



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 15 March 2021  
(OR. en)

6941/21

ENV 145  
CHIMIE 33  
COMPET 170  
IND 59  
PHARM 39  
AGRI 130  
RECH 98  
ECOFIN 234  
ECO 37  
SOC 138  
SAN 139  
CONSOM 61  
MI 157  
ENT 48

#### **OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS**

---

From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 12 March 2021  
To: Delegations

---

No. prev. doc.: 6695/21 + COR 1 (bg)  
No. Cion doc.: 11976/20 + ADD 1 - COM(2020) 667 final

---

Subject: Sustainable Chemicals Strategy of the Union: Time to Deliver  
- Council conclusions

---

Delegations will find in the [Annex](#) the Council conclusions on the abovementioned subject, as approved by the Council with written procedure on 15 March 2021.

**Sustainable Chemicals Strategy of the Union: Time to Deliver**

**- Council conclusions -**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING the European Union's new growth strategy<sup>1</sup> and the European Green Deal<sup>2</sup>;

RECALLING the Council conclusions of 26 June 2019 on a sustainable chemicals policy strategy of the Union<sup>3</sup> in view of a non-toxic environment;

RECALLING the Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2013 on a General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020 (7th EAP)<sup>4</sup>, entitled 'Living well, within the limits of our planet' for a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy and

RECALLING the evaluation of the programme<sup>5</sup>;

RECALLING the Council conclusions entitled 'The 8th Environment Action Programme – Turning the Trends Together'<sup>6</sup>;

---

<sup>1</sup> ST 15321/19 + ADD 1 - COM(2019) 650 final.

<sup>2</sup> ST 15051/19 + ADD 1 - COM(2019) 640 final.

<sup>3</sup> ST 10713/19.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 354 of 28 December 2013, p. 171.

<sup>5</sup> ST 9416/19 + ADD 1-2 - COM (2019) 233 final.

<sup>6</sup> ST 12795/19.

HIGHLIGHTING the broader Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>7</sup> as set out in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution of 25 September 2015 on ‘Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ which are relevant for the EU chemicals policy on the protection of human health and the environment, and on the move towards sustainable production and consumption, promoting, at the same time, sustainable technologies, and ensuring the sustainable management of resources;

RECALLING the Council conclusions of 17 December 2020 on making the recovery circular and green<sup>8</sup>;

RECALLING the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolutions 1/5 on chemicals and waste, 3/4 on environment and health, specifically the section on chemicals, 2/7 and 4/8 on sound management of chemicals and waste; the UNEA Ministerial Declaration at its 4th Session on ‘innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production’; in this context, RECALLING the Global Chemicals Outlook II mandated by UNEA which finds that the global goal of minimising the adverse impacts of chemicals and waste will not be achieved by 2020 and that more ambitious worldwide action by all stakeholders is urgently required;

RECALLING the importance of the intersessional process of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) with the aim to strengthen the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;

RECOGNISING the relevant multilateral environmental agreements, namely the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;

---

<sup>7</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/sustainable-development-goals\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/sustainable-development-goals_en).

<sup>8</sup> ST 13852/20 + COR 1.

RECALLING the Commission's Communications: 'The combination effects of chemicals - Chemical mixtures'<sup>9</sup>, 'On the implementation of the circular economy package: options to address the interface between chemical, product and waste legislation'<sup>10</sup>, 'A new Circular Economy Action Plan for a cleaner and more competitive Europe'<sup>11</sup>, 'Commission General Report on the operation of REACH and review of certain elements'<sup>12</sup>, 'Towards a comprehensive European Union Framework on endocrine disruptors'<sup>13</sup>, 'European Union Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment'<sup>14</sup>;

REFERRING to the findings of the Fitness Check<sup>15</sup> of the most relevant chemicals legislation, excluding REACH, and of their identified challenges, gaps and weaknesses; the Fitness Check on Endocrine Disruptors<sup>16</sup>; the Commission General Report on the operation of REACH and review of certain elements<sup>17</sup>; the 'Hydrogen strategy of the Commission for a climate-neutral Europe'<sup>18</sup>; the updated 'Bioeconomy Strategy for Europe'<sup>19</sup>, and the 'New Industrial Strategy for Europe'<sup>20</sup>;

STRESSING that the new Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability Towards a Toxic-Free Environment (hereinafter referred to as the 'Chemicals Strategy')<sup>21</sup> is a central component of the EU Recovery Plan and a key initiative of the European Green Deal, in its pursuit to make the European Union climate-neutral by 2050 and its economy sustainable, circular, inclusive, and protective of the environment and human health;

---

<sup>9</sup> ST 10923/12.

<sup>10</sup> ST 5479/18 - COM(2018) 32 final.

<sup>11</sup> ST 6766/20 - COM(2020) 98 final.

<sup>12</sup> ST 6916/18 - COM(2018) 116 final.

<sup>13</sup> ST 14204/18 - COM(2018) 734 final.

<sup>14</sup> ST 7680/19 - COM(2019) 128 final.

<sup>15</sup> ST 10705/19 - COM(2019) 264 final.

<sup>16</sup> ST 14204/18 - COM(2018) 734 final.

<sup>17</sup> ST 6916/18 - COM(2018)116 final.

<sup>18</sup> ST 9390/20 - COM(2020) 301 final.

<sup>19</sup> ST 13229/18 - COM(2018) 673 final.

<sup>20</sup> ST 6782/20 - COM(2020) 102 final.

<sup>21</sup> ST 11976/20 + ADD 1 - COM(2020) 667 final.

EMPHASISING that the new Chemicals Strategy represents the first step towards Europe’s zero pollution ambition and that it is complementary to the European Industrial Strategy<sup>22</sup>, the Farm to Fork Strategy<sup>23</sup>, the European Union Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment<sup>24</sup>, the Methane Strategy<sup>25</sup>, the Medical Devices Strategies<sup>26</sup> and the Biodiversity Strategy<sup>27</sup>, as well as to the Circular Economy Action Plan<sup>28</sup> and the Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan<sup>29</sup>, and to the upcoming Soil Strategy, Occupational Safety and Health Strategic Framework 2021-2027, and Zero Pollution Action Plan<sup>30</sup>;

RECOGNISING that an ambitious policy with effective measures for green, safe, and sustainable production and use of chemicals has the potential to strengthen the competitiveness of the economy and industry, boost innovation and create new jobs and growth opportunities;

RECOGNISING that cooperation among the Member States, the Commission and the relevant European agencies plays an important role in the system of hazard and risk assessment and risk management of chemicals;

---

<sup>22</sup> ST 6782/20 - COM(2020) 102 final.

<sup>23</sup> ST 8280/20 - COM(2020) 381 final.

<sup>24</sup> ST 7680/19 - COM(2019) 128 final.

<sup>25</sup> ST 11856/20 - COM(2020) 663 final.

<sup>26</sup> ST 7179/20 - COM(2020) 144 final.

<sup>27</sup> ST 8219/20 - COM(2020) 380 final.

<sup>28</sup> ST 6766/20 - COM(2020) 98 final.

<sup>29</sup> ST 5930/21 - COM(2021) 44 final.

<sup>30</sup> Communication by the Commission: “Towards a Zero Pollution Ambition for air, water and soil – building a Healthier Planet for Healthier People”, to be adopted in the first half of 2021 (public consultation ended on 10 February 2021).

A *The European Union for an ambitious vision on chemicals*

1. WELCOMES the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability Towards a Toxic-Free Environment, which puts in place a long-term vision for the EU chemicals policy aiming to achieve a high level of protection of human health and the environment, while contributing to strengthening the competitiveness of the EU industry, through the production and use of safe and sustainable chemicals that enable the green and digital transitions by substituting and minimising substances of concern, as far as possible, and phasing out the most harmful chemicals for non-essential societal uses;
2. EXPRESSLY SUPPORTS the five main areas of action set up by the Chemicals Strategy: innovating for safe and sustainable EU chemicals; stronger EU legal framework to address pressing environmental and health concerns; simplifying and consolidating the legal framework; a comprehensive knowledge base on chemicals; setting the example for a global sound management of chemicals; and SUPPORTS the operational objectives of the specific actions as identified by the Chemicals Strategy;
3. WELCOMES the aim of the ‘one Substance, one Assessment’ approach intending to simplify and improve the transparency of the regulatory framework for hazard and risk assessment of chemicals, to enhance coherence, to better coordinate the EU rules on chemicals, and to make decision-making faster; and SUPPORTS the extension of the generic approach to risk management for the most harmful substances and the safe and sustainable-by-design approach;

4. REITERATES the importance of the Chemicals Strategy to complement and contribute to the implementation of the Circular Economy, in light of the fact that the transition to safer and more sustainable substances, materials and products, in particular in consumer products, will lead to non-toxic material cycles and a cleaner circular economy; UNDERLINES the importance of phasing out the substances of concern in products and recycled materials; and STRESSES the importance of the safe and sustainable-by-design approach in the context of a life cycle approach to chemicals, from the raw materials used for production to the waste stage;
5. CONSIDERS that the synergistic application of the existing regulatory instruments, such as the REACH Regulation, the CLP Regulation, the Eco-label Regulation, the Eco-design Directive, the Industrial Emissions Directive, the Waste Framework Directive, the OSH Framework Directive, the Water Framework Directive, as well as the future Sustainable Products Initiative, and the relevant funds, is crucial to stimulate the production and use of chemicals, materials and products that are safe and sustainable already at the design stage; STRESSES the importance of clear legal provisions in EU product law and in the Sustainable Products Initiative<sup>31</sup> ensuring that chemicals, materials and products are safe and sustainable-by-design;
6. RECOGNISES the need to simplify, strengthen and secure a greater cohesion between the policies and the legal framework for chemicals to accelerate procedures and avoid an unnecessary administrative burden, and create more predictability and transparency, while improving the level of protection of human health and the environment; CALLS ON the Commission to continue ensuring policy coherence and to exploit synergies among the chemicals and other policies;

---

<sup>31</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12567-Sustainable-products-initiative>.

*B. Implementation towards sustainability and a toxic-free environment*

7. CALLS ON the Commission and the Member States to fully implement the Chemicals Strategy, within their powers, without undue delay and in accordance with the principles of the European Union environmental law, in particular, the precautionary and the prevention principles;
8. WELCOMES the establishment of a high-level round table, to realise the objectives of the Chemicals Strategy and monitor its implementation in close cooperation with stakeholders, focusing in particular on how to make the chemicals legislation more efficient and effective, as well as on how to boost the development and uptake of innovative safe and sustainable chemicals across sectors; STRESSES the importance of the Member States participation in the high-level round table;
9. UNDERLINES the importance of the impact assessments that the Commission intends to carry out in order to gather information and assess the possible impact of the actions foreseen in the Strategy, including for SMEs; STRESSES the importance of these impact assessments being performed in a way that supports the timely implementation of the Chemicals Strategy and provides support for evidence-based decision making;
10. ENCOURAGES the Commission and the Member States to take appropriate measures to ensure a fair, socially balanced and inclusive transition towards a greener, safer and more sustainable production and use of chemicals; and in this context, CALLS ON the Commission to improve methods to determine societal costs and benefits; RECALLS the importance of adequately protecting vulnerable groups, notably by adopting an overarching approach throughout all chemicals legislation; therefore, INVITES the Commission to assess the relevance of having a cross-cutting definition of vulnerable groups;



11. UNDERLINES the need for a sustainable use of plant protection products and biocides; and in this context, EMPHASISES the vital role of pollinators and other species for healthy ecosystems and food security, as well as the necessity to reverse their decline and activate all levers to protect biodiversity and the particularly vulnerable ecosystems; and RECALLS the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive<sup>32</sup> and the Member States' national action plans for the sustainable use of plant protection products, as well as the European Commission's report on the implementation of the referred Directive and the Council Conclusions on this report<sup>33</sup>, as well as the ambition to further reduce the use and the risk of plant protection products;
12. HIGHLIGHTS the importance of actions in relation to the safe and sustainable-by-design-approach, the extension of the generic approach to risk management, the combination effect of chemicals, including the introduction of a mixture assessment factor, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), endocrine disruptors, the optimisation of the interface between chemicals, products and waste legislation, the zero tolerance for non-compliance including via the 'no data, no market' principle, the aim of global leadership, and the review of the definition of nanomaterials, ensuring its coherent and legally binding introduction into sectorial legislation, as well as those actions regarding the targeted amendments of REACH and CLP Regulations;
13. UNDERLINES that PFAS require special attention since they pose threats to human health and the environment, and the need to ensure that they are eliminated, unless their use is proven essential to society; CALLS ON the Commission to regularly inform the Council about the progress of the PFAS- Action Plan included in the Chemicals Strategy; INVITES the Commission to present further measures to complement the anticipated PFAS restriction proposal;

---

<sup>32</sup> Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides (OJ L 309, 24.11.2009, p. 71–86).

<sup>33</sup> ST 13454/20.

14. RECALLS the need to strengthen the European legal framework in the area of endocrine disruptors, so that they can be identified swiftly on time in the framework of the CLP Regulation, in order to minimise exposure of humans and the environment to them, and ensure a high and coherent level of protection across legislation, especially for vulnerable population groups; to this end, SUPPORTS the accelerated development of test methods that generate information on the endocrine disrupting properties of chemicals;
15. UNDERLINES the need to improve the quality of REACH registration dossiers, in particular regarding substances of unknown or variable composition (UVCBs) in order to assure that they contain sufficient information on the identity and the properties of registered substances, and to carefully examine the necessity to register substances that are currently excluded from the process;
16. STRESSES that, as a principle, the same limit value for hazardous substances should apply for virgin and recycled material; ACKNOWLEDGES that, in exceptional circumstances, temporary derogation to this principle, may be necessary under the condition that the use of recycled material is limited to clearly defined applications, where there is no negative impact on consumer health and the environment, and where justified on the basis of a case by case analysis;
17. CALLS ON the Commission to develop without undue delay, in cooperation with the Member States and in consultation with the stakeholders, harmonised, clear and precise definitions, and where adequate, criteria or principles for the concepts that are crucial for the effective implementation of the Chemicals Strategy, such as ‘safe and sustainable-by-design chemicals’ and ‘substances of concern’, namely in order to have legal certainty and a common understanding among all parties;

18. STRESSES, that the concept of ‘essential uses’ is a key element in the implementation of the Chemicals Strategy that will receive priority attention in order to make it operational without undue delay; in this context, CONSIDERS that the definition of ‘essential uses’ in the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is a good starting point for developing an essential use framework for chemicals under the assumption that the criteria from the Protocol need to be adapted to the much broader scope and to the various application areas of the EU legal framework for chemicals;
19. CALLS ON the Commission to develop in a timely manner, in cooperation with the Member States and in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, roadmaps for the implementation of the safe and sustainable-by-design approach to chemicals and for the revision of REACH;
20. CALLS ON the Commission to provide further information on the design and the implementation of the ‘one Substance, one Assessment’ approach; and EMPHASISES at the same time that this approach should not create delays in regulatory actions nor increase the administrative burden; in this respect, STRESSES the need to involve the Member States closely in the development of this approach and to maintain the Member States’ rights under any legislation, in particular REACH and CLP Regulations, to initiate regulatory action;
21. SUPPORTS the Commission's intention to conduct the extension of the generic approach to risk management as a stepwise process, starting with the most harmful chemicals in consumer products, encompassing afterwards further harmful chemicals; and CALLS ON the Commission to ensure the implementation of this approach as soon as possible; SUPPORTS the prioritisation of restrictions for the most harmful chemicals to be covered by the generic approach for all uses and through grouping as an interim solution until the extension of the generic approach to risk management is fully implemented; STRESSES that the Member States should also be able to initiate restrictions based on this approach;

22. ACKNOWLEDGES that achieving the objectives and the vision of the Chemicals Strategy requires changes to relevant legislation, including the REACH and CLP Regulations; and EXPRESSLY SUPPORTS the announced amendment of the REACH Regulation in a targeted manner, accompanied by a comprehensive impact assessment, so as to ensure that the changes will not weaken REACH, nor lower the level of protection already accomplished, or affect the rights of Member States to initiate and influence actions taken under this Regulation;
23. UNDERLINES the importance of the REACH Regulation for risk assessment of chemicals and the central role of the CLP Regulations for identification and hazard assessment of chemicals; SUPPORTS the announced strengthening of data requirements under REACH, and the introduction of new hazard classes and criteria under CLP, including for endocrine disruption and for persistency in combination with either bio-accumulation or mobility, in order to address environmental concerns;
24. ACKNOWLEDGES that all routes contribute to exposure, including emissions to air, water and soil, and from mixtures, materials, and products, during their production, use, and waste phase; in this context, CALLS ON the Commission to present in the Zero Pollution Action Plan an integrated approach that tackles all exposure routes, such as air, water, and soil, in order to protect human health and the ecosystem effectively and efficiently;

C. *Enabling the green and digital transitions*

25. UNDERLINES the importance of funding and investment to secure the effective implementation of the Chemicals Strategy;

26. CALLS ON the Commission to implement measures, including at a financial level, aiming to support, in particular enterprises, with special attention to the SMEs and microenterprises, in the effort to identify and cope with the transitions' needs, in particular with the new challenges associated with the implementation of the Chemicals Strategy;
27. EMPHASISES the need to promote and reward the production and use of safe and sustainable-by-design chemicals, materials and products (including via incentives to industry) building on the concept of 'green chemistry', and to prioritise innovations enhancing the substitution of substances of concern;
28. UNDERLINES that in order to achieve the objectives set out in the Chemicals Strategy, enforcement of the EU *acquis* on chemicals is necessary, including coordinated enforcement action on known areas of high non-compliance, building on the Forum for Exchange of Information on Enforcement operational model; CALLS ON the Commission to provide further information on the proposal to establish an European Audit Capacity and the extension of the scope of action of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF); RECAPITULATES that digital tools can support compliance with the European environmental provisions and the enforcement of EU environmental law;
29. ACKNOWLEDGES the leading role of the Member States in the field of enforcement and, in this regard, ENCOURAGES them to increase their enforcement capacities, namely through optimising resources, and ensure a close co-operation at national level among chemical management, occupational safety and health, consumer protection and environmental authorities, in order to achieve a high-level of protection for consumers, vulnerable groups, and workers, as well as for the environment; EMPHASISES the need to strengthen the national market surveillance capabilities and the role of the customs authorities;

30. INVITES the Member States to explore ways of targeting European funding (research and innovation, recovery and resilience facility, structural funds, etc.) and mobilising funding including at a national level, both public and private, to support the EU industry in this transformation by means of attracting investment into safe and sustainable substances, materials and products and production methods;
31. UNDERLINES the importance of allocating the necessary resources for the European agencies in the light of the envisaged re-attribution of technical and scientific work on chemicals, including an appropriate and long-term budgetary framework, and, in particular, for the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), taking into consideration their central role in the implementation of some key objectives of the Chemicals Strategy; CALLS ON the Commission to explore ways of ensuring adequate funds for ECHA, taking into account the polluter pays principle, including the extended producer responsibility principle;
32. POINTS OUT that research and a strengthened science-policy interface are of major relevance for the achievement of the Chemicals Strategy objectives; in this context, WELCOMES the establishment of an EU Chemical Early Warning and Action System; UNDERLINES the importance of an EU-wide research and innovation risk assessment hub of excellence through the future Horizon Europe Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals (PARC), in order to support EU and national risk management authorities to address current, emerging and novel chemical safety challenges, and to enable the transition to the next generation risk assessment to contribute to a higher level of public health protection of Europe's citizens and of the environment;
33. HIGHLIGHTS the importance of the work done by OECD, in particular, with respect to chemicals testing strategies and methods; and CALLS ON the Commission to strengthen its scientific contributions and provide support for this work, as appropriate, including at financial level, in order to make the testing requirements more operational in practice; SUPPORTS initiatives to reduce further the dependency on animal testing;

34. UNDERLINES the importance of research and innovation, including the relevance of innovative business models such as performance based business models, education and building up of skills, in order to support the transition towards the production and use of safe and sustainable chemicals and non-toxic material cycles; UNDERLINES the importance of involving the entire value chain in these processes in order to improve the success of sustainable chemicals market introduction; ENCOURAGES all the relevant stakeholders, both public and private, to raise the awareness of the general public to gain a stronger support for the green and digital transitions of the chemicals sector;

*D. Sustainability and competitiveness, creating opportunities*

35. RECOGNISES that at several levels, the chemicals industry is of key significance to the European economy and society, and EMPHASISES that the chemicals industry is a key industrial sector for advancing the green and digital twin transitions, and a key-player in the development of a sustainable and competitive European industry;

36. STRESSES that novel and cleaner industrial processes and technologies have the potential to reduce the environmental footprint of chemicals, avoid negative externalities, improve market readiness, and create new markets for a sustainable European chemicals industry, while ensuring a level playing field; AGREES that safe and sustainable chemicals can enhance sustainable solutions across many sectors, including for plastics, construction materials, textiles, low emission mobility, batteries, wind turbines, and renewable energy sources;

37. POINTS OUT that the deployment of safe and sustainable chemicals will offer new global solutions and boost the competitiveness of the European chemicals industry and its worldwide established value chains, while ensuring global protection of the environment and human health, in particular, that of consumers, vulnerable groups and workers;

*E. Together – information sharing, communication*

38. WELCOMES the establishment of an EU-wide safe and sustainable-by-design support network to promote cooperation and sharing of information across sectors and value chains, and NOTES that this network should provide technical expertise on alternatives, ensuring that data meets the FAIR guiding principles<sup>34</sup>;
39. INVITES the Commission, therefore, to work with the Member States, industry and other relevant stakeholders on the exchange of good practices in the field of safe and sustainable chemicals, materials and products, including alternative technologies and sustainable business models;
40. UNDERLINES the importance of ensuring the availability of relevant and comprehensible information on the chemical content of products and its traceability through the life cycle of materials and products, notably by the development of product passports, thus ensuring a well-functioning market for safe and high quality secondary raw materials;
41. HIGHLIGHTS the relevance of a comprehensive information base on all substances placed on the market and on their overall environmental footprint, including their impact on the climate, biodiversity and marine environment;

*F. The European Union for an ambitious global chemicals agenda*

42. RECOGNISES the importance of the Chemicals Strategy's international dimension and the need to promote, as far as possible, its high level of ambition to protect human health and the environment at global level;
43. STRESSES the need to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, including the responsible and sound management of chemicals and waste;

---

<sup>34</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/turning\\_fair\\_into\\_reality\\_0.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/turning_fair_into_reality_0.pdf): FAIR data are those data which meet the principles of findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reusability.



44. UNDERLINES the importance of the adoption of global strategic objectives and targets for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020; and INVITES the Commission and the Member States to contribute further to the work on the establishment of a future global framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020; RECOGNISES the relevance to develop common standards and innovative risk assessment tools internationally, along with the use of those standards within international frameworks; NOTES that such international measures have the potential to enhance the competitiveness of the European chemicals industry and its value chain;
45. EXPRESSLY WELCOMES the initiatives of the Chemicals Strategy to undertake international leadership championing a sound management of chemicals and waste, in order to protect human health and the environment worldwide, including in relation to imported substances that are banned or heavily regulated, thus ensuring a level playing field, and addressing the production for export of harmful chemicals not allowed in the European Union; STRESSES the importance of cooperation with third countries, and INVITES the Commission to explore how it can best support global scientific cooperation and business-to-business cooperation;
46. CALLS ON the Commission and the Member States to strengthen their technical support and to enhance further the capacity building in developing countries, and strive to achieve a sound management of chemicals and waste worldwide based on the international Conventions and a future instrument for Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste beyond 2020; STRESSES the importance of not shifting environmental and health damage to third countries;

47. EMPHASISES that the implementation and the further development of the UN Globally Harmonised System (GHS) for classification and labelling is a key instrument for the effectiveness of chemicals management in all countries; REQUESTS the Commission to promote the introduction, adaptation or clarification of criteria/hazard classes in GHS in line with the intended CLP Regulation amendments, in order to improve consistency, transparency, information exchange, and a level playing field; REQUEST the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, to continue its efforts to nominate substances under the Stockholm Convention;

*G. Monitoring progress towards a toxic-free environment*

48. CALLS ON the Commission to develop and put in motion, in collaboration with the Member States, a comprehensive chemicals monitoring framework as part of a wider zero pollution monitoring and outlook framework, with publicly accessible results, to oversee the driving forces and impacts of chemical pollution on human health and the environment, to complement monitoring of the presence of chemicals in ecosystems, and to measure the effectiveness of chemicals legislation, built on existing and planned initiatives, such as HBM4EU<sup>35</sup> and PARC<sup>36</sup>, and on indicators with economic, environmental and social dimensions;

49. CALLS ON the Commission to oversee the implementation of the Chemicals Strategy and monitor the development of all the actions referred to in the strategy, including their impact on the protection of health and the environment, and to provide regular information to the Council and the European Parliament;

50. STANDS READY to further work on future proposals that are part of the Chemicals Strategy.

---

<sup>35</sup> Human Biomonitoring in Europe to Provide Evidence for Chemical Policy Making (HBM4EU) - <https://www.hbm4eu.eu/>.

<sup>36</sup> Draft Proposal for a European Partnership under Horizon Europe Partnership for the Assessment of Risk from Chemicals (PARC), 6 June 2020 - [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/research\\_and\\_innovation/funding/documents/ec\\_rtd\\_h\\_e-partnerships-chemical-risk-assessment.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/research_and_innovation/funding/documents/ec_rtd_h_e-partnerships-chemical-risk-assessment.pdf).