

POLISH CHEMISTRY MANIFESTO



The chemical industry plays a fundamental role in the economy, because it is one of the key drivers of lasting sustainability and safety. It accounts for 18% of the domestic industry's sales output, and as such the chemical industry is on top of every value chain. It provides key products, innovative materials and technologies that improve the quality of life and contribute to steady development of thousands of Polish and European companies.

To further support the development of Polish economy and guarantee its autonomy in terms of the availability of strategic raw materials and products, **the chemical industry must build a strong competitive position**. In the face of growing economic pressure from non-European regions, **Europe needs a comprehensive framework supporting** the position of chemical companies to guarantee that they will be able to compete fairly on the international stage.

Increasing burdens and lack of stable regulations across Europe **pose a threat to the viability of long-term investments**. **The lack of effective market protection measures, dependence on the supply of essential components from third countries as well as high and unstable energy prices will result in the deindustrialization of Europe**. In consequence, we are likely to witness the loss of valuable jobs and the relocation of production sites to countries with lower environmental standards.

We see the urgent need for a comprehensive roadmap that could eliminate regulatory inconsistencies, conflicting goals, complex legislation and over-reporting. Our priority is to find solutions to pressing challenges such as high energy costs, increasing competition in international markets, and a changing and complex regulatory system. **Therefore, we call on both the Polish and EU administrative authorities to take joint action aimed at developing safe conditions that would guarantee stable operation and further development of the chemical industry**.

Competitiveness, security and the future of the chemical industry should become a strategic priority of the Polish government and the EU administration of the new 2024-2029 term. The coming years are the last chance to face the challenges and enable the industry to fulfil the hopes of the European Green Deal.

This MANIFESTO lists a number of key demands and offers certain solutions. The implementation of these solutions will be crucial to carrying out the effective transformation, restoring the competitive position and proper operation of the POLISH CHEMISTRY.



MARKET PROTECTION

- **Providing the necessary protection against price dumping of products manufactured by the chemical industry.** Revising and expanding anti-dumping and anti-subsidy regulations.
- **Verifying the effectiveness of sanctions and expanding their scope, as well as strengthening control over the enforcement of sanctions.**
- **Strengthening customs supervision and streamlining the market monitoring system.** Sealing the EU import system by using modern technology to enable the identification of the country of origin and mode of production.
- **Increasing controls in terms of meeting quality and safety standards for raw materials and products** imported from outside the EU.
- **Improving the carbon footprint monitoring system** for products entering the European Union.
- **Ensuring raw material security** by way of expanding storage and transmission infrastructure.
- **Diversifying methods to secure the supply of strategic raw materials** which are relevant to the security of chemical companies and the Polish economy.

2

ENERGY TRANSITION

- **Optimizing the efficiency of electricity infrastructure and increasing the share of public funds in the development of electricity infrastructure** – these measures are necessary to achieve the stability of the energy system and meet the climate policy goals.
- **Supporting the development and accelerating the deployment of low-carbon power generation technologies.** The chemical industry needs stable and reliable energy sources to secure continuous production while achieving carbon neutrality.
- **Creating dedicated investment and construction procedures** to speed up investment processes in decarbonization technologies.
- **Simplifying administrative procedures and streamlining the process of granting permits** for the implementation of renewable energy sources, access to critical raw materials and carbon-neutral production technologies.
- **Improving processes for obtaining funds for implementing zero- and low-carbon projects.**
- **Creating a stable legislative environment for the implementation and development of renewable energy sources.**
- **Supporting the development of hydrogen technologies.** Investing in the production and applications of low-carbon hydrogen which can play a key role in decarbonizing chemical processes.
- **Supporting the development of CCS/CCU technology and infrastructure** as one of the key technologies leading to the decarbonization of the industry.
- **Facilitating the development of biogas plants and creating a Polish biomass market** with a view to obtaining low-carbon and green energy for the industry in the context of decarbonization goals.

3

SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY

- **Applying a comprehensive approach to regulatory measures**, taking into account the importance of particular substances to specific industries and the impact on achieving the goals of the European Green Deal and climate neutrality.
- **Considering social and economic factors** in all processes, especially when including particular substances in the authorization procedure – reviewing risk control mechanisms under REACH.
- **Increasing demand for “green chemicals”** – promoting innovation, subsidies, tax reliefs, imports oversight. Introducing a reliable and effective system that would promote green, low-carbon products with reduced environmental impact during the product life cycle at the Polish and EU levels.
- **Promoting the use of green procurement for product supplies** – expanding procurement to include criteria relating to sustainable development indicators, which would stimulate demand for clean technologies and low-carbon products.
- **Introducing equal requirements for the use of substances in the manufacturing of products in the EU and the imports of finished goods from outside the EU.**
- **Increasing the share of public funds in investments in green technologies** and searching for more sustainable chemicals.

4

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- **Recognizing chemical recycling technology as complementary to mechanical recycling.** Creating an appropriate regulatory framework, making it easier and simpler to obtain decisions.
- **Recognizing petrochemical recycling in the production of semi-finished products and components for further use.** Enabling the management of selected fractions of non-chemically recyclable waste in the production of full-featured components.
- **Improving the mechanism of collection and sorting of plastic waste in the Polish market, and establishing a mechanism to promote waste treatment/recovery/reconditioning in Poland.**
- **Promoting the principles of a closed-loop economy in waste management.**
- **Amending regulations with a view to increasing the efficiency of the waste management market, to fully implement the principles of circular economy.**
- **Introducing dedicated financing and an incentive system, e.g. tax reliefs for those entities who implement circular technologies,** including technologies increasing efficiency in the use of natural resources, reducing waste, and promoting further use of waste.

5

FAVOURABLE REGULATIONS

- **Engaging in dialogue with the industry throughout the legislative process and considering the voice of the sector already at the stage of working out tenets for regulatory changes.**
- **Aligning new obligations and standards with actual technological possibilities and potential environmental benefits**, including implementation of EU directives to the necessary extent.
- **Providing appropriate transition periods or other protective mechanisms for the implementation of changes**, taking into account the realistic timing, technical capabilities and available resources needed for adaptation.
- **Streamlining the process of issuing administrative decisions**, with particular emphasis on environmental decisions.
- **Unifying regulations and standardizing guidelines**, including those related to sustainability reporting.
- **Preparing in-depth analyses of medium- and long-term regulatory impacts on enterprises**, given social and economic factors. In-depth use of the experience of other EU member states in developing legislative solutions on national level.
- **Making public support procedures easier**, by simplifying and speeding up formal aspects of notification to enable faster implementation of aid programmes by EU governments or public institutions.



THE FUTURE OF POLISH CHEMISTRY

- **Carrying out a reform of the education system** to acquire competencies that are vital for the industry.
- **Increasing the involvement of science in finding the best solutions for industry transformation purposes.** Facilitating the transfer of knowledge and technology.
- **Supporting the development of a dual education system,** with the participation of businesses and schools.
- **Introducing legal and economic advantages for companies that decide to remain in Poland and the European Union,** including the support offered to nearshoring.
- **Supporting pilot projects and facilitating the adaptation of innovations from laboratory scale to industrial scale.**
- Strengthening the intellectual property rights protection system.
- **Launching the Sector Programme** related to granting financial support for industrial research and experimental development work, and implementation of innovative products and technologies.
- **Simplifying acquisition procedures and offering subject-matter support** in applying for funds for green transformation.
- **Supporting the promotion, implementation and use of digital technologies** especially those that facilitate the decarbonization of the chemical industry.
- **Providing systemic support for chemical companies** in the implementation of Industry 5.0.