



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate B – Circular Economy
ENV.B.2 – Safe & Sustainable Chemicals

Brussels, 21 November 2022
ENV.B.2

Meeting between Commissioner Sinkevičius and CEFIC on REACH revision

18 November 2022, 11-12

Minutes

Participants: Commissioner Sinkevičius
Martin Brudermueller, BASF, and Cefic President
, Neste, , Renewable Polymers
and Chemicals
, Shell,
, ExxonMobil, ExxonMobil Europe
, Nouryon, Technology Solutions
Wim Michiels, CEO, Proviron
, LyondellBasell,
, Cefic
Elena Montani, CAB-Sinkevičius
, DG ENV, B.2

Excused: Marco Mensink, Cefic

Executive Summary

Cefic reiterated their support to the goals of the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, but that industry needs regulatory certainty and predictability. To this end, Cefic requested a pragmatic approach with evolution rather than

revolution.

Cefic noted that the competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry has eroded and that the EU is now a net importer of chemicals; however, innovation is the business model of the industry, and adding costs makes the industry less competitive. To this end, Cefic urged the Commission to look into the international competitiveness and mentioned that also the US is embarking on a green revolution but with public funding for a growth programme.

Cefic also commented that the EU chemicals industry is facing a 'double twin transition' comprising sustainability, energy, digitalisation and safety issues and that the Transition Pathway for the chemicals industry is very important for industry, and that it should be linked to a regulatory roadmap.

Cefic further mentioned their five main concerns with the planned revision of REACH, namely the Generic Risk Management Approach (GRA), essential use, restriction/authorisation reform, Mixtures Assessment Factor and registration of polymers. They suggested to start contained and build on that and mentioned that they have solutions available.

The Commissioner noted that the REACH revision is an evolution and that we will make it right and balanced, by strengthening health protection. There will be initial costs for industry, but as industry will anyway invest there will be overlaps. Moreover, there will be savings due to less administrative burden and higher predictability. Finally, he encouraged Cefic to continue engaging with the Services.

