



Outcomes of the High Level Conference "EU Chemical Policy 2030: Building on the Past, Moving to the Future" (27-28 June 2019, Brussels)

**2nd European Exposure Science Strategy
Workshop, 5 July 2019, RIVM, Bilthoven**

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- 1. Discussions at the Brussels chemicals policy conference, June 27-28*
- 2. Some current policy processes and publications*

- *To discuss developments in chemicals policy based on recent policy evaluations*
- *To discuss future steps and potential developments of policy*
- *Joint arrangement with Danish Ministry of the Environment*



The poster features a vibrant, abstract background with green, orange, and yellow tones. On the left, there are silhouettes of people. On the right, a large white outline of a chemical flask is superimposed over the background. At the top center, the European Commission logo is displayed. The main title 'EU CHEMICALS POLICY 2030' is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below it, the subtitle 'BUILDING ON THE PAST, MOVING TO THE FUTURE' is in smaller white capital letters. The dates 'BRUSSELS, 27 - 28 JUNE 2019' are written in white capital letters. At the bottom left, the Danish Ministry of Environment and Food logo (a crown) and name are shown. A small blue European Union flag is at the bottom center.

European Commission

EU CHEMICALS POLICY 2030

BUILDING ON THE PAST, MOVING TO THE FUTURE

BRUSSELS, 27 - 28 JUNE 2019

Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark

Main areas discussed

- ***Knowledge and data (toxicological, use, monitoring)***
- ***Improving regulation, risk assessment and risk management***
- ***Chemicals in products (articles) and circular economy***
- ***Innovation, “green”/“sustainable” chemicals, substitution***
- ***International chemicals policy and leadership***
- ***Other overarching aspects***

Knowledge and data, data sharing and transparency (1)

(toxicological, uses, monitoring, sharing and transparency, early warnings)

- ***Improve knowledge/regulation – data requirements on nanomaterials, EDC, neuro and immuno-toxicity, environmental toxicity, variations in susceptibility***
- ***Develop knowledge on exposure – improve quality and access to exposure data***
- ***Develop/step-up human and environmental monitoring, including of exposure to mixtures and of effects on health/environment***

Knowledge and data, data sharing and transparency (2)

- *Align and coordinate to **facilitate sharing of data** between **EU/MS agencies** and **other stakeholders** (science and industry), e.g.
 - IT portal/platform
 - encourage reporting in **formats useful** also for **regulatory purposes***
- **Improve transparency: make studies and science behind decisions available** to research and civil society
- Develop **EU wide "early warning system"**, link to policy action
- Develop/implement **non-animal test methods** – cheap and reliable testing

Improving regulation, risk assessment and risk management

- **Apply grouping** of chemicals in **assessment and risk management** – flag “membership” in a group
- Bring **legislations/use areas together in overarching framework**, e.g. to facilitate cross-regulatory-silo assessment – widen **ECHAs** responsibility.
- **Fragmented, incoherent and slow legislation** bad for **proactive companies**
- Improve protection of **vulnerable groups**
- Effects on **wildlife/environment neglected** in many uses/legislations
- **Streamline ECHA and EFSA** regulatory practices
- Develop **socio-economic analysis methodology**, recognise e.g. **benefits** of avoided damage and **dynamic effects on business**

Chemicals in products (articles) and circular economy

- **Improve regulation of products/articles** (speed up restrictions, improve consistency across legislations, product specific rules when missing).
- **Clean and safe circular economy** – avoid re-circulation of substances of concern
- Develop **chemical recycling methods** as complement to mechanic
- **Equal requirements/level playing field** between **EU and imported articles**, "safe on-line shopping", improve enforcement
- Important to **achieve/reinforce single market for waste and recycling**, e.g. for investments, input to recycling
- **EU restrictions of chemicals in articles influence production abroad**

Innovation, “green”/“sustainable” chemicals and substitution

- ***Implement substitution principle: legal incentives, support strategy, require wider analysis of available alternatives – use these***
- ***Define “green” and “sustainable” chemistry to better promote it***
- ***Improve EU funding on applied R&D, e.g. on “green chemistry”***
- ***Training in universities to include toxicology and “green chemistry” aspects – breaking of silos in education and research, including in EU and privately funded***

International chemicals policy and leadership

- ***Export EU chemicals policy, incl. (simplified) "REACH light" approach***
- ***Maintain EU's leading role – crucial for developing and implementing global conventions, tools and processes***
- ***Global chemicals policy important to avoid "import" of pollution, but also for shaping future markets/demand***

Other overarching aspects

- **Achievements** the last decades
- Important to explain **the role of chemicals** in the context of overall challenges like **protecting climate, biodiversity, natural capital and health**
- Chemicals sector's dependence on **fossil feedstock and energy**
- **Invite** and actively **involve scientific community** in policy development
- Make better use of **IT-tools/artificial intelligence** for chemicals safety
- **Resources** for **ECHA** and for **enforcement** necessary for functioning legislation

Recently published policy documents and evaluations related to chemicals (1)

- ***The REACH Review/Refit evaluation, March 2018***
- ***Fitness check of the most relevant chemicals legislation (excluding REACH), June 2019***
- ***The Circular Economy Package, January 2015***
 - **Legal Package – requests ECHA to develop database on articles by 2020**
 - **Plastic Strategy (including e.g. micro-plastics”)**
 - **Chemicals-Products-Waste Interface Assessment, SWD and Communication 2017**
 - **Public consultation on the main issues identified in the Communication on the chemicals-products-waste interface, Summary report, March 2019**

Recently published policy documents and evaluations related to chemicals (2)

- ***Evaluation of the EU 7th Environment Action Program, May 2019***
- ***Towards a comprehensive European Union framework on endocrine disruptors, November 2018***
- ***Occupational Safety and Hygiene (OSH) Legislation, January 2017***
- ***EMAS and EU Ecolabel, June 2017***
- ***Drinking Water, December 2016***

Ongoing policy evaluations

- ***Fitness Check of the EU Water Legislation***
Water Framework Directive and its 'daughter Directives':
Groundwater Directive, Environmental Quality Standards Directive, Floods Directive
- ***REFIT Evaluation of the EU legislation on plant protection products and pesticides residues***
- ***Evaluation of Safety of toys directive***
- ***Detergents***
- ***Evaluation of EU legislation on Food Contact Materials (FCM)***
- ***Fitness check of rules on endocrine disruptors in EU legislation***
- ***... etc.***

Some global processes on chemicals and waste related

- **Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)** – review of 2020 objectives
- **The UN Sustainable Development Goals (2030)**

The core chemicals related SDG



Directly Related SDGs



Indirectly related SDGs



Thank you for your attention!

Background slides

Fitness Check of most relevant chemicals legislation excluding REACH



Brussels, 25.6.2019
COM(2019) 264 final

REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

Findings of the Fitness Check of the most relevant chemicals legislation (excluding REACH) and identified challenges, gaps and weaknesses

{SWD(2019) 199 final}



Brussels, 25.6.2019
SWD(2019) 199 final

PART 1/3

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

FITNESS CHECK
of the most relevant chemicals legislation (excluding REACH), as well as related aspects of legislation applied to downstream industries

Accompanying the document

REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

Findings of the Fitness Check of the most relevant chemicals legislation (excluding REACH) and identified challenges, gaps and weaknesses

{COM(2019) 264 final}

"Fitness check" of EU chemicals legislation (except REACH)

- **Scope: +40 pieces of legislation**
- **Horizontal legislation:** CLP, GLP, (REACH)
- **Product-specific chemicals legislation**, e.g. biocides, pesticides, detergents, cosmetics, toys, food contact materials, medical devices
- **Environmental legislation**, e.g. air emissions, waste, water
- **Transport legislation**, e.g. inland transport of dangerous goods
- **Worker safety legislation**, e.g. chemical agents, carcinogens and mutagens, pregnant workers, asbestos
- **Not included:** Rules on pharmaceuticals, veterinary medicine prod.
- **Also separate evaluations:** e.g. Plant protection products, PPP residues, the Framework Directive on Occupational Safety (OSH, finalised)...

Fitness Check - Purpose

5 Evaluation Criteria

- Effectiveness
- Efficiency
- Relevance
- Coherence
- EU added value

To identify any:

- excessive regulatory burdens
- performance issues (vis-à-vis the policy objectives)
- regulatory inconsistencies, obsolete measures
- regulatory gaps

...as well as what is working well

Our strengths

- **Improved protection health and environment**
- **Ensured free movement chemicals on single market**
- **Comprehensive data and assessment system**
- **Safer chemicals, better risk management**
- **Signifcant benefits where substances were regulated**



Examples of themes in the FC of Chemicals Legislation: **Weaknesses, inconsistencies, areas for improvement**

- *Monitoring of exposure*
- *Data, risk and hazard assessment requirements*
- *Innovation towards less hazardous/non-hazardous/non-chemical solutions*
- *Data sharing rules and practices*
- *Industry self-classification*
- *Mixture classification*
- *Combination effects/cumulative exposure*
- *Hazard and safety information*