62 percent of decision-makers, which results in an increase by 10 percentage points against the previous year. The described trend is also reflected in a much weaker call for stricter control of the chemical industry: this demand is made by only 47 percent of respondents from the general public, as compared with 55 percent last year.

Outstanding results were achieved for detailed aspects, such as the statement "Chemistry offers jobs which are secure for the future". 66 percent of the general public (plus 5) and

80 percent of decision-makers (plus 11) think so. 62 percent of respondents (plus 11) believe that the chemical industry creates many new openings for vocational training. But it should not be forgotten that these high acceptance levels are based to a considerable degree on the unexpectedly fast recovery from the economic crisis. Past experience shows that the positive opinion climate weakens with the progressing economic upswing.

Acceptance of the benefits provided by chemistry remains high. 79 percent of respondents are convinced that the chemical industry manufactures indispensable products. 71 percent are certain that products from the chemical industry make important contributions to the quality of life.

On the downside, there are clearly less positive results among young educated persons, where so-called "responsibility criteria" are concerned. Here some examples: "Safety measures are improving continually" (minus 13 percent) or "Gives more open information than in the past" (minus 8 percent). This target group is highly sensitive to problematic issues and frequently links chemistry with occurrences that are not directly connected with the chemical industry. For example, it is striking that members of this group often negatively associate chemistry with the oil platform accident in the Gulf of Mexico or with foodstuff issues.

For many companies, communication on Responsible Care is an important instrument for strengthening the trust of the general public, as is shown by the VCI's data gathered for this RC report. Based on these data, an index will be developed to enable trend statements on the use of Responsible Care in communication – for the first time in 2011.

Already many companies mention Responsible Care on their internet websites and in publications. An official commitment by the executive management to Responsible Care is the method of choice for documenting the pursuit of a responsible management style to both staff and neighbours. The gathered data substantiate that RC reports are popular communication tools, e.g. in print form for neighbours or for download on the internet.

The VCI supports companies with an internet page on Responsible Care: [www.responsible-care.de](http://www.responsible-care.de)

The VCI's regional associations encourage the dialog with the general public in many ways. Some examples are given in the German-language version of this RC report.



## Responsible Care Awards for exemplary education

With the project "Get-in-form" the foundry chemicals manufacturer Hüttenes-Albertus GmbH (Düsseldorf and Hannover) won two Responsible Care awards! This is the first German mid-sized business which received the Responsible Care Award of the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic). The project combines handicraft and moulding and shaping lessons in schools with components of natural science knowledge. Coordinator Thomas Graf presented the project at the European RC conference in Zurich (top photo). "Get-in-form" also received the first prize of the Responsible Care Award of our regional association VCI North.

The regional association VCI North in Hannover awarded prizes for contributions to "Education right from the start" (photo above). The second prize went to the copper manufacturer Aurubis AG (Hamburg) for the qualification and training programme "9-Plus", which this company implements together with the all-day school Slomanstieg and the school authority of Hamburg-Veddel. The project wants to provide extra qualification for youngsters, often with a migration background, who cannot find vocational training positions after leaving the "Hauptschule" (the shortest form of schooling in Germany which lasts 9 years).

Another second prize went to Bayer MaterialScience AG for a practice-oriented project which provides future teachers with a good insight into the industrial world of work. This project was prepared jointly with the Institute for Quality Development of Schools in Schleswig-Holstein (IQSH).

The special prize was awarded to the community kindergarten of Himmelpforten (Stade district), in recognition of efforts to familiarize young children with the laws of nature. With support from Dow Deutschland Anlagengesellschaft mbH (Stade), interactive experiments are integrated in a playful manner in the daily schedule.

## Basis of the data survey for this report Adaptation to European PRTR rules

With the data and facts presented in this Responsible Care Report the VCI maintains its orientation to indicators of international chemical associations, as published in 1998. However, after many years of continuity, the data submitted last year were no longer fully comparable with those of earlier years – for the following reason: Responsible Care reporting in Germany is adapted to the new situation, which arises with the obligation to report certain types of data to the official European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR). Now our relevant indicators rely on official data gathered by public authorities, which they published for the first time in 2009. These data refer to the reporting year 2007 and have been continued for the year 2008.



### Chemistry indicators from the PRTR data collection

Source: German Federal Environment Agency (UBA), status October 2010; extra evaluation for the VCI (rounded)

■ 2007 ■ 2008

Pollutant releases to air (in '000 tonnes)		
Nitrogen oxides (NO <sub>x</sub> )		19,9 19,6
Volatile organic compounds (NMVOC)		10,4 11,5
Sulphur oxides (SO <sub>x</sub> /SO <sub>2</sub> )		15,9 15,4
Releases (direct discharges) to water (in '000 tonnes)		
AOX*		0,8 0,6
Total phosphorus		3,2 3,0
COD** as TOC***		86,1 72,0
Nitrogen		47,4 41,1
*AOX = adsorbable organic halogen compounds **COD = chemical oxygen demand ***TOC = total organic carbon		
Waste for disposal (in million tonnes)		
Hazardous waste		0,43 0,47
Non-hazardous waste		0,50 0,50

For some official indicators, the VCI and the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA) jointly tried to find out why the highlighted trends did not match the series of data which had been compiled earlier by industry on a voluntary basis. Especially regarding releases into water and some releases into air. There were partly significant discrepancies.

The main underlying reasons were the classification of reporting companies into different industrial sectors, as well as issues of reporting discipline and certain thresholds of the PRTR.

Therefore, our most cordial thanks go to the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) for an extra evaluation of PRTR data for the German chemical-pharmaceutical industry. The targeted evaluation of these data enables a more realistic picture of pollutant emissions from chemistry in Germany. Furthermore, there was an official correction of data for the reporting year 2007 according to the same system. This puts the table of indicators from PRTR reporting for the years 2007 and 2008 in a more realistic perspective, with individual trends continuing those in the series of data that had been compiled voluntarily in the past. From the VCI's viewpoint, uncertainties include the two following factors:

First, official PRTR data reporting on water pollutants differentiates between "release" and "transfer". The chemical industry focused in its survey entirely on direct discharges from chemistry and followed their developments since the early 80s. The strong decrease in direct discharges for almost all indicators resulted from process-integrated environmental protection (beside end-of-pipe measures), avoiding pollutants as early as in production.



According to the PRTR reporting system, release into water means exclusively emissions from direct discharges. By contrast, indirect discharges are described as the off-site transfer of pollutants in waste water destined for waste water treatment beyond the boundaries of a facility. In reporting for 2007, this differentiation ignored the existence of over 40 chemical parks in Germany. They usually operate waste water treatment plants for the companies located inside the chemical parks, so that these companies do not release their pollutants into water but transfer them in waste water via the chemical parks. Back in 2007, reporting by chemical parks had not been included in relevant figures for the chemical industry.

This Responsible Care Report refers to the extra evaluation by the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) for the VCI, so that both the releases of pollutants into water from ca. 50 chemical companies and, to a considerably higher degree, also releases into water from chemical parks are taken into account for the year 2008. This shows that some 10 percent of reported volumes are attributable to chemical companies whereas 90 percent were usually reported by chemical parks. The VCI is confident that this inclusion of chemical parks now corrects last year's problems in depicting the German chemical industry. Against this backdrop, we have – partly strongly – adapted the figures for the year 2007, too, in this Responsible Care Report.

Second, data for waste reduction for the years 2007 and 2008 call for similar considerations. Sustainable waste management has for years now played a key role in the chemical industry, with systematic waste avoidance and efforts to use production waste as a resource. This has made the amount of waste for disposal within the chemical industry independent

from production growth. The chemical industry makes sure that waste is used both for material recycling and for energy recovery. In view of the rising cost of energy, energy recovery is gaining in importance.

For various reasons, no direct comparison is possible between earlier data collected by the VCI and the PRTR data reported from 2007. Most importantly, in official data reporting the industry park operators fall into the energy sector or into waste and water sectors. Therefore, they need to be counted individually for the chemical industry. Moreover, we assume that waste, which is handled inside the complex interlinked system ("Verbund") of the chemical industry is partly counted multiple times. This tends to increase waste volumes, as compared with the VCI survey. On the other hand, it can be assumed that reporting thresholds for waste (from two tonnes per year for hazardous waste and from 2,000 tonnes per year for non-hazardous waste) resulted in lower reporting than in earlier VCI surveys.

It is also worth noting that official statistics of the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) distinguish between waste for recycling and waste for disposal. A comparison between the earlier VCI survey and today's PRTR reporting is only possible if such comparison is based solely on waste for disposal. In this Responsible Care Report, we have been able to take this into account for the years 2007 and 2008.

*The German Federal Environment Agency in Dessau-Roßlau, exterior.*

## Continuously strong demand for professional help from TUIS

In 2009 TUIS provided professional help in some 1000 transport accidents involving chemical products. This was done nationwide on a voluntary basis.

A more detailed breakdown: expert advice over the telephone (stage 1) was given in 766 cases, expert advice on the spot (stage 2) was granted in 46 cases, and technical assistance on the spot (stage 3) was rendered in 186 cases. In total, fire brigades and police forces have requested advice and assistance in over 26,000 cases since the start of the TUIS system.



## Fewer greenhouse gases

Climate protection is a central challenge that needs to be faced jointly by politicians, society and industry. The German chemical industry was early to realize this fact. Against this backdrop, the German chemical industry entered into a voluntary agreement in 1996 and – in an extended form – in 2001, with a view to reducing its emissions of the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) by at least 45 percent by the year 2012.

Good progress has been made so far. Up until 2008 chemical companies reduced their own, energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and nitrous oxide emissions combined by more than 37 percent, as compared with 1990 – simultaneously with a production increase of 58 percent. As regards CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, all measures to meet the above target have been largely implemented. Final measures to stabilize nitrous oxide emissions at a sufficiently low level for achieving the reduction target will be implemented by the end of 2012.

### Chemicals transported 2000–2009

in million tonnes

	2000	2008	2009
Road	49.300	49.882	46.474
Railway	15.071	17.114	15.615
Pipeline	42.530	25.007	24.974
Inland waterways	19.130	9.712	10.195
Marine transport	9.547	9.251	9.365
<b>Total</b>	<b>135.578</b>	<b>110.966</b>	<b>106.623</b>

Source: VCI surveys

## Active involvement of companies in RC reporting

After a clearly lower number of reporting companies in 2009 the total of VCI members who contributed data to this Responsible Care Report was back to the high level of earlier years. The VCI managed to convince over 80 companies to participate for the first time in RC reporting. All in all, the VCI received data input from some 600 companies. The number of staff represented by reporting companies once more went up as compared with the previous year, so that data in this report provide a picture for around 75 percent of the chemical-pharmaceutical industry in Germany. It is worth mentioning that small and mid-sized enterprises have a stronger role than ever before in RC reporting.

## Verification Statement

### Introduction

We have performed a verification audit to validate the data gathering methods as well as essential components of the Responsible Care Report 2010 by Verband der Chemischen Industrie (VCI) (in the following: "the report"). The report and all contractual contents of this verification audit rest entirely within the responsibility of the VCI. Our mandate was to give an assessment based on the review performed by us. Our work is based on the standard ISAE 3000 ("Assurance Engagements other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information") of the "International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board".

The purpose and subject of the mandate were agreed with the management of the VCI department Scientific, Technical and Environmental Affairs and comprise the elements of the mandate on which we have made our statements below. The reviewed reporting period stretches from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009 and extends to some projects from the year 2010.

### Verification method

Our judgement is based on the principles of inclusivity, substantiality, materiality, accuracy and completeness of the data and information provided. Our work comprised analytical methods and interviews as well as a review involving sampling, in order to verify consistency of the mentioned elements of the mandate with relevant requirements. Our work included interviews with representatives from the VCI at the VCI headquarters in Frankfurt as well as personal and telephone interviews with participating companies of our choice, with respect to performance data and reporting within the PRTR. On-site reviews of reported data were carried out, with checks down to document level on a sample basis. This course of action is used for the purpose of verification. A review of quoted and referenced documents was not performed. However, there was reasonable proof that information in the report is identical with information in the source documents quoted.

We take the view that our work provides a sufficiently reliable basis for assessing the elements of the mandate at a limited level of assurance.

### Results

In conclusion, we can note in all essential matters that we have found no facts which would be to the contrary of the following statements:

1. The VCI has systematic processes for the gathering and plausibility check of:
  - a. Site-related information from member companies, especially regarding
  - b. personnel data including occupational accidents and numbers of vocational trainees,
  - c. performance data about health, safety and environmental protection, and
  - d. the reporting requirement under the PRTR.

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2. The performance data in the company samples reviewed by us were gathered systematically, and they are essentially identical with the source documentation submitted to us.
3. The VCI is working on a continuation of the Responsible Care programme and includes the aspects of ISO 26000 in relevant activities.
4. The VCI is practising Responsible Care reporting according to the VCI's reporting goals and principles as described in the introduction to the report.
5. Individual CSR projects concerning information for young people, schools and teachers and advanced and vocational training were assessed.
6. The VCI engages in talks with external interest and stakeholder groups (stakeholder dialogues). This also includes critical groups.

### Summary assessment

At the above-mentioned limited level of assurance, we assume that the VCI operates a useful and appropriate system for covering and monitoring the Responsible Care activities of its members. We have laid down our proposals for improvements and suggestions in the audit report.

Cologne, 18 January 2011

signed:   
by proxy Dr. Peter Buhl  
Head of Business Unit Industry

signed:   
Aiko Bode  
Head of Audit

## German Responsible Care program: guiding principles

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Safety and protection of human health and the environment are of fundamental importance. For this reason, company managements are required to define guidelines for Responsible Care which are oriented towards this paramount principle. In addition, measures and procedures shall be defined that enable implementation of these guidelines in everyday practice by the company and its employees. Such guidelines shall be reviewed periodically and, where appropriate, adjusted to new requirements.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ The companies strengthen their employees' awareness of safety and the environment. They increase their employees' sensitivity to potential environmental burdens as a result of products or plant operations.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ The companies of the chemical industry respect the general public's need for transparency in connection with products, processes and activities, on the basis of a constructive approach.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ The companies of the chemical industry continuously improve the safety of their products: in the selection of raw materials, in production, storage, transportation, distribution, use, recycling and disposal. They take into account health, safety and environmental aspects, both in the development of new products and production processes and in the dialog with buyers, processing enterprises and users.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ In accordance with their product responsibility, the companies of the chemical industry provide information about the safe transport, storage, safe use, recycling and disposal of their products. This applies in particular to buyers, processing enterprises and users.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ The companies of the chemical industry work continuously on extending their knowledge of products and production processes, in particular with respect to potential impacts on human health and the environment during all phases of the product lifecycle.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ Irrespective of economic interests, the companies of the chemical industry shall limit the marketing of products or discontinue production, if the results of a scientific risk assessment call for such limitation or discontinuation as a precautionary measure to protect human health and the environment.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ The companies of the chemical industry operate safe production plants. Should any risk endangering human health or the environment become recognisable, the companies shall take immediate action as required. In so doing, they shall cooperate closely with competent authorities and inform the public.
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ The companies of the chemical industry make available their knowledge and experience in the development of workable and effective laws, regulations and standards, with the aim of constantly ensuring the protection of human health and the environment.
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ The companies of the chemical industry maintain and encourage the dialog with their stakeholders.
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ The companies of the chemical industry support the national Responsible Care program. In order to comply with RC principles, they provide sufficient resources to enable implementation in the company.

*Only the German language version is the official document.*

## The Responsible Care board

Status: 31 December 2010

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[www.responsible-care.de](http://www.responsible-care.de)

### Responsible Care

The VCI supports the global  
Responsible Care initiative.

