



How to build a non-toxic environment strategy for the EU

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The Goal

The 7th Environment Action Program - "Living well, within the limits of our planet"

"In 2050, we live well, within the planet's ecological limits. Our prosperity and healthy environment stem from an innovative, circular economy where nothing is wasted and where natural resources are managed sustainably, and biodiversity is protected, valued and restored in ways that enhance our society's resilience. Our low-carbon growth has long been decoupled from resource use, setting the pace for a safe and sustainable global society."



The Goal

"54. In order to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being, the 7th EAP shall ensure that by 2020:

[...]

(d) the combination effects of chemicals and safety concerns related to endocrine disruptors are effectively addressed in all relevant Union legislation, and risks for the environment and health, in particular in relation to children, associated with the use of hazardous substances, including chemicals in products, are assessed and minimised. Long-term actions with a view to reaching the objective of a non-toxic environment will be identified;[...]"

Take Stock

- *REACH REFIT Evaluation (June 2017)*
- *Fitness Check of chemicals legislation (end 2017)*
- *Circular economy package (2017)*

Set the objectives

- *Need to identify a number of individual objectives that will allow us to reach the goal*
- *Will set the ambition level and the priorities*
- *Expressed in terms that allow progress towards them.*

Identify the Gaps and the Challenges

- *To be met by implementing existing legislation*
- *That could be bridged by existing legislation*
- *Prevailing gaps.*

Build the Path

- *Possible outline of a Non/toxic Environment Strategy*
 - **A “Communication” and a “Staff Working Document”**
 - **Overall framing of problems and challenges to be addressed**
 - **Long term vision (time perspective 2050)**
 - **A selection of overall objectives/milestones (time perspective 2030?)**
 - **Policy measures/actions? (long/short term, overall/concrete, hard/soft).**

Build the Path

- *Study contract – to be finalised in March 2017*
 - **Sub-studies:**
 - a. Substitution, including grouping of chemicals and measures to support substitution;
 - b. Chemicals in products and non-toxic material cycles;
 - c. The improved protection of children and vulnerable groups from harmful exposure to chemicals;
 - d. Sub-strategy for extremely persistent chemicals;
 - e. Policy Means, Innovation and Competitiveness;
 - f. A Green Chemicals Program;
 - g. The creation of a joint early warning system for approaching chemical threats to health and the environment;
- *Developing a "roadmap".*

Conclusions

- *We have a very solid regulatory framework where increased implementation efforts will give increased benefits*
- *By 2017 we will know objectively how fit for purpose are is our chemicals legislation*
- *The non-toxic environment strategy is the opportunity to set the post-2020 chemicals agenda.*

We need your help!



Thank you for your attention!

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http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/index_en.htm