

Innovation Fund – Cefic Workshop

5 June 2019

Cefic - Rue Belliard, 40 - 1040 Brussels

Further to the publication of the Rules for operation of the Innovation Fund and in the context of the dialogue with DG CLIMA in preparation of the first call for proposals of the Innovation Fund, Cefic organised on 5 June 2019 a workshop gathering representatives from DG CLIMA, the EIB and chemical companies. The workshop was held under the Chatham House Rule.

After a reminder by the chair of the meeting with regard to competition law compliance, the meeting started with an introduction by DG CLIMA on the broader policy framework and a presentation on the Innovation Fund including the essential elements to be developed for the first call. It was underlined that the Innovation Fund aims to facilitate investment in new disruptive technologies and help companies to bring new technologies to the market. The importance of the climate impact and promising business case, as well as the project maturity were highlighted as key elements of the selection process.

A second presentation given by the EIB highlighted some key learnings from the NER300 programme in particular with regard to the evaluation of project proposals.

The second part of the workshop consisted in presentations of a non-exhaustive list of potential projects (illustrative examples) from the chemical sector. Eleven presentations from companies were organised around four thematic priorities:

- Electrification including Power-to-Heat and Power-to-chemicals technologies;
- Plastic recycling & chemical recycling of waste;
- Chemical valorisation of CO₂ (and CO from industrial waste gases);
- Biobased products.

Given the diversity of technology options from the chemical sector of relevance to the Innovation Fund, the presentations (which were a basis for discussion with DG CLIMA and the EIB on the types of projects) cannot be considered as a comprehensive list of technical options aiming at GHG emissions reduction in the chemical industry.

A few presentations were related to cross-sectorial projects, and some illustrated the contribution of technologies from the chemical sector to GHG emissions reductions in effort sharing sectors. The connection between the chemical industry and other sectors such as waste, energy and agriculture/food was also discussed.

Further to the presentations by companies, participants in the workshop raised specific issues related to the preparation of the first call that would require further exchange, including:

- Methodology for the evaluation of GHG emissions reduction, including the definition of reference plant and conventional production, as well as the allocation of GHG emissions to different products;
- Calculation of relevant costs;
- Impact of the size of the project on the evaluation of the business case;
- Full confidentiality of the information included in the project proposals;
- A balanced approach to knowledge sharing request.