



## Press release

### Contact

Agnes Dittmar  
T +49 228 90241-124  
M +49 151 56540332  
E [media@isc3.org](mailto:media@isc3.org)  
I [www.isc3.org](http://www.isc3.org)

**27 March 2019**

### **ISC<sub>3</sub> and SusChem sign Memorandum of Understanding towards advancing Sustainable Chemistry**

**Brussels, 27 March 2019 - The International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC<sub>3</sub>) and the European Technology Platform for Sustainable Chemistry (SusChem) signed a new cooperation agreement to foster their common mission of advancing Sustainable Chemistry at a European and global level at the SusChem board meeting on 14 March 2019 in Brussels.**

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) outlines the role of each organisation and proposes long-term collaboration in the following areas: research agenda development, fostering breakthrough innovation, education & skills development and stakeholder dialogues on Sustainable Chemistry. Through this agreement, both parties aim to maximise the impact of relevant activities, build on synergies and complementarities, and create added value for their members.

Friedrich Barth, Managing Director of ISC<sub>3</sub>, said:

*“We join forces with SusChem to promote sustainable innovation in the chemical sector, leveraging a multi-stakeholder approach that involves Academia, SMEs, start-ups, the large Industry and society. Working with SusChem means having on board such a European forum, building on existing knowledge and advancing Sustainable Chemistry, not only at a European level but at a global scale, which is our main mission.”*

Markus Steilemann, Chairman of the SusChem board, said:

*“We are clearly committed to join our forces with great partners and create a more sustainable chemistry on all levels. It’s now the time to innovate and effectively face our common European and global challenges for the common goal of sustainability. Therefore, we’re currently developing a SusChem Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SIRA) until end of this year. Under the leadership of our partner ISC<sub>3</sub>, we will also launch a constant exchange on the ‘Global*

*understanding of Sustainable Chemistry'. Our vivid network of "National Technology Platforms" helps us here."*

A key 2019 priority of this agreement is the bilateral input on Research Agendas.

The new SusChem Strategic Research and Innovation agenda (SIRA), is currently being revised and will be structured in line with the next EU research and innovation framework programme: Horizon Europe (HEU). The SusChem SIRA will also address the impact of Sustainable Chemistry on global challenges, as part of HEU, and therefore the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ISC<sub>3</sub> will provide input on all relevant technology priorities, and the potential impact of such innovation in Sustainable Chemistry with regards to global challenges. ISC<sub>3</sub> will also provide key input on priorities under education and skills, a horizontal topic that will be covered in the new SusChem SIRA.

SusChem will provide input to the ISC<sub>3</sub>-led 'Global understanding in Sustainable Chemistry' consultation with a strong focus on Europe. SusChem will also involve the SusChem NTP network (17 countries) to provide a national perspective.

SusChem ETP, founded in 2004, is a European Technology Platform, with the main objective of contributing to revitalizing research & innovation in Sustainable Chemistry and Industrial Biotechnology in Europe. As a multi-stakeholders networking forum and a technology solutions provider, SusChem works towards advising on technology priorities, at a European level, with a long-term strategic research and innovation agenda (SIRA). Connection to National priorities is achieved via its network of National Technology platforms. SusChem engages, consults and brings together representatives from larger Industry, SMEs, Universities and research technology organisations – being open to the wider society. SusChem technology focus areas include: Advanced Materials, Advanced Processes, Catalysis, enabling Digital technologies as well as Horizontal topics.

ISC<sub>3</sub> is a new independent, international institution promoting and developing sustainable chemistry solutions worldwide. It is a globally acting institution, a multi-stakeholder platform and think tank that engages with the private sector, civil society and politics to contribute to international chemicals policies and the formation of a global network for collaboration, innovation and education on Sustainable Chemistry. Activities to achieve such objectives are: dialogues amongst stakeholders, building on a global start-up service and funding, developing a Sustainable Chemistry curriculum, and also working towards a research agenda outlining a common understanding on Sustainable Chemistry, sustainability assessment and cross-sectorial topics. Founded in 2017 on the initiative of the the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the German Environment Agency (UBA), the ISC<sub>3</sub> has a structure supported by a Research & Education Hub (Leuphana

University, Lüneburg) and an Innovation Hub (DECHEMA, Frankfurt) with the aim to also establish regional hubs outside of Europe.

Both platforms share the intent of contributing to a more sustainable world and a circular economy, and to the transformation of the chemical sector towards sustainable chemistry, responding to global challenges.



*Markus Steilemann, Chairman of the SusChem board, and Friedrich Barth, Managing Director of ISC<sub>3</sub>.*

*Footage: [High-resolution download here](#)*