

EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

Stakeholders Consultation
13th January 2021

#ChemicalsStrategy
#EUGreenDeal



European
Commission

The importance of the chemical industry in Europe

- Global sales of chemicals were 3347 billion euro in 2018 where Europe was the second biggest producer (accounting for 16.9% of sales)
- Chemical manufacturing is the fourth largest industry in the EU comprising 30 000 companies, 95% of which are SMEs, directly employing approximately 1.2 million people and 3.6 million indirectly.



10

REGIONS



6

EU COUNTRIES



7

AREAS OF WORK



44

POLICY PAPERS



7

EU PROJECTS



ECRN | European Chemical
Regions Network **2020**



**BIO-BASED
CHEMICAL
PRODUCTION**

ECRN VISION



ECRN | European Chemical
Regions Network **2020**



**EUROPEAN ENERGY
TRANSITION &
HYDROGEN**

ECRN VISION



ECRN | European Chemical
Regions Network **2020**



**PLASTICS AND
CHEMICAL
RECYCLING**

ECRN VISION



ECRN contribution to the consultation of Chemical Strategy

- Better regulation that will reduce regulatory burden, complexity and unpredictability, will help to maintain EU competitiveness and support investment and innovation.
- Trade openness ensures an ambitious, balanced, free trade and investment agenda with key trading partners and open markets in general.

ECRN contribution to the consultation of Chemical Strategy

- An innovation friendly environment where chemical industry can develop, test and apply new technologies while ensure protection of the environment and public health.
- Digitalisation of the chemical industry.
- Invention of the circularity hubs under Horizon Europe, where industries and regions collaborate

ECRN contribution to the consultation of Chemical Strategy

- Up-Skilling and Re-Skilling the chemical industry operators is a strategic pre-condition for improving sectoral competitiveness towards world-wide competitors
- Making easier the synergy between the funds – e.g. ESF and Erasmus - would facilitate the development of new skills and new professionals in the sector.

ECRN contribution to the consultation of Chemical Strategy

- The chemical industry and its customer industries might be able to significantly contribute to a circular business model by e.g. “sustainable by design” concept
- Support the usage of sustainable and renewable biomass that has enormous potentials for fossil fuels replacement in the chemical sector.

ECRN contribution to the consultation of Chemical Strategy

- Up-scale the use of biomass in chemistry – there is a need of a stronger link with the agricultural sector and other sectors, to make sure that the biomass has sustainable origins, and its use is sustainable, in accordance with the cascade principle.
- Invest in new technologies that limit the use of raw materials and the production of waste; increase the recovery of valuable raw materials from residual products.

ECRN contribution to the consultation of Chemical Strategy

- A decisive role of green hydrogen in the decarbonisation of the heavy industries.
- Allocation of the EU funds to innovations aimed at preserving and developing new business models to stimulate the bio-based chemical production and stimulate the market for sustainable biobased products.

Thank you for your attention!