



Renewal and continuation of the Responsible Care Partnership Agreement

between

the German chemical industry association
Verband der Chemischen Industrie e. V.

represented by the President Christian Kullmann

and

the German chemical distribution association
Verband Chemiehandel e. V.

represented by the President Christian Westphal

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Almost 25 years ago, on 20 November 1996, Verband der Chemischen Industrie (VCI) and Verband Chemiehandel (VCH) signed a partnership agreement, expressing their will to cooperate in the development of the global Responsible Care initiative. In Germany, since 2013 Responsible Care has also been an important pillar of the sustainability initiative Chemie3, which is supported by the VCI, IG BCE [trade union] and BAVC [chemical employers' association]. Today, the companies organised in the associations and the associations themselves can look back on successful cooperation in the continuous improvement of safety, health and environmental protection. VCI and VCH reaffirm and renew their partnership agreement and declare their intention to continue working together in a constant exchange in the future.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals of the Agenda 2030 and the European Green Deal concept of 2019 not only pose new challenges for the companies of VCI and VCH, they also give a new binding character to the Responsible Care action fields of environmental protection, health protection and safety. The future implementation of the partnership agreement is to give more consideration to these developments.

With this agreement, both associations meet their obligations under the ICCA Global Charter for Associations¹ and the ICTA-ICCA Agreement² (International Council of Chemical Associations / International Chemical Trade Association). VCI and VCH refer, firstly, to items 5 and 6 of the "Fundamental Features" of the ICCA Charter, which oblige the national chemical industry associations to cooperate in partnership with the relevant stakeholders inside and outside their memberships and to exchange best practices. Secondly, the "ICTA Joint Responsible Distribution/Responsible Care Programme"³ for the chemical trade makes specifications based on which the national member associations and their member companies implement the global initiative in a uniform manner.



Furthermore, this partnership agreement between VCI and VCH serves to communicate to the general public the importance of the economic and societal contributions that the chemical industry, chemical distributors and their partners make in the meaning of the Responsible Care concept.

Frankfurt/Cologne, June 2021
signed by the Presidents of VCI and VCH

Verband der Chemischen
Industrie e. V.

Verband
Chemiehandel e. V.

Christian Kullmann
President

Christian Westphal
President