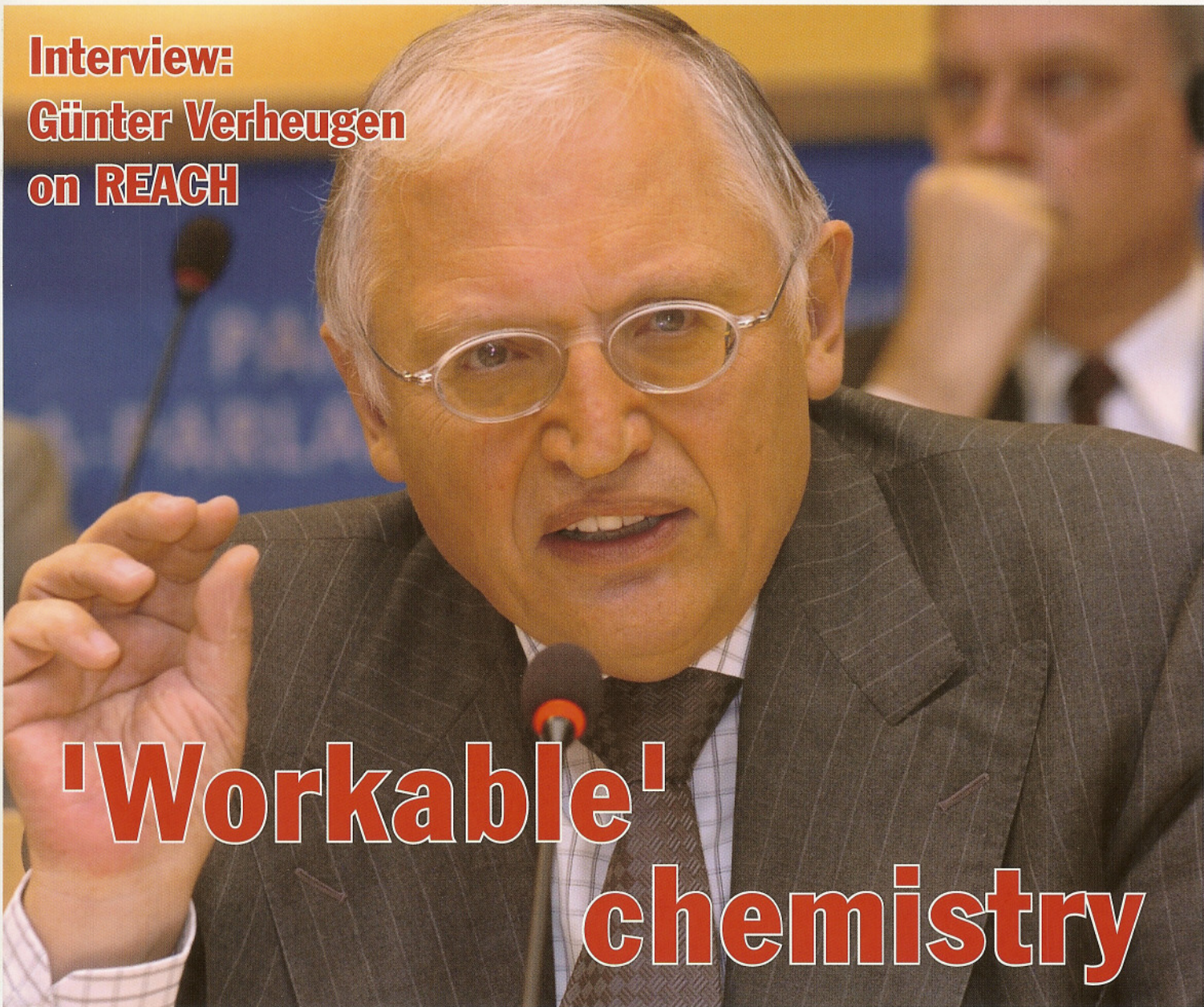


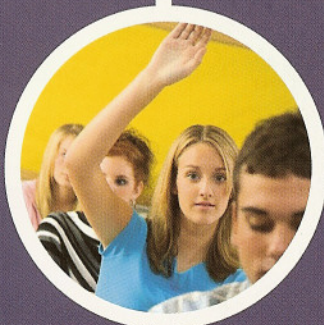
Interview:
Günter Verheugen
on REACH



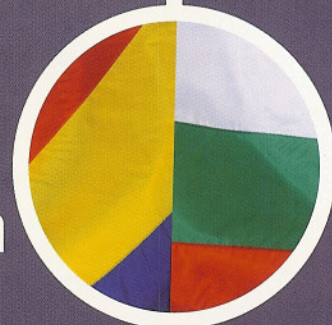
'Workable' chemistry

**Policy focus
on education**

Bill Rammell
Mary Honeyball
Lissy Gröner



**Photo guide
to Bulgarian
and Romanian
observers**



Two European Capitals: Edinburgh and Vienna share a common educational vision

The vision of EdGATE (www.edgate.eu.com) – European Regional College: if the idea of a united Europe is to become normal and everyday, education has an essential role to play. European education should convey to students, apart from academic qualifications, European values and should offer parents school models that incorporate the European idea.

'EdGATE – Education Gate', inspired by these challenges, has brought together various regions from all over Europe, including Edinburgh (Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh) and Vienna (European Office, Vienna Board of Education), so that they can exchange knowledge and experience in the fields of education and regional development. This exchange will lead to the joint development of a concept for a new type of European school: the European Regional College.

Europeans of tomorrow might have to react flexibly to changes in the labour market. If necessary, they might have to move to other European regions. This kind of mobility, however, not only requires language skills, and multicultural competences; it also implies offering parents a perspective for the education of their children. If families have to move to another region, they will want to find a school that, in terms of its basic concept, is similar to the one attended at home (for instance multilingual and multicultural education, similar curricula and a common school leaving certificate). It should be a regional school and it should be free of charge.

This kind of new school model – the European Regional College (ERC) – is the vision, which inspires 'EdGATE – Education Gate'.

What is EdGATE?

'EdGATE – Education Gate' will build a Europe-wide network of regional experts and decision makers in the field of education. It aims at offering a better understanding

of the importance of education for regional development and a modern continent of Europe.

As mentioned, the main result will be the development of a model for a new type of regional school (European Regional College) for the benefit of the ordinary European citizen. This European Regional College will give parents and students the opportunity to visit a similar type of school in different regions throughout Europe. It will be a school, which shares basic principles with associated schools in other regions. To develop this new school model, the EdGATE partners have jointly defined special educational areas to be researched - so called 'Priority Areas'.

The 'Priority Areas' are:

- (a) social inclusion
- (b) gender mainstreaming
- (c) quality assurance
- (d) teacher education
- (e) European dimension in education
- (f) modern language tuition
- (g) vocational education
- (h) ICT (e-inclusion).

At present, 11 partners from nine European regions are involved in EdGATE (six regions from EU Member States and five regions from Third Countries). The European Office of the Vienna Board of Education is the co-ordinating 'Lead Partner'. EdGATE is an INTERREG (www.interreg3c.net) IIIC project, an initiative of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), aimed at the strengthening of economic development and social cohesion.

Celebrating the EU Presidency

In May 2006, EdGATE will mark the halfway stage in the project by staging an Interim Conference in Vienna. It is fitting that the two partners Edinburgh and Vienna will be jointly organising this event.

The UK has the EU Presidency at present and in the first half of 2006, Austria will be taking over this responsibility. At national level both countries are cooperating closely to ensure a smooth takeover. Also at an "EdGATE level" there is close and fruitful cooperation.

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