

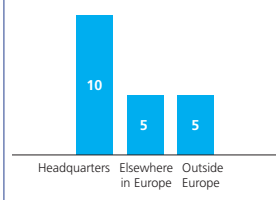
## Dialogue with governmental authorities and contributing to regulatory developments

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### Strategy

- Providing our perspective, our data and our industrial and multinational expertise so as to ensure that regulatory developments are realistic, effective and balanced in three respects: economic, social and environmental.
- Promoting and protecting the Group's interests.
- Taking fuller account of the expectations of civil society and of the people who represent it, whether in politics or non-political groups.

Number of people assigned to Public Affairs, and location  
Full-time equivalents



### When a plant finds itself in the spotlight...

In December 2006, a press article mentioned deaths from cancer that had occurred among retired staff who had previously worked in the electrolysis unit at Jemeppe (in Belgium) when that unit employed a process using mercury.

In particular, the article called into question exposure to that material, despite the fact that no medical authority – nor the European Union or the World Health Organization – recognizes mercury to cause cancer.

Solvay then held a number of meetings with employee representatives and company doctors, with the former also invited to visit another of the Group's plants, where the mercury process is still used. In addition, a dialogue was established with the health authorities.

Solvay applies a standard for exposure to mercury that is twice as strict as required by the law, and employees are subject to stringent health monitoring. As soon as a critical threshold is exceeded, corrective measures are taken. These include temporary removal of the worker(s) from that work location if necessary. At Jemeppe, the installations using mercury were replaced successively in 1992 and 2001 by equipment using a membrane technology.

There are about 20 people in the Group responsible for dealings with governmental and public affairs. Some are in corporate offices and others in our regional outposts. Through their interaction with these authorities, they promote and protect the Group's interests, and help the Group understand what is expected by the regulatory bodies, governmental authorities and civil society.

Solvay has not entrusted the management of its governmental-liaison matters to an external consultancy. Such activities rely on an internal network of experts distributed among the various activity Sectors, Competence Centers and countries. These people act in accordance with their own areas of competence and knowledge; they provide information, engage in discussions, and defend the Group's interests, in accordance with transparency and compliance with regulations and ethical principles.

The Group develops and maintains relationships with the relevant governmental authorities through this network of experts and through trade federations (national, European or worldwide), also participating in various fora such as the European Roundtable and Business Europe. We assist in decision-making through the sharing of information, by making practical proposals and by insisting on the need for a long-term view to be taken, this being essential for a sustainable investment policy in heavy industry.

In addition many of our staff take part in technical working groups, notably for commenting draft regulation, setting up environmental best technologies, defining REACH application guidelines or safety standards for plastics materials. At the local level, Solvay's collaborators also ensure a constant dialogue with relevant public authorities.

The people responsible for governmental-liaison matters operate in accordance with the following principles:

- compliance with the Group's Values and Code of Conduct, and with the universal principles for protection of human rights;
- transparency in all activities undertaken, the messages communicated and the reasons for them;
- a spirit of responsibility and professionalism in any action taken;
- political neutrality and courtesy;
- rejection of any action aimed at evading the application of laws or regulations ■

### Targets for 2012

- Establishing direct and continuing discussions amounting to long-term collaboration with governmental authorities and other representatives of civil society, based on transparency, trust and mutual benefit.
- Identifying the most competent people within the Group, to ensure high-quality dialogue with the governmental authorities.
- Ensuring consistency, coordination and effectiveness of all action undertaken by everyone in the Group's governmental-liaison network.

### Opinion: the Group's position on two important issues

#### Climate change

This is a worldwide concern, and the priority must be introduction of a new framework for international cooperation, where all the main countries producing greenhouse gases undertake a commitment to reduce these emissions beyond 2012. In this connection, use of the "Joint Implementation" procedures and the "Clean Development Mechanisms" must be extended, while ensuring that the projects selected and monitoring of their establishment are robust.

The diversification of energy sources and of their transport are key elements.

With regard to European Union policy on climate change, Solvay supports the EU aim of taking the lead in reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and hence countering climate change. However, an industrial policy ensuring a framework compatible with a sustainable development of the European industry is crucial for maintaining overall competitiveness. In this respect, the European Union must avoid taking decisions in isolation, when those decisions could rapidly and irreversibly threaten the very existence of industrial sectors such as chemicals, which have to be competitive worldwide. A competitive European chemical industry is an essential condition for achieving the EU's aims of social, economic and environmental progress decided on in Lisbon.

#### Energy provision in Europe

While awaiting the internal energy market in Europe, Solvay considers it essential to introduce interim provisions to safeguard electricity-intensive industries that are competing in a world market, in order to avoid their future being compromised. Large consumers must be able to enter into long-term contracts with the producers, with prices close to basic production costs, even if this means contributing to the capital cost of the power stations. The EU's aim of energy efficiency must serve to encourage industry to adopt technology embodying the Best Available Techniques (BATs) while also avoiding imposing an absolute limit on consumption and thus preventing economical development.



Princess Elizabeth polar station: the first polar research station that will be "carbon natural"