



Brussels, 14.10.2020  
COM(2020) 667 final

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

**Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability  
Towards a Toxic-Free Environment**

{SWD(2020) 225 final} - {SWD(2020) 247 final} - {SWD(2020) 248 final} -  
{SWD(2020) 249 final} - {SWD(2020) 250 final} - {SWD(2020) 251 final}

## ACTION PLAN

*The measures presented in this action plan, , including legislative proposals and targeted amendments to REACH, will all need to be carried out in line with the better regulation principles and subject to evaluations and impact assessments as appropriate.*

<b>Key actions to be taken by the Commission</b>	<b>EU legislation</b>	<b>Indicative timing</b>
Set up a high level roundtable with the purpose of promoting efficiency and effectiveness of chemicals legislation, boosting development and uptake of innovative safe and sustainable chemicals, and monitoring the impact of the Strategy's actions.		2021
<b>Innovating for safe and sustainable EU chemicals</b>		
Develop EU safe and sustainable-by-design criteria for chemicals		2022
Establish an EU-wide safe and sustainable-by-design support network		2023
Financial support for the development, commercialisation, deployment and uptake of safe and sustainable-by-design substances, materials and products		As of 2021
Mapping safe and sustainable-by-design skills mismatches and competence gaps, and make recommendations		2021
Establish Key Performance Indicators to measure the industrial transition towards the production of safe and sustainable chemicals		2021
Introduce legal requirements on the presence of substances of concern in products, including PFAS, through the initiative on sustainable products	(Upcoming) Sustainable products initiative	2021-2022
Initiatives and funding to promote the development of green and smart technologies, advanced materials, and innovative business models for the low-carbon and low environmental impact industrial production and use of chemicals		As of 2021
Access to risk finance, in particular for SMEs and start-ups		As of 2021
Make amendments to the EU legislation on industrial emissions to promote the use of safer chemicals by EU industry	Industrial emissions Directive	2021 E
Identify key value chains and dependencies where chemicals are important building blocks and engage with stakeholders to increase the EU's strategic foresight on chemicals		As of 2021
Promote interregional collaboration along sustainable chemicals value chains, through smart specialisation, to accelerate the development of joint investment projects		As of 2021

Support up- and reskilling of the workforce for the digital and green transition		As of 2020
<b>Stronger EU legal framework to address pressing environmental and health concerns</b>		
Roadmap to prioritise carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic substances (CMRs), endocrine disruptors, persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT and very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB) substances, immunotoxicants, neurotoxicants, substances toxic to specific organs and respiratory sensitisers for (group) restrictions under REACH	REACH (Comitology)	2021
Proposals to extend the generic approach to risk management to ensure that consumer products do not contain chemicals that cause cancers, gene mutations, affect the reproductive or the endocrine system, or are persistent and bioaccumulative and toxic; assess the modalities and timing to extend the same approach to further chemicals including those affecting the immune, neurological or respiratory systems and chemicals toxic to a specific organ	REACH Article 68(2)	2022
	Food Contact Materials Regulation	2022
	Cosmetic Products Regulation	2022
	Toy Safety Directive	2022
	Legislative route for other consumer products (e.g. detergents) to be identified by the impact assessment	
Proposal to amend REACH Article 68(2) to include professional users	REACH	2022
Introduce mandatory legal requirements under the General Product Safety Directive and restrictions in REACH to enhance the safety of children from hazardous chemicals in childcare articles and other products for children (other than toys)	REACH (Comitology)	2022
	General Product Safety Directive	2021
In the process of the upcoming Strategic Framework for Health and Safety at work, define further priorities for addressing workers' exposure to hazardous substances, including by identifying most harmful substances for which the Commission will propose to set occupational limit following the established consultation process in the area of health and safety at work	Strategic Framework for Health and Safety at work	2021
In consultation with social partners, strengthen protection of workers, notably by proposing lowering existing occupational limit values for lead and asbestos as well as establishing a binding limit value for di-isocyanates	Chemical Agents Directive, Asbestos at Work Directive	2022
Define criteria for essential uses, taking into account the definition of the Montreal Protocol		2021-22
Proposal to amend the CLP Regulation to	CLP Regulation	2021

introduce new hazard classes on endocrine disruptors, PBTs/vPvBs and persistent and mobile substances, and apply them across all legislation		
Update information requirements to allow the identification of endocrine disruptors in relevant legislation, particularly under REACH, legislation on cosmetic products, food contact materials, plant protection products and biocidal products	REACH (Comitology) Biocidal Products Regulation (Annexes) Plant Protection Products Regulation (Commission Communications) Food Contact Materials Regulation Cosmetic Products Regulation	2022 2021 2021 2022 2022
Assess how best and introduce (a) mixture assessment factor(s) in Annex I of REACH	REACH (Comitology)	2022
Introduce or reinforce provisions to take account of the combination effects of chemicals in water, food contact materials, food additives, toys, detergents, cosmetics	Environmental Quality Standards Directive/Ground Water Directive (Annexes) Food contact materials Regulation Food additives Commission Regulation (Comitology) Detergents Regulation Toy Safety Directive Cosmetic Products Regulation	2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022
Proposal to amend REACH Article 57 to add endocrine disruptors, persistent, mobile and toxic (PMT) and very persistent and very mobile (vPvM) substances to the list of substances of very high concern	REACH	2022
Proposal to restrict PFAS under REACH for all non-essential uses including in consumer products	REACH (Comitology)	2022-24
Review of the annexes of the Environmental Quality Standards Directive and of the Groundwater Directive to add PFAS where possible as a group	Environmental Quality Standards Directive/Groundwater Directive (Annexes)	2022
Address the presence of PFAS in food by introducing limits in the legislation on food contaminants	Food Contaminants Commission Regulation (Comitology)	2022
Proposal to revise the legislation on industrial emissions and the European Pollutant Release	Industrial emissions Directive	2021

and Transfer Register to address emissions and reporting of PFAS from industrial plants		
Proposal to address the emissions of PFAS from the waste stage including through the revision of the legislation on sewage sludge	Sewage Sludge Directive	2023
Proposals under the Stockholm Convention and the Basel Convention to address PFAS concerns at a global scale		2023-2024
EU-wide approach and financial support for innovative solutions to remediate contamination with PFAS		As of 2020
<b>Simplification and consolidation of the legal framework</b>		
Establishment of a ‘One substance, one assessment’ process to coordinate the hazard/risk assessment on chemicals across chemical legislation, through the use of a single Public Authorities Coordination Tool, an expert group and a Commission coordination mechanism		As of 2021
Horizontal proposal for reallocation of EU technical and scientific work on chemicals to the EU agencies		2022
Proposal for a founding regulation for the European Chemicals Agency		2023
Proposal to amend CLP Regulation to give the Commission the mandate to initiate harmonised classification	CLP Regulation	2021
Review of the definition of nanomaterial		2021
Proposal to revise the REACH authorisation and restriction processes	REACH	2022
Establishment of a EU repository of human and environmental health-based limit values		2022
Establishment of an open platform on chemical safety data and tools for accessing relevant academic data		2023
Horizontal proposal to remove legislative obstacles for re-use of data, to streamline the data flow across legislation and to extend the open data and transparency principles from the EU food safety sector to other pieces of chemical legislation		2023
Proposals to allow EU and national authorities to commission testing and monitoring of substances as part of the regulatory framework		2023
Development of an indicator framework on chemicals		2024
Proposal to amend REACH to introduce a	REACH	2022

European Audit Capacity		
Amend REACH to ensure compliance checks on all registrations of substances under REACH and to allow for the revocation of registration numbers	REACH	2022
Proposal to extend OLAF's scope of action to investigations on the circulation of illicit chemical products in the EU		2022
Proposals for implementing acts under the Market Surveillance Regulation to set uniform conditions and frequency of checks for certain products	Market Surveillance Regulation	2022-23
<b>Providing a comprehensive and transparent knowledge base on chemicals</b>		
Proposals to revise requirements for registration in REACH to ensure: the identification of substances with critical hazard properties, including effects on the nervous and immune systems, the move towards grouping approaches, the registration of a sub-set of polymers, information on the overall environmental footprint of chemicals, the obligation of chemical safety reports for substances between 1-10 tonnes	REACH	2022
Develop a strategic research and innovation agenda for chemicals		2022
Fund EU-wide human and environmental (bio)monitoring		As of 2020
Establish an EU Chemical Early Warning and Action System		2023
<b>Provide a model inspiring chemicals management globally</b>		
Initiatives with international organisations and industry to promote the use of the UN GHS internationally		As of 2020
Proposal at the UN GHS level to introduce, adapt or clarify criteria/hazard classes in line with the CLP Regulation		2022-24
Support, in particular through funding, to build the capacity of third countries to assess and manage chemicals		2020-2022
Ensure that hazardous chemicals banned in the European Union are not produced for export including by amending relevant legislation if and as needed.		2023
Promote due diligence in the sustainable production and use of chemicals in the future initiative on sustainable corporate governance		2020-2024