

Cosmetics Europe contribution to the EC roadmap public consultation on “Chemicals – strategy for sustainability (toxic-free EU environment)”

Cosmetics Europe represents the cosmetics and personal care industry in Europe. We welcome the European Commission’s European Green Deal announcement and share the European Commission’s Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (“CSS”) objective for a robust chemicals policy framework that protects consumers and the environment, highlighting that it needs to ensure industry’s competitiveness and innovation capacity.

- Ranging from antiperspirants, fragrances, make-up and shampoos, to soaps, sunscreens and toothpastes, cosmetics and personal care products play an essential role in all stages of our life. European citizens use cosmetic products as part of their daily lives, serving their essential needs and expectations. These needs and expectations drive our industry as well as delivering innovative products that enhance consumers’ well-being and quality of life and boost their self-esteem.
- Chemicals play an essential role in our daily lives, including cosmetic and personal care products. Cosmetics Europe joins the European Commission in recognising the strength of the EU Chemicals Regulation and the sectorial legislation, not only as a tool to protect consumers and the environment from the potential risk of certain chemical substances, but also as an enabler of innovative technologies and business models. Indeed, the main aim of the Cosmetic Products Regulation EC 1223/2009 is to ensure human safety by providing strict risk management procedures which guarantee a high-level of consumer protection.
- As a science-driven, highly innovative sector, making large investments in R&D, ensuring innovation friendly policies and regulatory frameworks underpinned by a strong European Single Market and holistic industry policies is of utmost importance. Incentivising research, development and production will support innovation and allow the chemicals sector and its downstream use sectors – such as cosmetics and personal care products - to continue to innovate safe chemicals, products and materials that can help to address the big societal challenges facing the environment and the economy. In addition, innovation is essential in the development of new science and technologies which can be used in novel methods for the assessment of chemical hazards, and ways to manage and mitigate these.
- The cosmetics industry has been at the forefront of developing alternatives to animal testing for regulatory safety assessment¹ for more than 25 years and supports the goal of eliminating all unnecessary animal testing while respecting the state of the science and the international regulatory context. This has allowed the cosmetics and personal care sector, in close cooperation with the European Commission, to develop, test and use safer and more sustainable chemicals without recourse to animal testing. In this spirit, the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability should explicitly foresee the support for the commercialisation of new sustainable initiatives.
- The cosmetics industry shows strong, sustained commitment—and invests significant funds—to build on scientific progress, develop new approaches and drive innovative paradigm shifts in safety testing and safety assessment that meet regulatory needs, for both human health

¹ Animal testing on ingredients for use in cosmetic products was banned in the EU in 2009. As of March 2013, the EU testing and marketing ban has covered all toxicological endpoints, irrespective of whether a full set of alternative methods is available to replace corresponding animal studies

and the environment. From a scientific perspective, finding alternative approaches is a huge challenge to which the cosmetics industry is responding in order to maintain consumer safety as a priority.

In this context, Cosmetics Europe would like to highlight some elements which will be key in ensuring that the upcoming Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability fosters a coherent, science-based and innovation-friendly policy framework:

- The CSS should recognise the existing regulatory frameworks that already provide robust tools to protect consumers and the environment. We therefore believe that future efforts should focus on the efficient enforcement of existing rules and the removal of national barriers currently leading to the fragmentation of the Single Market. Also, we strongly believe that any revision of the current framework will have to take into account the different sectoral realities and the respective risk management approaches.
- Cosmetics Europe considers the CSS should be an evolution and improvement of processes and further enforcement of existing elements:
 - o Chemical hazards are independent of the real-life use of a chemical substance. It is important that they are identified in a horizontal, cross sector approach.
 - o Chemical risks, on the other hand, are completely dependent on the actual use of a chemical. Whenever the use of a chemical is well defined, the resulting risks can – and should - be characterised and managed in a specific legislation that considers the real-life use scenario.
 - o The Cosmetic Products Regulation EC 1223/2009, which has become the ‘template’ for cosmetics legislation across the world, is a good example of how this approach can work successfully in practice.
- In order to clearly recognise the industry and its innovation capacity as part of the solution to the big challenges of our time, Cosmetic Europe considers that scientifically based communication and public education on the risks and benefits of chemicals/products should form part of the CSS. In this context, the CSS Roadmap uses the words “hazard” and “hazardous chemicals”. In our view, it is important to ensure there is clarity that there are different types of CLP hazard classification raising different levels of concern. The existing regulatory frameworks and the efficient management of chemical hazards and risk via REACH, CLP and sector-specific legislations ensures this is not the case. Cosmetics Europe encourages the European Commission to ensure clarity and differentiation between hazard and risk in the upcoming CSS.
- Whilst the Roadmap refers to “one substance, one assessment”, this should be clarified in the upcoming CSS. Cosmetics Europe supports an approach of “One substance - One hazard assessment” where hazard characterisation of chemicals is managed horizontally across sectors. Sector-specific scientific risk assessment-bodies (such as ECHA, SCCS, EFSA, EMA) should all have full access to the hazard data and use similar methodologies to quantify the real-life risk for their specific use scenarios. Collaboration and synergies between the risk assessment bodies will also allow faster policy/regulatory action in case of new scientific evidence, including the understanding of the impact of different regulatory activities on different sectors, and joint agreement on scientific quality criteria for such evidence. An example of this is the importance of implementing horizontal criteria for prioritisation and assessment of substances with suspected endocrine disruption properties.

- Science and innovation must be at the heart of the upcoming CSS. To secure a sustainable future, policies must strive for ambitious goals and apply balanced regulation that seeks to enable industrial innovation while ensuring high standards of human health and environmental protection.

Cosmetics Europe is looking forward to contributing to the debate on the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability as a constructive stakeholder.