(English version)

Question for written answer E-000610/26
to the Commission
Anthony Smith (The Left)
(11 February 2026)

Subject: European Chemical Industry Council closed-door summit: democratic, social, health and environmental safeguards

According to several NGOs and trade unions, on 11 February 2026 the Commission President is to participate — with no civil society representatives present — in a closed-door, day-long session organised by the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), on the eve of the 'informal leaders' retreat dedicated to strengthening the single market'.

After information was published stating that the industry's 'suggestions' have been incorporated into 'omnibus' measures came the announcement of new measures and a revision of the REACH Regulation. In a functioning democracy, civil society and trade unions must have their say in civil and social dialogue.

With the above in mind:

1. Could the Commission make public the full list (from 2024 onwards) of meetings (presidency, cabinets, secretariat-general, directorates-general) with the CEFIC and its members on these matters, as well as the meeting agendas, participants, documents submitted, minutes and the actions taken?

2. Could the Commission state precisely why closed-door meetings are acceptable when they fail to deliver transparency or balanced access for trade unions, NGOs and independent experts?

3. Could the Commission clarify what concrete safeguards have been put in place to ensure that any 'simplification' complies with the precautionary principle and does not undermine labour laws, health, security or efforts to protect the environment?

Submitted: 11.2.2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(21 April 2026)

The Commission applies strict transparency rules on its interactions with interest representatives. It publishes information on, and minutes of, all meetings held between members of the Commission, their members of Cabinet or Commission management staff and interest representatives. in accordance with Commission Decisions (EU) 2024/3081 ([1]) and (EU) 2024/3082 ([2]).

The Transparency Register includes a list of such meetings with the European Chemical Industry Council ([3]). The Commission also attends meetings organised by third parties such as the meeting referred to by the Honourable Member, that also involved trade unions. The Commission is open to attending meetings organised by all relevant stakeholders.

All Commission proposals comply with the 'better regulation' principles, the general legal principles and fundamental rights.

A description on how each act complies with these principles is provided in the explanatory memorandum accompanying each proposal.

The Commission is committed to legislation that is effective, enforceable and proportionate. Simplification efforts aim to improve clarity, reduce unnecessary administrative burden, and enhance compliance.

In the specific case of the regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals ([4]), the Commission will always promote human health and environmental protection, science-based chemicals risk management and competitiveness and innovation of European companies.

([1]) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202403081.
([2]) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202403082.
([3]) https://transparency-register.europa.eu/search-register-or-update/organisation-detail_en?id=64879142323-90.
([4]) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02006R1907-20251023.