While the CEFIC position on the importance of climate change and the need for action is qualitatively aligned with Unilever’s, there are significant quantitative differences. These relate to the level and scope of emission reductions required, as well as the specifics of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme’s implementation, where Unilever believes Europe should be more ambitious. Unilever continues to advocate for a more progressive position on these issues at an industry level.

A key thrust of the WBCSD’s work is to advance the international climate policy debate through an active involvement in multilateral processes, particularly the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), but also other organisations such as the OECD, the International Energy Agency or the World Bank. In 2014, WBCSD launched the Low Carbon Technology Partnerships Initiative (LCTPi), a joint programme between WBCSD, the International Energy Agency and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network which is also endorsed by the French Presidency of COP21. For COP21, the initiative aimed to demonstrate that business was going to Paris with action based solutions which drive and support policy decisions on climate. It has eight active ‘business solutions’ in development: on renewables, energy efficiency in buildings, CCS, cement, advanced biofuels, climate smart agriculture, forests and chemicals. As one of the organisations that make up the ‘We Mean Business’ coalition, WBCSD believes that bold climate action is not a burden, but a historic economic opportunity, and has called for robust and stable carbon pricing.

Since October 2014 Unilever has not been the AISE representative on the CEFIC board. At lower levels, Unilever contributes only to topics not related to CEFIC’s climate change policy. We have however encouraged CEFIC to consider also the opportunities of ambitious climate action for the chemicals sector resulting in more balanced external statements.

WBCSD often represents the view of forward thinking businesses in policy engagements, and Unilever is active in ensuring this is ambitious and consistent with our own views. Unilever’s CEO, Paul Polman, is Chairman of the WBCSD.