



European  
Commission

## STAKEHOLDER WEBINAR: ADVANCES IN THE SUBSTITUTION OF HAZARDOUS FLAME RETARDANT CHEMICALS IN HOME TEXTILES

# EU Green Deal – opportunities for substitution of hazardous chemicals

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# The European Green Deal



# A zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment

- Creating a toxic-free environment requires more action to **prevent** pollution as well as measures to **clean and remedy** it.
- EU needs to **better monitor, report, prevent and remedy pollution** from air, water, soil, and consumer products
- COM will propose measures to address pollution from **new or particularly harmful sources** of pollution such as micro plastics and chemicals

# COM will present a Chemicals strategy for sustainability:

- To help protect citizens and the environment and encourage innovation for safe and sustainable alternatives
- To combine better health and environmental protection and increased global competitiveness.
  - by simplifying and strengthening the legal framework
  - moving to 'one substance – one assessment'
  - to rapidly reflect scientific evidence on the risk posed by endocrine disruptors, hazardous chemicals in products including imports, combination effects of different chemicals and very persistent chemicals



## Links to other priorities/initiatives

**Green Deal:** Circular Economy, Farm to Fork, Biodiversity Strategy, Sustainable Finance

**Economy:** Developing market for companies (SMEs), Plan to fight Cancer

**Digital:** EU's digital strategy, Data and AI to support societal solutions

**Promoting EU way of life:** Protect citizens/single market, tighter enforcement

**World:** Highest standards of env protection in trade, compliance/enforcement of trade agreements

# **Towards a Chemicals Strategy for sustainability Timing**

- May 2020: publication Strategy's Roadmap (4 weeks public consultation)
- September 2020: Adoption
- 2021-2024: Follow-up proposals and implementation

# Sustainability and substitution of hazardous chemicals

- Shift to **'safe and sustainable by design'** substances, materials, products
- Promote **EU's strategic autonomy** for chemicals essential for society
- Stronger **environmental protection** from hazardous chemicals
- Address **persistent chemicals** eg PFAS

# PFAS- a group of very persistent chemicals

*Council of the EU June 2019:*

- asking the Commission for a **PFAS action plan** to eliminate all non-essential uses of PFAS:
  - to look at PFAS as a group;
  - use all available regulatory and non regulatory instruments

*Council of the EU December 2019:*

- NL announces the intention to prepare a **REACH restriction** on the whole PFAS group, except for essential uses.
- 8 MSs support



# Commission studies on PFAS

- Use of all PFAS and non-fluorinated alternatives in **fire-fighting foams** (COM + ECHA)
- Use of all PFAS and non-fluorinated alternatives in **textiles, upholstery, leather, apparel and carpets** (COM)
- Stakeholders involved (workshops, consultations)
- information collected to provide input for the REACH restrictions, international activities under POPs
- Final reports expected in summer 2020



# Thank you !

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