

## Flash report from meeting with Cefic and industriAll

Meeting, event: Meeting with Cefic and industriAll on REACH revision

Date: 26/09/2022

Participants from CAB or DG:

- Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights
- [REDACTED], CAB-SCHMIT
- [REDACTED], CAB-SCHMIT
- [REDACTED] Policy Officer, DG EMPL.C2

Participants from Cefic and industriAll:

- Martin Brudermüller, Cefic President & CEO BASF
- [REDACTED], General Secretary of IndustriAll
- [REDACTED], Cefic DG
- [REDACTED], Head of Brussels Office BASF
- [REDACTED], Policy Advisor

Summary of the meeting:

Cefic and industriAll representatives highlighted initially that the chemicals industry employs more than 1.2 million workers in the EU and is the basis of many other industries.

They ensured their support to the European Green Deal. However, and beyond the green and digital transition, the chemicals industry has now to deal with the energy crisis and its consequences on the energy prices.

They referred to the [Cefic study](#) showing that important market losses could be expected from implementation of specific regulatory measures related to CLP and REACH regulations. With all these current and future costs arising from the EU regulatory measures and the energy crises, most companies within the chemicals industry will stop or reduce their investments in the EU. This could negatively impact the EU's growth and production in the future. The industry also regretted that discussion in the High-Level Roundtable on the Implementation of the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability does not allow for a meaningful exchange.

Following this, Cefic and industriAll representatives

- asked Commissioner Schmit to consider a strong involvement of DG EMPL in the discussions regarding the Chemicals industry's *transition pathway* to a green and digital economy, currently under discussion between the industry, DG GROW and DG ENV;
- raised their concerns about the possible extension of the Generic Approach to Risk Management under REACH for regulating professional uses, while highlighting that workers are already protected with the occupational safety and health (OSH) chemicals legislation;
- made it clear that they are not in favour of a moratorium but rather on a pragmatic approach, which consists in not adopting unnecessary obligations in the current context.

Commissioner Schmit reassured its support in the European Green Deal and highlighted the importance of having a strong industry in the EU. It is important to implement it in a way so that its objectives are reached while ensuring the protection of workers and industries. He also insisted on

the importance to impose obligations to employers in the area of OSH which are technically and scientifically feasible.

Commissioner Schmit promised to discuss with his colleagues how the investment capacity of industry could be supported. He also mentioned the importance of the social partners' discussion in the area of OSH.