



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 15 March 2021
(OR. en, fr)

6941/21
ADD 1

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
= Statement

Delegations will find attached a statement from Belgium regarding the above Council conclusions approved by written procedure on 15 March 2021.

STATEMENT BY BELGIUM

Belgium welcomes the adoption of the Council conclusions on the chemicals strategy for sustainability and we thank the Portuguese Presidency for the work that has been done to achieve this important objective.

It is of the utmost importance to have guidance to ensure the effective and timely implementation of the chemicals strategy and to send a strong political signal within and outside the EU as regards our willingness and commitment to achieve a high level of protection of the environment and human health, in particular for vulnerable groups of our population.

Nevertheless, we regret the lack of guidance on the production of harmful chemicals for export purposes only, when such chemicals are no longer authorised within the EU. Belgium would like to take this opportunity to offer its full support for the ambition announced by the Commission on this subject. Indeed, beyond a mere political announcement, we would emphasise the fundamentally ethical nature of this measure and will pay close attention to related developments.

We also regret the lack of any reference to the availability of alternatives to PFAS. We therefore reiterate our support for banning them, except for certain specific uses for which it is proven that they are essential for society and provided that, and for as long as, there is no alternative available.

Finally, we reaffirm Belgium's interest in monitoring the implementation of this strategy. We will actively participate in all discussion fora and will be involved in all action taken to achieve the objective of sustainability and safety in the field of chemicals and to ensure a toxic-free environment.