

GRECO Award 2009 – Minutes of Meeting of the Adjudicating Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Adjudicating Committee for the GRECO Award 2009 held in Malta at the Old University Building in Valletta on the 15th January 2009.

Members present:

Prof Juan Antonio De Castro (Chairperson)
Dr Simone Borg (Co-Chairperson)
Ing Mark Azzopardi
Mr Mario Farrugia
Prof Robert Ghirlando
Mr Godwin C Micallef
Mr Anton Pizzuto (Coordinator)

2009 Award

Prof De Castro opened the meeting by stating the objective of the GRECO initiative, which was to promote GREEN COMPETITIVENESS. In other words, the promoters of this initiative wanted to dispel the notion that Clean Production was expensive and required heavy investments with no returns. On the contrary, they wished to show that many actions towards Clean Production can cost very little, and sometimes nothing, and can generate huge savings, often immediately.

For the first award to be presented during a forthcoming Conference being held in Monaco at the end of March, the Regional Activity Centre (CP/RAC) of Spain, the promoters of the award, decided to pick the winner from the 100 best MedClean cases that they had collected over the years and which they had published in their “GRECO – MedClean Report Overview”.

The task of this adjudicating committee was therefore to pick the winner out of these 100 cases.

The committee’s first task was to establish the criteria for the award. From the objectives of GRECO, as outlined by Prof De Castro (see above), it was clear that the winner had to be an organisation that had shown that it is possible to take actions that significantly reduce the environmental impact of its industrial process at minimum cost and maximum savings. The adjudicating committee noted with satisfaction that all 100 companies had made a significant contribution to environment protection. Therefore the winner had to be picked on economic considerations.

The main selection criteria were established as follows and in the following order of priority:

1. Low Investment and substantial clean production environmental benefits (pre-condition)
2. Lowest pay-back time
3. Highest net benefit after one year
4. Highest return on investment

It was also decided to divide the candidate projects into ten sectors with between one to three projects being short-listed in each sector. The best candidate in each sector was then chosen from amongst the preferred projects in each sector, with the other

shortlisted organisations as reserves in case that the chosen candidate is unable to be nominated, for whatever reason. Finally, the Committee decided to declare two projects as joint winners, out of these best projects (nominees), with a third one in reserve in case these two are unable to receive the award.

The Committee felt that it should recommend that all the nominees be invited to Monaco for the award ceremony, preferably also offering them an air ticket and/or accomodation. Each nominee would then be asked to make a short presentation (of five minutes) about his project, in a special session in parallel with the main Conference.

The Committee felt that it should recommend that the award should consist of a trophy or shield, the right to print the logo of the GRECO award and the year of the award on all its stationery and promotional material, and the offer of a free environmental audit by a professional consultant.

The successful nominees in each sector are shown in the table attached to these minutes.

Winners

The Adjudication Committee also decided that the following companies jointly-received the GRECO Initiative 2009 Award:

Un-named car battery company (1)	Tunisia	Shovel spilled paste back into hopper
Herbos d.d. (12)	Croatia	Change in process

The following company is being recommended as a reserve to receive the award in case the above two companies are not available to receive it:

Masa Décor (50)	Spain	Change in process
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Future awards

The committee discussed the procedure for future awards and decided to make the following recommendations to the organisers of the award.

The scheme would be launched at the forthcoming conference in Monaco at the end of March. Soon after, invitations would be issued in all Mediterranean countries to firms and organisations to submit applications for the award.

It is understood that the award will be a biennial event with the next award scheduled for 2011. Hence the closing date for applications should be the end of June 2010. This gives the adjudicating committee around nine months to evaluate applications and finalise their adjudication and report on the nominees and the winner.

With the closing date being the end of June 2010 and the event a biennial one, it is logical to ask applicants to submit details of projects carried out in 2008 and 2009.

It is important to facilitate the adjudication process as much as possible, particularly if the number of applications runs into thousands. Therefore the application forms should include questions that elicit enough information to (a) facilitate an automatic and possible computer based selection of the top candidate and (b) enough further information to select the right nominees and winners from among the computer generated shortlist.

To facilitate the selection by computer, it might be necessary to develop some form of index based on objective and quantifiable criteria.

Based on this year's experience, these criteria include:

- payback period – the lower the better
- size of investment – the lower the better (it might be appropriate to set a threshold - which could be made public for transparency)
- savings achieved – the higher the better
- innovation
- transferability of action to other organisations within the same sector as well as across sectors

The concept of nominating best performers in each sector would be continued, with the sectors based on the first two digits of the ISIC code.

If the RAC/PC agree to these recommendations, the committee would work on formulating an application form with the right questions as detailed above.

Project for Web-based Self-audit Software

Prof De Castro took advantage of this meeting to discuss with those present the idea of setting up a web-based self-audit software project. The idea would be to develop a software programme which would be downloadable for free from an appropriate website (that of the RAC?). The objective of this software would be to enable SMEs to carry out a self-audit without incurring the costs of engaging specialist consultants. The project would be carried out by a number of researchers from a number of Med countries (or their regional centres) working within a network. The first countries mentioned were Spain, Malta, Morocco and Egypt.

The software would have be developed in English in the first instance, English having today become the lingua franca of the world, but would then have to be translated into national languages, since it is unlikely that many SMEs would be familiar with English.

The question of funding was raised, and a number of possibilities mentioned. Prof De Castro will look into this issue.



Signed.....

Anton Pizzuto (Coordinator)