

CHEMICALS STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Name of activity	Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability Towards a Toxic-Free Environment (CSS)
Reference framework	European Green Deal
Lead DG/Organisation	DG for Environment, DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
Link(s) to website(s)	Link
Programme Period	2020-2024
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Objectives	<p>The Strategy is the 1st step towards a zero-pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment announced in the Green Deal. The strategy will boost innovation for safe and sustainable chemicals and increase protection of HH/ENV against hazardous chemicals. This includes prohibiting the use of the most harmful chemicals in consumer products such as toys, childcare articles, cosmetics, detergents, food contact materials and textiles, unless proven essential for society, and ensuring that all chemicals are used more safely and sustainably. The CSS fully recognises the fundamental role of chemicals for human well-being and for the green and digital transition of European economy and society. At the same time, it acknowledges the urgent need to address health and environmental challenges caused by the most harmful chemicals. In this spirit, the CSS sets out concrete actions to make chemicals safe and sustainable by design and to ensure that chemicals can deliver all their benefits without harming the planet and current and future generations. This includes ensuring that the most harmful chemicals for HH/ENV are avoided for non-essential societal use, but also that all chemicals are used more safely and sustainably. Several innovation and investment actions will be foreseen to accompany the chemicals industry through this transition. The Strategy also draws the attention of Member States to the possibilities of the Recovery and Resilience Facility to invest in the green and digital transition of EU industries, including in the chemical sector. Ultimately, the CSS aims for the EU playing a leading role globally by championing and promoting high standards and not exporting chemicals banned in the community.</p>
Keywords	Safe and Sustainable by Design, Risk and Hazard Assessment, Essential Use Concept, Exposure Minimisation, Innovation
RoC Challenge(s)	Challenges 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3
Participants	EU member states, Stakeholders, EP, COM, ECHA
Further info	Factsheet: Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability; Communication Document on CSS
Reference funding	European Structural and Investment Funds, the Just Transition Mechanism, European Strategic Investment Funds, React-EU, Horizon Europe, LIFE programme