

# Updated submission to the Roadmap for the new Circular Economy

*This contribution replaces the previously submitted contribution by Cefic in the “Have your say”.*

Cefic has recently presented its 8-point [Mid Century Vision](#) for the Future of Europe; a Vision where the European Economy has gone circular, recycling all sorts of molecules into new materials. In this vision, the European chemical industry is at the centre of Europe’s circular economy, acting both as a producer of products valued by society and a leader in recycling. By transforming waste into valuable, new raw materials, the industry performs a crucial role as recycler of the circular society.

Back to today: in order to unleash the full potential of innovations the chemical industry can provide to a circular economy, Europe needs a progressive policy environment and smart regulations stimulating innovations. For example:

- **Chemical recycling** is a key technology that can transform plastic and other waste into valuable feedstock or new materials. Using **alternative feedstock**, bio- and [CO<sub>2</sub>-based systems](#), are other contributions towards circularity. To fully deploy their potential, policies are urgently needed to create the right conditions that would enable the scale-up of these technologies, e.g.
  - A coordinated and harmonized implementation of waste policies at EU level, an improved definition of waste, the clarification of some key concepts as well as access to sufficient streams of these alternative feedstocks.
  - Innovation funding and access to additional funding streams such as ESIF and EIB, aiming to de-risk investments in the pre-commercial phase to cross the “valley-of-death”.
- The European chemical industry is fully committed to ensuring that the products under a circular economy will adhere to the same high standards embedded into the existing chemical and product legislation (e.g. REACH and CLP). In addition, we need to find ways to effectively and transparently communicate on substances of concern in products throughout the value chain, in case such substances pose a risk at recycling or waste management stage. We call on European policy makers to create a supportive framework for innovation. Horizon Europe and other EU R&D programmes should include more support for chemical substance innovation that holistically takes into account all product dimensions needed to ensure sustainability and circularity of products (function, life cycle assessment, regulatory status, economics, etc). We need an EU-wide dialogue among governments, the chemical industry and civil society to ensure that debates and decisions are based on facts and scientific consensus.

Cefic is looking forward to sharing its ideas and exploring potential policy solutions with the European Commission and other policymakers in due course.

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#### About Cefic

Cefic, the European Chemical Industry Council, founded in 1972, is the voice of large, medium and small chemical companies across Europe, which provide 1.2 million jobs and account for 16% of world chemicals production.