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Sent: jeudi 13 février 2020 18:56
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Subject: Meeting with chemical industry company Kemira on GD, wastewater directive and circular economy

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Participants:

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Kemira, Finnish chemical industry company, requested a meeting with cab Urpilainen to present their views on **the urban wastewater treatment directive, circular economy** and on **Green Deal**. Kemira operates in pulp and paper as well as in water intensive industries and municipal water treatment. Kemira is a market leader in Europe (with 30% share of the market) but also in the US and for instance in Ghana. The company recognizes that up-to-date regulations are necessary drivers for investment and thus welcomes the recast of **the urban wastewater treatment directive (UWWTD)**, adopted in the 1990s, as the directive is outdated. Company underlined that:

- Urban wastewater remains one of the main sources of phosphorus emissions;
- **Emission limit values** (especially phosphorus) in water discharges **should be tightened** (now the limit value for phosphorus is 1-2%, but Nordic wastewater treatment plants get currently as low as to 0,2%. Therefore limit value could be set at 0,5%);
- The requirements of the directive must be implemented fully and equally in all MSs;
- Reporting of compliance performance should be reviewed and improved, to better support the enforcement of the directive;
- Wastewater treatment plants need to upgrade their technology to protect the quality of surface and ground waters;
- Managing storm water flows should be made mandatory at the EU level as safe and cost-effective solutions exist.

As regards the ongoing debate on **emerging pollutants** and particularly **micro plastics**, Kemira can remove 90% of micro plastics from wastewater. Company is currently testing different technologies on the micro plastics in liquid form (such as on residues of pharmaceutical products).

As regards the forthcoming **circular economy action plan** and the **European Green Deal** in general, Kemira welcomes the intention to turn the EU economy from linear to circular model. **The company criticized, however, the Green Deal communication for its lack of water related initiatives.** They

underlined that also water can be recycled. The company emphasised that the recast of UWWTD provides for an opportunity to convert wastewater treatment into nutrients, energy and water – in line with the notion of circular economy. In this respect, the company pointed out that while cleaning phosphorus from wastewater is currently perfectly possible, phosphorus continues to pollute European waters. Moreover, while phosphorus in European waters could in fact be collected and reused, European countries continuously import phosphorus from Morocco.

Lastly, Kemira pointed out that there is much to do in introducing **the circular economy mindset in Africa and India**: utilization of local wastewater nutrients provides ample opportunities for instance for agriculture in the emerging markets.

shed light on the different building blocks of the Green Deal as well as on the way forward, and took note of the company's key messages.

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