



# TEAMING UP FOR A SUSTAINABLE EUROPE

## CEFIC SUSTAINABILITY CHARTER

This Charter marks a step change in the commitment of Cefic to enable a more sustainable society, building on the Responsible Care Programme and the 2012 Sustainable Development Vision. Highlighting the role of the European chemical industry and Cefic as the related European industry association, it lays out key strategies in areas that are critical to progress in Sustainable Development and to competitiveness<sup>1</sup>. For us, sustainability is business and business is sustainability. The Charter follows our understanding of Sustainable Development as encompassing economic, environmental and social aspects which all need to be addressed simultaneously.

### The role of the European chemical industry

The European chemical industry as “the industry of industries” is a key player in the enabling of a projected 10 billion people’s access to decent living standards within the boundaries of our planet.

The European chemical industry

- ▶ seeks long-term economic success by integrating all aspects of sustainability – economic, environmental and social – into business strategies.
- ▶ enables transformation required in end market segments: e.g. buildings and infrastructure, transport and mobility, consumer goods, nutrition, health and personal care.
- ▶ promotes sound and effective business collaborations over and across entire value chains to advance new solutions.
- ▶ responds to a society in transition by innovating, designing and offering sustainable products and sound science based solutions.
- ▶ operates in a safe way, protecting people, the environment and the ecosystems around the world.
- ▶ provides safe and decent working conditions and high quality jobs.
- ▶ collaborates with relevant stakeholders to support sustainable development of European societies.

### The role of Cefic

Cefic will support the role of the chemical industry as a solution provider for a society in transition and assumes a leadership role towards a more sustainable future for the European companies it represents. Cefic aims to

- ▶ facilitate best practice sharing among its members to support making sustainability an integral part of their corporate strategies.
- ▶ encourage collaboration across industries, value chains and stakeholders to identify solutions for a more sustainable society.
- ▶ engage with EU policymakers, opinion leaders and stakeholders so that policies leverage the full potential of industries towards a sustainable future.
- ▶ broadly share this Charter with members and stakeholders including social partners.
- ▶ promote and showcase implementation by members.
- ▶ define key sustainability metrics for Cefic and promote their application across Europe.
- ▶ assess all Cefic programmes through a lens of sustainability; ensuring that objectives are set consistently, strategies are defined and progress is tracked for each of them.

### Roadmap to progress in Sustainable Development

With this ambition in mind, Cefic and its members will focus action and foster innovation in four key areas that are critical for progressing in Sustainable Development:

- ▶ Enabling the transition to a low carbon economy by:
  - promoting innovation and stimulation of breakthrough technologies development in energy efficient chemicals processes
  - offering market solutions consistent with low carbon requirements
  - fostering the development and use of sustainable and renewable raw materials
  - fostering the use of sustainable and renewable energy and raw materials with focus on cost and accessibility
  - innovating for chemical energy storage
  - developing fuels and building blocks built on CO<sub>2</sub>
- ▶ Driving resource efficiency across global value chains and in our operations by:
  - designing sustainable solutions needing fewer resources over the entire life cycle and allowing easy reuse and recycling
  - maximising material recovery and reuse
- ▶ Promoting adoption of Circular Economy principles to prevent waste and to achieve a low carbon economy and enhance resource efficiency
- ▶ Preventing harm to humans and the environment throughout the entire life cycle by:
  - mitigating risks, including assessment of substitutes
  - promoting uptake of safe substances, materials and solutions
  - minimising negative environmental impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems.
  - facilitating reuse, recycling and recovery with steady information flows on products

We, the European chemical industry council, call upon our members, National associations, stakeholders and policymakers to join us in these efforts to create economic, environmental and social value and we are determined to make it happen.

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