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Malta: Corporate Social Responsibility and Emissions Trading seminar

The Cleaner Technology Centre in collaboration with the Faculty of Laws of the University of Malta organised a half-day seminar entitled "Social Corporate Responsibility & the Emissions Trading Directive – Challenges and Opportunities" on 24th May 2005.

This seminar was one of a continuous series of events organised by the Cleaner Technology Centre targeting industry in its mission to introduce the Cleaner Production concept.



Seminar backdrop

The keynote speaker, Prof Kurt Deketelaere from the Catholic University of Leuven, delivered a presentation on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and the Environment.

CSR is the business contribution to our sustainable development goals. Essentially, it is about how business takes account of its economic, social and environmental impacts in the way it operates – maximising the benefits and minimising the downsides. Specifically, CSR is the voluntary actions that business can take, over and above compliance with minimum legal requirements, to address both its own competitive interests and the interests of society at large.



Keynote speaker Prof. Deketelaere giving a presentation at the seminar

Professor Deketelaere also gave a short presentation on the Emissions Trading Directive.

Other speakers at the seminar included Mr Godwin C. Micallef (FOI, Council Member) who presented the industry's point of view with regards to CSR, Professor Robert Ghirlando (Former Chairman, Enemalta) discussed Tradable White, Green and Black certificates, a tool for achieving greenhouse gas emission reductions efficiently, and Mr Saviour Vassallo from the Ministry of the Environment discussed the Emissions Trading Directive from a local perspective.

The seminar was well attended by a cross section from Industry, State Officials and Academia.

For further information and details, contact RAC/CP National Focal Point for Malta:



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Bosnia and Herzegovina: Finalization of the POEMS-BiH project

POEMS (Pollution Prevention and Environmental Management System) is a methodology developed by the Czech Environment Management Center (CEMC) to implement environmental management systems (ISO 14001).

POEMS-BiH started in April 2004, with four companies that expressed an interest in participating: "Žica" – metal processing, "Ferimpex"- chips production, "Sarajevska pivara" – beer and beverages production and "Vegafruit" – vegetable and fruit processing. The main project objective was capacity building of SMEs in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the implementation of environmental management systems (EMS). The final goal was to carry out an internal audit to get the verification of environmental management system (EMS) according to ISO 14001. All representatives from the industries participated in the interactive combination of in-class study and demonstration actions over 12 seminars, and were finally certified as internal auditors of environmental management systems by the Czech Environmental Management Center (CEMC).



The Executive Director of CEMC, Mr Jiri Student, opening the final seminar

The POEMS-BiH project is financed by the Czech Environmental Management Center (CEMC) and the Government of the Czech Republic through the Department for International Support. The national consultant for POEMS-BiH project is the Center for Environmentally Sustainable Development (CESD) Sarajevo.

The final consulting seminar within the POEMS-BiH project (Capacity Building for implementation of Environmental Management Systems according to ISO 14001 in Bosnia and Herzegovina) was held on 8 July 2005, in Sarajevo, organized by the Centre for Environmentally Sustainable Development. On this occasion, the certificates have been awarded to the representatives of industries participating in the project implementation, as well as letters of thanks to the individuals and organizations that supported the project.



Lunch break at the "Dom Pisaca" restaurant in Sarajevo

POEMS-BiH is one of the POEMS projects that the Czech Environmental Management Center (CEMC) is implementing in Ukraine, Serbia and Monte Negro and Macedonia. The final meeting of all national coordinators of the POEMS projects will take place in Prague in October 2005.

For more information about the project, see: <http://www.coor.ba/en/poems.html>

You can also contact Ms Dragana Selmanagic – National Project Coordinator and Ms Sanda Midzic, RAC/CP National Focal Point for Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the following address:

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Advanced seminar on pollution prevention in the dairy industry

During 11-16 July 2005, an advanced seminar on pollution prevention in the dairy industry took place in Barcelona. 21 representatives from the civil service and technicians from the following countries participated in the seminar: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Mauritania, the Palestinian Territories and Tunisia.



Managing the Fun Factory

The seminar was organised by the Centre for the Enterprises and the Environment (CEMA), the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD) and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI). This is the second initiative that CEMA has undertaken within the framework of the Azahar Programme, which is a Spanish cooperation programme for development in the Mediterranean with regard to sustainable development, environmental protection and preservation of natural resources.



Working group discussing during one of the practical activities of the seminar

The objective of this seminar was to facilitate the application of pollution prevention alternatives by means of improving the ecoefficiency of production processes and thus, contributing to the effective reduction of pollution generated by one of the key sectors in the Mediterranean region: the milk and dairy products industry.



The group visits a dairy factory in Catalonia

Experts and professionals from the industry led both theoretical and practical sessions in the seminar. This consisted of a combination of technical sessions, visits to installations and a round table to allow participants and industrialists (mainly from Catalonia) to exchange experiences. The experience exchange session proved to be of great use for the Mediterranean representatives who travelled to Barcelona, as the

industrialists in the round table gave their opinions on a significant number of environmental problems raised by the participants.

Seminar Programm

France and Environmental Management

1) Presentation of ADEME

ADEME (Environment and Energy Management Agency) is a State-funded Industrial and Commercial Research Centre that was founded in 1992 and placed under the supervision of the three ministries in charge of the Environment, Industry and Research. More than 800 people work for ADEME in the three Central Services offices (Angers, Valbonne and Paris) and the local offices in each one of the 26 regions of France. ADEME is closely related to the application of government policies related to the environment and energy.

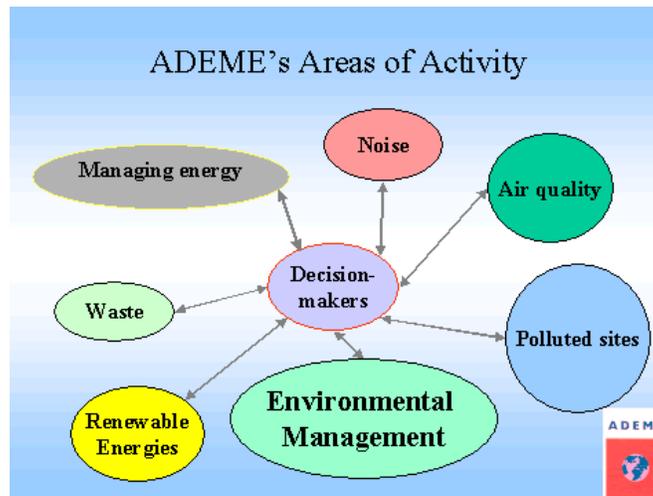
ADEME



The main missions of ADEME are to encourage economic agents, local groups and individuals to take into account energy and environmental matters (except water related activities). They are based on three types of competence:

- Technical and scientific expertise to encourage Research and Development into practices and technologies to promote communication, innovation and training.
- Assistance in decision making with regard to setting up projects: advice and recommendations for groups and companies.
- Dissemination of good housekeeping practices.

ADEME Mission Statement



2) Environmental Management

2.1. General Presentation

The basis for environmental policies in many countries is still constituted by a traditional regulatory approach. Now, the Authorities are seeking to promote a new method that encourages more than it penalises, that is to say, closer involvement of economic agents in voluntary approaches. Indeed, the environment is gradually becoming one of the main elements of company management. This is why companies and especially SMEs, which are aware of the importance of the environment in their development strategies (particularly to ensure the longevity of their activities) are becoming more and more involved in this type of voluntary environmental management approach.

Generally speaking, there are two types of approach: approaches centred on production sites and approaches centred on products. In theory this distinction is very clear, but in practical terms even though their development stages are very different, these two approaches have many points in common and they both contribute to the environmental improvement of the activities in question.

Organisation approach: In the dissemination phase, although French companies are somewhat behind with regard to establishing site environmental management, it constitutes an internal company management tool that is founded on continuous improvement. Whether the results of this approach is Eco-Audit or ISO 14001, it is the responsibility of the manufacturers to take immediate action in this area. Moreover, it represents a good tool for professional and local communication.

Product approach: This goes beyond the limitations of the company as it takes into account the stages of the product life cycle. This approach falls into the category of internal and external industrial management. This leads to designing or improving products by integrating a global vision of the environment. This still relatively marginal approach constitutes a complementary and promising method that is capable of conveying the environmental efforts that have been undertaken to the final consumers.

2.2. ADEME and site approaches

Since the early 90s, ADEME has been working with industrial companies in environmental approaches that in 1995 led to the development of a methodological and pedagogical tool called the Environment-Enterprise Plan (EEP). The following year, the ISO 14001 standard on the environment was published. Additionally, a working group called EEP 2000 consisting of companies, research departments, the network of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and ADEME was constituted to develop the tool and to ensure its compliance with the standard.

The Environment-Enterprise Plan (EEP 2000) is:

A methodological tool to help companies to take the environment into account.
 while respecting the progressiveness and dynamics of each company.

A pedagogical tool, that covers
 all environmental matters
 all the demands of the ISO 14001 standard.

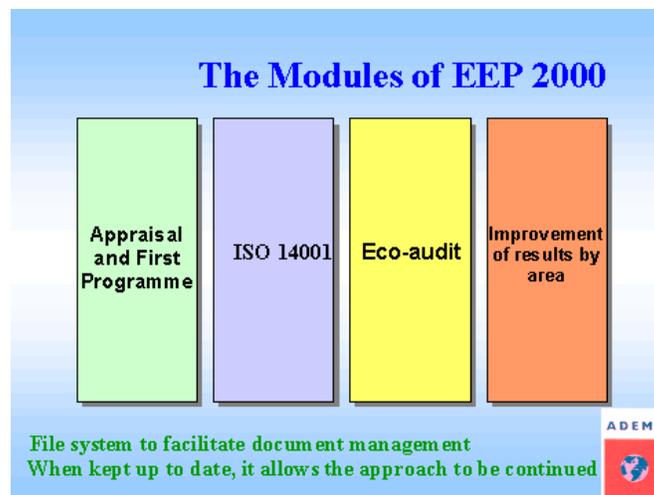
The involvement of a company in an environmental management approach and the establishment of the EEP above all require a high level of managerial motivation. It must be undertaken in association with an external agent (research department or a professional organisation such as a technical centre) that will explain and validate the approach.

In order to guide companies with respect to their environmental approaches, ADEME has drawn up three technical guides for each stage (prior evaluation, evaluation of the premises, evaluation of the environmental management system). It has also established a financial framework for this type of association (number of days, minimum price per day) and a list of agents.

The EEP is distributed by ADEME and the network of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. It costs 100 euros.

Current distribution level of the EEP: more than 2000 copies.

2.3 The different modules of the EEP



The EEP is made up of 4 modules. The main two are "Appraisal" and "ISO 14001". The "Eco-audit" is a complement and the "improvement of results" corresponds to other ADEME actions in the following areas (waste, energy, air, transport...) or the Water Agency.

The first module, the "Appraisal – first programme" is a self-assessment undertaken by the company with the support of an external agent (research department, technical centre...) that enables a "snapshot" of the company at a given time to be taken.

This involves:

- an appraisal of the environmental situation of the company covering all environmental matters:
- a global approach: background, analysis of the administrative system,
- a thematic approach: energy, water, air, waste, noise, soil and sub-soil, landscape,
- a first programme detailing the improvements to be made, the means to be employed, deadlines... while respecting the progressiveness and dynamics of each company.

If the company so desires, it can participate in the second stage (module ISO 14001) with the construction of an EMS (Environmental Management System) in order to manage critical points with regard to environmental impact.

3) Management Activities in the Midi-Pyrénées.

To conclude, there follows a list of the activities undertaken in the Midi-Pyrénées region with regard to cooperation in management programmes.

The Midi-Pyrénées Regional Environmental Management Programme

Its objectives include the development of a policy to encourage management of the environmental impact of industrial activity in the Midi-Pyrénées region and the undertaking of activities to prepare companies in the Midi-Pyrénées region for ISO 14001 environmental certification in the best conditions.

An Institutional Steering Committee (Regional Council, the State, Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Regional Environment Agency (ARPE), the Water Agency, ADEME) was constituted to ensure, within the framework of the State-Region Plan, coherence with regard to financial interventions and technical competences to aid industrial companies that wish to adopt environmental management systems.

A Technical Committee composed of representatives of institutions of the Steering Committee verifies the suitability of the applications and makes proposals to the Steering Committee upon examination of proposed activities.

The organisations involved in this area are ADEME, ARPE, the Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Midi-Pyrénées Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The regional programme was conceived as complementary modules to support the PEE technical tool and it allows companies to progressively or globally apply a voluntary continuous improvement approach with regard to environmental action within the framework of a lasting development. In the 2000-2004 period, 260 companies were in the "Appraisal/Plan of Action" stage and 97 were in the EMS establishment phase. The objective of the regional programme is to allow 500 companies to take part in the approach. This figure represents 30% of the industrial and food processing companies with more than 20 employees in the region.

Information supplied by Mr Christophe Hévin, ADEME (Midi-Pyrénées Office).

For further information, please consult the following websites: <http://www.ademe.fr/> and www.ademe.fr/midi-pyrenees or contact Mr Hévin by email: christophe.hevin@ademe.fr

