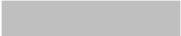




EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Circular Economy & Green Growth
Sustainable Chemicals

Brussels
ENV.B.2/


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Dear ,

Thank you for your e-mail of 24 June regarding the approach to chemicals management and the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability. Commissioner Sinkevičius asked me to reply on his behalf.

The Commission committed itself in the strategy to develop a stronger legal framework to better protect the environment and human health, in particular consumers, vulnerable groups and workers. The aim is to prevent exposure to the most harmful substances by extending the generic approach to risk management to develop a simpler and faster approach.

The Commission also committed itself to develop criteria for essential uses. We are not considering essential or non-essential substances, but focusing on uses of substances that are essential for society. The aim is to allow the most harmful substances only in uses that are essential for society and where there are no alternatives available. The most harmful substances should be phased out as far as possible, and there is no need to invest in non-essential uses of these substances.

All the potential options for the targeted amendments of REACH, including the implementation of a generic risk assessment and of the essential use concept, for which the Commission is running two specific studies, are being the subject of a comprehensive assessment of the socioeconomic impacts. The results of the impact assessment will be made public, most likely after the summer of 2022. The impact assessment foresees, according to the Better Regulation guidelines, broad consultations, where stakeholders will be able to contribute.

I thank you for your interest in the implementation of the Chemicals Strategy and suggest a meeting with my unit.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)

