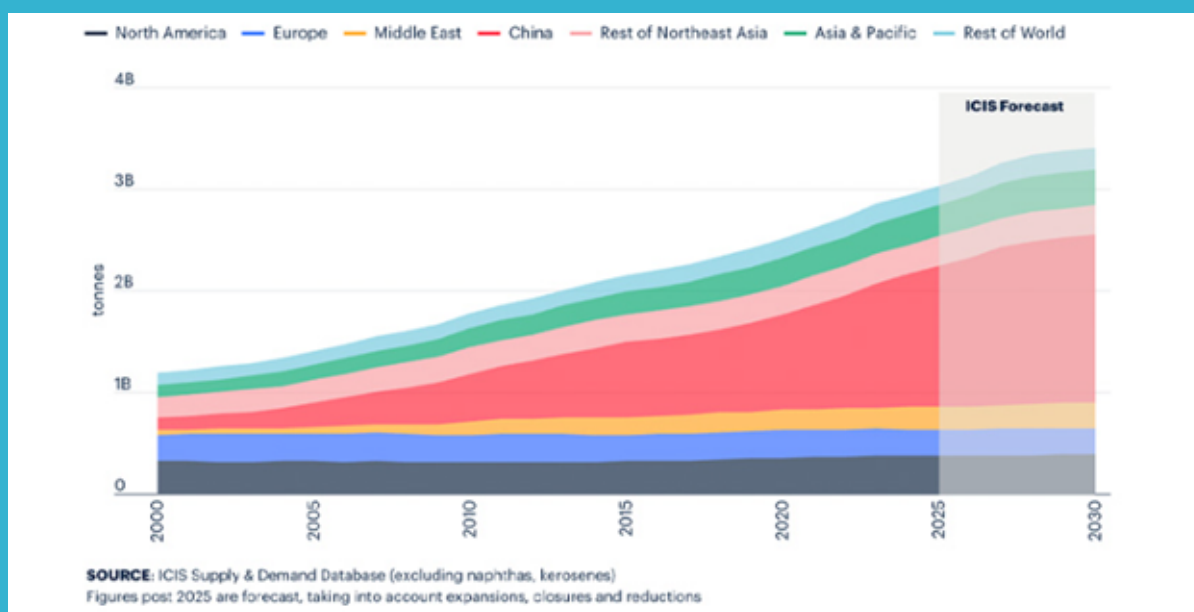


EDITION 133
March 23, 2026

EU Pushes Industrial Reset as China and US Outpace Europe in Chemicals

At the upcoming EU Summit, Europe is expected to respond to rising competitive pressure from the US and China, whose rapid capacity expansions are reshaping global chemical markets. With Europe's share of global chemical capacity projected to fall below 8% by 2030, policymakers are advancing a "Made in Europe" industrial strategy to revive competitiveness, reduce regulatory bottlenecks, and protect strategic sectors like chemicals.

Source: ICIS



Silox Acquires Hydrosulfite Assets from BASF

Silox has acquired selected hydrosulfite-related assets from BASF, strengthening its position in the global bleaching and reducing agents market. The deal supports Silox's expansion in paper and textile applications while aligning with BASF's strategy to exit hydrosulfite production.

Source: BASF

US Launches Broad Trade Probes to Reinstate Tariffs on 60 Countries

The US has initiated Section 301 investigations into over 60 countries targeting forced labor practices and excess industrial capacity, creating a pathway to reimpose tariffs after a Supreme Court setback.

Source: ICIS

BASF Launches Lower-Carbon Intermediates Portfolio

BASF has introduced reduced carbon footprint (rPCF) variants of key intermediates including BDO, THF, PolyTHF® and NMP, achieving at least a 10% emissions reduction. The new portfolio enables customers across industries to lower Scope 3 emissions without modifying existing processes or formulations.

Source: BASF

Evonik Expands U.S. Distribution Partnership with IMCD

Evonik has expanded its distribution partnership with IMCD to the U.S., extending its VISIOMER® specialty methacrylates reach. The move strengthens regional market access and enhances customer support across key applications such as coatings, adhesives and construction.

Source: Evonik

War Risk Insurance Costs Surge for Ships in Strait of Hormuz

Insurance premiums for vessels crossing the Strait of Hormuz have jumped to ~5% of ship value, sharply increasing shipping costs. While coverage is still available, rising risks and recent attacks are deterring shipowners, threatening flows through a route handling ~20% of global oil and LNG.

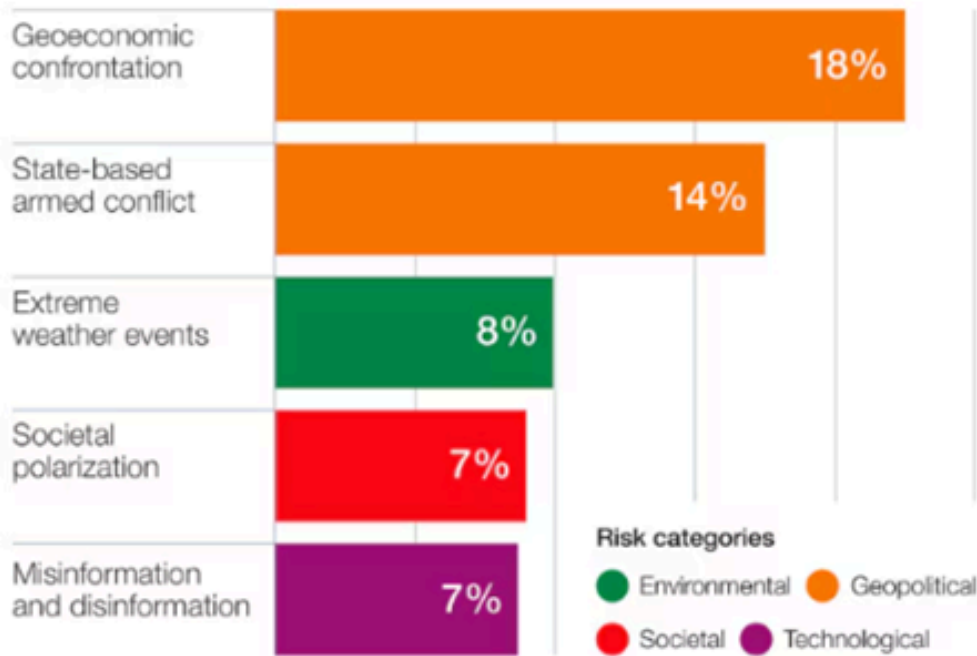
Source: We forum

Confrontation is complicating collaboration, with **gloeconomic confrontation** identified as the most pressing immediate global risk for 2026, followed by **state-based armed conflict**.



Please select one risk that you believe is most likely to present a material crisis on a global scale in 2026.

Top five risks selected by respondents (share of respondents %)



Source: World Economic Forum Global Risks Perception Survey 2025-2026.

Global Risks Report 2026

Image: World Economic Forum

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