



Christian Westphal
President
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In 2015, the UN member states adopted the 2030 Agenda with its global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For the VCH and the chemical companies, which have been involved in the global Responsible Care initiative since the 1990s and are thus also committed to sustainability, it has since been important to understand the SDGs as a further global framework, and to recognize where overlaps and challenges for more sustainability in the industry can arise via the VCH program „Responsible Care - Responsible Action in Chemical Trading“.

The key factor here is to further anchor the contents of the SDGs in the supply chain via the Responsible Care concept. However, the chemical industry itself must also be seen as an important part of achieving greater sustainability: We have also reaffirmed this in the Responsible Care partnership agreement renewed this year between the VCH and the German Chemical Industry Association (VCI).

In the following, two Responsible Care representatives from VCH member companies report on the implementation of the initiative - also under the requirements associated with the 2030 Agenda.

innovative, sustainable or renewable products supports Goal 6 „Ensure access to clean water and sanitation for all“ and Goal 12 „Sustainable consumption and infrastructure“. In the organization, too, measures such as the promotion of young talent and mobile working with flexible working hours are drivers of sustainability. We also support the work-life balance of our employees with offers from external partners. All of this is aligned, for example, to Goal 3 „Health and well-being“ and Goal 8 „Decent work and economic growth“.



Noemi Dimiropoulos
RC-Coordinator, TER HELL
& CO GmbH, Hamburg

TER Chemicals has been part of the chemical trade for over a hundred years and knows from experience what matters most in the chemical industry. Our goal is clearly defined: We are your specialty chemical distributor of choice and our mission is to create added value for our customers, suppliers and employees - and do this in a sustainable way. Sustainability is an integral part of the TER Chemicals' corporate strategy contributing to a better future for all. This means providing a work environment that strengthens development, ensures

equality and allows zero tolerance for unethical, corrupt or immoral behavior. In addition to expanding our sustainable portfolio, we also focus on constantly monitoring changing laws and regulations, as well as ensuring the transparency of the supply chain. By participating in the Responsible Care program, we also decided back in 2009 to make our social responsibility transparent and comparable as part of the three-year plan. Thus, the Responsible Care program also represents the oldest cornerstone of the sustainability work at TER Chemicals.

As part of our latest sustainability strategy, we signed the UN Global Compact in spring 2021 and committed to contributing to the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To this end, we anchor the 10 principles of the UN Global Compact in our actions and promote the achievement of the SDGs alongside our key sustainability topics. In particular, we are focusing on eight SDGs to which we can contribute to a greater extent. For example, among others, offsetting our carbon footprint is an important milestone in achieving Goal 13 „Take action on climate change“. Expanding our green portfolio through

BTC Europe is BASF's European sales organization for SME customers focused on specialty chemicals, serving 17,000 customers in over 80 countries with more than 6,000 products and solutions. Sustainability is an increasingly important key factor for growth and value creation within BASF and BTC. Our commitment in the Responsible Care Initiative has been reinforced in February 2021 by BASF's Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors, Dr. Martin Brudermüller. The continuous improvement in environmental protection, health and safety shows the contribution made to sustainable business practices, but also the social responsibility BTC has committed to. We assess the potential weaknesses of all our activities and the effects of these on the safety and security of our employees, the environment or our surroundings. A central pillar of our commitment towards a more sustainable future is BASF's and BTC's contribution to the United Nations' Agenda 2030 and the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). BASF, being a co-founder of the U.N. Global Compact and a recognized LEAD company, supports the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 through products and solutions and a variety of different initiatives worldwide. At BTC, we strive to continuously extend our contribution to the UN goals on a smaller scale. With regards to our Corporate Health and Safety Management we live up to SDG 3 of the Agenda, which describes the promotion of a healthy life for all people of all ages and their well-being. We offer employees various medical examinations, a colorectal cancer screening, flu and COVID-19 vaccinations. Our employees learn resuscitation skills at first aid and defibrillator training courses. Free sports courses, relaxation seminars, and fitness challenges are also part of our activities. With respect to SDG 7, the access to affordable and clean energy for all, BTC continuously reduces energy consumption through the introduction of e-vehicles and various energy saving measures at our operating sites. We are also investing in renewable energy, above all through photovoltaics. With respect to SDG 12 and 13, which refer to responsible production, consumption and climate protection, BTC targets to significantly increase sales of Accelerator products, which have a substantial sustainability contribution in the value chain.



Christian Koenig
RC-Coordinator, BTC
Europe GmbH, Monheim





Since the launch of the Responsible Care program in 1996 „Responsible Care in the Chemical Trade“, the industry has been reporting on the implementation of the global Responsible Care initiative in its annual report. The basis remains the „Performance Measurement Indicators,“ which are used to show the development of many RC activities over a longer period of time. For the VCH companies, the values determined in this way also provide a basis for implementing the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

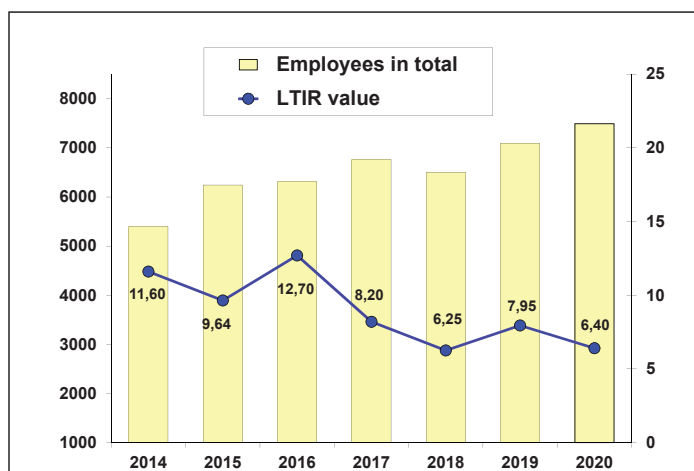
In addition to the annual data reporting, the monitoring of all activities under the program by independent experts from third parties ensures that „Responsible Care in the Chemical Trade“ is not just a matter of paying lip service: These experts monitor the progress of implementation - on the one hand by means of the annually updated „Three-Year Plans“, and on the other hand by means of a three-yearly on-site audit at the company. There, the expert determines

whether the targets set in the three-year plan have been achieved. In 2019, 19 audits were thus carried out in the companies, and 27 in 2020.

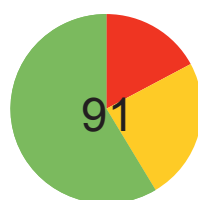
Selected examples are given below to illustrate how the requirements of the Responsible Care program are implemented at VCH. As in previous years, a detailed presentation of all the values determined can be found in the long version (German only) of the report (see VCH website →Nachhaltigkeit →Responsible Care). Due to organizational and operational restructuring among the participants, the scope of the activities recorded is subject to major fluctuations in some cases, which means that a direct comparison with the results of previous years is not always feasible in all cases. However, the values always provide the companies themselves with the opportunity to draw comparisons with their own previous year's values and to identify potential for improvement.

In July 2021, 71 companies were participating in the VCH Responsible Care program. Once again, this year's data survey on the development of the initiative only took into account the operating sites (2020 = 141) that were already involved in Responsible Care via the declaration of participation before January 2021. 50 of the sites thus included have warehouses with their own filling facilities, while 9 sites have a warehouse without such an in-house filling facility. The remaining sites are sales or distribution offices without their own warehouse. 14 participants have their main focus on foreign trade. With a total of 7,490 full-time employees, the participating companies generated

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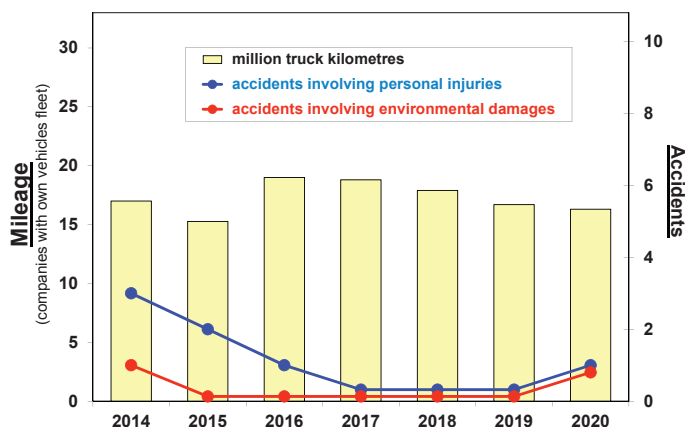
Reportable occupational accidents 2020

- Accidents involving chemical interaction
- Accidents en route
- Accidents caused by mechanical influences

Last year, 2,482 million metric tons of chemicals (of which 1,813 million metric tons were liquid) were handled at the 50 operating sites with their own warehouses, filling facilities and personnel. In the process, 64 incidents occurred (on the company's own premises or at the customer's premises) - 16 of which took place at the customer.

In only three cases did soil or water contamination occur. The release of very small quantities is also recorded as an incident, provided that it is not merely a matter of small drippings on couplings and the like. In 5 cases, releases of gas, vapor and/or aerosol occurred during the handling of liquids.

In the past year, 91 reportable occupational accidents (incidents involving impairment of health as a result of occupational activity and subsequent incapacity for work ≥ 3 days) occurred at the sites covered: Only 17 of these had an industry-specific connection with exposure to chemicals. The LTIR value („Lost Time Injury Rate“ - international key figure for accident occurrence) calculated from the number of these reportable incidents in relation to the hours worked by all employees is 6.40 for the past year (previous year 7.95).



26 of the companies have their own vehicle fleet with a total of 324 trucks. With a total distance covered by these vehicles of around 16.3 million km, there were 23 traffic accidents in 2020 - this corresponds to one accident per 710,832 km driven. Only one of the accidents had to be reported in accordance with the requirements of hazardous goods legislation (incident involving product leakage and simultaneous personal injury, property damage or environmental damage).

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