



# Cognis Sustainability Policy

## **1 Our business is built on sustainability**

Since the very beginnings of our company, sustainability has been at the core of our strategies. This commitment is clearly expressed in the safety and environmental compatibility of our products: these are marked not only by excellent performance, but also by exceptional eco-friendliness throughout their life-cycles – from manufacture and application to disposal. Our approach has proven itself as a solid basis for long-term business success for us and our customers.

## **2 “Formula Nature” – our recipe for success**

Around half the raw materials that go into our products originate from natural, renewable sources. This “Formula Nature” makes us one of the world’s leading industrial users of environmentally compatible base stocks. Drawing on more than 160 years of experience and know-how in specialty chemicals based on natural, renewable raw materials, we continue to develop and further enhance our responsible usage of natural resources.

## **3 Protecting the environment and conserving resources**

Environmental protection is a central concern in all of our everyday operational activities. We make a proactive contribution to the protection of the planet’s climate, soil and water in all our production facilities around the world. In this context, we adhere to the same high standards wherever we operate, often exceeding local statutory requirements. In our action plan “25 by 2012” we set ambitious targets – and regularly raise the bar voluntarily, for example, in terms of reducing our energy and water consumption, lowering our emissions and increasing our use of renewable raw materials. In addition, we systematically utilize the most advanced process technologies to ensure efficient and sparing use of resources.

## **4 The compass that keeps us on track**

As an innovative, high-performance specialty chemicals company, we apply the concept of sustainability on the basis of scientifically and economically verifiable criteria. We develop all our new products in line with 24 clearly defined principles corresponding to the internationally recognized Green Chemistry and Green Engineering guidelines. The compass, an instrument that has guided mankind for centuries, is our symbol for this set of forward-looking principles.

## **5 Reinforcing adherence with regular audits**

To verify constant adherence to our high standards, we subject all our sites around the world to regular external audits of their safety, health, environmental protection and management procedures. This review process is a source of valuable information and exper-

ience for systematically improving our operations. In this context, we identify best-practice solutions and implement real-life action plans, which we then roll out throughout the Group.

## **6 Putting safety first**

When it comes to safety, we know no compromise. Our integrated concept starts with the planning and design of our facilities and continues in day-to-day operations: at every stage, processes are carefully engineered to minimize inherent hazards. We apply strict occupational safety regulations and perform regular safety training courses, exercises and drills for our employees in pursuit of our ultimate goal: Cognis – an accident-free company.

## **7 A sound investment: staff development**

Our employees are the key to our success. This is why we see offering lifelong learning opportunities as an obligation and an investment in the future. In addition, we embrace diversity throughout our global operations, applying the principles of fairness, equal rights and equal opportunity regardless of age, ethnic origin, faith and gender.

## **8 A permanent, productive member of society**

We see ourselves as a corporate citizen with a range of social responsibilities. In consistently fulfilling these obligations, we report transparently and foster open dialog with all stakeholders, including neighbors, non-governmental organizations, trade associations and public authorities. We engage in a broad spectrum of activities to contribute to and support the communities in which we operate and encourage our staff to participate in charitable and volunteering projects. The special focus of our corporate sponsoring: environmental issues and child and youth development.

## **9 End-to-end product responsibility**

For us, product responsibility goes far beyond our factory gates. It begins before the manufacturing process, with the selection of our raw material sources, and continues on throughout the supply chain and product lifecycle – including disposal. This is why we systematically seek to maximize efficiency, safety and environmental compatibility of our products.

## **10 Fair treatment for our partners**

The values of good governance are regarded as binding principles at all levels of our company and on a worldwide scale. They translate into corporate guidelines, which we consistently integrate into all forms of internal and external agreement and contract. The result is a solid basis for cementing long-term, win-win relationships with our customers and suppliers, founded on mutual trust and a fair exchange of benefits.

Monheim, October 2009



Antonio Trius



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we know how