

## Fluoropolymer industry under pressure Impact of the conflict in the Middle East – Towards more resilient value chains

**Frankfurt am Main, 24. March 2026. Geopolitical tensions in the Middle East are impacting the fluoropolymer industry at a time when it is already under strain. Companies across Europe along the chemical value chain are increasingly confronted with unstable supply chains, rising costs and growing planning uncertainty – with tangible effects on production, security of supply and competitiveness.**

The fluoropolymer industry is highly dependent on imported upstream materials and is therefore disproportionately affected by global market disruptions. Rising crude oil and natural gas prices are driving up costs for raw materials, production and logistics across the chemical industry. At the same time, disruptions to key shipping routes, increasing freight rates, as well as higher insurance and container costs are placing additional strain on international trade flows.

Supply risks and rapidly increasing prices for essential feedstocks for fluoropolymers – such as fluorspar, sodium chloride, sulphuric acid, methanol and methane – are significantly intensifying economic pressure. As a result, manufacturers are increasingly compelled to pass on rising costs along the value chain in order to maintain production and ensure reliable supply.

### **Structural weaknesses meet new geopolitical pressures**

Current developments are compounding an already tense situation in Europe. The decline in domestic production capacities due to relocation, combined with regulatory uncertainty – particularly in connection with the PFAS restriction proposal by the European Chemicals Agency – is further weakening the competitiveness of the fluoropolymer industry.

Against this backdrop, resilient and sustainable value chains are becoming increasingly important. Member companies of the pro-K industry association are therefore stepping up their efforts to establish a functioning circular economy for fluoropolymers.

Dr Michael Schlipf, spokesperson for the pro-K Fluoropolymer Group, states: “The technological capabilities for safe end-of-life solutions and the circular use of fluoropolymers are already available in Germany and

Europe. What is now required are political framework conditions that enable investment in these structures – to strengthen security of supply, strategic independence and the sustainable use of valuable resources.”

#### **About pro-K**

As a supporting association of the German Plastics Processing Industry Association (GKV), the pro-K industry association for durable plastic products and reusable systems represents manufacturers of consumer and semi-finished plastic products as a leading body vis-à-vis policymakers, industry and society.

PRESSEINFORMATION

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