



11th Cefic LRI Annual Workshop

19 November 2009

Hubert Mandery

“LRI – Responsible Care in Practice”

Good Morning, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you as the new Cefic Director General and to see that the LRI annual event, now in its 11th edition, has grown into this major gathering of stakeholders from various disciplines and bringing different expertise, all committed to making the Cefic LRI programme coherent, ambitious and relevant.

I am very glad that the relevance and impact of the LRI programme will be the central focus of this workshop as, to me, LRI is all about responsible engagement, long-term commitment and strong added value for decision-making.

Added value because robust decision making is vital for the competitiveness of Europe, especially as data generation has become easier, with scientific results, facts and figures making it even more complex for business and regulators – all in all with a clear impact on the public acceptance of innovation.

Responsible engagement in the shaping of chemical policies, because in May 2009 during the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (which most of you know as ICCM2) , 8 CEOs committed on behalf of the chemical industry to the ICCA Global Product Strategy – one pillar of which is LRI.

And **long-term** as, despite the current economic crisis, we have not lost sight of our objectives. Indeed we have managed to keep the momentum going with six forward-looking projects in the coming weeks in areas that are crucial for the chemical industry's innovation potential.

Innovation is not what innovators do. Innovation is what society adopts. A lack of public acceptance due to one single scientific finding can cause time delays for the market introduction of innovations. It should be underlined that, in most cases, innovation means uncertainty. This is why, in order to reduce hazard-based precautionary approaches and bring back science as the basis for policymaking, we have continued on our way to refocus the LRI programme. Requests for proposals have been published extensively in the areas of:

- Acceptance of new technologies (such as nanomaterials)

- Exposure (including mixtures) and
- Instruments to deal with uncertainty (such as guidance for health impact assessment).

Because LRI has been on the frontlines of so many subjects and with so many audiences (including academia, government institutions and NGOs), it is in a unique position to provide us with an early warning on emerging issues. We still have a lot of work ahead but ten years of scientific advancement in environment and health research has meant that LRI is now one of the EU's trusted voices at the science/policy interface. However we have to recognize that communication of the LRI results to a wider audience would benefit to the programme.

LRI makes it possible to gather and create high-quality scientific knowledge to contribute to reliable and efficient decisions – both at the public and private level. Through the integration of various scientific disciplines (molecular biology and health, toxicology and social science), it has opened up many doors and strengthened the position of our industry towards policymakers and public bodies as a trustworthy partner.

Not only does it contribute significantly to pragmatic solutions, but industry is willing to act on relevant scientific results. Let me remind you that, in the endocrine debate, we are the only stakeholder to come up with a published screening and testing egy.

It is definitely not SMEs priorities to run a big network of experts in the implementation of technical guidance documents. LRI has developed pragmatic approaches to implement these often very complex and huge documents.

Take for example the AMBIT database, which is officially launched at this workshop. This LRI-funded project is a very effective tool and cost-effective approach to better use existing toxicology data and reduce animal testing.

And this is just an example of LRI's achievements. Without LRI, a lot of science-based decisions – within both the chemical industry and regulatory bodies – would not have been possible.

Not to mention the efficient use of resources, as know-how is exchanged throughout a number of global companies and associations, including within the ICCA LRI.

And this is just an example of the real value of the LRI programme. I am sure you will hear about many more during the course of the day.

Cefic will remain committed to running an active high-quality LRI in the future. We invite academia, governments and NGOs to work together with us to contribute to ensure a sustainable future for us all.

I hope for a fruitful discussion of these issues and I wish you a very informative and successful event, not only looking back but also looking forward.