

SUMMARY

- Meeting:** ESIG 5th Stakeholder Day
“Solvents – Simply Essential: How to Maintain a European Competitive Solvent Value Chain in an Evolving Regulatory Environment”
- Date:** 21 April 2026
- Place:** Cefic, Rue Belliard 40, 1040 Brussels / Videoconference
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ESIG Stakeholder Day: The Role of Solvents for Competitiveness and Security of Supply

Solvents are “simply essential.” A future-proof chemicals policy needs protection, proportionality, and a sound understanding of systems—so that Europe’s industry can remain strong, resilient, and competitive.

At the 5th ESIG Stakeholder Day held on 21st April in Brussels, discussions focused on how Europe’s industrial base can stay competitive, resilient, and secure. The spotlight was on solvents—often invisible, yet indispensable building blocks across almost all industrial value chains.

Solvents are not end products. They enable applications in pharmaceuticals and agriculture, construction, automotive manufacturing, paints and coatings, as well as numerous high-tech processes. Changes affecting individual substances can therefore have far-reaching consequences for entire production chains.

The broader economic context was also discussed: high energy prices, rising regulatory costs, and weak demand are putting significant pressure on Europe’s chemical industry and making investment in Europe increasingly difficult.

There was broad agreement that the protection of human health and the environment must remain the highest priority. At the same time, participants stressed that regulation must be effective and workable. What matters is not only the hazard profile of a substance, but also whether—and how—exposure actually occurs, particularly in controlled industrial uses.

Representatives of the European Commission underlined their willingness to engage in dialogue and make adjustments, for example through the Chemical Industry Action Plan and planned simplification measures.

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A sector group of Cefic 
European Chemical Industry Council - Cefic aisbl
EU Transparency Register n° 64879142323-90

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