

From: [REDACTED]
To: [BONOVA Lucia \(CAB-VESTAGER\)](#)
Cc: [CAB VESTAGER ARCHIVES; \[REDACTED\] \(CAB-VESTAGER\); \[REDACTED\]](#)
Subject: Ares(2021)1320831 RE: Competition Policy and the Green Deal - request for a meeting with EVP
Date: vendredi 8 janvier 2021 09:35:52
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[Cefic Contribution to Competition and Green Deal - NOV 2020.pdf](#)

Dear Lucia,

Hope you enjoyed dinner! Please see the below. Shall I call you, or do you want to call me?

We propose that after the introductions by [REDACTED], we ask the EVP for an introductory statement and then we have a few questions, each raised by [REDACTED], before we have a general Q&A?

We have prepared with the following for the meeting. I hope this helps you prepare:

1. We will ask her views on the **Green Deal and Competition Policy** (see attached our input) – the need for a “rebooted” competition framework within which the industry can work on the massive investments needed for the implementation of and innovation for the Chemical Strategy and Green Deal, including the climate neutrality target, innovation and circular economy. We would like to ask her direction to what extent the Green Deal will impact competition policy and vice versa how competition policy can help drive innovation as industry will need to cooperate in many new ways to meet these goals in this timeframe. This includes state aid, antitrust rules and to a lesser extend merger rules. We will ask in practice to shape a safe competition framework within which the industry can work on the implementation of and innovation for the Chemical Strategy and climate neutrality target; EVP Timmermans was open to this idea; We hope you / EVP Vestager can support as well. We will ask her to provide us with the name of a key person in your team who could advise us further on such a sectoral approach, competition law constraints in cooperation and alliances?
2. **Chemical Strategy.** With the CSS, you aim to establish a completely new chemical industry in Europe, in which the use of hazardous chemicals is minimized. Challenge is that we are far ahead of the rest of the world in legislation. How can we together ensure that with the CSS, the European industry will lead the chemical industry worldwide and be competitive on the global market? We believe setting global standards, even together with China could be a pathway, do you see that as well? Specifically, we have suggested to broaden the Chemical Strategy and decarbonisation strategies into a **Sectoral green deal for our industry**, covering the full transformation our sector and customers will need to go through in the next decades. That means, next to further strengthening and simplifying the legal frameworks a holistic and thorough impact assessment of all affected value chains for the CSS. Challenge is that the Green deal momentum may require companies / sectors to obtain a collective understanding on strategic directions and gather relevant data which is not possible or very difficult under current competition rules. The same questioning occur for data for CSS impact assessments. How this could be facilitated? Will there be an overall impact assessment on the sector? Can she advise?
3. **Round Table – as seen above,** The Chemicals Sustainability Strategy presents opportunities but also far-reaching challenges. This is recognised by the provision in the Strategy for a High-Level Round Table to advise the Commission. We warmly welcome this idea and would aim to be an active participant at CEO level. The target start date is February 2021. In view of the urgency and importance, can you advise how this round table will be set up by the targeted date and how we can help? Will she take a role as well as we very much depend on a safe competition environment

as well?

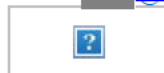
4. **Cooperation on innovation** The Commission is encouraging the creation of Alliances prompting new ways to collectively develop and innovate. The Chemical Strategy applies to many more sectors than ours – all our customers are impacted. Key consumer goods and automotive companies will be key for example. How best can we safely work together? Via innovation platforms with value chains? Can you help us with a framework or is this just DGRTD? (Background: **Alliances**. We support the European Hydrogen Alliance Industry roundtable and new Hydrogen IPCEI, and Batteries, where we are a member of the European Battery Alliance. We are engaged in project and consortia to develop Batteries, hydrogen pyrolysis, E-crackers and several projects on chemical recycling). We are interested in her expectations on our lead in Hydrogen, Batteries and Low Carbon Industry alliances. Could she share some views how we can cooperate within the framework of competition policy?
5. **Race towards renewables**. We believe there will be a race towards renewables. How can we secure industry that is hard to decarbonize gets to the renewable electricity and hydrogen it needs? Are you developing ideas on this? There are regulatory hurdles where EC can help with to help kickstart industrial electrification and greening chemistry (EEAG – see below, and ETS Indirect Compensation code for Hydrogen vs non compensation Basic Organic). If we don't use Hydrogen or electrify, we can't decarbonise – and when we hydrogen or electrify, we need massive amounts of renewable electricity. We will ask her advise us how we can start a structured dialogue with the services.
6. **EEAG**. We will ask her views on the review of the Energy and Environmental State Aid Guidelines (EEAG), as today regulatory and RES surcharge systems or limited exemption schemes in Europe remain a direct impediment to industrial electrification. We will raise the need to support electrification of and the use of hydrogen in the industry in line with Green Deal objectives and ask her views how to modernise the Energy and Environment State Aid Guidelines and their implementation (how to address reduction/removal renewable surcharges in EU Member States (DE and BE situation).
7. **Digital**. We will ask to include / think how to use industry can be better seen as a starting point for digital solutions. As chemical industry we for sure have a significant purchasing power to help steer developments. We think there is a big potential here to explore for the new Industrial Policy next year. We have a number of digital projects running – self driving trucks, logistic pilots, predictive maintenance, use of big data for chemical trials/ testing. Two of the largest supercomputers in private hands are in our sector. We are likely one of the largest industrial purchasers of digital technologies in Europe. Can we help policy by using this purchasing power? How will you involve industry in your digital strategy?

Hope that clarifies

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EU Transparency Register n° 64879142323-90

From: BONOVA Lucia
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 5:48 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; CAB-VESTAGER-ARCHIVES@ec.europa.eu; [REDACTED];

Subject: RE: Competition Policy and the Green Deal - request for a meeting with EVP

External email - Think before you click on links and attachments.

Well, you are well ahead of me – first need to run to Delhaize before I start cooking for the three hungry birds☺

Let's speak tomorrow☺

Lucia

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@cefic.be>
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 5:44 PM
To: BONOVA Lucia (CAB-VESTAGER) <Lucia.BONOVA@ec.europa.eu>
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Subject: RE: Competition Policy and the Green Deal - request for a meeting with EVP

Hi Lucia

We have! As I am cooking for my kids (long live home office) in 15 mins – would it be OK if I answer tomorrow morning?

Kid regards

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EU Transparency Register n° 64879142323-90

From: BONOVA Lucia <Lucia.BONOVA@ec.europa.eu>

Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 5:43 PM

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Subject: RE: Competition Policy and the Green Deal - request for a meeting with EVP

External email - Think before you click on links and attachments.

Dear [REDACTED],

Let me first wish you and your colleagues a very happy and successful 2021, hopefully also more normal for everybody.

I just wanted to touch base in view of the next week's call between EVP and Cefic and see with you whether you have some more concrete agenda in mind you would like to discuss.

Best

Lucia