

Cefic views on the revision of Waste Shipments Regulation

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.

Cefic believes that Europe should update its policy framework to foster the emergence of a truly functioning Single Market for Wastes to progressively transition from a waste-oriented to a resource-oriented European society. With this in mind, Cefic recently published the [Circular Economy 2.0](#) and the [chemical recycling](#) position papers.

In this position paper, Cefic supports the conclusions of the Commission's Evaluation of the Regulation on shipment of wastes (WSR¹) and welcomes its intention to revise it by 2021 to ensure the safe handling of wastes, to preserve the environment and human health by fighting against illegal imports and exports of waste within, from and to Europe, and to contribute to the transition to a competitive European circular economy.

In particular, we support the creation of a safe and dynamic market for waste to secondary raw materials which is key to facilitate this transition. We foresee the need for reducing the cross-border administrative burden that limits the circulation of waste streams destined for recycling throughout Europe. We believe the revamped WSR should promote the development of a network of innovative technologies for recycling valuable wastes within Europe and should better protect European businesses against illegal trade of wastes.

We would like to highlight that some aspects of the amendments to Basel Convention could potentially delay export/import of plastic wastes, impacting the maximum capacity utilization of European recycling plant(s). We would therefore ask the Commission to keep the current WSR requirements for non-hazardous plastic wastes, provided they are destined to be recycled upon arrival at the importing EU Member States ensuring an easy movement of those wastes across the EU.

Cefic also supports the European Commission aim to negotiate bilateral agreements with other EEA Member States, the UK and other countries to facilitate the transboundary shipment of wastes. A positive outcome would ensure access to a stable, abundant and affordable feedstock which is a prerequisite for industry to scale up innovative solutions, such as chemical recycling technologies.

¹ (EC) #1013/2006 of the EP and the EC of 14 June 2006

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

Cefic statement of COVID-19 crisis

While contributing to this consultation we are very aware we are experiencing unprecedented times, with events none of us have lived through before. Cefic endeavours to maintain a high standard in our responses to public consultations. While we are confident that this contribution adequately reflects our views at the current time, we recognise that public and private sector responses to the crisis and its aftermath, both in the EU and globally, have the potential to significantly affect industry's operating conditions. When investing in the future, industry, governments and institutions will also have to continue to ensure investments align with the policy targets of a climate-neutral Europe. We look to the European Commission to undertake the appropriate assessments and to include these wider considerations in the future framework that will be developed, with the objective of ensuring the EU's post-crisis attractiveness as a place for investing in the industrial transformation required to achieve EU Green Deal objectives.

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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.