

EU Research & Innovation Framework Programme

Missions propelling innovation

The recent Lamy High Level Group (HLG) Report¹ defines: *Missions should be open to all actors in the research and innovation cycle, easy to communicate and capture public imagination and involvement, thus allowing for better communication of the benefits of the future programme. Missions should mobilise many actors and investors, including at national level, and induce action across disciplines, sectors and institutional silos.*

Mission inspiring innovation should contribute to benefitting Europe. The innovation cycle included in the Lamy HLG report¹ needs to be complemented by an appropriate **value chain approach**. Innovation needs to be stimulated at various stages of the value chains; including upstream process industries.

Providing a common point of reference in the development and discussion of *Research & Innovation Framework Programme Missions*, Cefic supports the recommendation¹ to align with the United Nations defined **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**². A recent publication from the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA)³, illustrates current contributions of the global chemical industry to the SDGs.

Europe is a hub for leading chemical companies⁴, and a front-runner in chemistry research and development. Across industry sectors and value chains – from health, hygiene, construction and transport to agriculture and energy & raw materials supply – chemical industry products are an essential element, vital to a competitive business landscape, and a crucial part of the transition to a sustainable society⁵.

Cefic identifies **three essential missions**. In addition, we will contribute to and support missions proposed by others linked to relevant products and value chains such as health and urbanisation.

Low Carbon Industries

Addressing climate change and EU resource objectives Inspired by



Industry is the backbone of the European economy. It accounts for 80% of Europe's exports and private innovations, and provides high-skilled jobs for citizens. Europe has a global competitive advantage on high value-added products and services, and ambitious goals to address **climate change** by moving towards an economy that will minimise the emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases (GHGs). Building this low-carbon emitting economy requires orchestration and breakthrough in terms of social behaviour, economic approach, technology development and environmental assessment while safeguarding the economic backbone.

The European chemical industry supplies virtually all sectors of the economy, providing innovative and sustainable solutions to today's economic and environmental challenges. Driven by the European ambition to become Carbon-Neutral, the EU chemical industry fulfils the key prerequisites to play a leading role in the societal transformation into a **carbon neutral economy**. This transition entails a reduction of carbon footprint (negative impact factors) and an increase of carbon handprint (positive impact factors).

The chemical industry CAN:

- Increase the downstream handprint through novel products, materials and solutions finding their way through value chains to reduce energy and resources consumption and enable re-use/recycle.
- Further reduce its carbon footprint by development of innovative, sustainable and efficient production processes, and development of synergies/symbiosis between industrial actors and urban infrastructures.
- Develop processes for renewable alternative feedstock to complement fossil-based feedstock.

¹ LAB – FAB – APP: *Investing in the European future we want*, Pascal Lamy High Level Group report, July 2017

² *17 Goals to Transform our World*, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, September 2015

³ *Global Chemical Industry Contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals*, ICCA, January 2017

⁴ The EU chemical industry employs 1.2 million workers and contributes €519 billion to the EU economy

⁵ *Accelerating Europe towards a sustainable future*, CEFIC sustainability report, October 2017

Materials Up- & Recycling

retaining functionality, durability, value and enabling circularity Inspired by



The European chemical industry supplies virtually all sectors with (advanced) materials. Take plastics, a valuable and ubiquitous group of materials. The unique functionalities⁶ of plastics address a number of societal challenges unmatched by any other material. The reuse and recycling of many materials is low, causing wasting end-of-life products and finite resources. Turning waste into a resource is one key element in the **circular economy**.

The objectives and targets set in European legislation are key drivers to improve waste management, stimulate innovation in recycling, and suppress the use of landfill. Making the best use of resources requires a change in consumer behaviour, re-manufacturing and re-design (in terms of durability) of products, different business models, reuse and recycling of products, and a change in mind-set. Circular thinking and product eco-design, biodegradable products, renewable feedstock considerations, using less material for more results, and removing the term "waste" (as it simply will no longer exist) provide a unique mission for innovation.

Product solutions from the chemical industry are designed with the objective to keep (end)products at the highest utility and value⁷; re-using resources in an efficient and more sustainable manner.

The chemical industry CAN:

- Enhance eco-design; develop materials enabling product- or material sorting by design and/or markers, re-use and recycling (closed and open loop).
- Develop chemical recycling technologies for end-of-life plastics upcycling (producing new materials).
- Exploit the use of renewable resources (circular streams, bio-based) to complement fossil-based feedstock.

Affordable and abundant low carbon energy for all

sparkling energy!

Inspired by



A modern society depends on a range of energy sources for its very existence. A long-term and structural change towards **low carbon energy** production and related energy systems (storage, distribution, and use) will drive fundamental changes and paradigm shifts in terms of economic activities, social economic behaviour, and energy availability & use. Large-scale use of renewable energy sources⁸ like wind, hydropower, solar, geothermal, and ocean power require breakthrough innovation in terms of technology, materials and business models to resolve variability and to match supply and demand (e.g. storage solutions).

The scale and nature of production processes in the chemical industry make these processes energy intensive. The energy transition from fossil-based to renewable, and an increase in the use of renewable (electrical) energy provides opportunity.

The chemical industry CAN:

- Develop **advanced materials** for insulation of buildings, storage of electrical energy (batteries), energy efficiency in transportation (lightweight), transition to electric vehicles, and storage of thermal energy.
- Develop **advanced materials** for the generation of renewable energy, e.g. Photovoltaics and windblades
- Develop **advanced processes** for the storage of renewable energy under chemical form.
- Incorporate further the use of renewable (electrical) energy⁹ for the production of chemicals. Power-to-X technologies for manufacture of chemical products.

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About Cefic
Cefic, the European Chemical Industry Council, founded in 1972, is the voice of the large, medium and small chemical companies in Europe, which provide 1.1 million jobs and account for 15% of world chemicals production.

6 Plastics are light, easily shaped, strong and inexpensive

7 *Taking the European Chemical Industry into the Circular Economy*, Accenture/CEFIC study, March 2017

8 EU's Renewable energy directive sets a binding target of 20% final energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020

9 *Low carbon energy and feedstock for the European chemical industry*, Dechema Technology Study, June 2017

