



# **Towards a non-toxic circular economy**

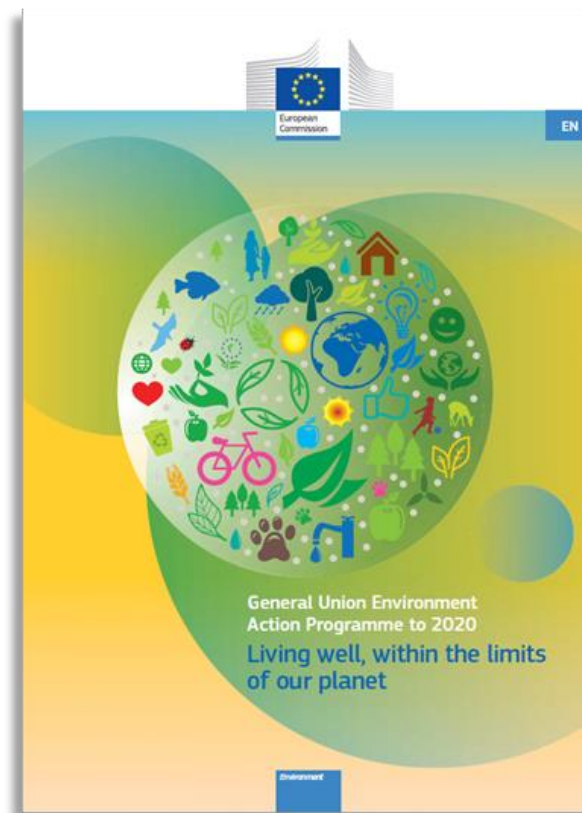
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**Urban Boije af Gennäs, DG ENV, B2 Sustainable Chemicals**

**[urban.BOIJE@ec.europa.eu](mailto:urban.BOIJE@ec.europa.eu)**

# Developing a 'Union strategy for a non-toxic environment'

- *The EUs 7th **Environment Action Programme** (7th EAP) to 2020– adopted in 2013*
- *Developing by 2018 a **union strategy for a non-toxic environment** (par 54(iv)):*
  - **Innovation and development of sustainable substitutes**
  - **Nanomaterials**
  - **Endocrine disruptors**
  - **Combination effects**
  - **Chemicals in products including i.e. imported**
- *Comprehensive approach to **minimising exposure** to hazardous substances, incl. from products (par. 50)*
- ***Non-toxic material cycles** (par. 40, 43, 54)*
- *Particular attention to **protection of children and vulnerable groups** (par 71.4)*
- ***Bio-monitoring**, improving chemical exposure **knowledge base** etc. (par. 71.3-71.4)*



# Commission study on the non-toxic environment strategy of the 7<sup>th</sup> EAP

Finalised in August/September 2017, published at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/non-toxic/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/non-toxic/index_en.htm)

- **Main report (overall aspects and conclusions)**

## Seven sub-studies

**a. Substitution**, including **grouping of chemicals** and measures to support substitution

**b. Chemicals in products** and **non-toxic material cycles**

**c. The improved protection of children and vulnerable groups** from harmful exposure to chemicals

**d. Sub-strategy for very persistent chemicals**

**e. Policy Means, Innovation** and Competitiveness

**f. A Green Chemicals** Program

**g. The creation of a joint early warning system for approaching chemical threats** to health and the environment



# Some ongoing chemicals related policy processes (1)

## EU processes

- An **EU non-toxic environment strategy?** Process and timeline unclear – preparation, compiling of facts and knowledge continues
- **The Circular Economy Package** (presented in January 2015)
  - Chemicals-Products-Waste Interface Assessment
  - Plastic Strategy
- **The REACH Review/fitness evaluation** (SWD and Communication, March 2018)
- **The fitness check of the most relevant chemicals legislation except REACH** (SWD and Communication(?) 2018/2019)
- **Strategic approach to pharmaceuticals in the environment** (2019?)
- **Separate fitness checks/evaluations of several pieces of legislation** Plant protection products, PPP residues, the Framework Directive on Occupational Safety (OSH, finalized) etc.

## Some ongoing chemicals related policy processes (2)

### Global processes

- **Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)** – review of 2020 objectives
- **The UN Sustainable Development Goals (2030)**

## CPW Interface

### Main Issues

### Challenges



Insufficient **information**



- **Defining and tracking**  
substance of concern



Presence of  
**substances of concern**



- **Level playing field between:**  
secondary and primary material  
EU-produced and imported articles



Difficulties in applying  
**End of Waste criteria**



- **Design for circularity**  
- Improving **certainty in implementation**



Uncertain application of EU  
waste **classification**



- **Approximating** the rules  
- **Better classification**



**The Communication identified possible options to overcome the barriers**  
**Views from stakeholders → public consultation**

# Chemicals-Products-Waste Interface

- ***Communication and Staff Working Document Adopted January 16, 2018***
- ***Feedback is expected from the European Parliament, the Council, the ECOSOC and the Committee of the Regions.***
- ***12 week open public consultation on the Communication and accompanying Staff Working Document.  
23 July 2018 - 29 October 2018***

*Thank you for your attention!*



*Some background slides*

## "Fitness check" of EU chemicals legislation (except REACH)

- **Scope: +40 pieces of legislation**
- **Horizontal legislation:** CLP, GLP, (REACH)
- **Product-specific chemicals legislation**, e.g. biocides, pesticides, detergents, cosmetics, toys, food contact materials, medical devices
- **Environmental legislation**, e.g. air emissions, waste, water
- **Transport legislation**, e.g. inland transport of dangerous goods
- **Worker safety legislation**, e.g. chemical agents, carcinogens and mutagens, pregnant workers, asbestos
- **Not included:** Rules on pharmaceuticals, veterinary medicine prod.
- **Also separate evaluations:** e.g. Plant protection products, PPP residues, the Framework Directive on Occupational Safety (OSH, finalised)...

# Fitness Check - Purpose

## 5 Evaluation Criteria

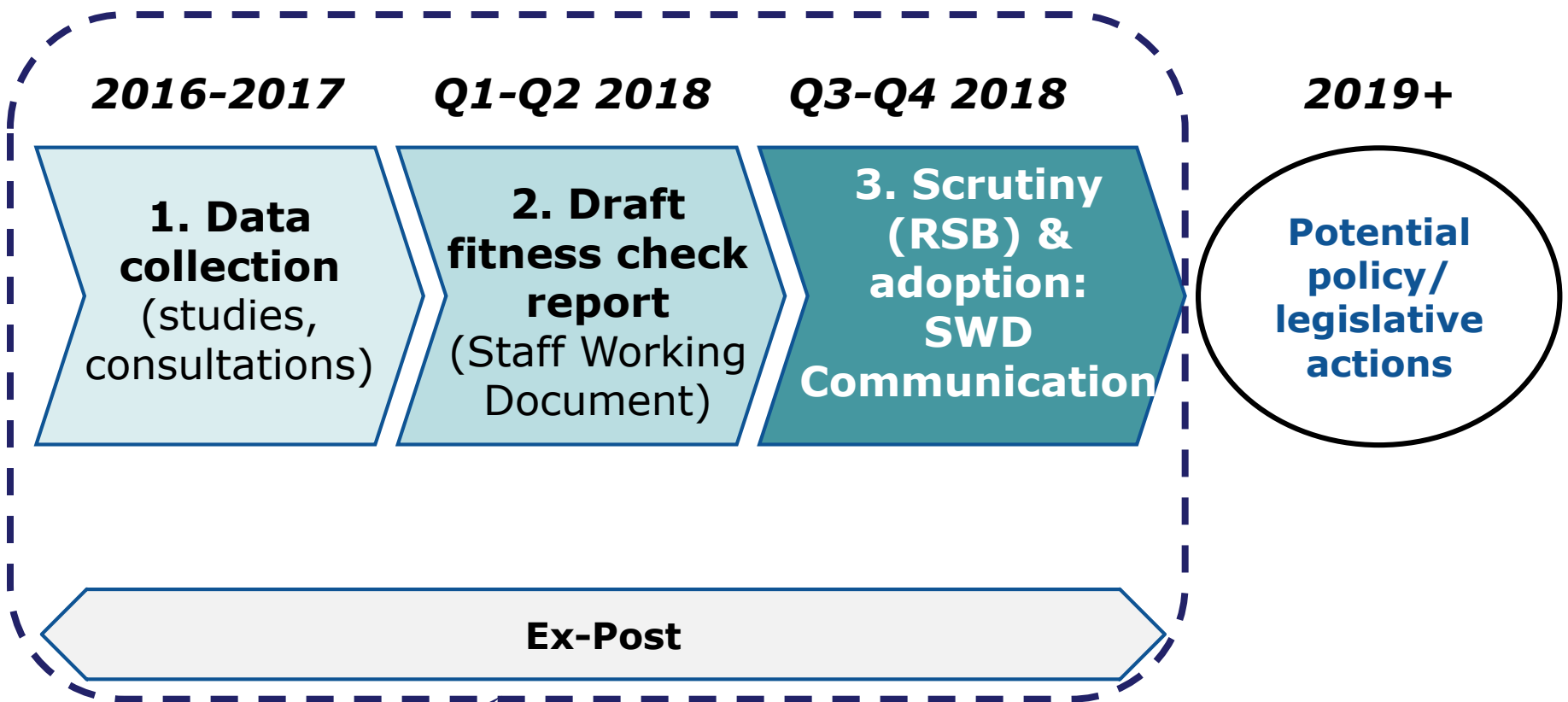
- Effectiveness
- Efficiency
- Relevance
- Coherence
- EU added value

## To identify any:

- excessive regulatory burdens
- performance issues (vis-à-vis the policy objectives)
- regulatory inconsistencies, obsolete measures
- regulatory gaps

*...as well as what is working well*

# Fitness check process



## Examples of themes in the FC of Chemicals Legislation: **Weaknesses, inconsistencies, areas for improvement**

- *Monitoring of exposure*
- *Data, risk and hazard assessment requirements*
- *Innovation towards less hazardous/non-hazardous/non-chemical solutions*
- *Data sharing rules and practices*
- *Industry self-classification*
- *Mixture classification*
- *Combination effects/cumulative exposure*
- *Hazard and safety information*
- *Chemicals in articles*

# Evaluation focus

