

President

European Commission
President Ursula von der Leyen
200, Rue de la Loi
1040 Brussels

11 July 2022

RE: Invitation CEO dialogue in the context of Cefic 50-year anniversary and Global Convention

Dear President von der Leyen,

We thank you for your strong leadership in these incredibly challenging times.

Our industry has taken a clear stand. As fourth largest industry in Europe, we were one of the first to support the European Green Deal and have the ambition of becoming climate neutral in 2050. Collaborating with your team, we have overcome the supply needs during the COVID crisis and supplied the necessary materials for pharmaceuticals and disinfectants. In the same way, we have fully and early spoken out against the War in Ukraine and supported the European decisions taken. But we also face the consequences, like other energy intensive industries, with the growing uncertainty about feedstock and energy supplies due to the war in Ukraine. Nevertheless, we target to stay the fourth largest industry in Europe and play a leading role in the chemical industry worldwide, but it is all about Europe's international competitiveness.

However, our chemical industry stands at a crucial crossroads at the moment, facing what we call a 'double twin' transition: we need to become climate neutral, digital, circular and implement the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability all at the same time. In particular, the policy changes envisaged by the EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability will not only affect nearly one third of our industry's turnover in Europe but will also have a "ripple effect" across all value chains relying on chemicals, including those that are key to Europe's strategic autonomy such as pharmaceuticals, electronics, construction and automotive.

I very much value your interaction with the European Round Table for industrialists (ERT) and would value a further dialogue. I would therefore much appreciate to be able to meet you and discuss the importance of a dedicated Transition Pathway for the European Chemical Industry, following a series of meetings we have had on this topic with European Heads of State so far.

On behalf of the Board of Cefic, [REDACTED], I would kindly like to invite you to a dialogue with the global chemical industry CEOs during the Cefic Convention on Thursday October 6 or Friday October 7, 2022 (depending on your availability). Cefic exists 50 years this year and for this reason we will bring together the global industry leadership in Brussels.

The only way that we see for our industry to continue thriving in Europe is to develop a dedicated reliable Transition Pathway for the European Chemical Industry, with realistic timelines and sequencing of measures to enable our industry, and in particular SMEs, to transform as fast as reasonably possible.

We believe that this Transition Pathway for the European Chemical Industry, which is currently being developed by your services in the European Commission, should be complemented by national Transition Pathways in all EU countries having a strong domestic chemical sector, for which reason we have met the Heads of State.

The signal of a meeting between us and other global CEO's such as [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], would be a much-needed boost and clear signal to the industry. We need confidence and a reliable positive framework for massively needed investments to transform and continue to support the European future.

We would be honored to be given an opportunity to meet with you.

Please inform us how we could support this request further.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

c.c. Kurt Vandenberghe