

EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

Views from the European Chemical Industry



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The EU Commission's vision for chemical policy

Supported by the European Parliament and the Council (EU Member States)



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*.” **



Overview of the main policy changes towards faster, stricter and more preventive regulatory action



- Substitute and minimise as far as possible substances of concern
 - **most harmful chemicals** are not used in consumer and professional products
 - **New hazard classes:** on endocrine disruptors + persistent and mobile substances (CLP)
- **Address chemical mixtures** i.e. Mixture Assessment Factor (REACH)
- **Apply concept of essential uses** in chemical legislation
- **PFAS:** phase out for non-essential uses
- **Global targets** beyond 2020
- Promote GHS and propose new hazard classes
- **Chemicals banned in the EU not produced** for export
- **Common standards & innovative assessment tools** internationally (OECD)
- **Sound chemicals management** in international cooperation

Innovating for safe and sustainable EU chemicals

Stronger EU legal framework to address environment & health concerns

Simplifying and consolidating the legal framework

Set the example for a global sound management of chemicals

Comprehensive knowledge base on chemicals

- **Safe and sustainable by design:** criteria and support network
- **Funding to support 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:** coordination on safety assessments across legislation, reallocation of scientific work, **data interoperability & accessibility** (common open data platform)
- **Reform 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** (polymers, low volume, etc)
- **R&I programmes:** (bio)monitoring
- Framework of **indicators** to assess policies

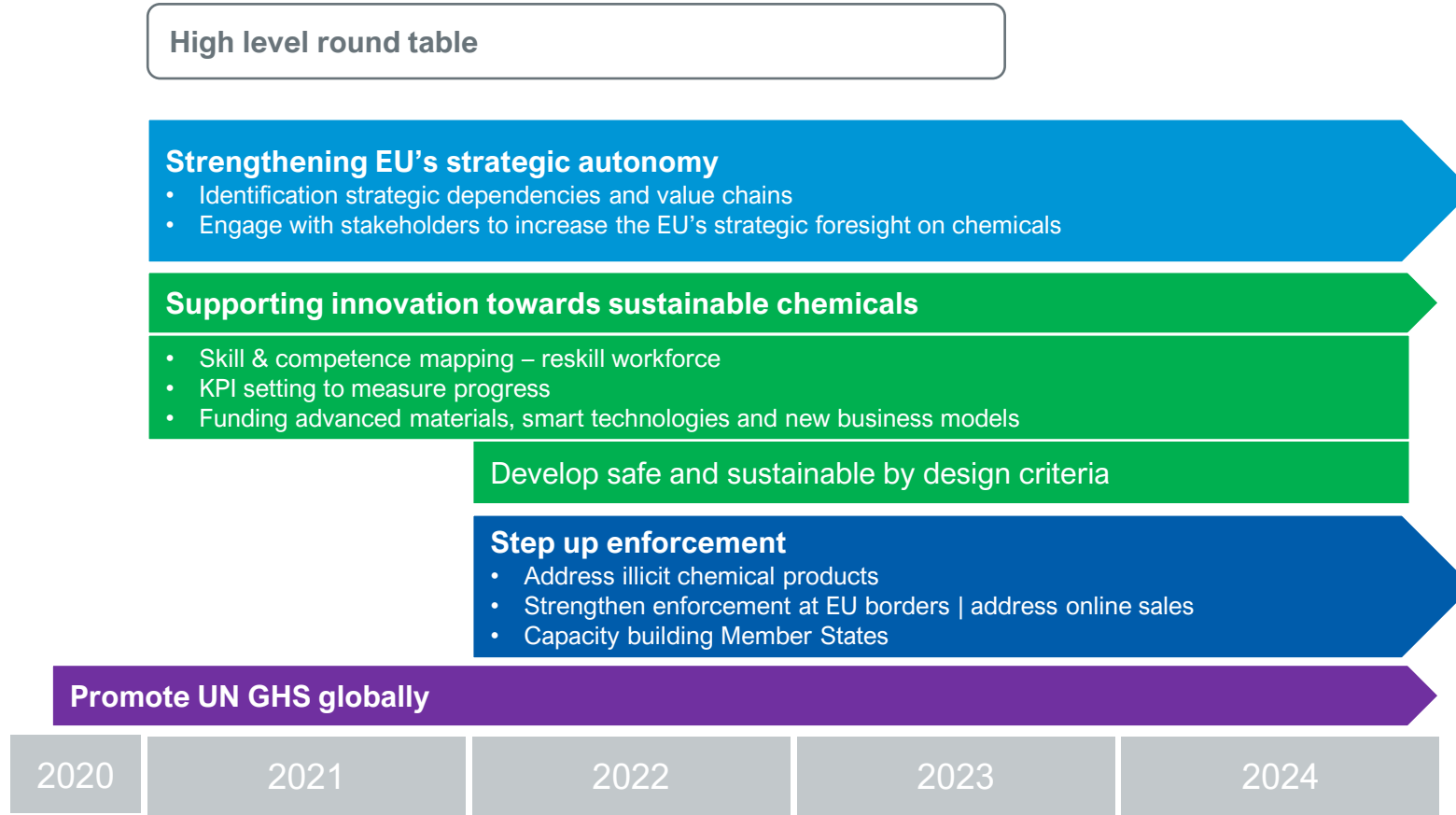


The Chemical Strategy

summary of non regulatory measures



Key non-regulatory actions

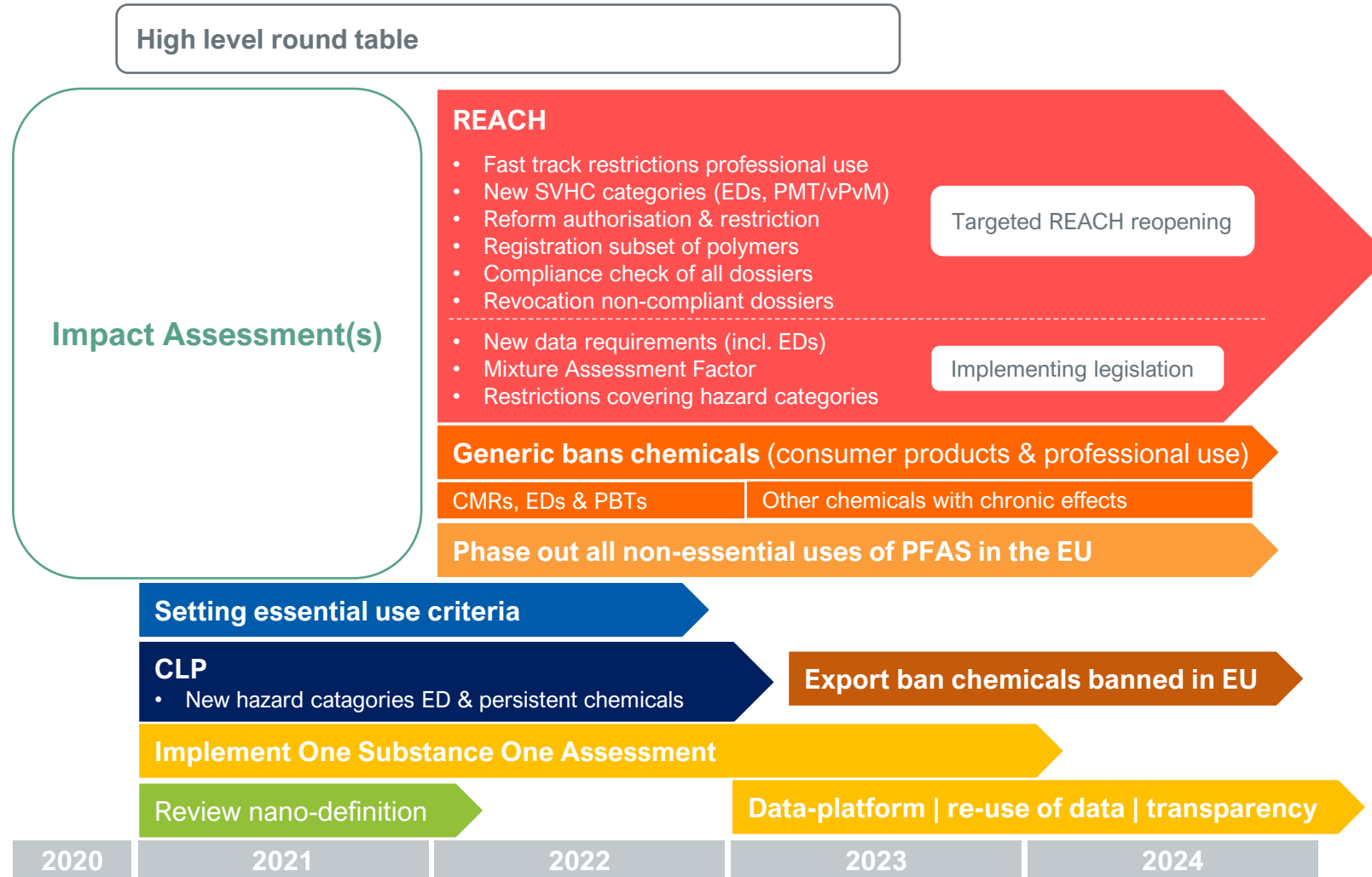


The Chemical Strategy

summary of regulatory measures



Key regulatory actions



Cefic's assessment: a shared vision



More than **10 years of discussions** were **brought together at once** with **almost 60 changes to chemicals legislations** set out by the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability.

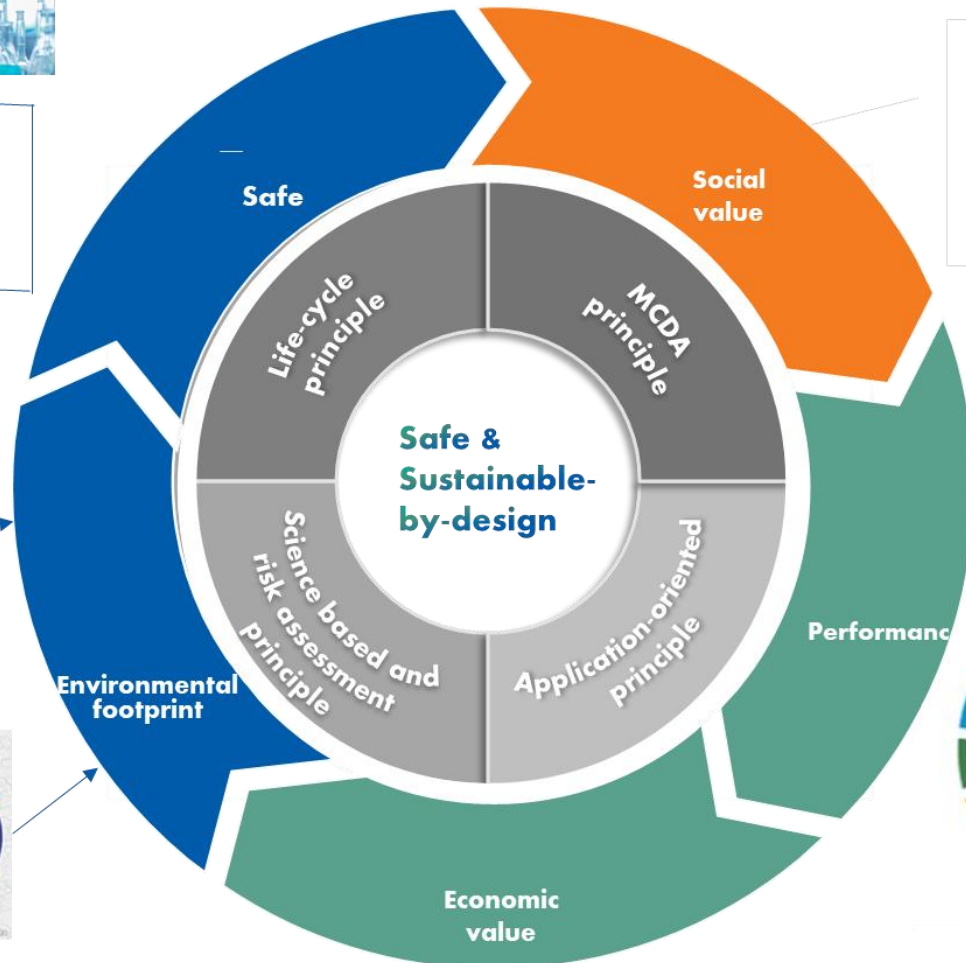
- **We share the goals** : health and environmental protection and boost innovation
 - We welcome a **holistic** approach
- **We question the balance of actions**: strong regulation focus vs innovation
- To successfully manage the transformation, the Chemicals Strategy needs to be a **growth strategy**
- The EU Chemical Industry needs **incentives, clarification** and **predictability**
- **Policy coherence**: multiple facets of chemicals management need to be integrated incl. safety, circularity, climate neutrality, science, innovation
- Strong **Enforcement**



Safe and Sustainable by Design ? Towards an assessment framework



Minimum criteria,
e.g., REACH, CLP, sector
legislation
Other criteria?
New Tools - tbd



Minimum criteria,
e.g., compliance with OSH, ILO, ...

Other criteria,
e.g., nutrition goals, ...

Tools - tbd



Safe and sustainable by design: process to design **products & technologies** that are safe, bring environmental, economical and social value **through their applications**, and are **accelerating the transition** towards a circular economy and climate-neutral society



Global dimension



- **Restrictions** apply equally to EU-made and non-EU-made products placed on the EU market
- **EU-CLP vs UN-GHS**
- **Export bans**
- ‘Non-toxic material cycles’: **tracking and tracing of chemicals** in global supply chains
- **Enforcement**
 - 92% of REACH non-compliances are from imported articles (consumer products)
 - Generic restrictions covering hundreds of chemicals will be more difficult to enforce
 - **Enforceability** of measures


- **Banning the most harmful chemicals** in consumer products - allowing their use only where essential
- **Account for the cocktail effect of chemicals** when assessing risks from chemicals
- **Phase out per - and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)** in the EU, unless their use is essential
- **Boost the investment and innovative capacity** for production and use of chemicals that are **safe and sustainable by design** throughout their life cycle
- **Promote EU's resilience of supply** and sustainability **of critical chemicals**
- Establish a simpler "**one substance one assessment**" **process** for the risk and hazard assessment of chemicals
- **Play a leading role globally** by championing and promoting high standards and not exporting chemicals banned in the EU





The challenge ? Making it work all together... to manage the paradigm shift



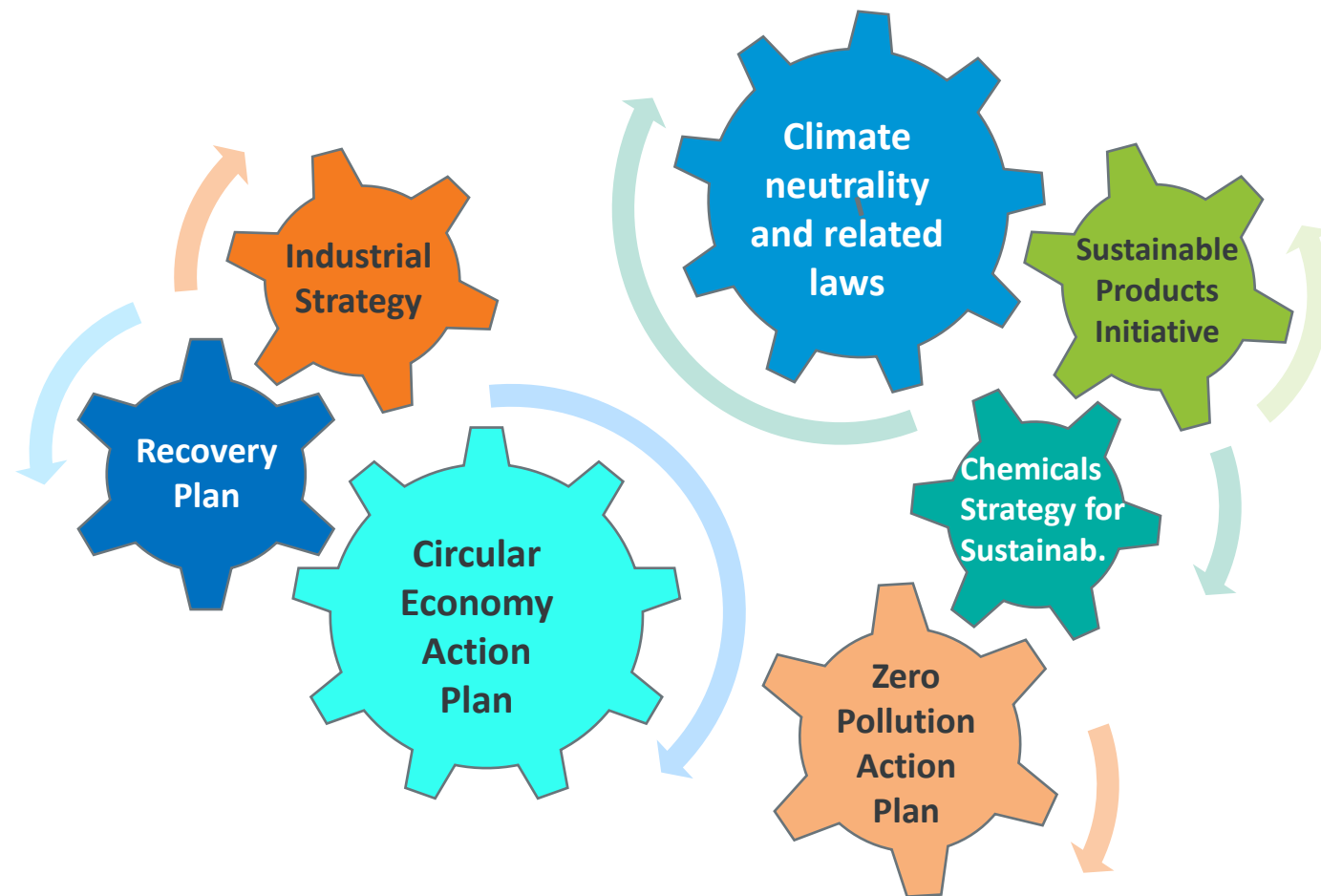
 **Communicate with value chains:** all levels of the supply chain will be impacted

 **Stay united:** we need coordinated implementation

 **Ensure safety measures are in place:** initiatives like Responsible Care, the Action Plan on REACH dossiers can support industry

 **Contribute to impact assessments:** Data is key. i.e. information where chemicals are being used, how exposure levels are controlled, etc

 **Be honest and transparent**



The High Level Roundtable will hopefully help bring policy actions together