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Chemical industry: three keys to protect health from climate change

Brussels, 7 April 2008 – On the occasion of World Health Day, the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) reaffirms its commitment to speeding up action on climate change and health. As an active and recognised contributor to the WHO Children Environment & Health Action Plan for Europe, industry is fully engaged to better understand how climate change will affect public health and the best ways to prepare for these changes.

Bringing healthy innovations and lifestyles within the reach of more people, the chemical industry is advancing a three-fold action plan that includes a strong collaboration with policy makers and researchers at EU and WHO level:

- **Providing technologies to deal with extreme weather events:** reduction of air emissions, ensuring safe water and sanitation to improve both environment and public health;
- Investing in and promoting innovative processes, technologies and products **to get significant energy savings in other industries;**
- **Ensuring these technologies do not in turn jeopardize** public health.

Cefic is working with WHO and the EU Commission on these key challenges. The chemical industry is already bringing constructive solutions to climate change through active networks such as its voluntary Long-range Research Initiative (LRI), the European Technology Platform for Sustainable Chemistry (SusChem) or the Third Industrial Revolution on Renewable Energy.

“When it comes to saving energy and dealing with climate change effects, modern technologies in transport, IT or construction would not exist without chemistry” says Gernot Klotz, Cefic Executive Director for Research & Innovation. *“Housing is another area where chemistry offers crucial contributions. With the Smart Energy Home project - a ‘zero heating cost house’ - energy efficiency is combined with healthy living and enhanced public health.”*

Industry will report on implementation of its commitments at the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment & Health in Rome in 2009.

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