

2019

SUSTAINABILITY  
PROGRESS  
REPORT

of the European Chemical Industry Council





# THE MOMENT FOR TRANSFORMATION IS NOW!



In the next decade, key decisions are taken that will determine if Europe can truly become net carbon neutral or fully circular. The Paris Agreement and the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are fundamental drivers of these developments. These Global Goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Important for industry is that the investment decisions that determine where we are in 2050 are actually taken between 2020 and 2030.

For these initiatives to succeed, an alignment of all involved parties—society, politics and the industrial sector—is paramount. The European chemical industry as “the industry of industries” is a key player in the mix. It is not only a solution provider, but also an enabler for a sustainable environment, economy and society.

Building on the Responsible Care programme and other sustainability initiatives, in 2012 the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) and its members developed a Sustainable Development Vision. This was just the start of the journey. Since then, we have laid down our commitments in a Sustainability Charter and agreed on an SDG roadmap for the chemical industry to foster innovation. Cefic's mid-century vision confirms that this is the right path towards a prosperous, more sustainable Europe in 2050.

This progress report captures initiatives taken by the chemical industry as part of our overall commitment to sustainable development. We invite you to read on to take note of our actions. We ask you to engage and dialogue with us. We see the transformation of Europe as a huge opportunity for our industry to benefit and create jobs in Europe. We hope you will help us shape this future.

*Marco Mensink*  
**Director General**  
Cefic

# CEFIC WALKS THE SUSTAINABILITY TALK

The Sustainability Forum within the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) aims to accelerate the transition towards a more sustainable world. This is not an exercise that can be done alone. Cefic seeks collective potential from companies and industries to follow up and engage in the implementation of an SDG Roadmap for the Chemical Industry. A roadmap that guides the chemical industry towards meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

The Sustainability Forum advises and supports all of Cefic's programmes in understanding the sustainability challenges of the sector; it shapes future action, it undertakes projects and it communicates the efforts of the sector towards a more sustainable future.

To prove that our actions go beyond words, Cefic prepares an annual sustainability progress report. The report takes stock of the initiatives in which Cefic, together with its members, is actively engaged. Yet it is more than a mere reporting tool. It is a monitoring mechanism to show that the sector is serious about sustainability, inspired to do ever more.

Before addressing our concrete actions, we will take you on the journey we underwent to get there.



# SUSTAINABILITY: BUILDING ON A VISION

## THE START OF OUR SUSTAINABILITY JOURNEY

The world we live in is in transition and has been for a while now. As early as 2011, Cefic and its members, embark on a thought-provoking exercise to identify existing and future sustainability challenges the world is facing. By March 2012, this leads to Cefic's **Sustainable Development Vision**.



The vision shows how the European chemical industry can contribute to improving the livelihood of over 9 billion people by 2050, within the planetary boundaries. It builds on the **Responsible Care®** programme – the industry's commitment to improving safe production, handling and use of chemicals across the supply chains – by addressing health challenges, economic prosperity and societal progress.

Key features of the vision include continuous innovation, engagement with stakeholders, ensuring partnerships and unlocking investments to exploit full potential of the chemical industry.



As proof of the chemical sector's solution provider role, Cefic publishes its baseline report in 2012. Our second sustainability report is published in October 2014.

## THE CEFIC SUSTAINABILITY CHARTER

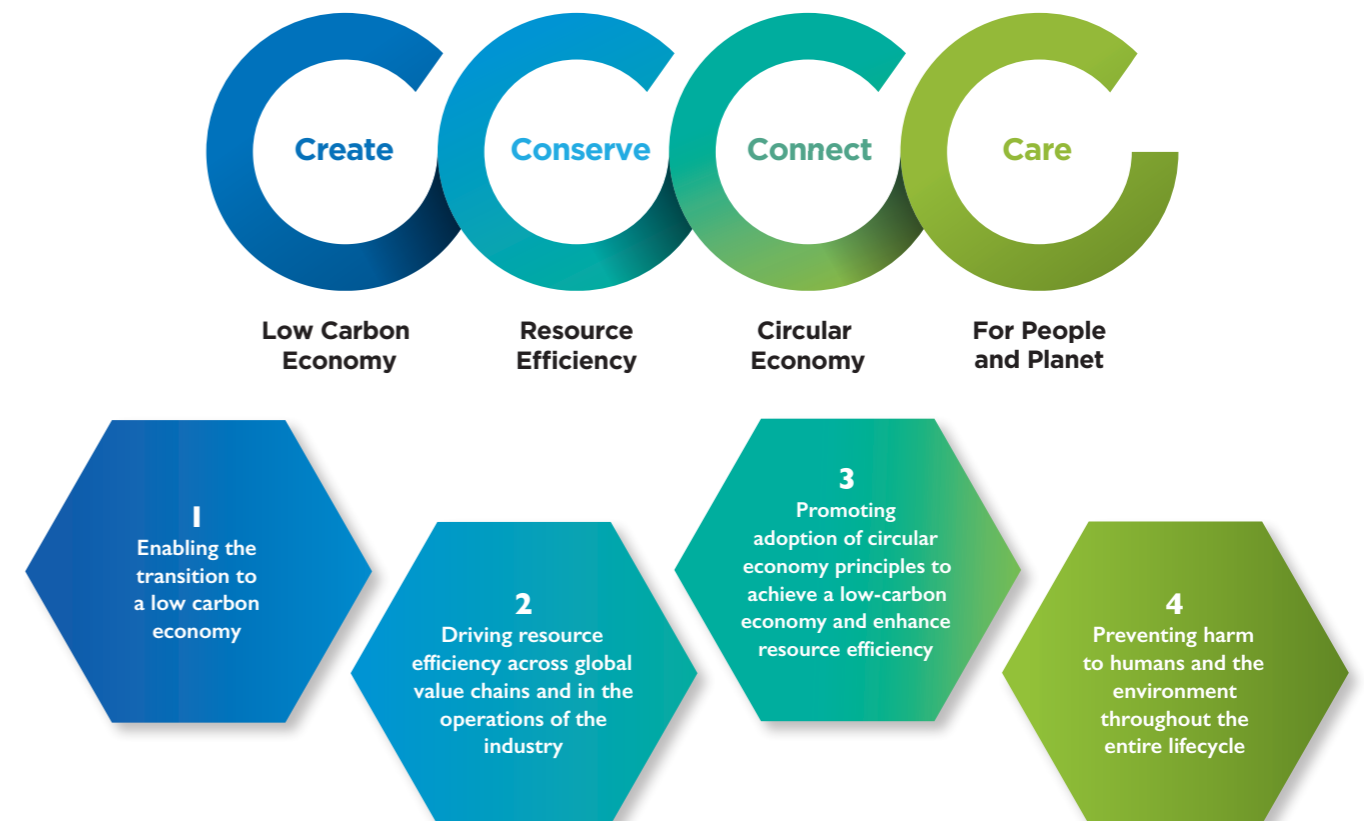
In 2015 the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are adopted; a new strategic era commences. An era which calls on society, including business, to take action.

2015 is also the year that Cefic decides to turn its Sustainable Development Vision into active engagement, resulting in the Cefic **Sustainability Charter** in 2016. A thorough materiality assessment is essential in defining the priority areas for action as part of the Charter.



Between 2015-2017, Cefic undertook a full-fledged materiality assessment. The exercise aimed at identifying the sustainability priority goals for the industry and the key actions to achieve them. Cefic members, both companies and national federations, had an active role in the assessment, allowing Cefic to prioritise between an extensive list of over seventy sustainability topics. Priority issues are those in which a major contribution from the chemical industry is expected. The materiality assessment serves as a compass to guide Cefic's sustainability activities and it is therefore continuously updated.

The Sustainability Charter puts the vision of the chemical industry into operation and defines a pathway to sustainability. It provides a framework for action and dialogue on current and future challenges and opportunities. More specifically, it identifies four key areas critical for progressing on the pathway to sustainable development:

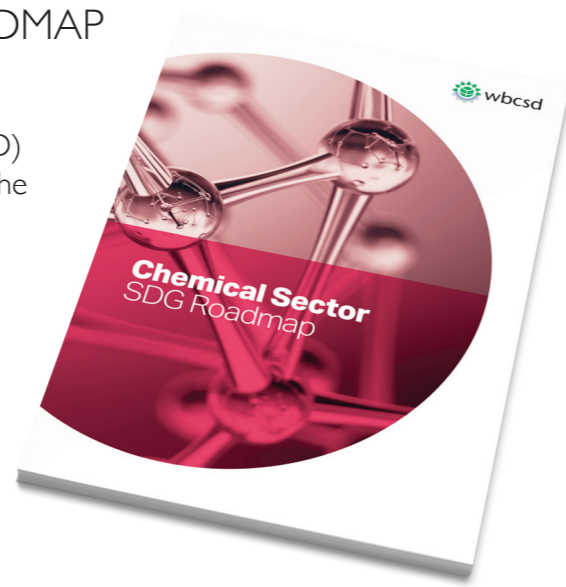




## THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY SDG ROADMAP

In 2018, the chemical industry teams up with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) to “explore, articulate and help realise the potential of the chemical sector to leverage its influence and innovation to contribute to the SDG agenda”. This leads to the **Chemical Sector SDG Roadmap**.

Directly or indirectly the chemical industry contributes to all 17 SDGs. The results of our analysis for 2019 show that Cefic’s activities indirectly contribute to most SDGs. We have mainly addressed SDGs 3, 7, 9, 12, 14 and 17.



## SDGS WHERE THE CHEMICAL SECTOR HAS A HIGH IMPACT:



### ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

One of the main objectives under SDG 3 (Target 3.9) is to substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination. Many of Cefic’s activities contribute towards Target 3.9, such as the Responsible Care Programme, which is the chemical industry’s long-standing ethical commitment to improving safe production, handling and use of chemicals across the supply chains.



### ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

Environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes (Target 12.4) is the area in which Cefic makes some of the most significant contributions in progressing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Cefic is engaging in value chain dialogues with the electronic and textile sectors to improve the information flow on chemicals along the value chain. Improving the collaboration between suppliers and downstream users of chemicals can address key societal concerns on the safety of chemicals used in everyday products. Another example of Cefic’s commitment to building dialogue platforms and responding to societal concerns is the series of bootcamps on ‘Green and Sustainable Chemistry’. These bootcamps can offer a fertile ground for meaningful conversation and cooperation between representatives from academia, NGOs and industry.



### ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

Increasing the share of renewable energy is a challenge to which Cefic is vigorously contributing. We offer expertise and support to the activities of the European Technology Platform for Sustainable Chemistry (SusChem), which is driving innovation towards meeting sustainability challenges of the chemical industry. SusChem’s activities have a direct contribution on increasing the share of renewable energy (Target 7.2) and improving energy efficiency (Target 7.3) of chemical operations and of other sectors.



### CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Heathy seas and oceans are an environmental challenge to which we are fully committed. Our participation in the European Commission’s Circular Plastics Alliance marks the commitment of Cefic to support initiatives which promote the recycling of plastics, which can reduce marine littering. In addition, Cefic-LRI provides funding for academic projects, which increase scientific knowledge of microplastics and their effect on the aquatic environment and species.



### BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALISATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

The chemical industry prominently contributes to SDG 9, more specifically to target 9.4. The industry is upgrading its infrastructure and becoming more sustainable by increasing efficient use of resources and adopting clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes. For instance, Cefic participated in the RESYNTAX Project (under Horizon2020), alongside partners from the textiles value chain, to promote technologies which will increase circularity along the textiles value chain. The concept of ‘industrial symbiosis’ was used as an underlying principle, where the waste of one sector becomes the feedstock of another. Textile waste can be used to generate new feedstock for chemicals and textiles.



### STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALISE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Cefic is active in numerous international capacity building activities and contributes to the efforts of the UN’s Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) to promote chemical safety around the world.



## WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BRING

After the May 2019 elections for the European Parliament it became clear: Europeans voted for a green, environmental agenda. The EU political arena is following suit. The chemical industry has no intention of staying behind and remains determined to move to a more sustainable world.

Cefic's mid-century vision (MCV) emphasises this determination. Published in June 2019, the MCV is an initiative of the European chemical industry which presents a plausible path towards a cleaner, safer and more circular future by 2050.

Until now our journey has led to a Cefic Sustainable Development vision, a Cefic Sustainability Charter and an SDG Roadmap for the Chemical Sector – the latter an exercise undertaken jointly with the WBSCD. These form the building blocks for our journey into a sustainable future.

Cefic and its members will continue to identify actions in priority areas, together with other actors with the same mission at hand.

“We’ve built the foundation in 2019 on which we can accelerate the impact of sustainability in Cefic.”

### Dimitri de Vreeze

Member of the Managing Board of DSM &  
Chair of the Sustainability Forum of Cefic

## THE 2019 RESULTS: IMPLEMENTING THE VISION

This section provides examples on how Cefic and its members are promoting the Sustainable Development agenda and contribute to:

- Enabling the transition to a low-carbon economy
- Driving resource efficiency across global value chains and in our operations
- Promoting the adoption of Circular Economy principles
- Preventing harm to humans and the environment throughout the entire life cycle

### THE ROLE OF CEFIC IN PROMOTING A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA. ENCOURAGE, PROMOTE AND FACILITATE: **Best practice sharing and collaboration across industries, value chains and stakeholders**

#### Cefic Member Company Solutions and Innovations For A Sustainable Future.

The ChemistryCan website shows concrete examples of how the European chemical industry facilitates the transition to a more sustainable society.

Target: Facilitate best practice sharing among its members to support making sustainability an integral part of their corporate strategies.

<https://chemistrycan.com/>

#### Associated SDGs and SDG targets:



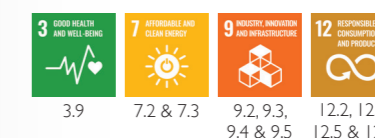
SusChem, the European Technology Platform for Sustainable Chemistry, contributes directly or indirectly to almost all SDGs. The targets listed below, are those for which SusChem has the highest direct contribution. **SusChem drives innovation by the chemical industry to tackle sustainability challenges to contribute to the 2030 UN Sustainable development Agenda.** In its new Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda (SIRA), SusChem identifies **technology priorities to accelerate the transition to a sustainable society in the areas of Industrial Biotechnology, Advanced Materials, Advanced Processes and enabling Digital Technologies.**

The SIRA also recommends priorities regarding Sustainability Assessment, Safe-by-design for Chemicals and Materials and Education and Skills Development.

<http://www.suschem.org/>

**Cefic Lead:** Programme Council Innovation,  
**Key partners:** SusChem board members & external stakeholders  
**High level of impact | Long-term effect**

#### Associated SDGs and SDG targets:



3.9      7.2 & 7.3      9.2, 9.3, 9.4 & 9.5      12.2, 12.4, 12.5 & 12.6



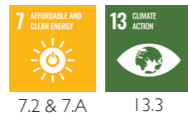
# Create

## ROADMAP TO PROGRESS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: Enabling the transition to a low-carbon economy

Cefic participates in the **RE-Source Platform**. With its key partners, Cefic is promoting corporate sourcing of renewable electricity and supporting the developments of a better policy framework to increase corporate renewable energy sourcing.

**Cefic Lead:** Programme Council Climate Change & Energy | **Key partners:** SolarPower Europe, WindEurope, RE100 and World Business Council for Sustainable Development | **Medium to high level of impact | Long-term effect**

**Associated SDGs and SDG targets:**



Cefic is reaching out to its key partners in the value chain to **share best practices, collaborate and reinforce a stakeholders dialogue with the aim of achieving a 'zero emissions' transport system.**

**Cefic Lead:** Programme Council Health, Safety & Environment /Transport & Logistics | **Key partners:** Road Transport Association (IRU), Rail Association (CER), Rail Freight Corridors (RFC), Inland Waterway Association (IWT) | **Medium level of impact | Long-term effect**

**Associated SDGs and SDG targets:**

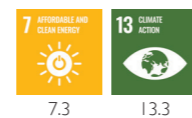


Cefic participates in the **Renovate Europe campaign** to promote ambitious renovation programmes and legislation aiming at reducing, by 2050 the energy demand by 80 % of buildings in the EU (compared to 2005 levels). Energy performance of buildings in the EU will evolve to a nearly zero-energy buildings (NZEBs) performance level.

<https://renovate-europe.eu/>

**Cefic Lead:** Programme Council Climate Change & Energy | **Key partners:** European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EuroACE), European Insulation Manufacturers Association (Eurima), PlasticsEurope | **Medium to high level of impact | Long-term effect**

**Associated SDGs and SDG targets:**



Cefic participated in the development of an international framework aiming at harmonising a methodology for **calculating and reporting on the logistics of the GHG footprint across the multi-modal supply chain**, called the GLEC Framework. **A harmonised reporting system is an important first step for reducing the GHG footprint.**

<https://www.smartfreightcentre.org/en/how-to-implement-items/what-is-glec-framework/58/>

**Cefic Lead:** Programme Council Health Safety & Environment / Transport & Logistics | **Key partners:** Smart Freight Center | **Small level of impact | Long-term effect**

**Associated SDGs and SDG targets:**

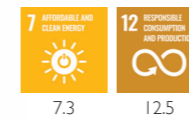


Euro Chlor is **promoting energy efficiency** (reduction of energy use) and **increasing the use of the hydrogen** produced as by-product instead of venting it to the atmosphere. The results are being published annually. So far, they show a noteworthy decrease in energy consumption (compared to the base year of 2011) and a modest increase in the use of hydrogen (compared to the base year of 2001)

<https://www.chlorineindustryreview.com/sustainability/>

**Cefic Lead:** Euro Chlor | **Key partners:** N/A | **Medium to high level of impact | Medium to long-term effect**

**Associated SDGs and SDG targets:**



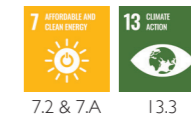
Cefic organised a **workshop within the context of the European Commission's Innovation Fund**, which is set up under the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). The objective of the Innovation Fund is to **facilitate investment in new disruptive technologies and help companies to bring new technologies to the market**. The participants of the workshop presented technological solutions which can reduce GHG emissions. These include:

- Electrification including Power-to-Heat and Power-to-chemicals
- Plastic recycling & chemical recycling of waste
- Chemical valorisation of CO<sub>2</sub> and CO
- Biobased products

[https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/innovation-fund\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/innovation-fund_en)

**Cefic Lead:** Programme Council Innovation | **Key partners:** European Commission, European Investment Bank, Cefic Member Companies | **High level of impact | Long-term effect**

**Associated SDGs and SDG targets:**



**Cefic is part of the High-Level expert Group on energy-intensive industries of the European Commission**, which is developing recommendations, paving a path towards a climate-neutral Europe.

As a first step, Cefic alongside the rest of the Energy Intensive Industries (EIs), commissioned a report (developed by Academia) which **highlights the solutions and contributions of the EIs to the EU Strategy for long-term EU greenhouse gas emissions reductions.**

These solutions give a full overview of the carbon emission abatement options for all the EIs together and served as an input towards the European Commission's efforts to develop a masterplan for competitive, low carbon and sustainable energy-intensive industries.

<https://cefic.org/media-corner/newsroom/energy-intensive-industries-call-for-an-ambitious-eu-industrial-strategy-to-help-the-industry-better-contribute-to-the-eu-long-term-ghg-goals/>

<https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=3326>

**Cefic Lead:** Programme Council Climate Change & Energy | **Key partners:** European Commission, European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, Trade and business associations, NGOs, Trade Unions and Member States authorities, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Institute for European Studies | **High level of impact | Medium to long-term effect**

**Associated SDGs and SDG targets:**







## ROADMAP TO PROGRESS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: Driving resource efficiency across global value chains and in our operations & promoting adoption of circular economy principles to prevent waste and to achieve a low-carbon economy and enhance resource efficiency

SusChem, the European Technology Platform for Sustainable Chemistry, is **driving innovation towards developing technological solutions to sustainability challenges in the plastics value chain**. SusChem, alongside its key partners developed a 'Plastics Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda in a Circular Economy', which identified innovation needs to increase circularity along the plastics value chain.

**Cefic Lead:** Programme Council Innovation | **Key partners:** SusChem, PlasticsEurope, European Plastics Converters (EuPC) & European Composites, Plastics and Polymer Processing Platform (ECP4) | **High level of impact** | **Long-term effect**

**Associated SDGs and SDG targets:**



9.4 12.5

Cefic participated in the RESYNTEx Project (under Horizon2020), which had as an overarching goal to **promote technologies which will increase circularity along the textiles value chain**. Cefic, alongside key partners from the textiles value chain and academia, developed policy recommendations on how to best **design policies which address the full value chain from textile waste collection through to the generation of new feedstock for chemicals and textiles and improve the collection of textile waste**. The concept of 'industrial symbiosis' was used as an underlying principle, where the waste of one sector becomes the feedstock of another; to develop business models for the chemical and textile industries and demonstrate a complete reprocessing line for basic textile components, including liquid and solid waste treatment.

<http://www.resyntex.eu/>

**Cefic Lead:** Programme Council Innovation | **Key partners:** Industry & Academia | **Medium level of impact** | **Long-term effect**

**Associated SDGs and SDG targets:**



9.4 12.5

Petrochemicals Europe is participating in the 'MMAtwo' project (SPIRE-10/ Horizon2020). The project aims at **improving Polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) recycling technology** by recycling post-industrial and end-of-life PMMA waste into second-generation MethylMethAcrylate (MMA) raw materials. By doing so a more circular consumption model is being promoted.

<https://www.mmatwo.eu/>

**Cefic Lead:** Cefic/ Petrochemicals Europe's Methacrylate Sector Group | **Key partners:** The MMAtwo consortium consists of partners representing every step of the PMMA value chain | **Medium level of impact** | **Long-term effect**

**Associated SDGs and SDG targets:**



12.5

Cefic is actively participating in the European Commission's Circular Plastics Alliance. Alongside key industry stakeholders covering the full plastics value chain, the **aim is to reduce plastics littering, increase the share of recycled plastics (10 million tonnes of recycled plastics are used to make products in Europe in 2025) and stimulate market innovation**.

[https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/policy/circular-plastics-alliance\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/policy/circular-plastics-alliance_en)

**Cefic Lead:** PC Innovation | **Key partners:** European Commission & 30 Industry Associations representing key stakeholders of the plastics value chain | **High level of impact** | **Long-term effect**

**Associated SDGs and SDG targets:**



9.4 12.5 14.1

**With a view to fostering the sustainable growth of bio-based feedstocks for the chemical industry**, which contribute to resource efficiency and the growth of the circular economy, Cefic facilitated and hosted three Lignin workshops to promote sustainable supply chains, by connecting industry and academics with the common interest of promoting activities on lignin valorisation (a raw material with the potential to contribute to increasing resource efficiency). The focus of the third workshop was on market pull mechanisms and connecting with brand owners.

<https://ligninclub.fi/lignin-ecosystem-joint-workshop-ceficpoyry/>

**Cefic Lead:** Programme Council Innovation | **Key partners:** Lignin Club, Pöyry & Industry and Academia representatives | **High level of impact** | **Long-term effect**

**Associated SDGs and SDG targets:**



9.4 12.5

VinylPlus is the voluntary commitment to sustainable development of the European PVC industry. It contributes towards sustainable development by **reducing waste generation of PVC** through recycling and **reducing the use of hazardous chemicals** by replacing lead in the use of PVC additives in EU-28. As part of the commitment, measurable targets and deadlines to achieve 'a higher volume of PVC being recycled' (800,000 tonnes/year of PVC to be recycled by 2020) and 'reduce energy consumption in PVC production' (20% reduction by 2020), are in place. In addition, VinylPlus promotes the sustainable use of additives - including plasticisers and stabilisers- and fosters sustainability awareness. Its members are also developing a science-based methodology to address and evaluate the sustainable use of the PVC additives, the **Additive Sustainability Footprint (ASF)**.

<https://vinylplus.eu/>

**Cefic Lead:** ESPA & European Plasticisers | **Key partners:** The European Council of Vinyl Manufacturers (ECVM) & European Plastics Converters (EuPC) | **High level of impact** | **Long-term effect**

**Associated SDGs and SDG targets:**



3.9 12.5

**To accelerate the transition to a Circular Economy**, Cefic participated in an EU funded Project HARMONI, aiming at identifying regulatory, other non-technological barriers and standardisation needs in the areas of waste and plastic recycling and CO<sub>2</sub> valorisation and other circular approaches. Guidance and recommendations on standards and regulations were developed, as well as a toolkit designed to enable companies to transfer solutions across sectors and enhance cross sectoral cooperation.

<https://www.spire2030.eu/harmoni>

**Cefic Lead:** Programme Council Innovation | **Key partners:** CIRCE Foundation, the European Cement Association (CEMBUREAU), the European Association which is committed to managing and implementing the SPIRE Public-Private Partnership (A.SPIRE), German Institute for Standardisation (DIN), European Centre for Refractories (ECREF), Institut für Baustoff-Forschung (FEhS) | **Small to medium level of impact** | **Medium-term effect**

**Associated SDGs and SDG targets:**



9.4 12.5

Cefic, alongside its key partners, created a **cross-sector platform which will advance novel approaches to the recycling of wind turbine blades**. The improvement of recyclability of composite materials, is expected to increase material recovery.

<https://cefic.org/media-corner/newsroom/new-joint-project-between-wind-and-chemical-industry-to-advance-wind-turbine-recycling/>

**Cefic Lead:** Sustainability Forum | **Key partners:** WindEurope & European Composites Industry Association (EUCIA) | **Small to medium level of impact** | **Long-term effect**

**Associated SDGs and SDG targets:**



9.4 12.5







## ROADMAP TO PROGRESS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: Preventing harm to humans and the environment throughout the entire life cycle

Cefic is rolling out SQAS 2019 (Safety and Quality for Sustainability), a harmonised third party assessment to evaluate the performance of Risk Management systems of logistics operations (suppliers and distributors) and promote the **reduction of all types of emissions** (from GHG emissions to noise emissions), as well as the **reduction of fuel, energy and water consumption**. This version includes new sections about:

- Management of all types of emission reduction by transport companies
- Requirements for control of very small particles of plastic/flakes/powder that are lost during transportation, handling, cleaning or storage and can have a negative impact on the environment
- Promotion of programmes aiming to reduce fuel, energy and water consumption in logistic operations

Cefic also organises regular SQAS **training workshops** for SQAS assessors and the chemical sector. The workshops aim to **promote procedures that ensure the safety and security of logistic operations, as well as a higher standard of environmental and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** criteria for logistic operations in the chemical's supply chain.

Cefic is reaching out to its key partners in the value chain to share best practices, collaborate and reinforce a stakeholders dialogue to achieve 'zero fatalities' in the logistic operations and covering the full supply chain of the chemical industry and ensure safety on road transportation.

**Cefic Lead:** Programme Council Health, Safety & Environment /Transport & Logistics  
**Key partners:** European Chemical Transport Association (ECTA), European Federation of Tank Cleaning Organisations (EFTCO), Chemical Distribution Industry in Europe (FECC) | **High level of impact | Medium-term effect**

Associated SDGs and SDG targets:



Cefic is engaging in **capacity building activities** in African countries, focusing on Ghana and Ivory Coast, to support the implementation of the United Nations' Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), which provides a harmonised basis for globally uniform physical, environmental, and health and safety information on hazardous chemical substances and mixtures. **A globally harmonised system is important to safeguard safety and to ensure the environmentally sound management of chemicals across the globe.**

**Cefic Lead:** Programme Council Product Stewardship  
**Key partners:** International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)  
**Medium level of impact | Long-term effect**

Associated SDGs and SDG targets:



The European Solvents Industry Group (ESIG) provides materials (e.g. videos) on **understanding and reducing volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions**, which can cause harm to humans and the environment. ESIG's most recent calculations (2015 numbers) show that total solvent VOC emissions for the EU28 are just under two million tonnes, which means they have stabilised since 2013 and fallen by 60% since 2008.

<https://www.esig.org/regulatory/air-quality>

**Cefic Lead:** ESIG | **Key partners:** Solvents Industry Association and value chain stakeholders | **High level of impact | Small-term effect**

Associated SDGs and SDG targets:



Standards are important to ensure all products and services we buy and use on a daily basis are safe and of high quality. Cefic contributed to the activities of the European Standardisation Organisations (CEN-CLC/BTWG 11 'Sustainable Chemicals'), by mapping existing standards relevant to 'sustainable chemicals', over the last two years. These standards aim to **ensure the safety of chemicals placed on the market and improve the efficiency with which natural resources are used**, through increased recycling and re-use, to the benefit of the environment and the economy.

**Cefic Lead:** Programme Council Product Stewardship  
**Key partners:** European Commission, European Standardisation Organisations (CEN/CENELEC)  
**Medium level of impact | Medium-term effect**

Associated SDGs and SDG targets:



Cefic-LRI pursues a number of sustainability objectives through its activities. Cefic-LRI is **expanding the scientific base and research on microplastics and their effect on the aquatic environment and species**. This is done by joining forces with industry and academia. It **provides funding of EUR 600,000** for the academic projects Nano2Plast & METAS and supports the development of an environmental risk assessment framework (Exposure and E-Fate, Bioaccumulation, Persistence and Toxicity & Physical Effects).

Cefic-LRI is continuously improving its online toolbox with numerous quality-assured databases and key prediction tools. The toolbox offers European and national regulatory agencies, industry and academia **scientific guidance in Chemical Risk Assessment**. In addition, Cefic-LRI has organised a **workshop on applying non-animal testing strategies for assessing skin sensitisation**, and a workshop on 21st Century Approaches for Evaluating Biological Activity, Exposures, and Risks of Complex Substances.

**Cefic Lead:** Cefic-LRI Team | **Key partners:** International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals (ECETOC), European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing (EPA), International Fragrance Association (IFRA) Europe | **High level of impact | Long-term effect**

Associated SDGs and SDG targets:



Cefic has developed a multi-annual REACH Dossier Action Plan, to assist chemical companies in **improving the quality of data on chemicals within the REACH dossiers**. The plan will support the work of ECHA to ensure compliance with REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) legislation. **REACH aims to ensure a high level of protection for human health and the environment**. Cefic and ECHA will oversee the implementation of this Action Plan, with all the relevant information being publicly available.

[https://cefic.org/our-industry/reach-dossier-improvement-action-plan/?utm\\_source=LinkedIn&utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_campaign=REACH](https://cefic.org/our-industry/reach-dossier-improvement-action-plan/?utm_source=LinkedIn&utm_medium=Social&utm_campaign=REACH)

**Cefic Lead:** Programme Council Product Stewardship | **Key partners:** European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) & Cefic member companies  
**High level of impact | Small to long-term effect**

Associated SDGs and SDG targets:



Cefic, alongside its key partners aims to **improve the collaboration between suppliers and downstream users, by laying the foundations for a global standard for communication of information on chemicals along the value chain**. This is coordinated through a project of the Society for Institutional Analysis (Sofia) at the University of Applied Sciences Darmstadt. **The long-term ambition of the project is to arrive at ISO certified standards.**

**Cefic Lead:** Programme Council Product Stewardship  
**Key partners:** Value chain, electronic sector and textile sector: European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), Sofia (University of Applied Sciences Darmstadt) | **Medium level of impact | Small to medium-term effect**

Associated SDGs and SDG targets:





**Cefic participated in ECHA's Plastic additives initiative**, which helped collect information on more than 400 additives in plastics, **mapping their use and exposure information**. The project, which lasted two years, had as objective to characterise the uses of plastic additives and the extent to which the additives may be released from plastic articles. Relevant stakeholders provided the necessary information for assessing their safety through a compliance check or other means so that any remaining concerns can subsequently be addressed. The work included the development of a method for comparing the release potential of different additives. Downstream users can now use the method to determine which registration dossiers they should update as highest priority and to identify where safe use information communicated down the supply chain needs to be further improved. **The improved communication can increase confidence among stakeholders and the public about the safety of plastic additives used in numerous products.**

<https://echa.europa.eu/mapping-exercise-plastic-additives-initiative>

**Cefic Lead:** ESPA & European Plasticisers | **Key partners:** European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), PlasticsEurope, European Plastics Converters (EuPC) & experts from academia, Member State authorities and the European Commission  
**High level of impact | Small to medium-term effect**

Associated SDGs and SDG targets:



12.4

Cefic and John Warner, one of the founders of the field of green chemistry, teamed up to organise a series of **bootcamps on 'Green and Sustainable Chemistry'**. The objective is to **address concerns of the general public about chemicals impacting human health and the environment** and support chemical enterprises on how to better explain and address these concerns. The workshops aim to address the topics of: Managing risk and safety by design; Innovation for sustainability solutions; Toxicology for Chemists; Biomimicry and Circular Economy; Green chemistry and plastics in the environment.

<https://cefic.org/media-corner/event/green-and-sustainability-bootcamp>

**Cefic Lead:** Sustainability Forum  
**Key partners:** John Warner; representatives from industry and academia  
**High level of impact | Long-term effect**

Associated SDGs and SDG targets:



3.9, 4.4, 9.4, 12.4 & 12.5

The Responsible Care programme is the chemical industry's long-standing ethical commitment to improving safe production, handling and use of chemicals across the supply chains. Cefic has rejuvenated its Responsible Care programme. The rejuvenated programme aims to **promote the reporting on key metrics which can quantify the contributions of the industry on providing solutions for sustainable development challenges and boost awareness and knowledge on vital process safety and security operations of the chemical industry and enhance further the concept of the circular economy within chemical operations.**

Cefic regularly engages in **capacity building activities** to promote the programme and instruct companies how to use it effectively. These activities include participating in workshops at national, regional and international level and by providing trainers and training materials for Responsible Care.

<https://cefic.org/our-industry/responsible-care/>

**Cefic Lead:** Programme Council Health, Safety & Environment | **Key partners:** National Chemical Federations, International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) | **Medium level of impact | Small to long-term effect**

Associated SDGs and SDG targets:



9.4, 3.9, 12.4, 12.5, 12.6, 17.9

Cefic is participating in the **Digital Transport & Logistics Forum (DTLF) of the European Commission**, a group of experts and stakeholders from different transport and logistics communities, both from the private and public sector, with a view to build a common vision and a roadmap for digital transport and logistics. The Forum members developed guidance and recommendations which promote the **use of digital solutions, such as data sharing and E-transport documents, to increase transport & logistics safety, and to reduce transport emissions**. The DTLF contributes to identifying needs for measures at EU level and supporting their development and implementation where relevant.

<http://www.dtlf.eu/>

**Cefic Lead:** Programme Council Health, Safety & Environment / Transport & Logistics | **Key partners:** European Commission, European Chemical Transport Association (ECTA), Chemical Distribution Industry in Europe (FECC), Agency For Innovation By Science And Technology (IWT)

**Medium level of impact | Medium-term effect**

Associated SDGs and SDG targets:



3.6 & 3.9, 9.1, 13.3

Cefic supports the work of the United Nation's Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in their efforts to promote a global policy framework to foster the sound management of chemicals. **Cefic promotes the inclusion of the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) in the trade and sustainable development (TSD) chapters of the EU trade agreements**. GHS provides a harmonised basis for globally uniform physical, environmental, and health and safety information on hazardous chemical substances and mixtures. A globally harmonised system is important to ensure safety, environmentally sound management of chemicals, and sustainable economic growth across the globe.

**Cefic Lead:** Programme Council Industrial Policy  
**Key partners:** United Nations  
**Medium level of impact | Medium-term effect**

Associated SDGs and SDG targets:



12.4, 17.4

Cefic's Sector Group, Sustainable Fuels, alongside their key partners offered their expertise during the technical meetings of the African Refiners Association (ARA) and the 'ARA Week' in Cape Town, South Africa. **Sustainable Fuels shared expertise and best practices on improving fuel specification in African states as well as on regulatory issues related to safe storage of fuels, which has a major impact on air and water quality in Africa.**

Sustainable Fuels also participated in the 12th Global Partners' Meeting of the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV), hosted by UN Environment to discuss how to switch to cleaner fuels and improve air quality globally. PCFV partners committed to take action in following three domains: 1) eliminate lead in petrol worldwide; 2) reduce sulphur levels in fuels; and 3) promote cleaner vehicle standards. **These actions will have a positive impact on the environment, as well as on human health, by increasing air quality and reducing human exposure to hazardous chemicals.**

<https://www.unenvironment.org/events/un-environment-event/12th-global-partners-meeting-partnership-clean-fuels-and-vehicles-held>

**Cefic Lead:** Sustainable Fuels (former "EFOA") | **Key partners:** Asian Clean Fuels Association (ACFA), & Latin America Clean Fuels Association (ACELA) / Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) **Medium level of impact | Medium to large-term effect**

Associated SDGs and SDG targets:



3.9, 11.6, 13.3, 17.6



THE ROLE OF CEFIC IN PROMOTING A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA. ENCOURAGE, PROMOTE AND FACILITATE: **Best practice sharing and collaboration across industries, value chains and stakeholders**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Target 3.9</b>  | reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air pollution and contamination  |
| <b>Target 7.2</b>  | increase the share of renewable energy  |
| <b>Target 7.3</b>  | improve energy efficiency   |
| <b>Target 9.2</b>  | promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation   |
| <b>Target 9.3</b>  | increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises to their value chains and markets   |
| <b>Target 9.4</b>  | upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes |
| <b>Target 9.5</b>  | enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors encouraging innovation and public and private research and development spending                                     |
| <b>Target 12.2</b> | achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources   |
| <b>Target 12.4</b> | achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle  |
| <b>Target 12.5</b> | substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse  |
| <b>Target 12.6</b> | encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle   |

ROADMAP TO PROGRESS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: **Enabling the transition to a low-carbon economy**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Target 3.9</b>   | reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air pollution and contamination                    |
| <b>Target 7.A</b>   | enhance cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy              |
| <b>Target 7.2</b>   | increase the share of renewable energy  |
| <b>Target 7.3</b>   | improve energy efficiency   |
| <b>Target 12.5</b>  | substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse                                  |
| <b>Target 12.6</b>  | encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle |
| <b>Target 13.3</b>  | awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation and adaptation                        |
| <b>Target 17.14</b> | enhance policy coherence for sustainable development  |

ROADMAP TO PROGRESS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: **Driving resource efficiency across global value chains and in our operations & promoting adoption of circular economy principles to prevent waste and to achieve a low-carbon economy and enhance resource efficiency**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Target 3.9</b>  | reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air pollution and contamination  |
| <b>Target 9.4</b>  | upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes |
| <b>Target 12.5</b> | substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse  |
| <b>Target 14.1</b> | prevent and reduce marine pollution   |

ROADMAP TO PROGRESS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

**Preventing harm to humans and the environment throughout the entire life cycle**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Target 3.6</b>  | reduce the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents   |
| <b>Target 3.9</b>  | reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air pollution and contamination  |
| <b>Target 4.4</b>  | increase technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship  |
| <b>Target 9.1</b>  | development of quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure  |
| <b>Target 9.4</b>  | upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes |
| <b>Target 11.6</b> | reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, by paying special attention to air quality  |
| <b>Target 12.4</b> | achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle  |
| <b>Target 12.5</b> | substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse  |
| <b>Target 12.6</b> | encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle   |
| <b>Target 13.3</b> | awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation and adaptation  |
| <b>Target 17.4</b> | enhance policy coherence for sustainable development  |
| <b>Target 14.A</b> | increase scientific knowledge   |
| <b>Target 17.6</b> | enhance international cooperation and knowledge sharing   |
| <b>Target 17.9</b> | enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries   |

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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.

Cefic members form one of the most active networks of the business community, complemented by partnerships with industry associations representing various sectors in the value chain. A full list of our members is available on the Cefic website: [www.cefic.org/About-us/Our-members](http://www.cefic.org/About-us/Our-members)

Cefic is an active member of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), which represents chemical manufacturers and producers all over the world and seeks to strengthen existing cooperation with global organisations such as UNEP and the OECD to improve chemicals management worldwide.





