

EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

#ChemicalsStrategy
#EUGreenDeal



European
Commission

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Chemicals in Numbers



Europe is the second largest producer with **16.9%** of global sales



EU chemicals industry employs **1.2 million** people



59% of chemicals supplied to other sectors, such as health, constructions, automotive, electronics, textiles

84%

Europeans are worried about the impact of chemicals present in everyday products on their health



90%

Europeans are worried about the impact of chemicals on the environment



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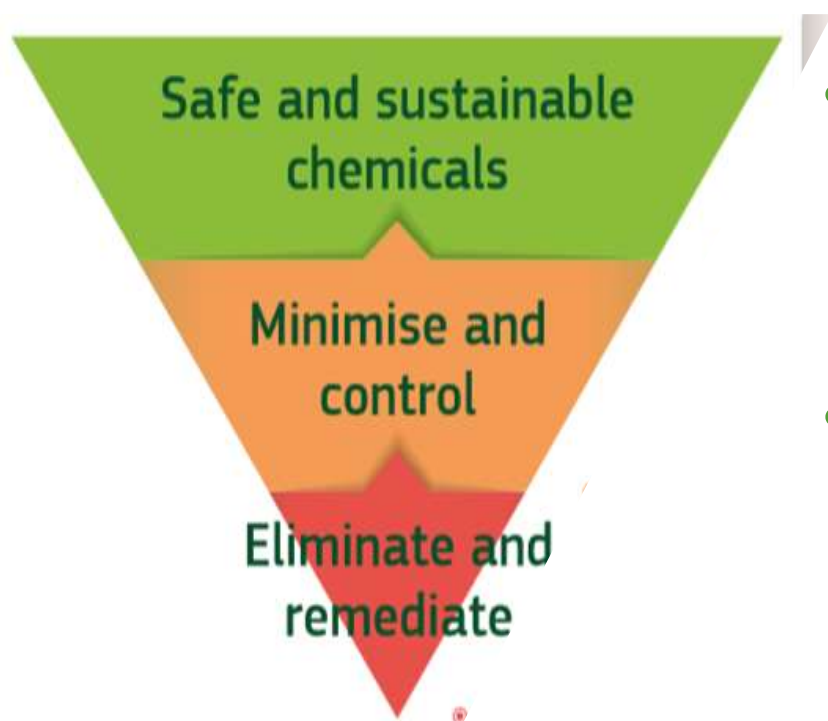
The European Green Deal



Building on an advanced framework and extensive policy evaluations

- Fitness check of the most relevant chemicals legislation (excluding REACH)
- The REACH Review/Refit evaluation
- Batteries directive
- A EU strategic approach to pharmaceuticals in the environment
- Towards a comprehensive European Union framework on endocrine disruptors
- Occupational Safety and Hygiene (OSH) Legislation
- Waste legislation
- EU Ecolabel
- Drinking Water
- Fertilisers
- Evaluation of the EU 7th Environment Action Program

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
- **Identify key chemical value chains/technologies** & promote open strategic autonomy
- **Non-toxic material cycles** in products & waste decontamination solutions

2. Strengthening legislation

Ensure that the **most harmful chemicals** are not contained in consumer products



- *(CMRs), endocrine disruptors, persistent and bio-accumulative substances, chemicals affecting immune, neurological and respiratory systems and 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 a tool to give overview of 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 enforcement systems
 - **Compliance** of registration dossiers,
 - **More and better (targeted) controls** e.g. online sales and imported articles

4. A comprehensive knowledge base

- Establish a 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 volumes, for 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 beyond 2020
- Promote the use of the **Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling** of Chemicals (GHS)
- Chemicals banned in the EU not produced for export
- Common standards and innovative assessment tools internationally notably with OECD
- Sound management of chemicals in international cooperation – Africa & neighboring countries



Structure

In the framework of the Chemicals Strategy the Commission on 14 October 2020 adopted:

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

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 including impact assessments**



Thank you

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