



Signature of Responsible Care® World Charter Address by Thierry Le Hénaff

November 16th 2006



Ladies and Gentlemen,

The chemical industry as a whole, and the European chemical industry in particular, are now at a turning point that will determine their future.

With a remarkable capacity for innovation, although probably all too inconspicuous, the chemical industry constantly helps ensure that progress can be shared by the vast majority of people, in every area of everyday life.

Never have chemists done so much to enhance safety standards in their plants, to improve the understanding of their products, to protect health and the environment, or to foster dialog with stakeholders. And yet, never has the chemical industry been vilified so much, its benefits ignored, and its legitimacy challenged.

Over the past twenty years, the voluntary initiatives launched by the chemical industry as part of Responsible Care® very often have paved the way for regulatory change. The chemical industry has indeed endeavored to anticipate and fulfill an increasing demand for openness toward society at large. It has multiplied its initiatives, although these have not enjoyed the media coverage that could have given them a wide enough audience. More recently, in the firm belief that there was a need for a joint tool for the management of chemical substances, the European chemical sector has backed the objectives of the proposed Reach regulations from the onset. However, the emphasis has been laid on its concern for pragmatism and efficiency rather than on its genuine desire for progress.

The future of the chemical industry therefore requires increasing and repeated efforts toward openness and education, in order to explain, show, build sustainable relations, and relentlessly explore new areas for dialog. This is, I believe, the only avenue to be followed if we are to take into account the concerns of our fellow citizens and revitalize the image they have of chemistry.

True to the spirit and principles of Responsible Care®, Arkema conducts its activities driven by an ambition to be exemplary in the fields of safety, the protection of health and the environment, and dialog with society at large. It is in this spirit that we have developed Common Ground®, a community relations initiative based on dialog with people living near our plants, that we have launched a vast awareness program for life-saving actions in partnership with the French Red Cross, that for the past 4 years we have allocated € 100 M to the prevention of major risks, that we have joined the AERES association (association of companies for greenhouse gas reduction), and that our Research & Development has made the increasing use of renewable raw materials one of its driving principles. So, I am particularly happy personally, and proud on behalf of Arkema, to be signing the Responsible Care® Global Charter today, alongside other chemicals manufacturers.

The commitments embodied by this Global Charter are wholly in step with the actions undertaken by Arkema since its creation in October 2004.

It is quite simply the foundation of our approach to sustainable development, and it is also the meaning of our signature: « The world is our inspiration ».