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.
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!