

Cefic views on the revision of the Waste Framework Directive

Cefic supports the EU Green Deal and Europe's ambition to become climate neutral by 2050. With this in mind, we welcome the EU initiative to revise the Waste Framework Directive to improve waste management and to reduce the environmental footprint of society. As a Responsible Care®-registered industry sector, we aim at investing in the best available technologies and adopting the best practices to reduce waste. The industry is also developing technologies necessary to turn waste into valuable raw materials.

The European chemical industry sees itself at the heart of Europe's circular economy, as outlined in the [Cefic Mid-Century Vision](#). By transforming waste into valuable, secondary raw materials, the chemical industry performs a crucial role as an enabler of the circular economy and through reducing the use of fossil-based feedstocks. Cefic believes that Europe should update its policy framework to progressively transition from a **waste orientation to a resource orientation**, and to foster the emergence of a truly functioning single market for waste destined for recycling. With this in mind, Cefic published its position papers on the [Circular Economy 2.0](#) and [Chemical Recycling](#).

Cefic is looking forward to contributing to improve governance of different policy areas such as waste, shipment of waste, trade, and international collaboration and initiatives. While aiming for effective implementation of European best-in-class environmental standards, we believe the proposal must be accompanied by a thorough impact assessment, which also analyses competitiveness. Evaluations and impact assessments are crucial to match the level of ambition and the state of play of technologies. It should be ensured that the coherence between the existing legislation and the initiatives under the Green Deal is improved, avoiding overlap of objectives.

In this respect, Cefic would like to provide a few observations derived from a first analysis of the Waste Framework Directive call for evidence document:

1. We encourage to keep as a starting point a progressive transition from a waste-oriented to a resource-oriented policy framework.
2. We agree with the identified need and focus on waste prevention and waste collection. For a balanced approach we would recommend an equivalently solid view on “recycling” in terms of both the need for recycling capacity and the specific capability-needs of recycling.
3. Advancement of a European circular economy will further direct waste streams from incineration or landfill to recycling. Therefore, a revision of the Waste Framework Directive should make a clear separation in policy objectives for increasing reduction, re-use and recycling on the one hand, and decreasing disposal in landfills or incinerations on the other hand.
4. To unlock the full potential of waste becoming a resource as part of the transition to a circular economy and to enhance sustainable carbon cycles, increased cooperation across and along value chain partners and stakeholders should be supported.
5. The revision of the Waste Framework Directive also provides an opportunity to work towards a clear set of definitions both through an update of existing definitions (e.g. End-of-life) and through new concepts such as chain of custody mass balance.

Cefic is looking forward to sharing its ideas and exploring potential policy solutions with the European Commission and stakeholders.

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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.