

The chemical industry in Europe: Towards Sustainability

2011/12 Report



The first ever Cefic sustainability report

This Cefic sustainability report is a first step towards achieving the vision approved at the highest level of the European chemical industry.

It has come about through the recognition that we have not only the capability but also the responsibility to address societal challenges of sustainability such as energy, water, raw materials or, more broadly, resource efficiency.

Our report is also a significant step in strengthening the dialogue with key stakeholders and meeting their expectations. It aims to provide solid data on the European chemical industry's performance to date – hence a benchmark against which it will measure itself in future – and an overview of its contributions to sustainability.

The report thus covers

- A review of the European chemical industry's performance over time against standard Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), under the three traditional pillars of economic development, social development and environmental protection:

PLANET from emission reductions and waste management through to energy efficiency

PEOPLE from employee safety through to employment and labour productivity

PROFIT from added value and trade competitiveness through to R&D spending and investment

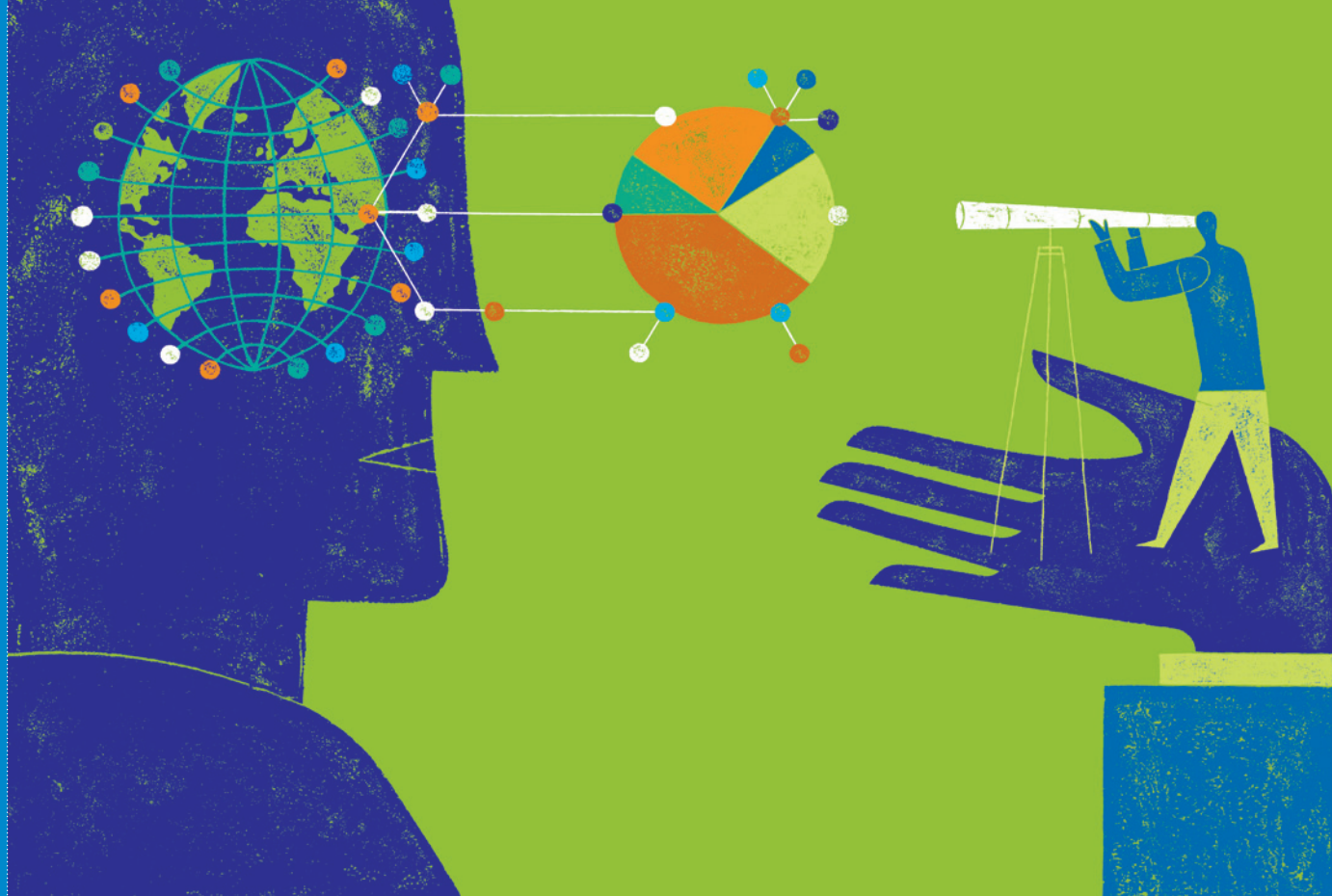
These KPIs are a powerful tool to help the industry identify opportunities for improvement.

- The importance of legislation and of industry voluntary efforts
- Examples of innovative and leading-edge products and initiatives from companies and sectors in the areas of energy and climate change mitigation, food and water, mobility and housing.
- The role of innovation in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the future

We are in no doubt that sustainability is not an option but an absolute necessity, not only for the European chemical industry, but for all businesses and society as a whole. We hope that this report will stimulate a genuine dialogue on what can be achieved if we leverage joint strengths in industry, academia, government and society at large. More than ever before, success depends on a new spirit of cooperation and a set of shared objectives and values.

“As we look at the major challenges facing society, it is clear that the European chemical industry and its partners have a crucial role to fulfil. The products of chemistry are making a positive and powerful difference to the sustainable development agenda. And given the right conditions, we will continue to channel our efforts into ensuring that people have access to the necessities of life, to economic prosperity and to societal progress.”

CARL VAN CAMP, Chairman,
Cefic Sustainability Strategy Group



Our vision

The European chemical industry is determined to play a key role in ensuring that by 2050 over 9 billion people live well, within the resources of the planet.

- It will gear all of its activities towards enabling a future where people have access to the necessities of a healthy life, to economic prosperity and to societal progress.
- It will drive a quantum leap in innovation enabled by investments and partnerships
- It will join forces with all its stakeholders, including governments and civil society.
- It will strive to be sustainable in terms of its operations and a key enabler of a sustainable society through the excellence of its employees and the benefits of its products.
- It will keep attracting investments by way of its strong economic performance.

“Sustainable development... can be our unifying ambition. Europe, with its industry, can lead towards more growth using fewer resources, showing that ‘doing more with less’ is possible. We have no alternative, if by 2050 we want to meet the needs of 9 to 10 billion people living well on this planet... we know that our stakeholders expect our industry to play an important role in finding appropriate solutions to the manifold challenges.”

GIORGIO SQUINZI, Cefic President



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