



Chemical Strategy for Sustainability

CSS Roadshow - BCCI

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Drivers to the Chemical Strategy



political



Coupled with successive European Parliament Resolutions + Council Conclusions

societal



90% Europeans are worried about the impact of chemicals on the environment*



84% Europeans are worried about the impact of chemicals present in everyday products on their health*



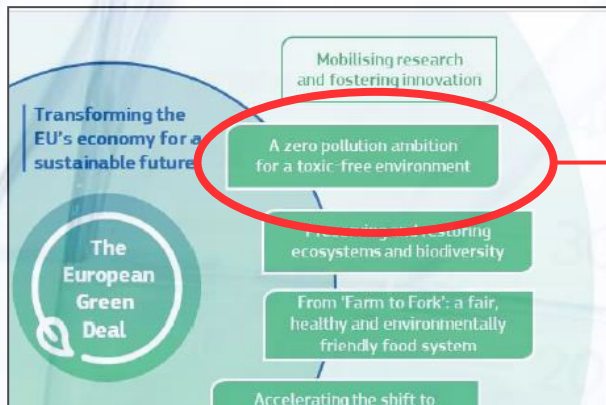
Blog: Hulk actor Mark Ruffalo is angry... about 'forever chemical' PFAS

When Mark Ruffalo, a well-known actor in the European Parliament, announced he would be taking PFAS to court, he became a leading voice for an audience of concerned citizens, environmental groups and business representatives. Such attention over PFAS is unprecedented in Europe.

02/04/2020



The EU Green Deal for chemicals



For the health of our citizens, our children and grandchildren, **Europe needs to move towards a zero-pollution ambition.** I will put forward a cross-cutting strategy to protect citizens' health from environmental degradation and pollution, addressing air and water quality, hazardous chemicals, industrial emissions, pesticides and endocrine disrupters.

To ensure a toxic-free environment, the Commission will present a **chemicals strategy for sustainability.** This will both help to protect citizens and the environment better against hazardous chemicals and encourage innovation for the development of safe and sustainable alternatives. All parties including industry should work together to combine better health and environmental protection and increased global competitiveness. This can be achieved by simplifying and strengthening the legal framework. The Commission will review how to use better the EU's agencies and scientific bodies to move towards a process of 'one substance – one assessment' and to provide greater transparency when prioritising action to deal with chemicals. In parallel, the regulatory framework will need to rapidly reflect scientific evidence on the risk posed by endocrine disruptors, hazardous chemicals in products including imports, combination effects of different chemicals and very persistent chemicals.

Chemical Strategy for Sustainability



The Chemicals Strategy will:

- Ensure better protection of human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals
- Boost innovation for safe and sustainable chemicals
- Enable the transition to chemicals that are safe and sustainable by design

It is a first step towards the Zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment announced in the European Green Deal.



Europe is the second largest producer with 16.5% 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

- Published : 14 October 2020
- Communication (not law) + Action Plan
- 4 Staff Working Documents + feedback from stakeholders
 - Mixtures
 - Endocrine Disruptors
 - PFAS
 - REACH Art 138 (Review clause)

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/chemicals-strategy_en

2030 Vision for EU chemicals policy



The European Commission's Vision:



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 a benchmark worldwide

The Chemicals Strategy is *“an opportunity to reconcile the societal value of chemicals with human health and planetary boundaries as well as to support the EU industry in producing safe and sustainable chemicals. It is also an opportunity to respond to the legitimate aspirations of EU citizens for a high level of protection from hazardous chemicals and to promote the EU industry as a global frontrunner in the production and use of safe and sustainable chemicals.”* **

* [European Commission's presentation from Cefic's Chemical Convention](#)

** [European Commission Communication on the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability](#)

Objectives and actions



Objectives

- better protect citizens and the environment
- boost innovation for safe and sustainable chemicals



Key actions

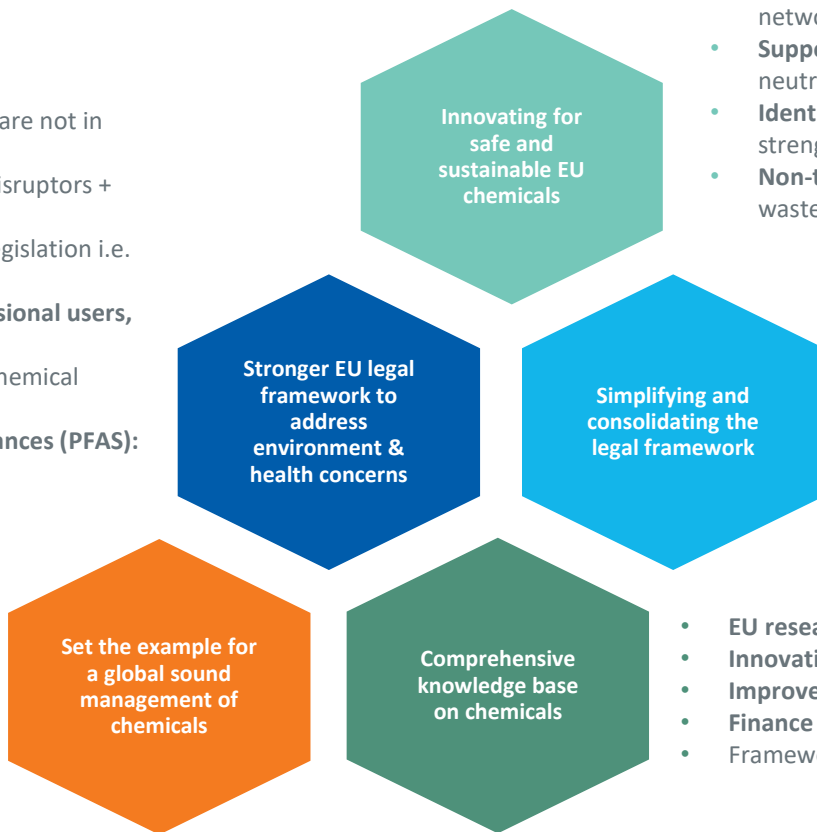
- Banning most harmful chemicals in consumer products, only essential use allowed
- Address combined effects/mixtures
- Phase out PFAS
- Boost transition to safe and sustainable by design chemicals
- EU resilience in critical supply chains
- One Substance, One Assessment process
- Global lead

Overview of the main policy changes proposed



- Ensure the **most harmful chemicals** are not in consumer and professional products
- **New hazard classes:** on endocrine disruptors + persistent and mobile substances
- **Address chemical mixtures** across legislation i.e. Mixture Assessment Factor (REACH)
- Boost protection of **children, professional users, and workers**
- **Apply concept of essential uses** in chemical legislation
- **Per and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS):** phase out for non-essential uses

- **Global targets** beyond 2020
- **Chemicals banned in the EU not produced** for export
- **Common standards** & innovative assessment tools internationally
- **Sound chemicals management** in international cooperation



- **Promote chemicals that are safe and sustainable by design:** criteria and network
- **Supporting industrial innovation :** climate neutral and clean production
- **Identify key chemical value chains:** to strengthen EU's strategic autonomy
- **Non-toxic material cycles** in products and waste decontamination solutions

- **One substance, one assessment:** improve transparency & reallocation of scientific work
- Improve methodologies, **data interoperability & accessibility** i.e. common open data platform
- **Authorisation & restriction processes** (REACH)
- **Strengthen compliance, enforcement, market surveillance**

- **EU research & innovation (R&I) agenda for chemicals**
- **Innovative testing and risk assessment methods**
- **Improve knowledge on chemical properties**
- **Finance via R&I programmes:** (bio)monitoring
- Framework of **indicators** to assess policies

What does it mean in practice?



all cast in regulatory
stone

- The CSS is a major, new initiative that will:
 - Prioritise **prevention** and **substitution**
 - It will **re-define chemicals policy** in Europe
 - Strong move towards **generic restrictions**
- Contains **56 actions**, most of them legislative changes, to be implemented between 2021 - 2024
- Generic risk management', 'faster and stronger regulation', strong focus consumer products
- Involves '**targeted revision**' of **REACH**: already the leading global chemicals legislation



Figure: The toxic-free hierarchy –

Beyond the regulatory agenda



all cast in nice
language



Safe and
Sustainable
by Design

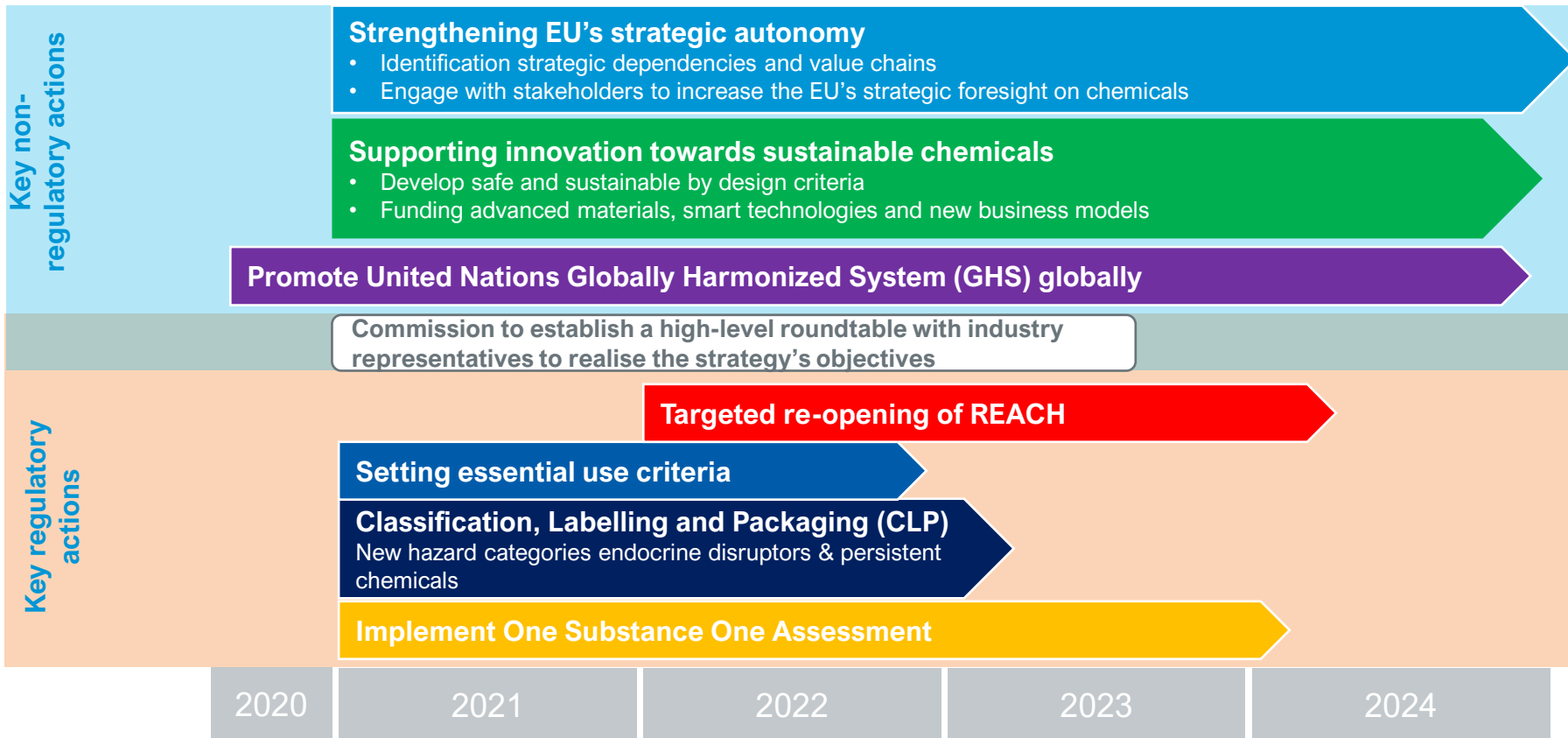
Enforcement

Resilience
and strategic
autonomy

R&I agenda

- A competitive European chemical industry in Europe!
- Innovation funding as a lever for managing the transition
- Industrial policy, inside Europe and with a global view
- Safe and sustainable-by-design. The circular economy!
- Stronger and more coordinated enforcement – opportunity
- Chemicals in articles (competing imports)
- One Substance – One Assessment – efficiency /predictability
- Essential use definition linked to strategic value chains

What's next?



Key considerations for industry



The Chemicals Strategy means a **paradigm shift in chemicals policy** for many years to come. Industry needs to be ready for major changes.



Map consequences for products' value chains: understand which product portfolios will be exposed to upcoming regulations and what does this mean for your business



Data generation: Data is key to support policy impact assessments. Socio-economic data + data on properties, use, exposure, emission control etc.



Resources: people (expertise) and budget



Be honest and transparent



Ensure safety measures are in place: initiatives like Responsible Care can support industry



Stay united: we need coordinated implementation - working with national associations, Cefic and the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA)