

Daniele Ferrari

The president of Cefic is using the European chemical industry's might to fight climate change

While 2030 may seem like a long way off for most, it's already starting to creep up on the signatories of the Paris Agreement, with just over a decade left to keep average global temperature increases below 2°C.

"Europe is in full swing transitioning to a low-carbon and circular economy," says Daniele Ferrari, president of Cefic, "and the chemical industry is no exception."

Much of this new direction is down to Cefic, the voice of the European chemical industry. The advisory body represents small, medium and large companies, as well as the 1.2 million workers they employ. Its members contribute to a huge range of other areas – from car manufacturing to healthcare – and it's this far-reaching presence that makes Cefic a perfect vehicle for implementing positive changes.

"Other industries rely on us to help develop more energy efficient and climate-friendly products," says Ferrari. "We see this as a massive growth opportunity for us."

In response to global climate goals, Cefic has introduced Chemistry Can, a framework to guide its members and partners towards a more sustainable future.

At the centre of the scheme is a charter that promotes a low-carbon economy, increased resource efficiency and planet-friendly policies. This sustainable ethos manifests itself in a

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variety of ways. "Take, for example, the transport sector," says Ferrari. "We can help build lighter vehicles, which are estimated to save 113 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions worldwide by 2030."

Ferrari is similarly enthusiastic about the effect Chemistry Can will have on construction. "Buildings account for 40% of the world's energy consumption. We're encouraging innovations in the areas of insulation materials, smart windows and rooftop coatings, which minimise heat loss and alleviate the need for air conditioning.

"We're also looking to convert waste into something useful," he adds, "be it an energy source or a secondary raw material."

As president of Cefic, Ferrari is establishing himself as a significant figure in the global movement towards sustainability. "I am certain that chemistry can help solve many of the problems our society is facing today."

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