

Meeting with CEFIC

3 February 2021

Participants :

- [REDACTED], CEFIC
- [REDACTED] CEFIC
- Joan Canton, Cabinet Breton

Summary

The meeting was an opportunity to prepare for the exchange between Commissioner Breton and CEFIC [REDACTED].

The discussions focused on:

- The current economic context: CEFIC explained that overall, the chemicals industry fared better than other energy intensive industries, with only a decrease in activity of 2% over 2020.
- The preparation of the “fit for 55” package. CEFIC recalled its commitments to the overall objectives, but also the specific challenges faced by the industry. In particular, CEFIC stressed that as an export oriented industry, the chemicals sector sees some risks of carbon leakage from a CBAM.
- The national recovery plans and the financing of innovative projects: CEFIC recalled that a project pipeline exists but that access to finance is currently difficult. They stressed the difficulties faced by the industry in accessing the RRF funds, due, notably, to the complex process for applying.
- The European Climate Law: CEFIC welcomed the EP amendments to develop sectoral decarbonisation roadmaps and inquired about the Commission’s position on this issue.
- The chemicals strategy for sustainability: CEFIC enquired in particular about the creation of the High Level roundtable, seen as an essential step to facilitate the implementation of the strategy.

The Commission replied to the questions and clarified the state of play on the various files.