

Winter 2021 Webinar:

EU's Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability Towards a Toxic-free Environment

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM PT

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM ET

TOPICS IN ALTERNATIVES ASSESSMENT

Free Webinar Series Hosted by the Association
for the Advancement of Alternatives Assessment



WELCOME!

Today's A4 webinar:

EU's Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability Towards a Toxic-free Environment

The Strategy represents the EU's first step towards achieving a toxic-free environment described in the European Green Deal.

- What are the origins of this strategy?
- How is it unique in terms of advancing a *holistic* chemicals management strategy?
- What are anticipated challenges and opportunities?
- How can green chemists, toxicologists, and alternatives assessors can contribute to critical elements of a more global chemicals sustainability strategy?

Today's facilitators



Dr. Joel Tickner

Univ. Massachusetts Lowell
A4 Director



Dr. Pam Spencer

ANGUS Chemical
President of A4 and Vice President
of SOT/SCCT

Today's Speaker



Elena Montani
Policy Officer for the
European Commission DG
Environment

Webinar Logistics

- Due to the number of participants on the webinar, all lines are muted
- If you wish to ask a question, please raise your hand or type a question in the Q&A box located in the drop down control panel at the top of the screen
 - We want to encourage discussion on this webinar and will attempt to unmute lines of those who have their hands raised
- Questions will be answered during the facilitated discussion
- The webinar is being recorded and will be posted with the slide deck on the A4 website: www.saferalternatives.org
- At the end of the webinar, we will launch a short evaluation survey to help us with future webinars

Poll

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



The European Green Deal



Building on an advanced framework and extensive policy evaluations and input

Fitness check of the most relevant chemicals legislation (excluding REACH)

REACH Review

Many other specific evaluations

Conference in June 2019

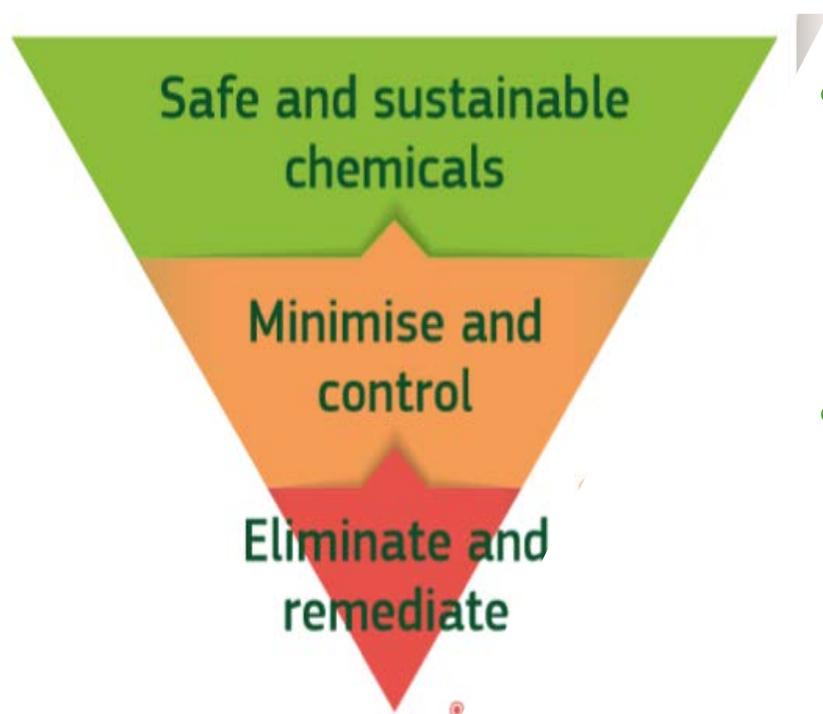
Roadmap consulted

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

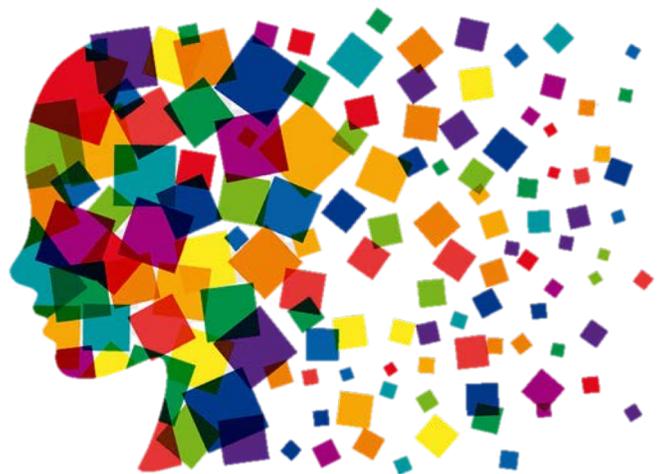
Simplification &
coherence

Knowledge and
science

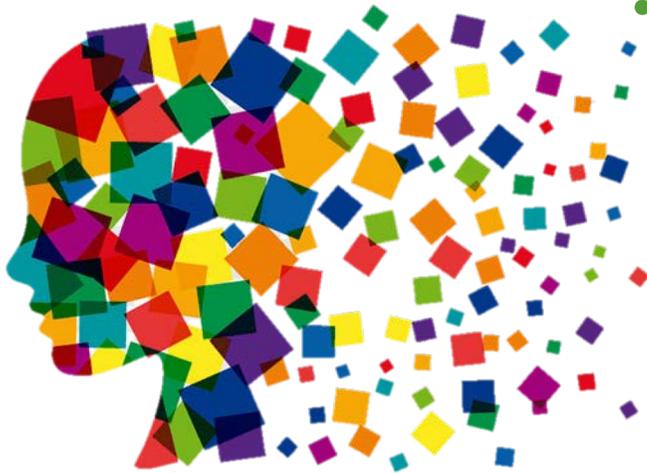
Global

1. Boosting innovation

- Develop EU safe and **sustainable-by-design criteria** and a EU-wide support **network**
- **Provide funding for:**
 - **safe and sustainable by-design substances, materials and products**
 - **greening chemical production**
 - **access to risk finance**, in particular for SMEs and start-ups
 - **interregional collaboration along sustainable chemicals value chains**
- **Promote non-toxic material cycles & waste decontamination solutions**
- **Strengthen EU's open strategic autonomy for critical chemicals**



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2. Strengthening legislation

- All chemicals on the market to be used safely and sustainably.
- Substitute and minimise as far as possible **substances of concern**
- Avoid the **most harmful chemicals** in consumer products esp. for vulnerable groups



Endocrine
disruptors

PFAS

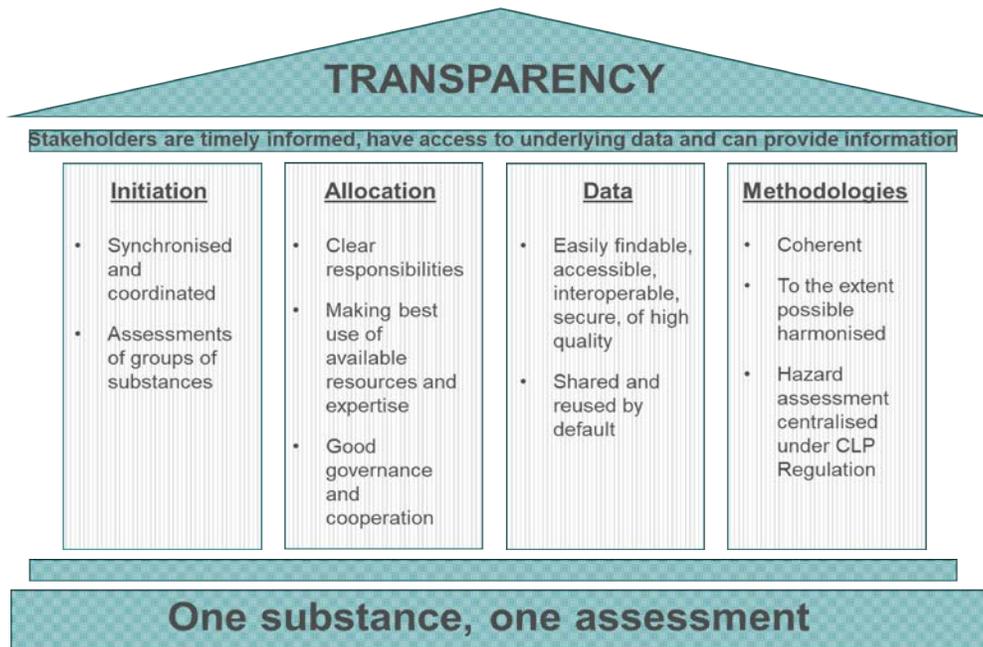
Mixtures

Environmental
impact

New hazard classes

Concept of 'essential uses'

3. Simplifying and consolidating



- 'One substance, one assessment' process:
 - Tool and coordination on safety assessments across legislation
 - Reallocation of scientific work
 - Common open data platform on chemicals

- Reform the **authorisation and restriction** processes under REACH
- **Strengthen compliance, enforcement and market surveillance**, by i.e.
 - **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

EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

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Reflections and Facilitated Discussion

Poll

THANK YOU



ASSOCIATION FOR
THE ADVANCEMENT
OF ALTERNATIVES
ASSESSMENT

SOT | Society of
Toxicology
Creating a Safer and Healthier World by Advancing
the Science and Increasing the Impact of Toxicology



**Sustainable Chemicals through
Contemporary Toxicology**
Specialty Section