



EUROPEAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COUNCIL

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NEWS RELEASE

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Chemical Industry supports SCALE, but concerned about current focus, time constraints

Brussels, 18 December 2003 – Cefic, the European Chemical Industry Council, believes that SCALE* - the subject of today's Consultative Forum on Environment and Health - can play an important role in helping to evaluate and address the environmental contribution to childhood disease. Cefic supports the scientific, risk-based approach outlined in the strategy. However, industry is concerned about the timeframe and narrow priorities set in the SCALE Communication, which may compromise its ability to meet its objectives.

Cefic feels that, due to the complexity of the issue, it is impossible to achieve a comprehensive approach and an acceptable degree of scientific rigor when working to tight deadlines such as the ones imposed under the SCALE agenda.

The Chemical Industry supports the proposed development of a pan-European monitoring system to generate health trend data to assess the multiple environmental factors which may cause diseases. However, it feels that unless SCALE takes a holistic approach that addresses the full range of physical, biological, socio-economic and life-style factors, it will not provide the necessary information to make effective public health decisions. Nevertheless, provided with adequate time to achieve a scientifically sound and fully comprehensive output using multi-stakeholder consultation and consensus, industry feels a workable and mutually acceptable Action Plan can be developed.

As part of its Responsible Care® and Product Stewardship initiatives, the Chemical Industry is committed to working with the Commission and others to ensure the continued sound management of chemicals so that they do not cause harm to children. Working together, industry and other stakeholders can make considerable progress in addressing common concerns. With this in mind, Cefic is pleased to be a part of the SCALE consultative process.

* The European Commission's new strategy for Environment and Health

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