Responsible Care® - Partnership Agreement

between

VERBAND DER CHEMISCHEN INDUSTRIE e.V. (VCI),
represented by its President Dr. Jürgen Strube

and

VERBAND CHEMIEHANDEL - VERBAND DES DEUTSCHEN CHEMIKALIEN-GROSS- UND AUSSENHANDELS e.V. (VCH),
represented by its President Consul Günther Späth

and

EUROPEAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COUNCIL (CEFIC),
represented by its Director General Hugo Lever

Responsible Care® is a worldwide initiative, developed by the chemical industry for the chemical industry. It stands for the committment to continual improvement in all aspects of safety, health and environmental performance, independent from legal provisions.

The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) laid down the principles and targets of Responsible Care®. Being a member of ICCA, CEFIC has been entrusted by ICCA to ensure the consistency of national Responsible Care® Programmes with these principles in Europe and to grant the directives for the use of the Responsible Care® logo to be observed. Therefore in Germany CEFIC decides together with the VCI about the use of the logo.

On this background the partners agree as follows:

1. The VCH joins the Responsible Care® Initiative - in Germany also called "Verantwortliches Handeln".

   In agreement with the VCI the VCH devises a programme for itself and for its member firms, conforming with the philosophy and the principles of Responsible Care® and starting with the VCH's guidelines "Verantwortliches Handeln".

2. The VCH will put into effect the initiative in the following manner:

   - A formal commitment on behalf of each member company to the VCH's set of Guiding Principles concerning Responsible Care®.

   - A series of Codes, Guidance Notes and Checklists to assist companies to implement the commitment.

   - The progressive development of appropriate indicators against which improvements in performance regarding Safety, Health and Environment can be measured and publication of annual reports about the improvements so far achieved.

   - An ongoing process of communication on Safety, Health and Environmental matters with interested parties inside and outside the membership.

   - Provision of Forums in which companies can share views and exchange experiences on implementation of the commitment.

   - Systematic procedures to verify the implementation of the measurable or practical elements of Responsible Care® by the member companies.

- Consideration of how best to encourage all member companies to commit to and participate in Responsible Care®.

3. The VCH obtains the right to use the Responsible Care® logo for its initiative and to have it employed by its member firms.

   The right to use the logo is granted on condition that it will be used only according to the directives published by CEFIC **(annex)** and that the VCH will implement the Responsible Care® initiative as agreed upon.

4. The VCI and the VCH closely work together on implementing the Responsible Care® initiative and support each other. They constantly exchange information about all relevant questions concerning Responsible Care®.

5. The VCI and the VCH annually consult about the level of implementation of the Responsible Care® initiative within the companies and revise the consistency of their programmes.

November 20, 1996

Verband der Chemischen Industrie e. V.	Verband Chemiehandel - Verband des Deutschen Chemikalien-Gross- und Aussenhandels e. V.	European Chemical Industry Council
Dr. Jürgen Strube VCI-President	Konsul Günter Späth VCH-President	Hugo Lever CEFIC-Director General