

Brussels, 28 November 2018

To: **Mr. Martin Selmayr,
Secretary-General, European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200, 1049 - Bruxelles**

Dear Mr. Selmayr,

Re: Industry calls for a sound representation of the chemicals Industry's interests

The co-signatory trade associations appreciate and value the long-standing trust and collaboration with the European Commission services to develop impactful, relevant and coherent policy in the EU. Our associations also support the objectives of the EU Better Regulation Agenda, the enhanced use of Impact Assessments, and the Commission's commitment to ensure greater participation from stakeholders and increased transparency during the policy-making process.

Our sectors expected for the relevant policy initiatives for the industry to progress, providing business certainty in the EU. However, our associations were faced in recent years with decreasing involvement from DG GROW affecting also our sector(s). The chemicals Industry's interests on important regulatory and non-regulatory proposals were not appropriately reflected. The loss or reshuffling of senior civil servants within the DG means expertise on chemicals policy has been sorely missed. Similarly, a 'de-prioritization' of key dossiers for the Industry, means that DG GROW is losing its voice and overall stance. We wish to raise concerns against such disengagement.

We therefore wish to refer to the mandate of DG GROW as stated on their website, namely to *"implement policies to facilitate structural change, help attract investment to Europe, help reinforce the EU industrial base and encourage investment in research and innovation"*¹.

The upcoming European elections, and the next set of priorities that will be identified by the Commission's President-elect represent an opportunity to address this structural challenge and readjust resources of the Commission services accordingly, and therefore alleviate Industry concerns. Consequently, our associations ask that the importance of the EU industrial policy², and the EU chemicals industry is fully reflected in the next mandate of the European Commission.

We call for an adequate allocation of resources to ensure a strong DG GROW for Industry, and the appropriate involvement both at political and desk officers' level. Moreover, in its treatment of legislative proposals we call for enhanced partnership and cooperation in order to tackle the numerous challenges for the benefit of both industry and society.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/chemicals_en

² As stressed by a coalition of 124 industry associations in July 2018, <http://www.unife.org/component/attachments/attachments.html?id=925>

Yours sincerely,

Copy:

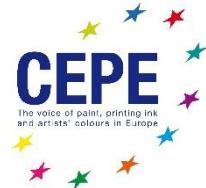
- Ms. Lowri Evans, Director-General (DG GROW)
- Secretariat General, input to public consultation on the stocktaking of the Commission's 'better regulation' approach, sg-br-stock-taking@ec.europa.eu



Detergents and maintenance
products
S. Zänker
Director General



Lubricants
S. Hancock
Secretary General



Paints, printing inks, artists'
colours
J. van der Meulen
Managing Director



Crop protection products
J. P. Azoulay
Director General



Construction chemicals
A. Arnavas
Secretary General



Aerosols
A. D'Haese
Secretary General



Chemical Distributors
C. Demeestere
Interim Director General



Adhesives and sealants
P. Bruce
Secretary General



Imaging and printing products
B-M. Sude
Director