

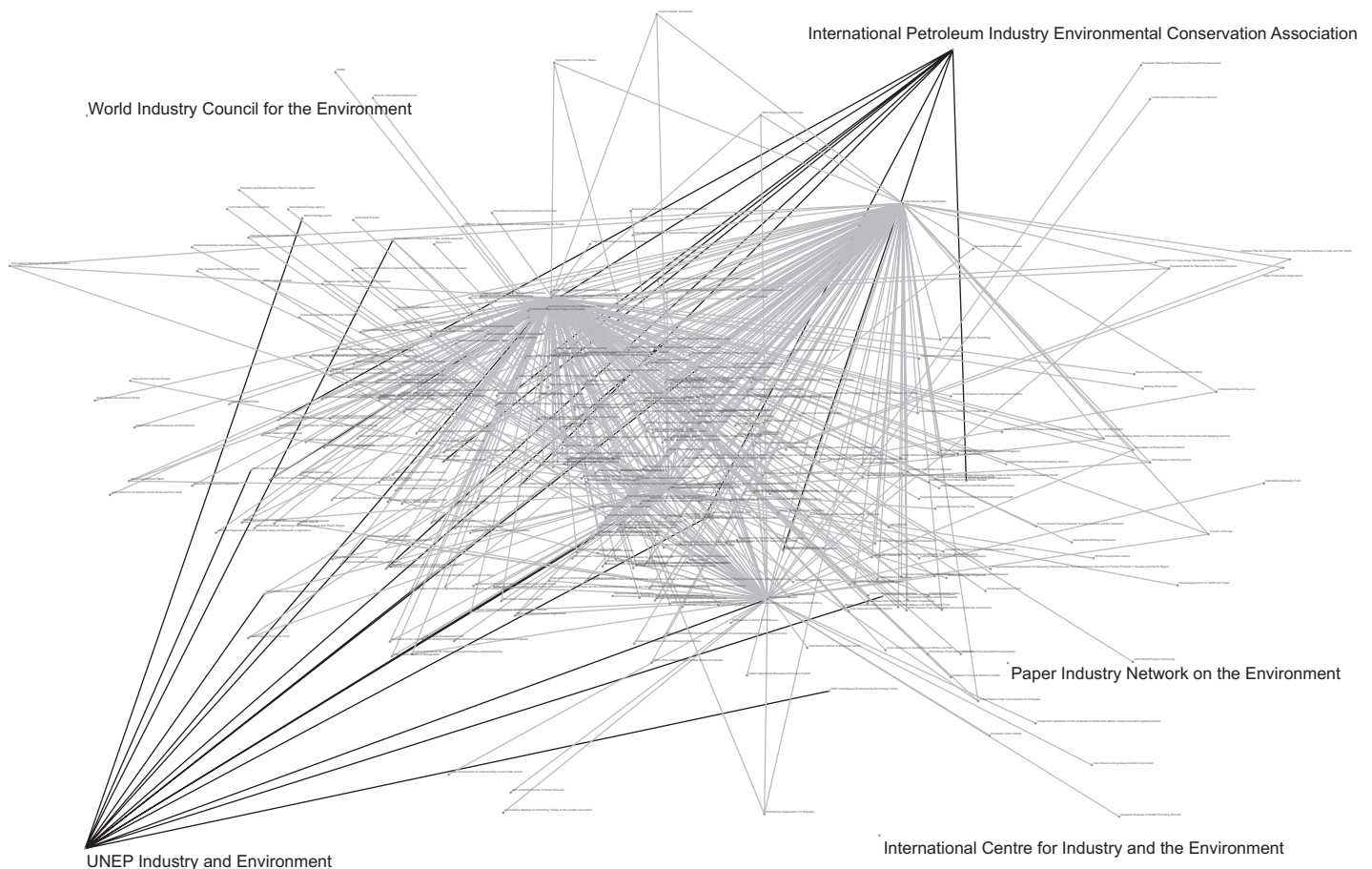
Figure 10.1.1.20. Several organizations dealing with industry and environment

Database: International Organizations

Link type: NGO relations

Network nodes: 351

UIA database: <http://db.uia.org/scripts/sweb.dll/a?DD=OR>, selection based on keywords "industry", "environment"



Widespread concern over industrial pollution and resource use has led to legislation to curb emissions and conserve natural resources. Governments have been particularly active in promoting environmental compliance and enforcement although the latter is still a problem in a number of regions. Economic incentives and disincentives are beginning to be used for environmental protection and the promotion of resource efficiency. For example, pollution fines are common and deposit-refund schemes are being promoted to encourage reuse and recycling. Voluntary schemes are also becoming more popular, such as eco-labelling, environmental auditing, ecoefficiency and the ISO 14000 standard for manufacturing. Governments are discovering that working with the private sector to manage industrial pollution can be more cost-effective than a traditional command and control approach. At the same time, the recent opening up of many economies through liberalization of trade and capital flows has created new opportunities for many businesses, which are beginning to recognize the need for improving both their economic and environmental performance. Industry groups in both low- and high-income countries are becoming increasingly sensitive to environmental concerns over industrial production. Many firms are interested in meeting the requirement of ISO 14000 and also use environmental audits to identify areas for further improvements. Companies are learning that collaborative approaches can actually trim costs, improve quality, enhance their public image - and increase profits. However, there is often a gap between the environmental concern and performance of leading multinationals and large companies, and that of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The largest companies have both the resources to invest in environmental action and the visibility to motivate such action. Small companies, which represent a major part of industrial activity around the world, have neither. How to get the positive experience of businesses at the cutting edge of environmental involvement to filter down to the mass of industrial activity in SMEs below them is one of the unresolved challenges of the moment.