

Workshop for substitution of targeted hazardous chemicals

Concept note

There is a need to find better and more efficient ways to promote substitution for targeted hazardous chemicals, in particular for complex cases, where the use of hazardous chemicals is still needed for societal priorities but also transition to alternatives seems possible over time. A suitable *framework* could be EU industry substitution plans setting out a transition pathway to safer and more sustainable alternatives. Such a framework should promote a faster transition to high health and environmental standards of protection, generate cooperation between different actors across complex value chains, and allow for a better investment and planning securing competitiveness of EU industry.

The Commission intends to hold a workshop in co-operation with consultant Logika Group in the context of the [study](#) *Strengthening the role of substitution planning in the context of REACH and other EU chemicals legislation*. The purpose of the workshop will be to discuss the Commission's analysis of the problem, validate and refine the objectives of the framework, exchange on existing experiences with analysis of alternatives and substitution plans in the EU and worldwide, and identify options to implement substitution planning.

The workshop discussions and outcomes will be used for the definition of options to be analysed and discussed during the later stages of the development of the study. The draft results of the study will be discussed at a second workshop in later in 2024.

A background document will be distributed prior to the workshop, to inform and prepare participants. After the workshop, a report will be prepared, collecting the outcomes of the exchanges and discussions.

Date:

1st of March 2024, full day workshop,

Location:

- Auditorium (level 4 - souterrain), DG GROW, Avenue d'Auderghem 45, Brussels.
- Online (link will be communicated closer to the workshop)

Format:

Hybrid meeting

The workshop will start and conclude with two plenary sessions, at the beginning for introduction and at the end for closing and gathering the conclusions. The plenary sessions will be hybrid, with in/person presence in the conference room and web streaming. The plenary room has a capacity of 160 attendants.

The sessions in between the plenary will be table discussions. Several groups of 10-15 participants will be invited to discuss specific topics, in a rotating system of discussion tables. The groups will be chaired and facilitated by representatives of the organisers. The groups will include in-person presence groups and virtual groups.

The table discussion will not be web streamed.

Agenda

Opening: 9:00-10:30

- **9:00** Registration
- **9:30** *Otto Linher, European Commission, DG GROW F.1*, introduction and practicalities (10 min)
- **9:40** *Giuseppe Casella, European Commission, Head of Unit DG GROW F.1*, Study context and introduction on the need of a modern substitution framework (15 min)
- **9:55** *Henrik Laursen, European Commission, Deputy Head of Unit, DG ENV B.2*, (10 min)
- **10:05** *David Tyrer, Logika Group*, Explanation of the workshop context and how it fits into the next steps of the study; feedback and interaction opportunities for stakeholders. (25 min)

Discussion tables: 11:00 – 16:00

Morning session 11.00-12:45, parallel tables, of which some in presence and some online; each table will address specific questions in the morning.

Afternoon session 14:00-15:45, parallel tables, of which some in presence and some online; each table will address specific questions in the afternoon.

Feedback session and conclusions 16:00-18:00

- **16:00** Practicalities (5 min)
- **16:05** Reports from the world café tables - feedback by **rapporteurs** (85 min)
- **17:30** *Otto Linher, European Commission, DG GROW F.1*, conclusions and closure

Follow-up:

Workshop report