



Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

Towards a Toxic-Free Environment

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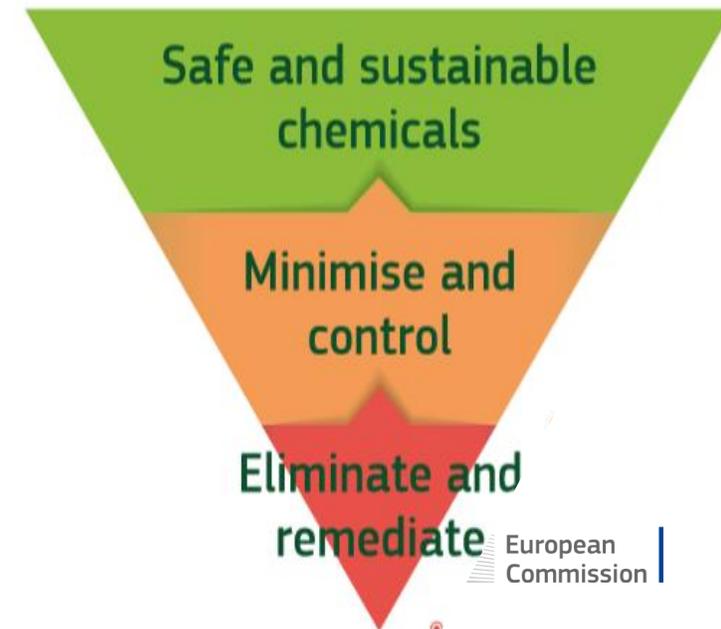
European Green Deal Commitments



- To help protect citizens and the environment and encourage innovation for safe and sustainable alternatives
- To combine better health and environmental protection and increased global competitiveness.
 - by simplifying and strengthening the legal framework
 - moving to ‘one substance – one assessment’
 - to rapidly reflect scientific evidence on the risk posed by endocrine disruptors, hazardous chemicals in products including imports, combination effects of different chemicals and very persistent chemicals

2030 Vision for the EU chemicals policy

- **Chemicals play a fundamental role in most of our activities** (health, construction, mobility, electronics, textiles) and are a crucial for technologies to deliver green and digital transition
- **Chemicals with hazardous properties cause harm to human health and the environment** (interfere with ecosystems, cause diseases and weaken human resilience).
- **VISION:**
 - 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 a benchmark worldwide



5 Building Blocks

Innovation,
competitiveness,
recovery

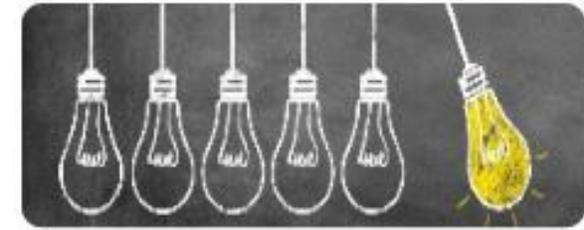
Stronger
legislation for
better protection

Simplification &
coherence

Knowledge and
science

Global

1. Boosting innovation



- Develop EU safe and **sustainable-by-design criteria** and a **support network**
- **Support industrial innovation by providing funding** under Horizon Europe, cohesion policy, the LIFE programme, and other relevant EU funding and investment instruments
 - to ensure the development, commercialisation, deployment and uptake of **safe and sustainable by-design substances, materials and products**
 - for advanced materials/ technologies/ processes/ innovative business models for **the transition towards climate neutral and clean production**
 - **for access to risk finance**, in particular for SMEs and start-ups;
- **Minimize & track** the presence of substances of concern in products & decontaminate waste
- To strengthen the strategic autonomy, promote **interregional collaboration along sustainable chemicals value chains**, through smart specialisation

2. Increasing protection



- Ensure that the **most harmful chemicals are not contained** in particular in consumer products such as **food contact materials, toys, childcare articles, cosmetics, detergents, furniture and textile**
 - In addition to those substances that cause **cancers**, gene **mutations**, and affect the **reproductive system**, address as a priority **endocrine disruptors** and substances that are **persistent and bio-accumulative**
 - and extend this approach (second phase) to chemicals affecting **immune, neurological** and **respiratory** systems and chemicals **toxic to specific organs**.
- Introduce a Mixture Assessment Factor in REACH to address the **combination of chemicals (mixtures)**
- Increase **protection of children** (restrictions in REACH and through the General Product Safety Directive), **professional users** (extend the protection that REACH provides for consumers) , and workers (propose to lower some existing occupational limit values)
- **Ban PFAS** i.a. via a restriction under REACH - unless essential for society

3. Simplifying and consolidating



- **‘One substance, one assessment’**:
 - **Improve transparency** via a tool to give overview of all planned and ongoing initiatives, discussion with Member States and agencies, internal Commission coordination mechanisms
 - **Redistribute** the work amongst agencies
- Improve methodologies, **data interoperability and accessibility** including through a common open data platform on chemicals
- Reform the authorisation and restriction process under REACH (also with a view to ensure a better level playing field)
- **Strengthen compliance, enforcement and market surveillance**, by i.a.
 - Carrying out **audits** in Member States
 - **Requiring compliance** of registration dossiers,
 - Targeting controls on **online sales** and imported articles

4. A comprehensive knowledge base



- Establish a EU **research and innovation agenda for chemicals**
- **Improve knowledge on chemical properties** and uses by requiring more information (on polymers, environmental footprint, tracking, low volumes, for specific hazard properties)
- Extend the duty of registration under REACH to certain **polymers** of concern
- Finance via the Research and Innovation Program **Human and Environmental (Bio)-monitoring**
- Develop a framework of **indicators** to better assess our policies

5. Setting the example globally



- Take a **leading role** to implement international instruments (Stockholm, Rotterdam and Minamata conventions)
- Strive to adopt **global strategic objectives and targets beyond 2020** for the sound management of chemicals and waste
- Promote the use of **the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)** internationally
- Amend legislation to **ban also the production of chemicals** that are banned to be used in the EU – so that they cannot be exported
- **Cooperate with other countries** – e.g. in Africa – to promote the sound management of chemicals through international cooperation and partnerships, in bilateral, regional and multilateral fora

Processes and participation



- High level roundtable with industry, SMEs, science, civil society
 - how to make the chemicals legislation work more efficiently and effectively
 - how to boost the development and uptake of innovative safe and sustainable chemicals
- Amendments of REACH in the most targeted way possible, limited to achieving the objectives of this Strategy,
- Legislative processes will be carried out following the Better Regulation rules, including impact assessments and public consultations

Thank you

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