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## Career guidance in a changing world of work

The case of the MET and chemical industries

### Press release – The chemical and MET industries, European Parliament event on youth career guidance

The ECEG and Ceemet held a joint event on “*Career guidance in a changing world of work – the case of the MET and chemical industries*” hosted by **Ms Sylvie Brunet** (Renew Europe Group) at the European Parliament. The event steered a discussion on how to enhance career guidance for young people (between the age of 14 and 18 years old), to motivate them to follow STEM-related studies, VET, and as a result, to work for MET and chemical sectors. One of the recent studies conducted by the chemical industry representatives<sup>1</sup> showed a serious **lack of interest in STEM-related studies** across the EU 27, coupled with **insufficient and** on many occasions **inefficient career guidance**, for young people in transition phases (between compulsory education and secondary education, between secondary education and tertiary options).

This was an opportunity for Ceemet and ECEG to publish their joint position paper on career guidance with recommendations on how to maximize its potential and to attract more attention to this very issue both on the EU and national levels.

Several of the recommendations were presented and discussed at the joint event. Amongst others, Anni Siltanen, the ECEG’s working group chair on Education, Training and Lifelong Learning emphasised that “*Public authorities should have the responsibility to invest in awareness-raising activities that empower women to access STEM education and career paths, for example using adequate social media targeted to young people.*”

Despite the small increase in the number of young people and women who work in science and technology<sup>2</sup>, it is crucial both for Ceemet and ECEG to continue putting in place communication campaigns to promote vocational education and training as a proper alternative for academic paths in the industry.

Sabina Casini, Ceemet’s Chair of Education, Training and Employment (ETE) committee explained “*we need educational systems to reinforce the link with the main labour market stakeholders (companies and social partners) so that career guidance is tightly linked to employment opportunities.*”

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<sup>1</sup> KFC-CEFIC Talent Strategy to Support a Thriving Chemical Industry Towards 2050, Strategic Skills Survey of Chemical Industry Federation of Finland -

<sup>2</sup> Eurostat, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/ddn-20220513-1>, 2021

The chemical and MET industries have to work closer with educational institutions and career guidance professionals to create opportunities for career advisors to acquire better understanding of both sectors.

The European Commission declared 2023 as the year of skills. It is therefore time for all stakeholders to work strongly together on the skills of the future. As Sylvie Brunet, MEP, concluded *“the effectiveness of career guidance requires building mutual understanding between education and business stakeholders on which type of skills the industry needs.”*

The ECEG and Ceemet warmly thank MEP Sylvie Brunet for having hosted the event at the European Parliament.

Ceemet & ECEG recommendations can be found in their joint paper on career guidance available on their respective websites.

### ECEG

ECEG, the European Chemical Employers Group, founded in 2002, is a recognised European Sectoral Social Partner, representing the chemicals, pharmaceuticals, rubber and plastics industries in Europe. Our sector provides approximately 3.3 million direct jobs in more than 94.000 enterprises.

### Ceemet

The Council of European Employers of the Metal, Engineering and Technology-based industries is the European employers' organisation representing the interests of the metal, engineering and technology-based industries. Through its national member organisations it represents 200 000 companies across Europe. The vast majority of them are SMEs, providing over 35 million jobs of direct and indirect employment.

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