

Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

- an ECHA perspective

Peter van der Zandt
21 January 2021



The European Green Deal



Why a Chemicals Strategy?



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



- **Many chemicals** can harm the environment and human health, interfere with ecosystems and weaken human resilience

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

CSS building blocks



Innovation



Stronger protection



Simplification & coherence



Knowledge and science



Global

Key actions in the Chemicals Strategy

- **Banning the most harmful chemicals in consumer products** – allowing their use only where essential
- **Account for the cocktail effect of chemicals** when assessing risks from chemicals
- **Phase out** per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (**PFAS**) in the EU, unless their use is essential
- Boost the investment and innovative capacity for production and use of chemicals that are **safe and sustainable by design** throughout their lifecycle
- Promote EU's resilience of supply and sustainability of critical chemicals
- Establish a simpler '**one substance one assessment**' process for the risk and hazard assessment of chemicals
- Play a leading role globally

We implement EU chemicals laws



REACH –
registration
of chemicals



Classification,
labelling &
packaging



Biocides



PIC –
import
& export



Safe & Sustainable chemicals

- Information and methods for risk assessment to take into account life cycle of substances and products
- Supporting research and innovation
- Criteria for safe and sustainable by design chemicals
- Human and environmental bio-monitoring (PARC)



A comprehensive knowledge base

- Revision of requirements for registration in REACH :
 - identification of substances with critical hazard properties, including effects on the nervous and immune systems
 - enable identification of all carcinogenic substances manufactured or imported in the EU, irrespective of the volume
 - the registration of polymers of concern
 - information on the overall environmental footprint of chemicals, including on emissions of greenhouse gases
 - obligation of chemical safety reports for substances between 1-10 tonnes



Increasing protection

- Generic Approach to Risk Management – no harmful chemicals in consumer products
 - CMRs, endocrine disruptors, substances that are persistent and bio-accumulative
 - (second phase) chemicals affecting immune, neurological and respiratory systems and chemicals toxic to specific organs.
- Restrictions (group) roadmap to prioritise CMRs, ED, PBT, vPvB, immunotoxicants, neurotoxicants, STOTs and respiratory sensitisers
- Increase protection of children, professional users, and workers



Increasing protection

- Address PFAS as a group
- Define criteria for essential uses
- Amendment of CLP Regulation to introduce new hazard classes on endocrine disruptors, PBTs/vPvBs and persistent and mobile substances
- Update of information requirements in relevant legislation to allow for the identification of endocrine disruptors
- Amendment of REACH Article 57 to add EDs, PMT and vPvM as SVHCs
- Mixture assessment factor(s) (REACH Annex I)



Simplifying and consolidating

- 'One substance, one assessment':
 - Expanding PACT – Commission, Agencies and MS coordination
 - Reattribution of work amongst agencies
 - Establishment of an EU repository of human and environmental health-based limit values (DNEL, ES, PNEC, ...)
 - Establishment of an open platform on chemical safety data and tools for accessing relevant academic data
- Reform authorisation and restriction processes



Setting the example globally

- COM to increase leading role internationally
- Proposal at the UN GHS level to introduce, adapt or clarify criteria/hazard classes in line with the CLP Regulation
- Ban production of chemicals that are banned to be used in the EU – so that they cannot be exported

Next steps



- Developing action roadmaps 2020-2021
- Defining agencies' role and activities

Thank you!

