

ACIS position on the Chemical Industry Action Plan

11.7.2025

We welcome the publication of "A European Chemicals Industry Action Plan (CIAP)" and would like to thank the European Commission for its preparation. The communication recognizes the importance of the chemical industry for Europe's economy and society. This industry is a fundamental building block for the transformation to a green, climate-neutral and circular economy. However, at the same time we need to urgently increase the competitiveness of the chemical industry. The action plan addresses several areas and measures, which shows the severity of the difficulties that the chemicals industry in Europe faces. All these are a priority from our, Slovene, perspective:

- affordable energy,
- legislative simplification and reduction of administrative burdens,
- sufficient skilled labor force,
- decarbonization,
- a much better level playing field,
- strengthening innovation and resilience.

While the action plan describes measures to be implemented by the European Commission, it also foresees a significant amount of responsibility for the Member States. We share this assessment and think that a prosperous economic future can be only achieved by a strong cooperation at EU and national level. Only Member States can ensure and/or implement mechanisms to reduce energy costs (e.g. subsidies, tax-relief), innovation support (e.g. subsidies, tax-relief, support measures for recruitment of excellent scientists, infrastructure) or give incentives for safe and sustainable products (e.g. tax-relief).

We strongly advice against individual and non-coordinated measures. What we need now, under these economically and geopolitically very tense circumstances, is a holistic and European approach. A mix of measures in all areas of the action plan (especially those we described above) and their joint implementation at the European and Member State levels will be needed. We need to take concrete steps swiftly, jointly, and convincingly to strengthen again the fading confidence of investors into the European industry. Only this can stop the chemical industry's exodus from Europe, which is taking place already for a while now.

Without chemical companies Europe's economic basis will erode and consequently also our well-being and political significance. A successful and fit-for-future transformation of the European economy and chemical industry needs rapid, concrete, and effective measures. Political discussions need to be replaced by actions, sooner than better.

We see already some first steps, some very careful, some more decisive. In this regard we welcome the "Omnibus VI" package and its proposals to simplify a part of the legal framework for our industry sector. We also appreciate the commitment of the action plan to clarify the future of the PFAS restriction and that simplifications of REACH should explicitly happen for companies. These projects must be strongly supported by Slovenia.

Nevertheless, legal simplification is far not all. We urgently need measures for affordable energy. We call for the rapid development of immediate measures for low industrial

electricity prices, just as addressed in the action plan, plus decoupling of the electricity prices from gas. Additionally, we in Europe should also find ways to reduce gas-prices. This aspect is missing in the action plan, while for our chemicals industry gas will remain necessary as a raw material and as a bridging technology during the transformation process of the coming decades.