

Helsinki Chemicals Forum 2016

Stakeholder views on hot topics in chemicals safety



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Welcome to this report on the debates held at the eighth annual Helsinki Chemicals Forum. This year's event attracted 200 delegates from 40 countries.

The 2016 Forum discussion on five key themes focused on the resource efficiency concept – the circular economy; the opportunities it presents to business, society and the environment and, most importantly, the issue of chemicals of concern remaining in the waste recycling stream.

The Helsinki thinktank discussed steps to address this, what is being done and how we can reach a non-toxic circular economy.

Many of these challenges were raised in some of the other panel sessions, which covered perfluorinated chemicals, data sharing, chemicals in construction products and plant safety.

This report is prepared by independent news service *Chemical Watch*, and aims to be a balanced and accessible reflection of

two days of debate in order to further understanding.

We have not taken sides, or judged comments on their accuracy, veracity or fairness. This is not a formal report because this annual forum is not an official session and its conclusions do not represent a consensus.

Instead, this report offers a reference point for policymakers, companies, academics and others – presenting the voice of the people in the room at this key annual gathering about the important topics discussed.

On the last pages of the report we give an unedited selection of virtual comments and questions posted on the Forum message wall to ensure that audience views are reflected.

Mamta Patel, Director and Co-Founder, *Chemical Watch*
Luke Buxton, European Desk Editor, *Chemical Watch*
Leigh Stringer, Global Business Editor, *Chemical Watch*



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Helsinki Chemicals Forum contacts

Helsinki Chemicals Forum
www.helsinkicf.eu

Chemicals Forum Association
Messuaukio 1, 00521 Helsinki, Finland

Mr Hannu Vornamo
Secretary General
+ 358 40 500 4785
hannu.vornamo@elisanet.fi

Ms Tarja Gordienko
Communications Manager
+358 50 584 7262
tarja.gordienko@messukeskus.com

Ms Ida Ågren
Project Assistant
+358 40 450 3181
ida.agren@messukeskus.com

Chemical Watch contacts

Mamta Patel
Director, Co-Founder
+44 (0) 203 603 2110
mamta.patel@chemicalwatch.com

Luke Buxton
Europe desk editor
+44 (0) 203 637 5793
luke.buxton@chemicalwatch.com

Leigh Stringer
Global Business Editor
+44 (0) 203 603 2119
leigh.stringer@chemicalwatch.com



HCF Panel Debate 1: Circular Economy – opportunities and challenges for chemicals regulation

Panellists:

Moderator: Bjorn Hansen (DG Environment, European Commission) Panel: Hans Meijer (Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, the Netherlands); Mari Puoskari (Ekokem Group); Axel Singhofen (Greens/EFA, European Parliament); Peter Smith (Cefic); Michael Warhurst (CHEM Trust).

Context:

Highlighting the adoption of the European Commission's circular economy package last December, panellists and delegates discussed the need to stop chemicals of concern from entering the recycling stream. Can we achieve a non-toxic, resource efficient economy?

The Debate

Issues

- » We are still debating the best route to achieving a circular economy
- » Growing consumption power of global middle class brings about greater product purchase and 'chemical intensification'
- » Slow progress means greater potential for hazardous substances to enter the waste recycling stream, contaminating the circular economy
- » Emphasis on circularity could threaten efforts to detoxify the economy
- » Debate over dilution of chemicals in the waste stream via recycling versus elimination: better to prevent and remove substances of concern first, then recycle
- » Enforcing chemicals legislation in products/articles, including imports, is not strong enough
- » Must not get lost in the detail – clear vision must be scoped out
- » Efforts to substitute substances of concern would facilitate achievement of a safer circular economy ie detox first then recycle. But speed is of the essence
- » Green in, green out rather than toxins in, toxins out
- » Circular economy policies must not undermine chemical safety legislation
- » Integrate chemical safety into product design
- » Better mechanisms needed to track and trace chemicals in products
- » For a tracking system to be useful in a circular economy the substances tracked must include the ones which will be regulated in the future
- » Aims and achievements of REACH must be protected and strengthened by circular economy policies
- » Circular economy discussions need to take account of the rapid evolution in scientific knowledge about the adverse impacts of chemicals
- » 'Change management' thinking can help to foster pro-active, business-friendly approaches to achieving a circular economy

Recommendations

- » Transition to a circular economy needs to stimulate innovation and investment, instead of becoming a reactive authority-driven approach

Mood in the room – key take home messages

- » Quick action and identification of the best route will help get the circular economy off the ground
- » Stimulation of innovation and investment are necessary incentives over approaches from authorities
- » Identify which chemicals to track and implement tools for this purpose alongside measures to trace chemicals in products
- » Promotion of non-toxic material cycles rather than toxins in, toxins out would achieve greater sustainability

Perfluorinated chemicals

HCF Panel Debate 2: Perfluorinated chemicals – a global chemicals management issue in need of global agreement?

Panellists:

Moderator: Eeva Leinala (OECD) Panel: Ronald Bock (FlouroCouncil); Ian Cousins (Stockholm University); Johanna Peltola-Thies (Echa); Lena Vierke (German Environment Agency); Mengjiao (Melissa) Wang (Greenpeace International)

Context:

PFAS, particularly long-chain PFAS, have been a major environmental concern for the last few decades. And while action has been taken by many countries and producers to phase them out, increasing production in China and India is creating a need for swift global action. The panel discussed how best to address this priority group of chemicals.

The Debate

Issues

- » Widespread use in products and articles, widespread environmental contamination
- » Communication of best environmental practices and best available technique (BAT/BEP) down the value chain
- » Many countries/regions are producing and using PFAS, some still using long-chained chemicals
- » Many uses are critical to modern life
- » Lack of hazard data on alternative compounds
- » Standard data sets are not sufficient to address the relevant concerns
- » Question over performance and hazards of non-fluorinated alternatives

Recommendations

- » Look at PFAS as a group of substances to avoid regrettable substitution (where scientifically justifiable)
- » Improvement of BAT/BEP communication down the value chain regarding the uses of these substances is critical to reduce

environmental contamination

- » Available information on hazards, particularly toxicity and ecotoxicity, of short-chained PFAS needs to be communicated to regulators and researchers
- » Should we be using these substances for so-called 'non essential uses' and how should these be identified?
- » There needs to be a combination of regulatory and voluntary action to phase out long chains at a global level
- » Need for more manufacturers, largely from transitional economies, to join voluntary initiatives, such as the US EPA Stewardship Programme. For example production of long-chained PFAS has shifted to China. Incentives need to be created for others to join
- » Linking EU and global activities is essential for progress
- » Short-chained substances still pose risks and their value should be assessed against non-fluorinated alternatives
- » It is critical that performance characteristics of alternatives should be taken into account

Mood in the room – key take home messages

- » Focus is on alternatives to short-chain PFAS
- » More data and better information required for managing the risks
- » Multinational approaches and greater regulatory and voluntary activities will lead to progress

Data sharing

HCF Panel Debate 3: Global data sharing – how can businesses and regulators make smarter use of data already available?

Panellists:

Moderator: Andreas Herdina (Echa) Panel: Bob Diderich (OECD); Erika Kunz (Clariant Productkte); Christel Musset (Echa); Brian Richards (Office of Chemical Safety, Australia); Jake Sanderson (Environment Canada)

Context:

The benefits of global data sharing are evident, and tools are being introduced to encourage greater awareness and acceptance of data. But challenges remain in harmonising approaches.

The Debate

Benefits

- » Burden of costs and workload can be shared by combining experiences with international partners
- » Increased awareness of existing data, transparency on sharing mechanisms and data flows is key for data sharing and predictability
- » Many elements in place already from OECD – Mutual Acceptance of Data; Technical convergence (standards and tools)
- » WSSD 2020 goal and other regional and national aims will take much longer to achieve without data sharing

Challenges

- » Less advanced on information concerning usage data
- » Harmonising data requirements: are we ready to share more on a global scale?
- » Data still in a variety of formats despite harmonised tools, standards and methodologies
- » Acceptability of alternative test methods varies between authorities
- » Some systems require full study reports, others are willing to accept robust study summaries
- » Data quality is highly variable and therefore unreliable in some cases
- » Protection of intellectual property and CBI and the avoidance of free-loading
- » Clearer process needed for public access

Ways to speed up progress

- » Need for a global vision – post-2020 Saicm; define a goal and ambition
- » Mutual acceptance of data sets and methodologies for sharing of/accepting assessments by authorities; moves by China will be crucial to progress
- » Work in partnership – more data sharing between companies
- » Modular/layered approach – allow stepwise progress
- » Increase of regulatory collection of safety information on chemicals
- » Anticipate how to deal with data generated by new alternative approaches
- » One common international standard for datasets and approaches for substances
- » Echa is investigating how to provide study results to third parties, for example research, academia, in a format suitable for data processing and analysis
- » Ensure that industry investment in REACH can be leveraged by reusing data and chemical assessments for other legislations in EU and worldwide
- » Global consortia as a means to overcome IPR barriers in a globalised industry
- » Internationalise hazard categorisation; localise risk assessment

Mood in the room – key take home messages

- » Currently, in all highly regulated countries, there is not a mechanism or platform set up by the authorities for data and cost sharing
- » Issues include variety of different formats, with variable quality of data and unreliability spur calls for harmonisation of data requirements
- » Data sharing is essential to achieve global, regional and national aims
- » Burden of costs and workload can be shared by partnering with other companies, but concerns of intellectual property still remain

Plant safety

HCF Panel Debate 4: Plant safety – is it taking a back seat to economic pressure?

Panellists:

Moderator: Rob Visser (HCF Programme Committee) Panel: Peter Kearns (OECD); Alexandros Kiriiazis (European Commission); Sandra Averous Monnery (Unep); Christian Schaible (European Environmental Bureau); Kenan Stevick (KPS Consulting)

Context:

The issue of plant safety has resurfaced in recent years, following major accidents at chemical facilities in Tianjing, China, the US and others. But is regulation reducing the number of incidents and are companies taking appropriate voluntary action?

The Debate

What's needed?

- » International initiatives have been set up by the UN and OECD, along with national and regional policy frameworks, such as the EU's Seveso III
- » Companies have been implementing safety management systems for many years but it is difficult to sustain a high level of vigilance throughout organisations
- » In western economies, overall the frequency and severity of accidents has reduced in the last few decades, but there are still some high-profile, severe exceptions

Where are we now?

- » Aggressive safety targets being set, but incidents still occur
- » Changes in organisation and economic circumstances need to be taken into account
- » Communities live in close proximity to chemical plants in many areas – the need for vigilance remains
- » Many plants are 'ageing' – most operating plants in OECD built between 1960 and 1980
- » In the EU, 900 major accidents have been recorded since 1980

What more can be done?

- » Systematic risk assessment and prevention pays off – economic,

environmental and social benefits – communicate achievements and lessons repeatedly

- » Integrate chemicals plant safety with other environmental policies
- » Plant safety and accident prevention and preparedness should be conducted in cooperation and coordination of all stakeholders: industry, authorities and community.
- » Consider cultural differences in engagement with local communities. Ensure communities are consulted and engaged, not just informed about safety plans
- » Consider whether relocation of facilities that are in the middle of communities is viable
- » Substitute use of hazardous chemicals as a preventive measure
- » Safety culture throughout the organisation and sound management systems needed. OECD producing advice on continual improvement in corporate governance
- » Identify elements that can disturb continual improvement. Change of ownership, reduced investment in certain assets are all risk factors that need attention to maintain safety – OECD guidance due soon
- » Chemicals safety – more systematic use of newly generated hazard and safety information on substances?
- » Leadership must play a strong role

Mood in the room – key take home messages

- » More robust safety management measures mean there are generally fewer accidents, but risks remain, especially from older plants
- » OECD is publishing advice to help with corporate governance and issues related to change of management, such as gaps in knowledge
- » Greater involvement with communities close to plants to improve awareness and understanding of safety issues, as well as enhancing vigilance

HCF Panel Debate 5: How to tackle chemicals of high concern in products – the construction sector as a case study

Panellists:

Moderator: Erwin Annys (Cefic) Panel: Theresa Kjell (ChemSec); Eva-Lena Carlen-Johansson (Skanska); Christine Daumling (German Environment Agency); Stylianos Kephelopoulos (European Commission - Joint Research Centre)

Context:

Figures from the European Commission show that 2.2m healthy years are lost annually in the EU due to indoor air pollution in buildings. Some member states are addressing this, but the construction industry has been criticised for being slow in engaging with chemical issues. The panel discuss ways of encouraging action.

The Debate

What's been done

- » Professional customers think in terms of 'materials' but suppliers talk about 'substances' – there needs to be some way to talk the same language
- » Consumers still find it difficult to have informed choices
- » 'Grouping' chemicals of concern will help reduce confusion of switching from one hazardous chemical to another similar one
- » More engagement and quicker uptake of chemical issues needed from construction sector
- » Combining a health-based and risk-based approach to policy-making could help progress
- » More systematic use of new safety information on substances, particularly exposure and biomonitoring information, for example through European Commission's IPChem Platform
- » Consideration of cumulative exposures from chemicals
- » Sharing approaches, workload and experiences and avoid duplication
- » Coherent and consistent product policies
- » Need for harmonisation of frameworks and coherence between national and collective European approaches
- » Companies have limited resources to work with suppliers on developing their products
- » Lack of communication between suppliers and customers on their chemicals of concern policies and availability of alternatives – independent platform needed?
- » The influence of the Commission's EU-LCI working group is growing, while a handful of member states have introduced their own policies on building products

Mood in the room – key take home messages

- » A holistic view should be implemented, which takes into account source-control, ventilation models, innovative design and energy efficiency
- » Both health-based and risk-based approaches to policymaking could help progress
- » Better dialogue needed between customers and suppliers concerning product/chemical terminology as well as alternatives to hazardous chemicals

The Writing on the Wall

An unedited selection of comments posted to the message wall by the audience

Panel 1 – Circular Economy – opportunities and challenges for chemicals regulation

- » prod químicos y economía circular ¿cuando una sustancia se convierte en residuo y viceversa?
- » How to tackle substances in articles as part of circular economy strategy? Also, how to do this internationally?
- » How can we ever have a circular economy when companies are apparently holding back on providing good safety data for existing and even for new products eg. nanomaterials?
- » Geert Dancet: “Our work is contributing to chemical safety far beyond Europe”
- » Achim Halpaap: “We are witnessing fundamental structural changes in the chemical industry” #keynote #Chemicalsforum @UNEPinEurope
- » Achim Halpaap: chemicals are part of the problem and the solution for global sustainability. How to accelerate the good practices and slow down the bad in the new industrial revolution?
- » #chemicalsforum circular econ in EU: best approach Reach MKII or voluntary?
- » EU is not a closed system. How does circular economy connect with global trade? (eg. ECHA report today mentioned substances in imported products not working well in REACH.) How can EU promote a global race to the top for circ. Econ.?
- » How are buildings/ construction sector at the moment considered in circular economy plans? The Energy Efficiency Directive for buildings brings changes in isolation requirements and adds amount of chemicals in constructions. Is this contradictory to principles of circular economy, especially knowing the gaps in chemical regulation of building products?
- » “Toxics out and then recycle, not the other way around” Axel Singhofen #circulareconomy #Chemicalsforum #DEHP @europeangreens
- » “We need a sustainable, non-toxic circular economy. Prevention comes first.” Axel Singhofen #Chemicalsforum @europeangreens
- » Although circular economy should not compromise the chemical regulations, but what if a recycling material is so common and so important that stop recycling it would cause huge economic impact? Is it possible to touch upon the issue and get the balance between the economic aspect and the safety aspect?
- » To Axel Singhofen: What would you suggest to do if it is impossible to decontaminate waste?
- » Complex transition, both technical & management, but #CircularEconomy offers positive vision @Cefic #ChemicalsForum
- » Are global supply chain clusters to enable industrial symbiosis possible? eg. where companies come together contractually as generators/recyclers/scavengers of particular materials guaranteeing their responsible management?'
- » #chemicalsforum Q for Cefic's Peter Smith : can Chem industry adopt circular econ voluntarily?
- » @CEFIC: We do! #circulareconomy will bring greater #resourceefficiency & enhanced environment management #ChemicalsForum
- » Michael Warhurst of CHEM Trust: “Speed is of the essence” to stop chemicals of concern entering the economy given the fast rate of introduction of new (and recycled) products
- » Peter Smith - Cefic @ChemicalsForum “#ChemicalSafety in the #circulareconomy is non-negotiable” #ChemicalsForum
- » Should we be applying the precautionary principle more as our economy becomes even more circular?
- » “We cannot put our heads in the sand, we need to start somewhere” @mwarhurst #circulareconomy #nontoxicproducts #ChemicalsForum
- » The key problem for Europe is the import of articles that may contain substances of concern. How do we solve this problem efficiently?
- » What are the means to improve the tracking of chemicals in products?
- » What if non-toxic is not non-toxic as tested in wrong dose-range (issue of very low dose toxicity, etc.)? How to address this?
- » @Cefic tells us that to achieve circ. Eco we need a case by case life cycle assessment #ChemicalsForum
- » Question: As a society grows, moving from a developing country to that of a country in transition, history shows that the environmental burden is closely linked to economic growth. Despite regulatory action, decoupling remains difficult until a powerful, in the sense of economic power, middle class have reached a level of satisfactory standard of living. When this occur they start to push for cleaner ambient air, surface waters etc... China is a good example. Are we addressing the right issues here? Where is the link to social justice? The battle against poverty? A large portion of the people lives on less than \$1 per day. As long as this is the case, they will remain a customer for cheap and sometimes harmful chemicals, e.g DDT and paraquat, and electronic waste
- » Assuming we will get some 500+ SVHCs and take action (over time), what “chemistry” will remain to make plastics?
- » I believe that we do need more innovative research in recycling technology itself
- » To Axel Singhofen: What would you suggest to do if it is impossible to decontaminate waste?
- » The new eco design directive does not refer the use of safe chemicals. A missed opportunity?
- » They key problem for Europe is the import of articles that may contain substances of concern. How do we solve this problem efficiently?
- » Are we confident that safe levels for recycling of, for example PBTs, are still considered to be safe levels 10 or 20 years from today?
- » Axel & Michael: what is preferred in the environment: toxic, biodegradable & not persistent. OR: not toxic, not biodegradable & persistent? Why?



- » Many of the solutions discussed assume the value of a hazard-based approach -- simply banning a substance without regard to whether an actual risk exists. What is the role of risk assessment in promoting a circular economy?
- » Contrary to popular belief the chemical industry isn't a bottomless pit of resources including funding. Substitution has taken a lot of resources that were previously used for real new products that might support the growth of the circular economy - is there a solution for this to offer a real step change and possibly make re-use much more feasible?
- » What will it take to cultivate true green chemistry solutions to these challenges?
- » What is Green Chemistry? Are non-regrettable substitutions even feasible?
- » Chemicals affect the whole world in one way or the other. How is the EU collaborating with other countries especially the developing and countries in transition where technology on management of chemicals such recycling or landfilling is poor? How is the EU controlling used chemical containing materials into these countries? TAMPUSHI from Kenya. How is the European Union collaborating with other countries and management of chemicals especially in Africa where where technologies like recycling or landfilling is are not well developed?
- » "FYI, relevant to discussion of #ChemicalsForum, Apple's chemicals policy (as example of company taking action):

Panel 2 – Perfluorinated chemicals – a global chemicals management issue in need of a global agreement?

- » Customers are asking for a performance for their product, industry can support the customers demand and at the same time can contribute in finding the most sustainable solution by having a dialogue with the customer on which "safe" chemicals could be used to meet the purpose.
- » Industry responds to customer needs. Really? Did we really ask for non-stick pans and non-iron clothing and never mind if these properties cause harm to ourselves, our families and the environment?
- » Long chain PFAS replacements are being developed without sufficient peer-reviewed toxicity data, according to Professor Cousins of Stockholm University
- » Melissa Wang from Greenpeace at #ChemicalsForum: PFCs contaminate globe & must be regulated
- » ECHA - information provided by REACH registrants is not matching the observations from PFC monitoring - what are the factors responsible? How to get global supply chain buy-in to control risks ?
- » Ronald Bock, FluoroCouncil: alternatives to long chain PFOAs have been assessed and safety data are available
- » Fluorochemical industry keen to promote controls on PFOA/C8 - but not on shorter chain #PFCs #chemicalsforum
- » To Ronald Bock: What does industry consider to be the appropriate mix of voluntary and regulatory action needed particularly to address the new and continued global production of long chained substances and data gaps on their replacements?
- » Taking into account the circular economy discussions this morning, is there a place for PFASs (long and short+chained) ?
- » I would have 1 question for Fluorocouncil: regarding the environmental testing data for short chains, which is the possible level of efficiency to remove these substances in wastewater using standard waste water treatment systems?
- » We all use products that depend on fluorochemicals, some in critical uses. How can consumers make an informed choice about the trade off between these and the risks to health and the environment?
- » Why does UBA have data gaps while industry is claiming safety (no CMR, etc.) on short-chain?
- » What would accelerate the spread of best-practice management of risks in global supply chains?
- » May short-chain be even worse due to higher mobility, better bioavailability and bioaccumulation? long-term effects in human (due to T)?
- » so, it's OK to load environment with persistent chemicals, even though can't remove if found toxic #ChemicalsForum
- » Industry has a role in funding alternative fluorochemicals research
- » shouldn't we consider the required technical properties requested for a chemical. Persistence may be the "logic" consequence of such technical requirement. wouldn't this be an acceptable argument?
- » Classic industry line on chemical groups: "accept this a problem, new one totally different" Few years on, needs restriction #ChemicalsForum
- » Authorisation considers availability of safer alternatives, so surely a simple way to deal with claims of #PFC importance? #ChemicalsForum
- » Lesson from CFCs: using same tech not the best option (HCFC, HFC vs hydrocarbons) #PFC discussion should look at new tech #ChemicalsForum"
- » Chemistry closes the loop: safely managed materials bring societal benefits in a #circulareconomy #ChemicalsForum

Panel 3: Global data sharing – how can businesses and regulators make smarter use of data already available?

- » To Bob Diderich: How would global consortia manage issues such as updates in response to new information and fair (and fair-cost) access to data, bearing in mind the difficulties we have seen just at EU level? Do we need an OECD or UN data bank and ombudsman?
- » How to track global trade of chemicals in products to avoid data free riders?
- » A company's product safety data is its licence to operate. How to raise it to the same value as financial data?
- » To the panel: one way to make smarter use of data is to address the quality issues. How can regulatory bodies work together to achieve this?
- » At national and regional level in many countries there is still collection of different data by different authorities eg. environment ministry and labor ministries. Wouldn't it be useful to harmonise this first?
- » Regulators have different attitudes and thresholds for acceptability of certain data eg. in-vitro, QSAR, - is this a harmonisation need?
- » Interesting example from Dr Brian Richards of NICNAS of global dossiers for pharmaceuticals - could it work for industrial chemicals?
- » Brian Richards (Australia's OCS): A standard global dossier for industrial #chemicals is a worthwhile ambition #BigData #ChemicalsForum
- » What is the most effective way of promoting sharing? Plagiarism from REACH? Bilateral like TTIP? Multilateral e.g. OECD? Global under UN?
- » What can/should be shared/harmonized and what not? Hazard data? Exposure? Risk assessment? Protection goals? Language? Data format?
- » Jake Sanderson, Environment Canada: Do we need an international data repository?
- » Has REACH really been doing most of the data heavy-lifting as it has been made out? Are others really freeriding?
- » Is the OECD/ECHA eChemPortal enough as a global data repository?
- » very good presentations. let's assume "global data sharing agreement". how ensure that risk assessment comes to (results in) ONE common (global) conclusion? what about national "preferences" - shouldn't authorities generate relevant data?
- » Always go international, never re-invent the wheel, sharing principle by @EU_ECHA @christel_musset #BigData #OpenData #ChemicalsForum
- » Maybe harmonizing test guidelines and sharing hazard data makes sense, but risk assessment and protection goals can differ.
- » OECD good, OECD+BRICS better. UN best?
- » how to ensure applicability of data in light of SAMENESS of chemicals (impurities triggering toxicity profile)?
- » Even if a Robust Study Summary is considered to address reliable, high quality data, is a RSS considered sufficient to conduct a risk assessment?
- » Do you see a real role for public private partnerships to further enhance data sharing? Decreasing the burden on both regulators and the private sector?
- » What has ECHA's experience with the Implementing Regulation on Data Sharing been in terms of data compensation? Industry has suggested the new requirements are challenging (eg. Itemisation). Thoughts?
- » Chemicals Forum panel on data sharing sees significant benefits in global data sharing #ChemicalsForum
- » Is protection of intellectual property rights on chemical hazard data going too far and hampering the common good - and even that of data owners? Is it really an issue for competitiveness of companies in these days?
- » Banking data with a universal agreed format solve the current dilemma.
- » Data quality assessment is in the eye of the beholder. Does IUCLID RSS allow to identify the data quality assessor's (single or plural) identity?
- » Is the hazard data generated by new alternative approaches bringing new challenges for MAD application? It is much more expert judgement driven based on weight of evidence and different regions may draw different conclusions from it.
- » To Erica: Trust is to be earned. Some industry partners have shown to be trusted partners, others not. Same as with your customers paying the bill
- » Cultural differences are an important barrier to implementation of risk assessment guidelines and risk management measures . The occupational health field is acknowledging this now with the launch of the Asian Network on Occupational Health.
- » How are the producing countries facilitating research in non-producing countries which are only users of most of these chemicals?
- » Is data on a substance sold publicly also public?

Panel 4: Plant safety – is it taking a back seat to economic pressures?

- » 900 major accidents since 1980, bitter lesson on #PlantSafety Alexandros Kiriazis @EU_Commission #ChemicalsForum
- » 30 accidents/yr, all costs included total €4500m estimates Kiriazis @EU_Commission. Worth some preventive investments! #ChemicalsForum
- » @DowChemical #PlantSafety performance with leadership, professionalism, learning #ChemicalsForum
- » Is there a correlation of ownership change and accidents? Do we have enough data collected to tell?
- » To the panel: to what extent are failures in communication of information in Safety Data Sheets a cause of incidents? In Europe, are the new eSDS with more detailed exposure scenarios helping?
- » What contribution is the more widespread implementation of GHS making to plant safety?
- » Is the Flexible Framework Initiative for Addressing Chemical Accident Prevention and Preparedness available in Spanish?
- » How can governmental and local authorities in practice ensure that plant safety is not let to take a back seat in corporate governance - even when major changes are happening in the boardroom?
- » Would the panel comment on the 2014 Kaohsiung gas explosions of plant transport pipelines under urban streets? There were several extraordinary and anomalous factors there.
- » Regret to have to ask about a specific plant safety aspect not yet mentioned but relevant in today's world: how well are chemical plants prepared for terrorist attacks (or for sabotage by single malicious actors, 'lonely wolfs')? Is the issue taken seriously by companies or do they leave this aspect to authorities?
- » The session has been talking about plant safety, but under which regulations are those dangerous and/or hazardous chemicals themselves being regulated and managed? e.g. In EU under REACH, CLP?
- » Do national/regional cultural differences pose specific challenges for the local community engagement?
- » Does Seveso III consider as well potential negative externalities (environmental or health) on the local communities around the plants (accidents excluded)?
- » Apart from ownership changes, does the trend of subcontracting in production chain and processes cause any additional risks?
- » Towards a Green Economy we are in need to comply with a worldwide acceptable harmonised regulations regarding safety and prevention.
- » Is there any link with circular economy - does the increased use of secondary raw materials bring new challenges for plant safety?

Panel 5: how to tackle chemicals of high concern in products – the construction sector as a case study

- » S.Kephalopoulos of JRC tells #ChemicalsForum that buildings = 40% of CO2 emissions. @PlasticsEurope @RenovateEurope
- » JRC maintains a portal on chemical monitoring data. Very interesting. #Chemicalsforum
- » If Umweltbundesamt had this devastating experience with their building, what hope for common citizens?
- » Many of the LCI-lists do not take into account for example phthalates and flame retardants. Does EU's LCI-list measure these chemical groups?
- » #EU Harmonization efforts for #IndoorAir quality described by Christine Däumling, Germany #ChemicalsForum
- » How do we take our knowledge on substances and make it useful to article producers who want information in terms of materials? Any advice for suppliers?
- » Using hazardous chemicals is not good for business. Theresa Kjell @chemsec #ChemicalsForum #constructionchemicals
- » Great to hear "win win" (health,environment,circular economy) LCA examples going forward such as Skanska. Where are the bottlenecks and how to overcome problems as raised by ChemSec to deliver solutions/support frontrunners?
- » Progressive @SkanskaGroup & customers work to find alternative solutions #ConstructionIndustry #ChemicalsForum
- » Theresa: would you consider an alternative showing much better intrinsic properties a regrettable substitution if it fits into the "grouping criteria"?
- » Under REACH suppliers have to talk to downstream users to understand and register their uses - is this not leading to the discussions about substituting hazardous substances?
- » Chemsec is creating an 'eBay' for chemicals - on online marketplace for safer alternatives. #ChemicalsForum
- » Supporting and investing in Green Chemistry research = Green Product = Green Recycling = Green Circular Economy
- » To Theresa: what is the weight you give to substance specific data on a substance that is chemically similar to an SVHC, but where the data show it does not have the undesired property. Or is it: once grouped, always condemned?
- » ChemSec's idea of an 'eBay' platform for alternatives - the aim is to publicise their availability, can it also encourage cost competitiveness because it will give some idea of supply and demand?