



# 2012 BUDAPEST STATEMENT

## ON ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY (EHS) IN EMERGING MARKETS

**Preamble.** At a time when people across EU are struggling to find work or keep the jobs they have, there are those who ask whether we really need rules and specific action on health and safety at work. Quite apart from the human suffering involved, the nearly 2 million work-related fatalities world-wide hit the global GDP by 4%. While there can be and are national and disciplinary differences in the way EHS is organized and conducted, there are also principles and professional responsibilities that are fundamental to EHS wherever it is undertaken.

**Aim.** Provide guidance to EHS Professional Community on principles and focus areas to enable EHS professionals more effectively influence EHS culture in Emerging Market Countries.

### PRINCIPLES

EHS shall stand above politics and parties

EHS has significant impact on economy

The differences amongst people and cultures are far fewer than the commonalities

People are fallible

Individual behaviours are influenced by culture, world-view, history and attitudes

Operational upsets can be avoided by learning from workers and systems

Error-likely situations are predicable

Process Safety incidents are low probability, but involve high consequence events, Process Safety Risks are more latent and technically more complex compared to OSH ones.

Although employees need to work in a controlled environment, the nature of the control needs to be more of a PULL than PUSH, such that stimulates the engagement and individual motivation to take part in EHS.

There is a new way of understanding safety and we are open to new technologies and ideas

### FOCUS AREAS

1. Nurturing/inviting workers and managers to adopt a culture of Safety, Health, Environment
2. EHS is a line management responsibility and should be applied from top down
3. Fostering the improvement of human competencies by education and training beside professional competencies
4. Fostering participation in public consultation on the priorities in the EHS area for 2013 to 2020.
5. Promoting the use of advanced root cause analysis as a prevention tool in accidents investigation & analysis
6. Establishment of EHS Management Systems for protection of workers, environment and health at the same level as that of any other Management System at the companies.
7. Looking for long-lasting improvements in the EHS Management System instead of the quick fix and blame the operators approach
8. EHS Management Systems should drive organisations beyond compliance, the goal is the learning organisation, to be able to perform work in a varying and unpredictable work environment
9. EHS to Embrace Process Safety
10. Process Safety should be part of the curriculum of chemical engineers, chemists and EHS specialists
11. As long as companies and authorities do not have sufficient Process Safety expertise, they should foster cooperation with external professional organisations.
12. Promoting cooperation between regulatory bodies, industry & research and educational institutions to develop clear, simple, effective regulations that promote improvement and do not create a burden for EHS and business development.
13. Supporting governments with technical inputs on legislations and governments should maintain competent authorities.
14. Aiming for internationally recognised safety certifications, fostering standardized licenses, conducting safety related activities
15. Promoting EHS as a value in the industry and not as a priority, as priorities change, but values stay
16. *Hungary specific:* Formation of Hungarian EHS Chamber – with industry segmentations on its divisions with an aim of influencing regulatory environment more effectively.