



EUROPEAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COUNCIL

NEWS RELEASE

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Cefic welcomes EU Parliamentary vote on Health and Environment Action Plan, but deplors arbitrary discrimination against some chemicals

Brussels, 23 February 2005 – The European Chemical Industry Council, Cefic, has been awaiting the outcome of today's European Parliament vote on the European Environment and Health Action Plan report. Cefic is pleased with the focus on initiating adequate activities to fill identified information gaps for added value to public health. However, it deplors the use of a list of discriminated chemicals, which will cause confusion among consumers and downstream users. Cefic therefore recommends the use of existing legislation and its processes to enable decisions based on science.

Cefic welcomes the Parliamentary report, and agrees with the objectives of the Environment and Health Action Plan. It remains committed to making a constructive contribution to the implementation of the Action Plan.

Cefic recognizes the need to assess the widespread information existing at European and member state levels, and supports the call for additional research to fill identified information gaps to ensure public health priorities are addressed effectively (§7,8).

The chemical industry commends the emphasis on the need in this context for more effort to combat life-style related ill-health caused by tobacco, alcohol, poor diet and lack of exercise (§17). It also supports the request for linking activities to other European Community actions in the field of public health (§31).

However, Cefic is critical of the blacklisting of substances in paragraph 6 of the resolution. Such a statement sets a dangerous precedent for future policymaking by effectively ignoring established European science-based regulatory processes – this at a time when they are to become an integral part of future legislative processes on chemicals. Furthermore, this list arbitrarily discriminates against individual substances, potentially confusing the general public and the market.

The Parliament's position that bio-monitoring results should contribute to a risk evaluation policy (§4) is in line with the industry stance on the topic. Cefic also shares the opinion that unnecessary animal testing should be avoided (§9).

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