

EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

#ChemicalsStrategy
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Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

**Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability
Towards a Toxic-Free Environment**

- **Communication**
- **Annex (Action Plan):** key actions and tentative timing
- Accompanying **Staff Working Documents:**
 - Fitness Check on Endocrine Disruptors (and Executive Summary)
 - Progress report on mixtures
 - Report on review of provisions under REACH, art. 138
 - Poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances – PFAS
 - Synopsis report summarising input from stakeholders

{SWD(2020) 225 final} - {SWD(2020) 247 final} - {SWD(2020) 248 final} -
{SWD(2020) 249 final} - {SWD(2020) 250 final} - {SWD(2020) 251 final}

Building on an advanced framework and extensive policy evaluations and input

Fitness check of the most relevant chemicals legislation (excl. REACH) (2019)

REACH Review (2018)

Many other specific evaluations

High-level Conference in June 2019

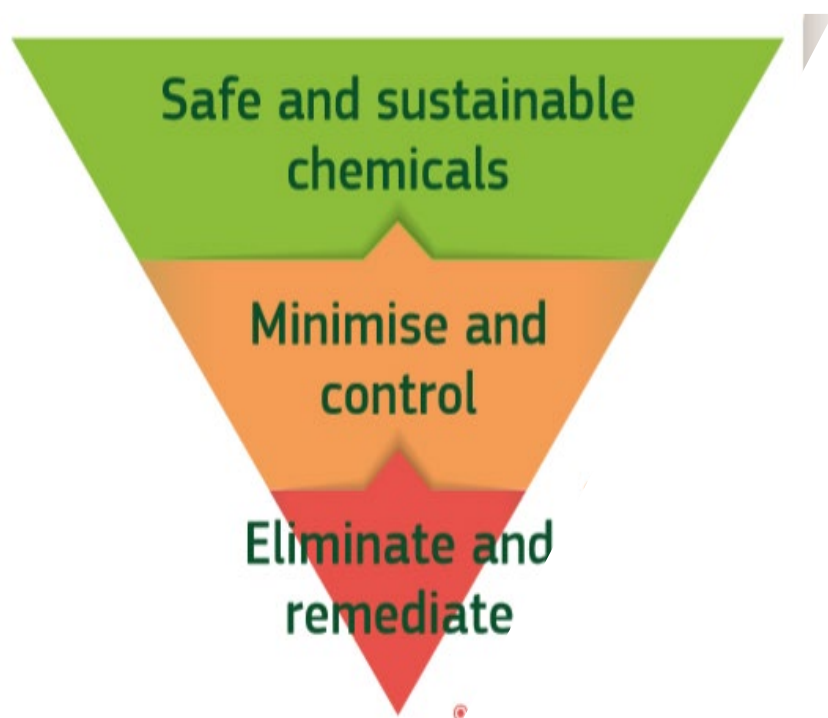
Roadmap consultation (2020)

Council Conclusions (2019)

EP Resolution (2020)



2030 vision – towards a toxic-free environment



- Chemicals are produced/used in a way that **maximises their benefits to society** while **avoiding harm to planet & people**
- Production and use of **safe and sustainable chemicals** becomes the EU market norm and a global standard

TOXIC-FREE ENVIRONMENT: 5 building blocks

Innovation,
competitiveness,
recovery

Strengthen
legislation for
better protection

Simplification &
coherence

Knowledge and
science

Global

1. Boosting innovation



- Promoting chemicals that are **safe and sustainable by design**: criteria and support network
- **Support industrial innovation**: climate neutral & clean production
- Promote **innovative testing and risk assessment** methods and their regulatory uptake
- Identify **key chemical value chains/technologies** & promote open strategic autonomy
- **Non-toxic material cycles** in products & waste, develop decontamination solutions

2. Strengthening legislation



- Restrict the most harmful chemicals in consumer products
 - *(CMRs), endocrine disruptors, persistent and bio-accumulative substances, chemicals affecting immune, neurological or respiratory systems or toxic to specific organs*
- **New hazard classes** (CLP) on endocrine disruptors, PBTs/vPvBs and persistent and mobile substances
- Address **chemical mixtures** across legislation, i.e. Mixture Assessment Factor (REACH)
- Boost protection of **children (childcare articles), professional users, and workers**
- Apply the concept of **essential uses** in chemical legislation
- Phase out the non-essential **uses of PFAS**

3. Simplifying and consolidating



- 'One substance, one assessment'
 - **Improve transparency** via Activities Coordination Tool on all planned and ongoing initiatives, discussion with MS and agencies, internal Commission coordination mechanisms
 - **Reallocation of scientific work**
- Improve methodologies, **data interoperability and accessibility** including through a common open data platform on chemicals
- Reform the **authorisation and restriction** processes under REACH
- **Strengthen compliance, enforcement and market surveillance** by, i.a.
 - **Audits** on national enforcement systems
 - **More and better (targeted) controls**, e.g. online sales and imported articles
 - **Compliance** of registration dossiers

4. A comprehensive knowledge base

- Establish an EU research & innovation agenda for **chemicals**
- Promote **innovative testing and risk assessment methods** and their regulatory uptake
- **Improve knowledge on chemical properties** and uses
 - by **requiring more information** (polymers, environmental footprint, low quantities, specific hazard properties)
 - by **tracking** substances on concerns in products/materials
- Finance via the Research and Innovation programmes **Human and Environmental (Bio)-monitoring**
- **EU early warning and action system** for chemicals
- Framework of **indicators** to better assess our policies



5. Setting the example globally

- Global strategic objectives and targets for **sound management of chemicals and waste** beyond 2020
- Promote the use of the **Globally Harmonized System of Classification & Labelling** of Chemicals (GHS)
- Proposal to introduce, adapt or **clarify criteria/-hazard classes** in GHS in line with CLP
- **Common standards and innovative assessment tools internationally** notably with OECD
- **International cooperation** on sound management of chemicals – Africa & neighbouring countries
- Chemicals banned in the EU **not produced for export**



Amendment of CLP

- Ensure that **CLP is the central piece of legislation for hazard classification**
- Proposal to amend CLP to **give the Commission the mandate to initiate harmonised classification**
- Introduce **new hazard classes in CLP** on
 - endocrine disruptors
 - PBTs/vPvBs
 - persistent and mobile substancesand apply them across all legislation



Amendment of REACH



- Extend the use of the **Generic Risk Approach** (Article 68(2) on consumer products)
 - **Endocrine disruptors, PBT/vPvBs** (first step)
 - **Immunotoxicants, neurotoxicants, respiratory sensitisers, STOTs** (later)
 - Extend to products for professional use
- Exempt **essential uses** (to be defined)
- While we are waiting – **roadmap** for prioritization for (group) restrictions, incl. **PFAS**

Amendment of REACH



- Extend definition of **Substances of Very High Concern** (Article 57)
 - **Endocrine disruptors** (without ELoC)
 - **Persistent, mobile & toxic (PMT)**
 - **Very persistent, very mobile (vPvM)**General reference to CLP classifications
- Reform **authorization & restriction** processes

Amendment of REACH

- Extend registration requirements
 - Environmental footprint, use and exposure data
 - More information on **critical hazard properties** (carcinogenicity, endocrine disruption etc.)
- Chemical Safety Assessment
 - Introduce a **Mixtures Assessment Factor**
 - Request Chemical Safety Assessment for **1-10 tpa** substances



Amendment of REACH

- Registration of **certain polymers** of concern
- Streamline **evaluation procedures**, incl. compliance check of all registration dossiers
- Allow **revocation** of registration numbers
- Increase **control** (import, e-commerce) and **enforcement**
- Introduce a **European Audit Capacity**
- **Founding regulation** on ECHA, securing long-term funding



Processes and participation

- **High-level roundtable**
 - Industry, incl. SMEs
 - Science
 - Civil society
- **Targeted** amendments of REACH, CLP and sectoral legislation
- Legislative processes will be **underpinned by Better Regulation principles, including Impact Assessments**



Thank you

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