

Steering brief

Scene setter

You will meet virtually with [REDACTED] President of CEFIC, the European Chemical Industry Council, on 13 January at 10:00 (45 minutes). The meeting will be attended by members of CEFIC's executive committee and other chief executive officers (CEO's – see *all participants in the CVs section*).

This meeting has been requested by CEFIC to primarily discuss the Commission's chemical strategy for sustainability of 14 October 2020, more specifically on two aspects:

- the need for enforcement/market surveillance
- a framework within which the chemical industry can work on the implementation of and innovation to reach the objectives set by the European Green Deal.

Other topics to be discussed include:

- Brexit
- the carbon border adjustment mechanism;
- the EU-China
- (if time allows) sustainable finance (the EU taxonomy regulation)

CEFIC met on 11 June and 5 November 2020 with Executive Vice-President Timmermans to discuss the carbon adjustment mechanism. Another meeting took place on 22 October with DG TRADE Deputy Director-General [REDACTED] (see background documents).

CEFC represents medium and small chemical companies across Europe, which provide 1.2 million jobs and account for about 17% of world chemicals production. Virtually all large global and local chemical companies with production facilities in Europe are CEFC members (including companies headquartered abroad – United States companies).

Objectives of the meeting

Key messages

On the Chemicals strategy for sustainability

- The Commission wants to reinforce the regulatory framework on chemicals but also to support the EU chemicals industry by ensuring a level playing field.
- The chemicals strategy introduces measures to boost innovation and strengthen the EU legal framework for the transition to safe and sustainable chemicals.
- I count on your full support to implement the strategy and deliver fully its ambitions.

On Brexit

- [REDACTED]

On the EU carbon border adjustment mechanism

- [REDACTED]

On the EU-China

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

On the

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

On sustainable finance

- To meet the European Green Deal objectives, the draft EU taxonomy criteria need to go beyond the practices of businesses and beyond what is required by applicable law.
- The EU taxonomy is not a mandatory list of activities in which investors are obliged to invest if they want to invest in "green". It remains up to each investor to decide.

Contact – briefing coordination: [REDACTED]