



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 12 February 2021
(OR. en)

5245/2/21
REV 2

LIMITE

ENV 22
CHIMIE 3
COMPET 21
IND 12
PHARM 4
AGRI 8
RECH 13
ECOFIN 38
ECO 5
SOC 11
SAN 11
CONSOM 12
MI 13
ENT 7

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. Cion doc.:	ST 11976/20 + 1-7 - COM(2020) 667 final
Subject:	Sustainable chemicals strategy of the Union: Time to Deliver - Revised draft Council conclusions

In view of the informal Videoconference of the Working Party on the Environment on 16 February 2021, delegations will find in the Annex the newly revised draft Council conclusions, prepared by the Presidency.

Changes to document ST5245/1/21 REV 1 + COR 1 are indicated in **bold underlined** and ~~strikethrough~~.

Draft Council Conclusions**Sustainable Chemicals Strategy of the Union: Time to Deliver**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING the European Union's new growth strategy¹ and the European Green Deal²;

RECALLING the Council conclusions of 26 June 2019 on a sustainable chemicals policy strategy of the Union³ 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)⁴, 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 programme⁵;

RECALLING the Council conclusions entitled 'The 8th Environment Action Programme – Turning the Trends Together', as **approved** ~~adopted~~ on 4 October 2019⁶;

HIGHLIGHTING the broader Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)⁷ 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;

¹ ST 15321/19 + ADD 1 - COM(2019) 650 final

² ST 15051/19 + ADD 1 - COM(2019) 640 final

³ ST 10713/19

⁴ OJ L 354 of 28 December 2013, p. 171;

⁵ ST 9416/19 + ADD 1-2 - COM (2019) 233 final;

⁶ ST 12795/19

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/sustainable-development-goals_en

RECALLING the Council conclusions of 17 December 2020 on making the recovery circular and green⁸;

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, ~~especially~~**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, and the Minamata Convention on Mercury;

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

⁸ ST 13852/20 + COR 1

REFERRING to the findings of the Fitness Check⁹ of the most relevant chemicals legislation, excluding REACH, and of their identified challenges, gaps and weaknesses; the Fitness Check on Endocrine Disruptors; the Commission General Report on the operation of REACH and review of certain elements¹⁰ published in March 2018; the ‘Hydrogen strategy of the Commission for a climate-neutral Europe’¹¹ published in July 2020; the 2018 updated ‘Bioeconomy Strategy for Europe’¹², and the ‘New Industrial Strategy for Europe’¹³;

STRESSING that the new Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability Towards a Toxic-Free Environment, published on 14 October 2020 (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Chemicals Strategy’) 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 the human health and ensuring the sustainability, circularity and inclusiveness of the EU economy;

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, the Farm to Fork Strategy, the ~~Pharmaceuticals~~ **Pharmaceutical** Strategy, the Methane Strategy, the Medical Devices Strategies, the Biodiversity Strategy, **the upcoming Occupational Safety and Health Strategic Framework 2021-2027** and the upcoming Soil Strategy, as well as to the Circular Economy Action Plan, the Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan and the upcoming Zero Pollution Action Plan¹⁴;

⁹ ST 10705/19

¹⁰ ST 6916/18 - COM(2018)116 final + ADD 1 - 7

¹¹ ST 9320/20

¹² ST 13229/18: Bioeconomy Strategy for Europe strengthening the connection between economy, society and the environment

¹³ ST 6782/20

¹⁴ **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)**

RECOGNISING that an ambitious policy with effective measures for green, safe, and sustainable chemistry **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 ~~the system of assessment and risk management related to chemicals is based on the cooperation among the~~ **the** Member States, the Commission and the **relevant** European evaluation agencies **plays an important role in the system of hazard and risk assessment and risk management of chemicals;**

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 minimising and substituting 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; 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 and better coordinate the EU rules on chemicals; 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. ~~3.~~—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 ~~free~~ material cycles and towards a ~~clean~~ cleaner circular economy; UNDERLINES the importance of phasing out the substances of concern in products and recycled materials STRESSES the importance of the safe and sustainable-by-design approach in the context of a life-cycle approach for chemicals, from raw materials used for production to the waste stage;
- ~~3.bis~~ UNDERLINES the importance of phasing out the hazardous substances of concern in products and recycled materials, thus ensuring the waste management consistency with the waste hierarchy; ACKNOWLEDGES that derogations may be needed for recycled material containing hazardous substances for clearly defined applications, on the basis of a case by case analysis, provided that risks for human health and the environment are adequately controlled and properly communicated;
- ~~4.~~—WELCOMES the 'one Substance, one Assessment' approach aiming to simplify and improve the transparency of the regulatory framework for hazard and risk assessment of chemicals, to enhance coherence, to consolidate and better coordinate the EU rules on chemicals, and SUPPORTS the extension of the generic risk approach for certain particularly hazardous substances, and the safe and sustainable-by design approach;
- ~~5.~~—STRESSES the importance of the safe and sustainable-by design approach in the context of a life-cycle approach for chemicals, from raw materials used for production to the waste stage, considered as particularly relevant for achieving the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, and more specifically, the sound management of chemicals and waste, and HIGHLIGHTS that this approach is key to achieve a clean circular economy;

5. 6.—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~~and~~, the OSH Framework Directive, **the Water Framework Directive**, as well as the future Sustainable Products Initiative, ~~is~~ and the relevant funds, ~~are~~**is** crucial to stimulate the production and use of chemicals **and products** that are ~~already~~ 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 ensuring that chemicals ~~used in~~**and** products are safe and sustainable-by-design;

6. 7.—RECOGNISES the need to simplify, strengthen and secure a greater cohesion~~of~~ between the policies and the legal framework for chemicals to accelerate procedures and avoid an unnecessary administrative burden, and to create more predictability and transparency, while improving the level of protection of human health and the environment; ~~in this context, UNDERLINES the need to enforce the 'no data no market' principle and a zero tolerance approach to non-compliance; SUPPORTS the announced REACH registration, authorisation and restriction processes reform; and CALLS ON the Commission to present a roadmap for this work without delay;~~**INVITES the Commission to continue ensuring policy coherence and to exploit synergies among the chemicals and other policies;**

B. Implementation towards sustainability and a toxic-free environment

7. 8.—CALLS ON the Commission and the Member States, to fully implement the Chemicals Strategy, **within their competences**, without undue delay and in accordance with ~~both~~**the principles of the European Union environmental law, in particular** the precautionary and the prevention principles;

- 8.** ~~9.—~~ WELCOMES the establishment of a high-level round table, in close ~~concertation~~**cooperation** with stakeholders, ~~aiming~~**focusing** in particular **on how** to make the chemicals legislation more efficient and effective, as well as to boost the development and uptake of innovative safe and sustainable chemicals across sectors; STRESSES the importance of the Member States ~~remaining closely involved in the implementation of the Chemicals Strategy including through participation in the high-level round table;~~ **UNDERLINES** ~~that the high-level round table is expected to inform and advise the Council, the European Parliament, and the Commission;~~
- 9.** ~~10.—~~ **UNDERLINES** the importance of the impact assessments, that the Commission intends to carry out in order to gather information and assess the possible ~~consequences~~**impact** of the actions foreseen in the Strategy, including for ~~the SMEs~~**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.** ~~11.—~~ 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 ~~chemistry;~~**production and use of chemicals; and in this context,** CALLS ON the Commission to improve methods to determine societal costs and benefits ~~taking into account that the respective available information is deemed to be scarce;~~
- ~~12.—~~ INVITES the Commission to continue ensuring policy coherence and to exploit synergies ~~among the chemicals and other policies, such as the environment, health, climate, energy, mobility, biodiversity, research, industry, agriculture, innovation, digitalisation, sustainable products, trade, the internal market, and policies related to the circular economy;~~

- 11.** ~~12 bis~~——UNDERLINES the need for a sustainable use of pesticides **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 the levers to protect biodiversity and the particularly vulnerable ecosystems; **and RECALLS the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive¹⁵ 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 adopted on 15 December 2020, as well as the ambition to further reduce the use and the risk of plant protection products;**
- 12.** ~~13.~~——HIGHLIGHTS the importance of actions in relation to the safe and sustainable-by-design-concept, the extension of the generic approach to risk management, the combination effects of chemical mixtures **effect of chemicals, in particular on 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**, and to the aim of global leadership, ~~and those concerning the adoption of a transversal and legally binding~~ **the review of the** definition of nanomaterials, **ensuring its coherent and legally binding introduction into sectorial legislation,** as well as ~~the~~ **those actions regarding the targeted** amendments of REACH and CLP Regulations;
- ~~13bis~~——EMPHASISES the need to promote and reward the production and use of safe and sustainable-by design chemicals, materials and products (e.g., via incentives to industry) and to prioritise innovations enhancing the substitution, as far as possible, of substances of concern;

¹⁵ **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)**

- 13.** ~~13.ter~~ — UNDERLINES that PFAS substances require a special attention, since they have been frequently observed to contaminate the soil, the ground and surface water, and, if releases continue, they will continue to accumulate in the environment, posing a threat to human health special attention to ensure that they are phased out unless it is proven essential for society, since they pose threats to human health and the environment; CALLS ON the Commission to present a cross-sectoral and holistic PFAS-strategy to complement the anticipated PFAS restriction proposal;
- 14.** ~~13.quarter~~ RECALLS the need to strengthen the European legal framework in the area of endocrine disruptors, so that they can be ~~recognised~~ identified swiftly on time in order to minimise their exposure ~~to of~~ humans and the environment to them; to this end, SUPPORTS the accelerated development of test methods that generate information on endocrine disrupting properties of chemicals;
- 15.** ~~13.fifth~~ UNDERLINES the need for improvement of the to improve the quality of REACH registration dossiers, ~~for~~ in particular regarding substances of unknown or variable composition (UVCBs) in order to assure it contains that they contain sufficient information on the identity and the properties of registered substances, and to carefully examine the need to register substances that are currently excluded from the process; and in this context WELCOMES the announced extension of the duty of registration under REACH to certain polymers of concern;
- 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 for recycled material containing substances of concern, limited to clearly defined applications, on the basis of a case by case analysis, where there is no risk to the human health and the environment, provided that risks for human health and the environment are adequately controlled and properly communicated;

- 17.** 14.—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’, ‘substances of concern’, **namely** in order to ~~also~~ have legal certainty and a common understanding among all parties;
- 18.** 15.—STRESSES, ~~in particular,~~ that the concept of ‘essential uses’ is a key element for 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 ~~definition will be duly~~ **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.** 16.—CALLS ON the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, to develop ~~a roadmap with timelines, budgetary needs and a coordination and consultation mechanism in order to develop and~~ **roadmaps to** implement the safe and sustainable-by-design approach to chemicals **and for the review of REACH, in a timely manner**;
- 20.** ~~17. and 18.—~~CALLS ON the Commission to provide further information on the design and the implementation of the ‘one substance, one assessment’ approach, ~~including on the creation of a single instrument for the coordination of public activities; in this context, INVITES the Commission to present a mandate and scope for the Expert Working Group composed of representatives of the Member States, the Commission services, and the EU agencies;;~~ **and** EMPHASISES at the same time that the ‘one substance, one assessment’ approach ~~must~~ **shall** not create delays in regulatory actions nor increase the administrative burden; in this respect, STRESSES the need to involve the Member States closely ~~and to consult the relevant stakeholders~~ in the development of this approach, and to maintain the Member States’ rights under any legislation, in particular REACH and CLP, to initiate regulatory action;

- 21.** ~~19. and 20. — EXPLICITLY SUPPORTS that the Commission's will~~**intention to** conduct the extension of the generic risk approach **to risk management** as a stepwise process, starting with the most harmful chemicals in consumer products; encompassing afterwards further harmful chemicals, ~~including those affecting the immune, neurological or respiratory systems, and chemicals toxic to a specific organ;~~ ~~20. — SUPPORTS;~~ **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 covered by the generic approach, for all uses and through grouping,** as an interim guidance solution until the generic **the extension of the generic** approach to risk management is fully implemented and applied in REACH, the implementation of a roadmap to prioritise restrictions for the most harmful substances covered by the referred approach; ~~CALLS ON the Commission to ensure that the extension of the generic risk approach is implemented as soon as possible~~**is fully implemented;** STRESSES that the Member States should also be able to initiate restrictions based on this approach;
- 22.** ~~21. —~~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.** ~~22. —~~UNDERLINES the importance of the REACH and CLP Regulations for identification, hazard and risk assessment of chemicals; SUPPORTS the announced strengthening of data requirements under REACH, and the introduction of new hazard classes and criteria under the CLP Regulation, including for ~~endocrine disruption,~~**mobility and** persistency ~~and~~**in combination with** bio-accumulation, **in order to address environmental concerns;**

24. ACKNOWLEDGES that all routes contribute to exposure, including unintended 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; REQUEST the Commission to phase out emissions to water, air or soil of all substances that meet the criteria for substances of very high concern;

C. *Enabling the green and digital transitions*

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

26. 24.—CALLS ON the Commission to implement **measures, including at a** financial ~~measures~~**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 (e.g., incentives to industry) and to prioritise innovations enhancing the substitution of substances of concern;

28. 25.—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, ~~further considering~~**building on** the expertise ~~of the Forum for Exchange of Information on Enforcement (Forum)~~**operational model;** CALLS ON the Commission to provide further information on the ~~implementation of the~~**proposal to establish a** 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.** ~~25.bis~~——AKNOWLEDGES 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-authorities~~and~~, occupational ~~health~~, 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.** ~~26.~~——INVITES the Member States to explore ways of targeting European funding (research and innovation, recovery and resilience facility, structural funds, etc.) and mobilising ~~national~~ funding; **including at a national level**, 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.** ~~27.~~——UNDERLINES the importance of allocating the necessary resources for the European agencies in the light of the envisaged reattribution 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 ~~its~~**their** central role in the implementation of some of the key objectives of the Chemicals Strategy; CALLS ON the Commission to explore ways of ensuring funds for ECHA, taking into account the polluter pays principle, including the extended producer responsibility principle;
- 32.** ~~27.bis~~——POINTS OUT that research and a strengthened science-policy interface ~~is~~**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~~of the Chemicals Strategy~~, 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. 28.—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 ~~offer other~~**provide support, as** appropriate support, including at a financial level, to this work in order to make the testing requirements more operational in practice; SUPPORTS ~~the initiative~~**initiatives** to further reduce the dependency on animal testing;

34. 29.—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. 30.—RECOGNISES that at several levels the ~~chemical~~**chemicals** industry is of key significance to the European economy and society, and EMPHASISES that the ~~chemical~~**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. 30-bis. STRESSES that novel and cleaner industrial processes and technologies have the potential to ~~alleviate~~**reduce** the environmental footprint of chemicals, ~~reduce~~**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 ~~would bring~~**can enhance** sustainable solutions across many sectors, including for plastics, construction materials, textiles, low emission mobility, batteries, wind turbines, and renewable energy sources;

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

E. Together – information sharing, communication

38. 32.—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 principles¹⁶;

39. 33.—INVITES the Commission, therefore, to work with Member States, industry and other relevant stakeholders on the exchange of good practices in the field of safe and sustainable chemicals, including alternative technologies and sustainable business models;

40. 34.—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. 40.—HIGHLIGHTS, ~~as part of a wider zero pollution monitoring and outlook framework,~~ 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 ~~oceans~~**marine environment**;

F. The European Union for an ambitious global chemicals agenda

42. 35.—RECOGNISES the importance of the international dimension of the Chemicals Strategy and the need to promote, as far as possible, its high level of ambition to protect human health and the environment at global level;

¹⁶ 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.

- 43.** ~~35bis.~~—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;
- 44.** ~~36.~~—~~RECOGNISES~~**UNDERLINES** the importance of the adoption of global strategic objectives and targets for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, ~~the development of common standards and innovative risk assessment tools internationally, along with the use of those standards within international frameworks~~**2020; and**; INVITES the Commission and the Member States to contribute further to the work on the establishment of a future global agreement 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.** ~~37.~~—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 ~~banned in the EU~~**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.** ~~37bis.~~—CALLS ON the Commission and the Member States to strengthen ~~their capacity building and their technical support for~~**and to further enhance the capacity building in** developing countries, and ~~establish~~**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. 38.—EMPHASISES that the implementation and further development of the UN Globally Harmonised System (GHS) for classification and labelling is a key instrument for the effectiveness of a global chemicals management **in all countries**; REQUESTS the Commission to ~~propose the~~ **promote the** introduction, adaptation or clarification of criteria/hazard classes in GHS in line with the **intended** CLP Regulation amendments ~~as a second step or in parallel~~, in order to improve consistency, transparency, information exchange, and a level playing field; **REQUEST the Commission to continue its efforts to nominate substances under the Stockholm Convention**;

G. Monitoring progress towards a toxic-free environment

48. 39.—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 ~~monitor~~ **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 HBM4EU¹⁷ and PARC¹⁸, and on indicators with economic, environmental and social dimensions;

49. 41.—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**; CALLS ON the Commission to provide regular information to the Council and the European Parliament;

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

¹⁷ Human Biomonitoring in Europe to Provide Evidence for Chemical Policy Making (HBM4EU) - <https://www.hbm4eu.eu/>

¹⁸ 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