

Pinfa Sparks

Thursday 10 September 2026
14.00 – 14.45 CET

From Evaluation to Transition: *The HEFESTOS Hub for Substitution of Brominated Flame Retardants*

Presented by
María EXPÓSITO

Cefic sector group 

The European Chemical Industry Council, AISBL – Rue Belliard, 40 - 1040 Brussels – Belgium
Transparency Register n°64879142323-90



Welcome & Introduction

Adrian BEARD & Elena LEONARDI



COMPETITION LAW

CHECKLIST FOR MEETINGS



Ensure strict performance in areas on:

Oversight / Supervision

- Have a Cefic/Sector Group Secretariat representative at each meeting
- Consult with appropriate counsel on all questions which might be related to competition law
- Limit meeting discussions to agenda topics
- Provide each attendee with a copy of this checklist, and have a copy available for reference at all meetings

Recordkeeping

- Have an agenda and minutes which accurately reflects the matters which occur
- Ensure the review of agendas, minutes and other important documents by appropriate staff or counsel, in advance of distribution
- Fully describe the purposes, structures and authorities of the groups

Vigilance

- Protest any discussion or meeting activities which appear to violate this checklist
- Ask for those activities to be stopped so that appropriate legal check can be made by counsel
- Dissociate yourself from any such discussion or activities and for the attendees, leave any meeting in which they continue (and have it minuted)

This checklist is for the conduct of Cefic-sponsored meetings. Prohibited discussion topics apply equally to social gatherings incidental to those meetings. The checklist is not exhaustive.

Contact: Quentin Silvestre, Senior Legal Advisor at qsi@cefic.be



in fact or appearance, discuss or exchange information not in conformity with competition law, including for example on:

Prices, including

- Individual company/industry prices changes, price differentials, discounts, allowances, credit terms, etc
- Individual company data on costs, production, capacity (other than nameplates capacities), inventories, sales, etc

Production, including

- Plans of individual companies concerning the design, production, distribution or marketing of particular products, including proposed territories or customers
- Changes in industry production capacity (other than nameplates capacities) or inventories, etc

Transportation rates

- Rates or rate policies for individual shipments, including basing point systems, zone prices, freight, etc

Market procedures, including

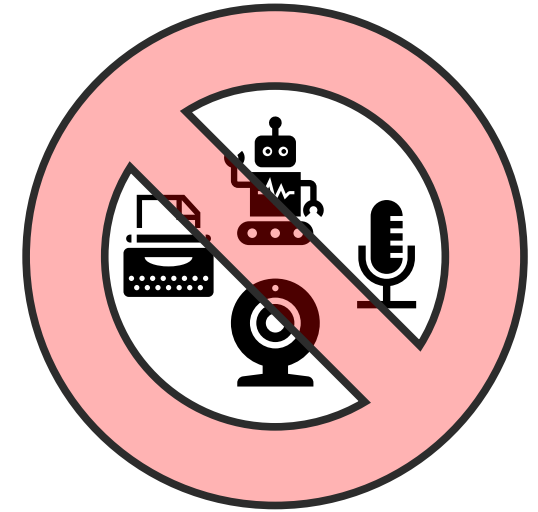
- Company bids on contracts for particular products; company procedures for responding to bid invitations
- Matters relating to actual or potential individual suppliers or customers that might have the effect of excluding them from any market or influencing the business conduct of firms towards them, etc
- Blacklist or boycott customers or suppliers



Housekeeping rules (1/2)

Please turn off any video, audio, or transcription tools and disable any AI assistants from accessing this meeting.

- Cefic does not authorise meeting participants to use any audio, video, transcription, or AI tools to record in-person or virtual meetings under its umbrella.
- Participants using AI tools/assistants must deactivate the tool and prevent it from calling in, transcribing, recording, or summarising any virtual or in-person meetings organised by Cefic or its sector groups.
- A report of the meeting notes will be provided by Cefic after the meeting, in line with our practices and internal rules.
- If the meeting is recorded by Cefic or its sector groups, participants will be informed at the start of the meeting. Except for events, the recording is performed for minute-taking purposes only and will be destroyed after a period of 40 days.



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See our [privacy policy](#) for further details.

Housekeeping rules (2/2)

- Please keep your microphone and camera turned off during the webinar
- Submit your questions via the chat function during the session
- If your question is not answered during the webinar, feel free to email it to pinfa@cefic.be
- If you experience any technical issues, please contact your IT
- This event will be recorded and posted on our website : www.pinfa.eu



pinfa Sparks # 3

From Evaluation to Transition:

The HEFESTOS Hub for Substitution of Brominated Flame Retardants

Speaker



María EXPÓSITO

R&D Technician
AIMPLAS

Moderated by



Adrian BEARD

Pinfa Vice-Chairman - Clariant

Elena LEONARDI

Cefic Sector Group Manager



About us

Phosphorus, Inorganic and Nitrogen Flame retardants Association (pinfa)

- Established in **2009** as a Sector Group within **Cefic**, the European Chemical Industry Council.
- Represents **26 members**, including **manufacturers and users** of the three major technologies of non-halogenated flame retardants.
- **pinfa-NA** and **pinfa China**, sister associations, established respectively in 2012 and 2018.
- Maintains mutual membership with **INEMI**¹ and partnership with **EAPFP**² and **EuroFSA**³

(1) International Electronics Manufacturing Initiative

(2) European Association for Passive Fire Protection

(3) European Fire Safety Alliance

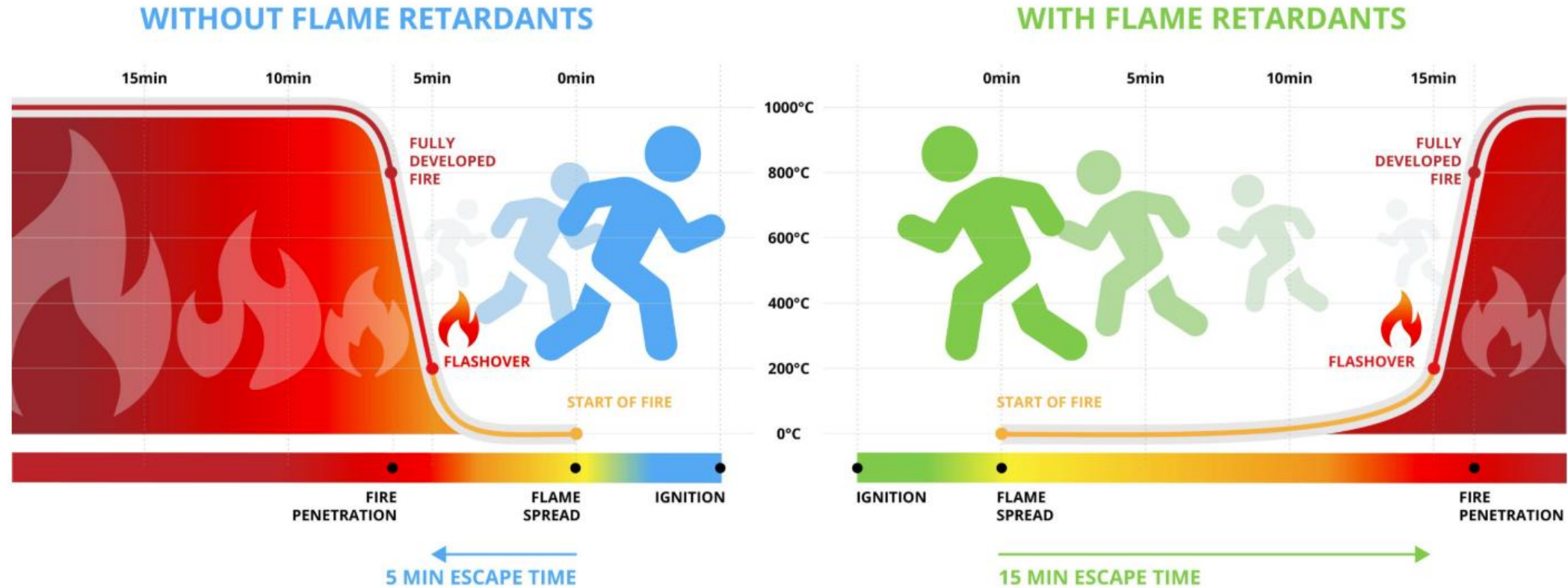


What are PIN Flame Retardants (PIN FRs)?

- PIN flame retardants are **phosphorus-, inorganic- and nitrogen-based** technologies designed to enhance fire safety in materials such as plastics, textiles, foams, and electronics.
- They contribute to fire protection by:
 - **Reducing flammability and slowing ignition**, helping materials resist or delay catching fire.
 - **Interfering with the burning process**, for example through char formation, heat shielding, or stabilising the polymer during exposure to heat.
 - **Limiting heat release and flame spread**, supporting improved fire performance across multiple applications.



How PIN FRs Support Increased Escape Time in Fires



- PIN flame retardants slow down fire development, helping to delay ignition, reduce heat release and limit flame spread.
- This slower progression can **extend the available time for people to escape**, which is critical for overall fire safety.



Pinfa members

Europe, China & North America



Meet the pinfa Europe team



Thomas Futterer
Chair



Adrian Beard
Vice-Chair



Zahra Fahimi
Vice-Chair



Sander Kroon
Vice-Chair



Esther Agyeman-budu
Sector Group
Manager



Elena Leonardi
Sector Group
Manager



Hannane Haddouch
Assistant



Myriam Goffin
Communications



Chris Thornton
Communications



pinfa members' shared vision



Vision: continuously improving the environmental and health profile of their flame-retardant products, offering innovative solutions for sustainable fire safety.



Commitment: to maintain high fire safety standards across the world, standards which minimize the risk of fire to the general public.



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From Evaluation to Transition:

The HEFESTOS Hub for Substitution of BFRs

María Expósito: cexposito@aimplas.es

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HEFESTOS



European
Commission



AIMPLAS



What is AIMPLAS?

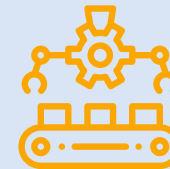


A **technology centre** with more than 35 years' experience in the **plastic sector** based in Valencia (Spain).

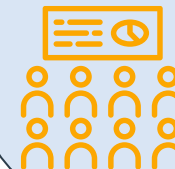
Solutions for Plastics



1. R&D&I



2. Technological Services



3. Training & Events



More than **12,000 m²**
of cutting-edge
facilities

Pilot plants: 6,500 m²

Laboratories: 4,500 m²

Training: 1,000 m²

Expertise across the entire plastics value chain



MARKET ORIENTATION



Packaging



Automotive
& transport



Printing



Aeronautics



Agriculture



Electrical
& Electronics



Energy



Construction



Recycling



Health



Navigation



Aerospace



Furniture



Leisure &
sports



R&D&I PROJECTS

2025 DATA

Innovative solutions accessible to companies

307
R&D&I

105
International

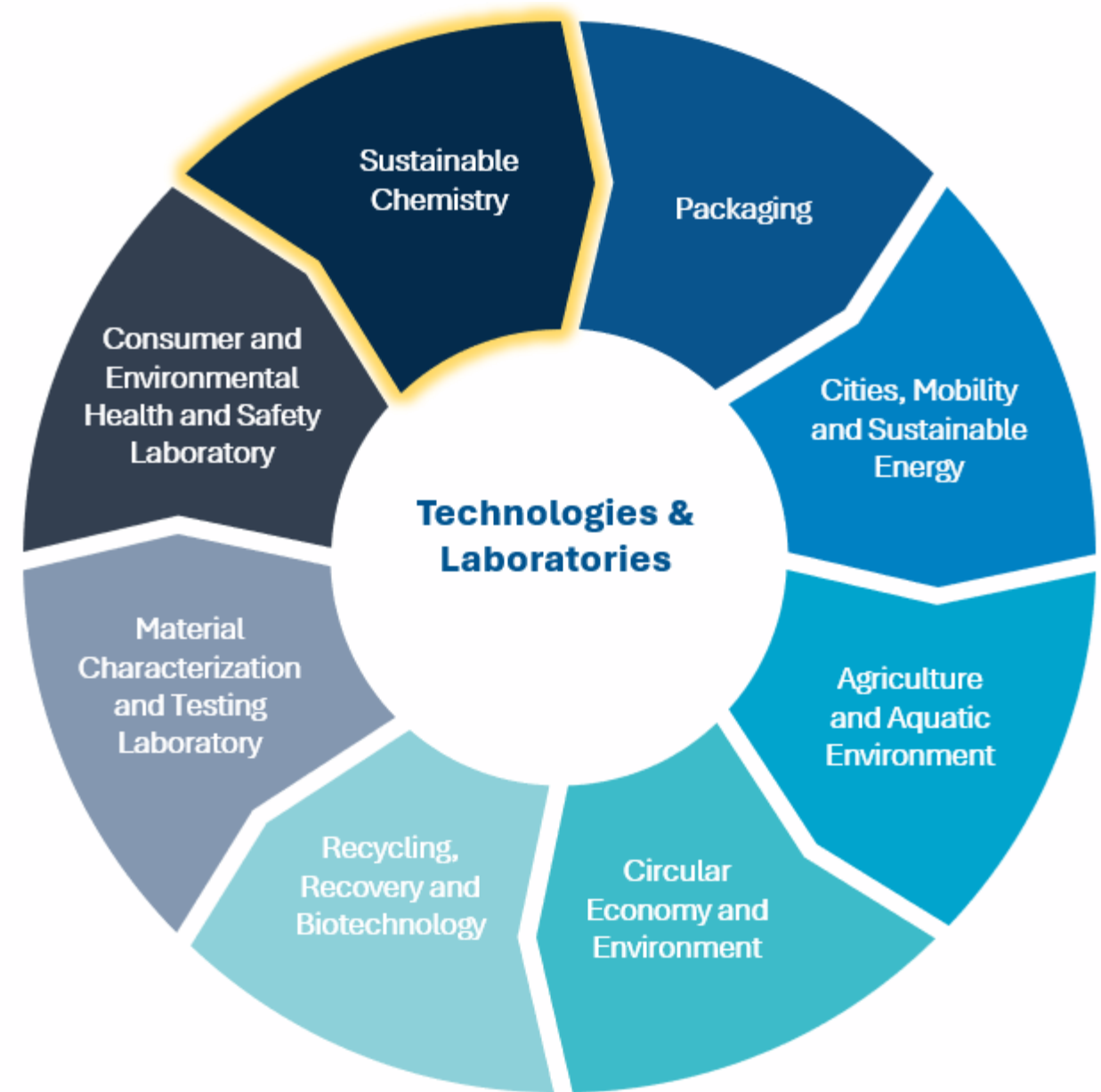
202
National

653
Companies

406
SMEs

Return of over €87.5 million to companies

Comprehensive management to provide global solutions





Substitution Centre -Brominated flame retardants used in construction, automotive, cables and other relevant applications

María Expósito · cexposito@aimplas.es

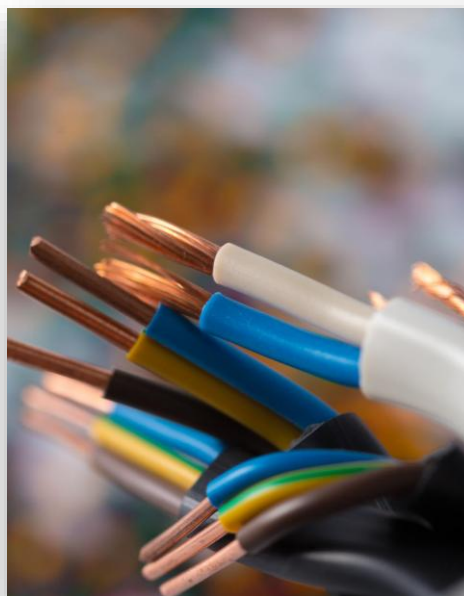
Lodovico Agostinis · lagostinis@aimplas.es

10 September 2026

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Initiative funded by the European Commission that **supports the transition of the European industry toward safer and more sustainable alternatives to Brominated Flame Retardants (BFRs)** in key sectors such as construction, automotive, and cables.



European Commission Call for tenders
EC-GROW/2025/OP/0055

PP -EU Substitution Centre -Brominated flame retardants used in construction, automotive, cables and other relevant applications



Contact:

hefestos@aimplas.es



European
Commission



AIMPLAS



Creation of a **pilot cooperation group** involving stakeholders from the construction, automotive, and cable sectors to jointly map the value chain and identify critical points related to the **substitution of BFRs**.

Within a framework of safe and **non-competitive collaboration**, where each stakeholder shares their technical and operational perspective to build a common diagnosis based on **real evidence**.



HEFESTOS



Identification of **technical, economic, regulatory, and logistical bottlenecks** throughout the entire value chain, as well as potential alternatives where they exist and are feasible.

Involving all actors across the value chain, including **industry, associations, research centres, and regulators**, towards a more **sustainable future** while strengthening the competitiveness of the European economy.



ACTORS:

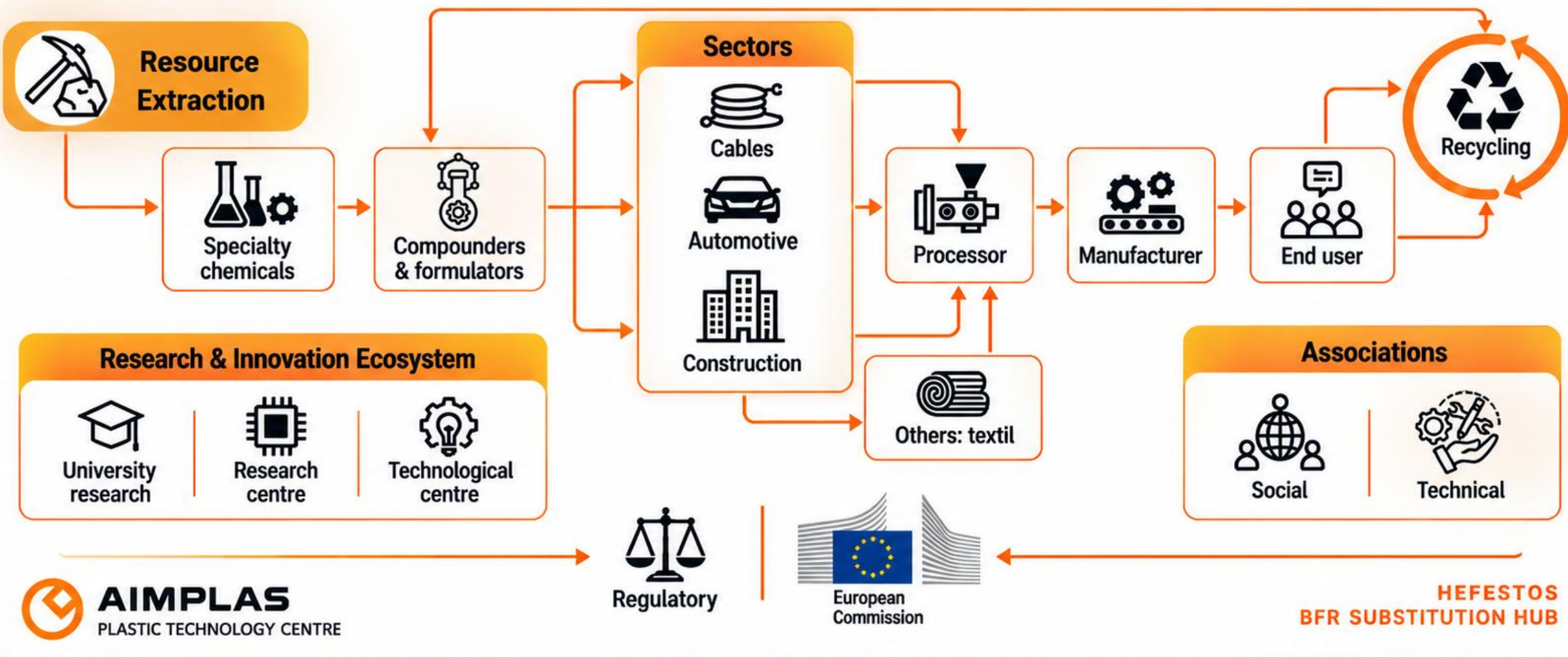
SMEs

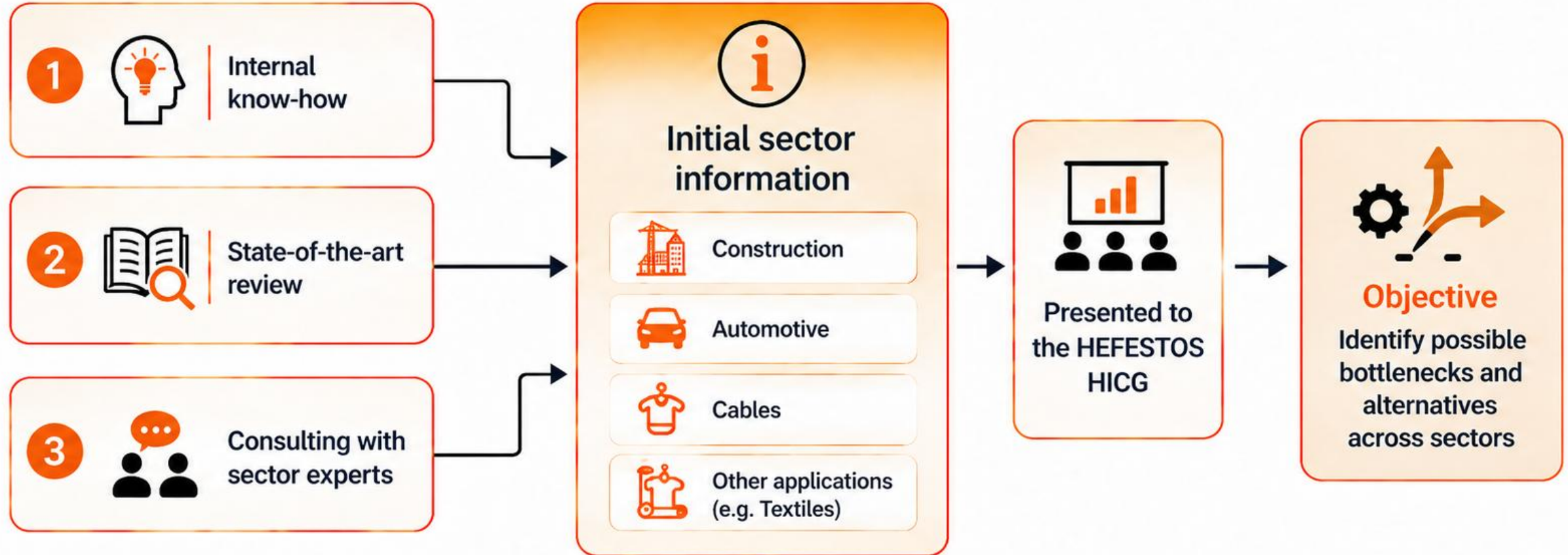
Large companies

Research entities

Associations

Regulatory bodies







Expression of Interest

1



Contact via:
hefestos@aimplas.es and
meeting with the principal researchers

2



Fill in the form available on the website:
<https://www.hefestoshub.com/index.php>

3



Download the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**, which includes the NDA in a single document



**Welcome to Hefestos
Industry Cooperation
Group (HICG)!**

Principles of Operation



The HICG operates on three core principles that govern all interactions



Transparency & Exchange

The HICG promotes transparency and information sharing to support the substitution of hazardous substances, while respecting confidentiality and EU competition rules.

Clause 2.1



Respect for Confidential Business Information

The HICG promotes openness while protecting confidential business information, with information sharing limited when necessary under the MoU principles.

Clause 2.2



Compliance with EU Competition Law

All Parties ensure that collaboration under the MoU fully complies with EU competition law.

Clause 2.3

This information is included in the MoU previously signed



HEFESTOS PLASTIC VALUE CHAIN MAP

FOR BFR SUBSTITUTION

Classify each organisation by value-chain tier and application sector

TOWARDS
SAFER MATERIALS
A MORE SUSTAINABLE
EUROPE

COLLABORATION
KNOWLEDGE
SOLUTIONS
IMPACT

SMEs

Large companies

Research entities

Associations

Regulatory bodies

Application sector	Tier 0 Resource extraction	Tier 1 Specialty chemicals	Tier 2 Compounders / formulators	Tier 3 Processors	Tier 4 Manufacturers	Use phase End user / consumer	Tier 5 Recycling
 Cables Cable producers, installers, utilities		CLARIANT Nabaltec			COFICAB Powered by <i>Passion</i>		Campine
 Automotive OEMs, tiers, mobility suppliers		Budenheim ICL THOR expect extraordinary					
 Construction Building products, insulation, interiors		Alfarben TORRECID Group					
 Other sectors Textile and adjacent applications		williamblythe Chemistry for tomorrow	VAMP TECH Your Compounding Partner				

**Support
Ecosystem**

RTOs · Universities ·
Research Centres ·
Technology Centres

Polymer2

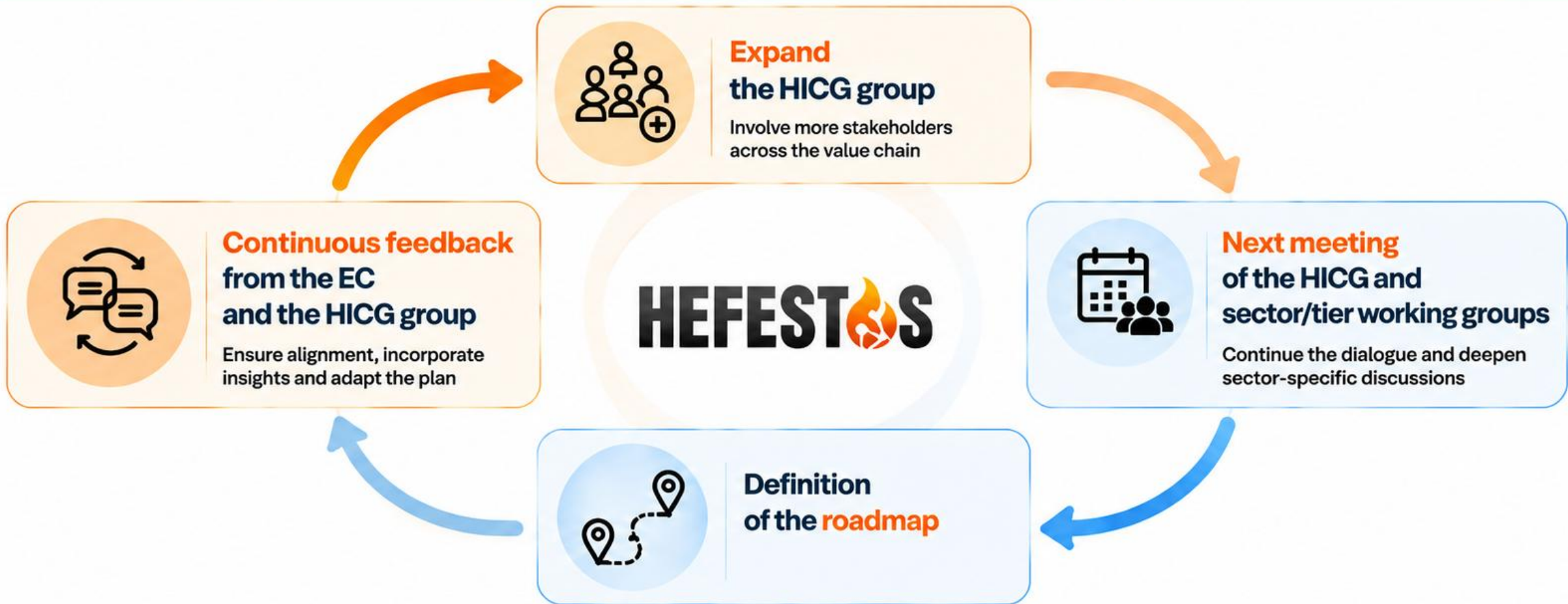


The International
Bromine Council

pinfa

Phosphorus, Inorganic & Nitrogen Flame Retardants Association

Associations · Regulatory bodies
and other stakeholders





THANK YOU!

hefestos@aimplas.es · www.hefestoshub.com

*Safer and more sustainable flame-retardant
strategies*

Questions & Answers

Adrian BEARD & Elena LEONARDI

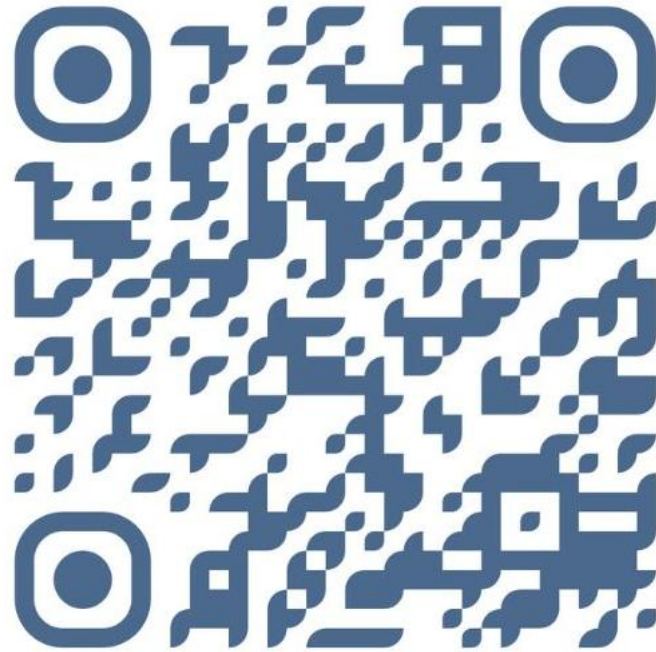


Survey

Elena LEONARDI



What did you think about the webinar?



More questions?

pinfa@cefic.be

...stay tuned for our next pinfa Sparks

About Cefic

Cefic, the European Chemical Industry Council, is the forum of large, medium and small chemical companies across Europe, accounting for 1.2 million jobs and 13% of world chemicals production.

On behalf of its members, Cefic's experts share industry insights and trends, and offer views and input to the EU agenda. Cefic also provides members with services, like guidance and trainings on regulatory and technical matters, while also contributing to the advancement of scientific knowledge.

Cefic sector group 



Thank you!