

A close-up photograph of a green leaf, showing a detailed network of veins. The veins are a lighter shade of green than the leaf's surface, creating a complex, web-like pattern. The lighting is even, highlighting the texture of the leaf's surface.

Zero-pollution, toxic free environment
of relevance for health



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Horizon Europe





LC-GD-8-1-2020: Innovative, systemic zero-pollution solutions to protect health, environment and natural resources from persistent and mobile chemicals

Presented by Ingunn Borlaug Lid,

National Contact Point (NCP) SC5 - Climate, environment, natural resources and raw materials

The Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

The Zero-Pollution Action Plan for air, water and soil

The Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability will be proposed by 2020.

- step up action to better protect vulnerable groups, to address the combined effects of chemicals and risk posed by endocrine disruptors.

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12264-Chemicals-strategy-for-sustainability->

The Zero-Pollution Action Plan for air, water and soil will be adopted in 2021.

- air and water policies - for both areas the main challenge remains implementation, however policy improvements can still be made.
- measures to address new sources of water pollution such as chemicals and micro-plastics.
- align the air standards with the World Health Organization recommendations, strengthen monitoring and help further local authorities to achieve cleaner air.
- <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1588580774040&uri=CELEX%3A52019DC0640>



LC-GD-8-1-2020: Innovative, systemic zero-pollution solutions to protect health, environment and natural resources from persistent and mobile chemicals

Expected impact:

- Better understanding of emerging and a persistent pollution problem of human and environmental health relevance
- Support the aims of the new **Circular Economy Action Plan** calling for methodologies to minimize the presence of substances that pose problems to health or the environment in recycled materials
- Solutions for better (bio)remediation and detection technologies, including real time monitoring approaches
- Improved risk assessment to facilitate optimal risk management
- Harmonization of hazard and exposure data and databases
- Data of regulatory relevance accessible to policy makers and for risk communication



<https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/>

LC-GD-8-2-2020: Fostering regulatory science to address combined exposures to industrial chemicals and pharmaceuticals: from science to evidence-based policies

Presented by Sofia Anderholm Strand

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LC-GD-8-2-2020: Fostering regulatory science to address combined exposures to industrial chemicals and pharmaceuticals: from science to evidence-based policies


Expected impact:

- Scientific evidence to enable prevention and/or mitigation of co-exposure to pharmaceuticals and industrial chemicals in the environment and the technosphere.
- Support the implementation of existing risk assessment and risk management approaches to reduce the most critical exposures, including the setting of limit values for exposures taking into account co-exposures..
- Support the assessment of new regulatory approaches such as, e.g. Mixture Assessment Factors
- Support activities on combined exposures as relevant for the **Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment** and as to be defined in the forthcoming **Chemical Strategy for Sustainability**



Support activities relevant for:

- Chemical strategy for sustainability
- European Union Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment

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ROADMAP

Roadmaps aim to inform citizens and stakeholders about the Commission's work in order to allow them to provide feedback and to participate effectively in future consultation activities. Citizens and stakeholders are in particular invited to provide views on the Commission's understanding of the problem and possible solutions and to make available any relevant information that they may have.

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|----------------------------|--|
| TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE | Chemicals strategy for sustainability |
| LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT | DG ENV- B2 Sustainable Chemicals |
| LIKELY TYPE OF INITIATIVE | Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions |
| INDICATIVE PLANNING | Q3 2020 |
| ADDITIONAL INFORMATION | - |

This Roadmap is provided for information purposes only and its content might change. It does not prejudice the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content. All elements of the initiative described by the Roadmap, including its timing, are subject to change.

A. Context, Problem definition and Subsidiarity Check

Context

As announced in the European Green Deal and in the context of its zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment, the Commission will present a Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability. The Strategy will build on recent policy evaluations and initiatives associated with the EU chemicals legislation - in particular the second REACH Review, the Fitness Check of the most relevant chemicals legislation (excluding REACH) and the Communication on options to address the interface between chemical, product and waste legislation - but also on specific policy evaluations carried out in the area of environmental and health protection, products, food and workers' protection. Those have identified a number of gaps, weaknesses, overlaps, and challenges that the EU chemicals policy needs to tackle in order to fulfil its policy objectives and to support and contribute to other policy areas. The current COVID-19 crisis increases the urgency to step up action in the chemicals area in order to ensure that stronger protection of citizens' health will also enable and support the socio-economic recovery of the European industry producing and using chemicals, and promote EU's strategic autonomy for those chemicals essential to society and health (e.g. for the production of pharmaceuticals or disinfectants). Addressing current and future challenges within the EU chemicals policy and developing a strategic approach to chemicals has also been the focus of a number of Resolutions by the European Parliament (resolution of 17 April 2018 on the implementation of the 7th Environment Action Programme, resolution of 13 September 2018 on implementation of the circular economy package) and of Conclusions by the Environment Council (Conclusions on Circular Economy of 25 June 2018, Conclusions on a Sustainable Chemicals Policy Strategy of 26 June 2019).


Problem the initiative aims to tackle

Chemicals play a fundamental role in modern societies. They have contributed to our current well-being, longer life expectancy and comfort and are crucial for many manufacturing industries - such as pharmaceuticals, medical equipment or automotive - as well as for agriculture and services. Moreover, they can play an important role to develop and deploy technologies necessary to achieve a circular and climate-neutral economy.

However, chemical pollution causes direct harm to health and the environment, leading to major economic, societal and environmental costs, which often materialise only after considerable time. In 2018, chemicals with properties hazardous for human health still represented 74% of the total chemical production in Europe, a percentage overall unchanged since 2004 (Eutaf). A growing number of hazardous chemicals are found in human blood and body tissues as well as in ecosystems, and some 3.5 million sites around Europe are contaminated by hazardous substances, including very persistent substances, with wide-ranging economic and social consequences (Commission study, 2017). 64% of Europeans are worried about the impact of chemicals present in everyday products on their health, and 60% are worried about the impact of chemicals on the environment (Eurobarometer 2017). Also in light of the current COVID-19 crisis, protecting both human and planetary health with the use of safe chemicals becomes increasingly important to promote societal resilience.

NEWS | 11 March 2019 | Brussels, Belgium

Pharmaceuticals in the environment



Commission defines actions to address risks and challenges

The European Commission has today adopted a Communication outlining a set of actions addressing the multifaceted challenges that the release of pharmaceuticals poses to the environment.

The "Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment" that the Commission presented, identifies six action areas concerning all stages of the pharmaceutical life cycle, where improvements can be made. The text addresses pharmaceuticals for human as well as for veterinary use. The areas cover all stages of the lifecycle of pharmaceuticals, from design and production to disposal and waste management, in line with the principles of the staff working document of the Commission on Sustainable Products in a Circular Economy. The six areas identified include actions to raise awareness and promote prudent use, improve training and risk assessment, gather monitoring data, incentivise "green design", reduce emissions from manufacturing, reduce waste and improve wastewater treatment.



Important projects and partnerships

Call: SFS-12-2014 - Assessing the health risks of combined human exposure to multiple food-related toxic substances

- [EuroMix](#)

Partnerships

- H2020: [European Human Biomonitoring Initiative](#) (HBM4EU)
↓ + Ecotoxicology
- HEU: [European Partnership for Chemicals Risk Assessment](#) (PARC)

➔ Norwegian participation: Public Health Institute!



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