

# EUs Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability – an overview

Swedish Society of Toxicology, September 9, 2021

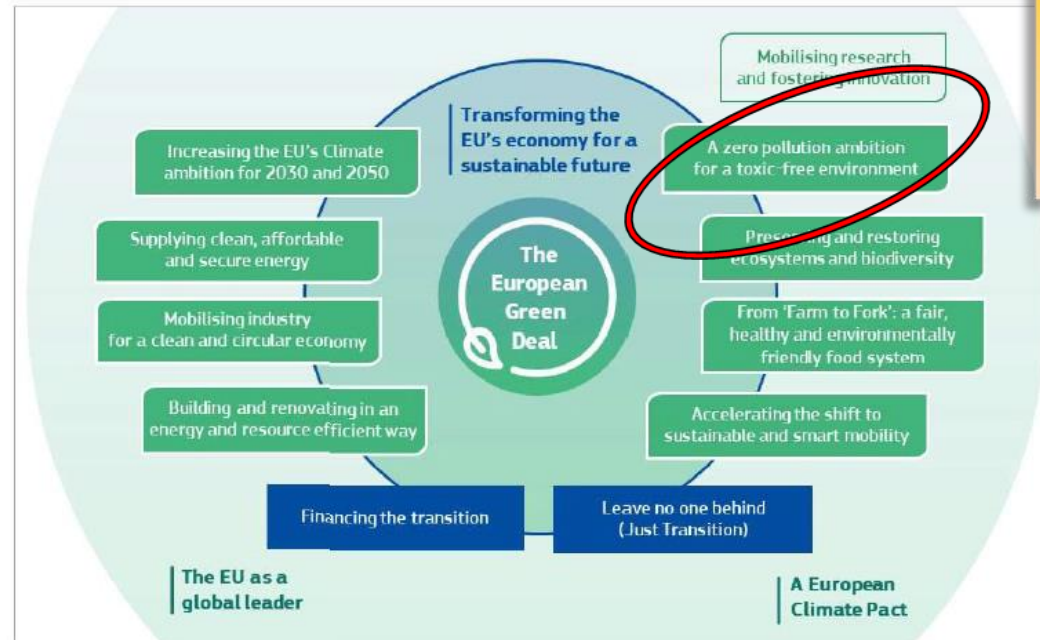
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# Short historic background

- 2001: "White Paper on the Strategy for a future Chemicals Policy"
- 2013: EU:s 7th Environment Action Program
- 2019: The European Green Deal
- 2020: EU Chemical Strategy for Sustainability  
– Towards a Toxic-Free Environment



# The European Green Deal



# The European Green Deal – some selected action plans/strategies

- [European Green Deal](#) 11 December 2019 Red=includes chemicals related actions
- [European climate law](#), 4 March 2020
- [Circular Economy Action Plan](#), 11 March 2020
- [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), 20 May 2020
- ['Farm to fork strategy'](#), 20 May 2020
- [2030 Climate Target Plan](#), 17 September 2020
- [Chemicals strategy for sustainability](#), 14 October 2020
- [Zero pollution Action Plan](#), 12 May 2021
- [Sustainable blue economy](#), 17 May 2021
- [Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe](#), 25 November 2020

# Building on 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



# EU Chemical Strategy for Sustainability – Towards a Toxic-Free Environment



Brussels, 14.10.2020  
COM(2020) 667 final

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

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

- **Adopted October 14, 2020**  
**Commission Communication**

**Background documents published together with the strategy:**

- Annex to the Communication (Action Plan)
- Staff Working Document on the review of a number of provisions under article 138 of REACH
- Staff Working Document synopsis report, summarising contributions received by external stakeholders
- Staff Working Document on Poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
- Staff Working Document on progress report on the assessment and management of combined exposures to multiple chemicals and associated risks
- Staff Working Document on the Fitness Check on endocrine disruptors
- Executive Summary of the Staff Working Document on the Fitness Check on endocrine disruptors

All documents available here:

[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/chemicals-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/chemicals-strategy_en)

# Towards a toxic-free environment: a new long-term vision for EU chemicals policy



## Overall vision/objectives:

- Chemicals are **produced/used** in a way that **maximises their benefits to society** while **avoiding harm to planet & current and future generations**
- **EU industry** as a **globally competitive player** in the production and use of **safe and sustainable chemicals** – roadmap and timeline for sustainable **transformation of industry**

## Pathway towards implementation of this vision through actions to:

- **support innovation for safe and sustainable chemicals**
- **strengthen the protection** of human **health** and the **environment**,
- **simplify and strengthen the legal framework** on chemicals,
- **build a comprehensive knowledge base** to support evidence-based policy making,
- set the example of **sound management of chemicals globally**.

**Over 80 actions in the strategy,  
56 of which with a deadline in the annex**

# Toxic-free environment: 5 building blocks

Innovation,  
competitiveness,  
recovery

Strengthen  
legislation for  
better protection

Simplification &  
coherence

Knowledge and  
science

Global



# 1. Innovating for safe and sustainable EU chemicals

Innovation,  
competitiveness,  
recovery

- **Safe and sustainable-by-design**
  - Criteria for SSBD, support network, financing of innovation and commercialisation
- **Non-toxic material cycles – products, waste & recycling**
  - Minimising presence of substances of concern, improving information/tracking of chemicals content in materials and products
- **Innovating industrial production**
  - Research/innovation, low carbon/environmental impact, renewable energy in chemicals industry, risk finance
- **Strengthening the EU's open strategic autonomy (regarding critical chemicals/value chains)**
  - Identify strategic dependencies/value chains, promote resilience of supply

## 2. Stronger EU legal framework to address serious environmental and health concerns

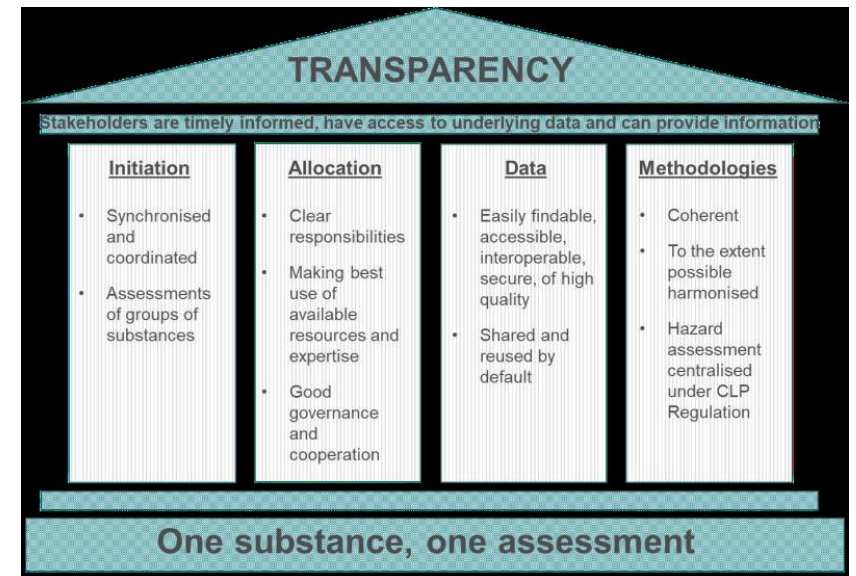
Strengthen  
legislation for  
better protection

- **Protection against most harmful chemicals**
  - Generic risk management of further categories (CMR, ED, P&M, consider neuro and immunotox) groupwise restrictions, protection of children, consumers and professional users, criteria for “essential uses”
- **Endocrine Disruptors**
  - Establish horizontal criteria for CLP hazard identification, include in SVHC under REACH, restrict in consumer products, improve information requirements
- **Chemical mixtures (combination effects of chemicals)**
  - Mixture Assessment Factor (MAF) under REACH, introduce/improve legal requirements, implement existing requirements (e.g. PPP)
- **Chemical pollution harmful to the natural environment**
  - Environmental toxicity, persistence and mobility: new CLP hazard classes and REACH SVHC categories, improved information requirements, food contaminants, decontamination solutions
- **PFAS**
  - Broad restrictions of all PFAS, address global concerns, innovative remediation methods, research and innovation on substitutes

# 3. Simplifying and consolidating the legal framework

Simplification & coherence

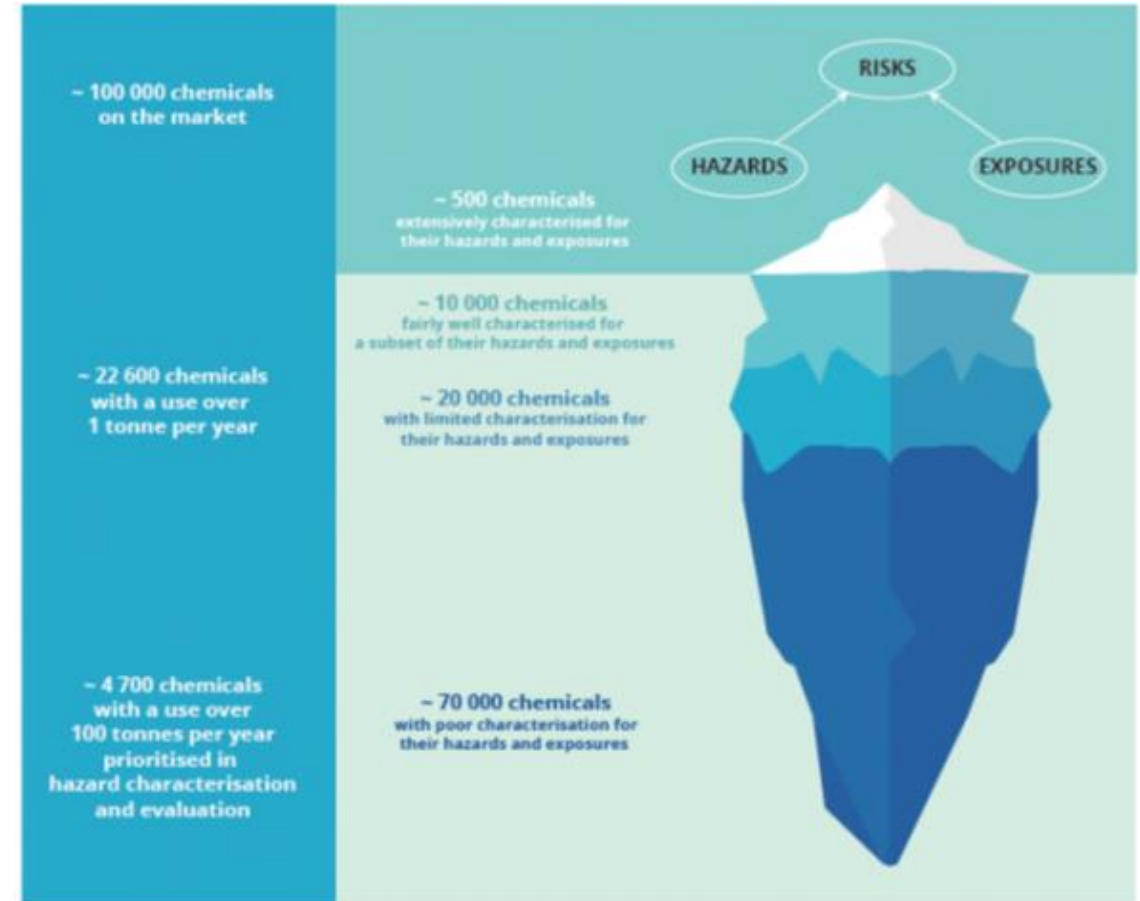
- **Coordination and simplification**
  - **”one substance, one assessment”**
    - Coordination across legislations, cooperation ECHA-EFSA, Funding of ECHA, EC harmonised classification, review nano definition
- **Methodologies and data**
  - Improve RA methodologies, improve access/sharing of data (common data platform), reform REACH authorisation and restriction processes, assess groups of substances, indicators
- **Zero tolerance for non-compliance – enforcement**
  - Compliance of REACH-registrations, audits of MS enforcement, focus on online-sales & imported articles, cooperation on enforcement



# 4. A comprehensive knowledge base on chemicals

Knowledge and science

- **Strengthening of information requirements**
  - Improve/request more information (polymers, low volume, immuno & neurotoxic chemicals), environmental footprint data)
- **A strengthened chemical science-policy interface**
  - Research and innovation agenda, regulatory uptake of new findings, develop tools, models, reduce animal testing, bio-monitoring, early warning-system, indicators



# Setting examples for global chemicals management

Global

- **International leadership**

- Meeting the Global Sustainability Objectives, adopt new global strategic objectives and targets beyond 2020, implement/develop UN GHS, OECD cooperation: standards and innovative RA

- **Cooperation with third countries**

- Promote multilateral, regional, bilateral cooperation, no export of chemicals banned in the EU



Thank you for your attention!



# Background slides

# Generic Approach to Risk Management

“In the EU legislative framework for chemicals, a ‘generic approach to risk management’ is an automatic trigger of pre-determined risk management measures (e.g. packaging requirements, restrictions, bans, etc.) based on the hazardous properties of the chemical and generic considerations of their exposure (e.g. widespread uses, uses in products destined to children, difficult to control exposure). It is applied in a number of pieces of legislation on the basis of specific considerations (e.g. characteristics of the hazard, vulnerability of certain population groups, non-controllable or widespread exposure). ([SWD\(2019\) 199](#)). ”

# Substances of Concern

“These include, in the context of this strategy and related actions, primarily those related to circular economy, substances having a chronic effect for human health or the environment (Candidate list in REACH and Annex VI to the CLP Regulation) but also those which hamper recycling for safe and high quality secondary raw materials.”

# Chemicals of concern?

## Hazardous substances (identified via CLP)

- Physical hazards (14 hazard categories): explosive, flammable gases, aerosols, oxidising gases, gases under pressure, flammable (gases, liquids and solids), self-reactive substances, pyrophoric (liquids and solids), self-heating, substances that in contact with water emit flammable gases, oxidising (liquids and solids), organic peroxide, corrosive to metals
- **Health hazards** (12 hazard categories)
  - Acute effects (5 hazard categories): skin corrosion/irritation, serious eye damage/irritation, aspiration toxicity,
  - **Chronic effects (7 hazard categories): skin or respiratory sensitisation, GERM CELL MUTAGENICITY, CARCINOGENICITY, REPRODUCTIVE TOXICITY, Specific target organ toxicity — single exposure , Specific target organ toxicity — repeated exposure**
- **Environmental hazards** (2 categories): Hazardous to the aquatic environment (acute and **chronic**)
- **Additional hazards: hazardous** to the ozone layer

***Endocrine disruptors*** (identified via REACH, BIOCIDES-PESTICIDES)

***Persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic – very persistent very bioaccumulative*** (identified via REACH)

**Blue: Substances of concern**

*Italics: substances of very high concern*

Underlined: substances proposed for GRA

SMALL CAPS: SUBSTANCES SUBJECT TO GRA TODAY