

Industry, hazard-exposure relationship, best practices

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Major audiences still believe that a 2050 Europe should be: a decarbonised Europe without CO₂ emissions, a circular Europe without waste and a toxic-free Europe. Meeting all three of these objectives together will be a challenge and most probably entail that some 'trade-offs' will have to be identified and agreed upon among all stakeholders. One key aspect in this discussion, is the control of possible risks associated with the use of substances, that are critical to meet a reduction of emissions and waste. Industry has a major role to play in ensuring safety and security of use of these hazardous substances. Controlling the risk requires a good understanding of where exposures occur and can possibly be minimised and of the stressor-hazard relationships. Today, we are still confronted with some data and knowledge gaps, for example when it comes to the article stage or combined exposure. And also, even though several metals have developed good practices in exposure monitoring, we are still struggling with the appreciation of some basic concepts and are impacted by the lack of common framework and terminology, which both directly affect acceptance of our data and tools. An EU Strategy on Exposure Science could represent a real way forward, if it is implemented and taken up by institutions at large. The lecture will propose some examples and projects taking place in the sector to highlight this.