

Director General

Mr Donald Tusk
President of the European Council
European Council
Rue de la Loi 175
B-1048 Brussel

5 November 2015

Dear Mr President,

I am writing to draw your attention to the open letter, signed by our President and other leaders of the European chemical industry, which is being published in the Financial Times today.

This letter is a public expression of the European chemical industry's support for Europe's efforts to secure an effective agreement in Paris and the transition to a competitive low carbon economy. It also emphasises the role that a competitive European chemicals industry can play in that transition.

We look forward to working with you to that end.

Yours sincerely,


Hubert Mandery

SECRÉTARIAT GÉNÉRAL DU
CONSEIL DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE

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M. TUSK

Open letter to the European Council, European Commission
and European Parliament

THE EUROPEAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY BACKS STRONG GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENT AT COP 21



Open letter to the European Council, European Commission and European Parliament

We, leaders of the European chemical industry, applaud the diplomatic efforts to achieve an ambitious and globally-binding agreement in the Paris climate negotiations. Climate action is needed worldwide, to truly protect future generations from this global problem.

Today, the chemical industry is a pillar of the European economy: a €551 billion industry in 2014 with a significant trade surplus of €43.5 billion, providing over 1 million direct jobs and nearly 2.5 million indirect jobs in Europe.

We believe the chemical industry is also a pillar of tomorrow's low carbon economy.

We represent a creative industry, whose greenhouse gas emissions have fallen by 54% on 1990 levels while production grew by 70%. So, we want to set the record straight that Cefic does, and will continue to, support efforts by European governments and institutions to achieve a competitive, low-carbon economy.

Chemistry is often all but invisible yet essential to consumers' everyday lives: from health and hygiene to transport, construction and computing. Chemical innovation enables current and future climate change solutions, including renewable energy, energy storage and thousands of products to improve energy efficiency, such as in vehicles and buildings. In future years, chemical companies around the world will develop many more of these innovative and important solutions.

For now, Europe's chemical industry is facing the reality of ever fiercer global competition. It must remain competitive in order to continue being innovative.

Climate change policy leadership in Europe should not come at the expense of 'investment leakage' – the effect of regional imbalances in climate regulations and associated cost differences that lead to the relocation of carbon emissions but not to an overall global reduction. For this reason we would warmly welcome a successful outcome in the Paris climate negotiations. Meanwhile Europe's policymakers also need to make certain that measures are in place ensuring energy-intensive industries are not exposed to investment leakage in any scenario. European deindustrialisation is not and should never be seen as a viable option on the journey to decarbonisation.

We wish success to all involved in the negotiations in Paris.



Open letter to the European Council, European Commission and European Parliament

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CEO Signatories

Jean-Pierre Clamadieu,
President of Cefic,
Solvay SA

Tony Bastock,
Contract Chemicals Ltd

Kurt Bock,
BASF SE

Wolfgang Büchele,
Linde AG

Alain de Krassny,
Donau Chemie AG

Klaus Engel,
Evonik Industries AG

Daniele Ferrari,
Versalis SpA

Joao Fugas,
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Mark Garrett,
Borealis AG

Frédéric Gauchet,
Minafin Group

Karl-Ludwig Kley,
Merck KGaA

Hariolf Kottmann,
Clariant

Thierry Le Hénaff,
Arkema

Jari Rosendal,
Kemira Oyj

Giorgio Squinzi,
MAPEI SpA

Rudolf Staudigl,
Wacker Chemie AG

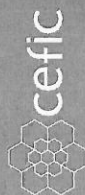
Patrick Thomas,
Covestro AG

Graham van't Hoff, Executive VP,
Shell Chemicals Ltd

Matthias Zachert,
Lanxess AG

Maria Victoria Zingoni, Executive MD,
Repsol

Cefic, the European Chemical Industry Council, founded in 1972, is the voice of 29,000 large, medium and small chemical companies in Europe, which provide 1.2 million jobs and account for 17% of world chemical production.



Chemistry making a world of difference

European Chemical Industry Council - Cefic aisbl

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