

Videoconference with Cofindustria and BDI – summary of the meeting

Participants:

[REDACTED] (Cofindustria)

[REDACTED] (BDI)

Kurt VANDENBERGHE (CAB-VON DER LEYEN)

[REDACTED] (SG E2)

Cofindustria / BDI asked for a meeting following a letter sent to the President regarding the preparation of guidelines on implementation of the Single-use plastics (SUP) Directive.

Key points made:

- BDI reminded that the SUP Directive and draft guidelines concern several sectors that are also part of the solution to deliver on the objectives of the Green Deal. The industry does not question the need to implement the SUP Directive but has some major concerns as regards the latest internal draft of these guidelines. Specifically, they are concerned that the latest proposal would extend the scope of the Directive to more sectors (e.g. textiles, paper etc.) and that this would be done via guidelines – a non-binding document that would however have practical impacts on implementation.
- Cofindustria complemented that these are sectors where the EU has a competitive lead. This potential extension of scope of the Directive would have no environmental benefits and would create a problematic precedence for the future.
- Commission thanked for the contributions made and highlighted the understanding of the implications of these guidelines. The Commission will strive to ensure that guidelines are in line with the scope of the Directive and allow achieving the objectives set out therein while avoiding uncertainty. For the sectors that do not fit in the scope some strong voluntary commitments would help to demonstrate their sustainability drive. In case the guidelines are not fully clear there is an option to revise them in the future. It is clear that for products where no alternatives are available yet a different approach may be needed to ensure progressive reduction.
- BDI/Cofindustria welcomed this approach which would be a good way to support innovation for sectors willing to engage more. They are ready to put their commitments in writing. The acceptance of the industry is crucial also to deliver on new ambitions set out in the Climate Law and the upcoming Fit for 55 package.