



The EU Chemicals Policy and REACH

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*ECHA stakeholder workshop
on lead in hunting and shooting
Helsinki, 10 February 2020*

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Overview

- The European Green Deal and the EU policy on chemicals
- REACH
- Past and ongoing work on lead



The Green Deal

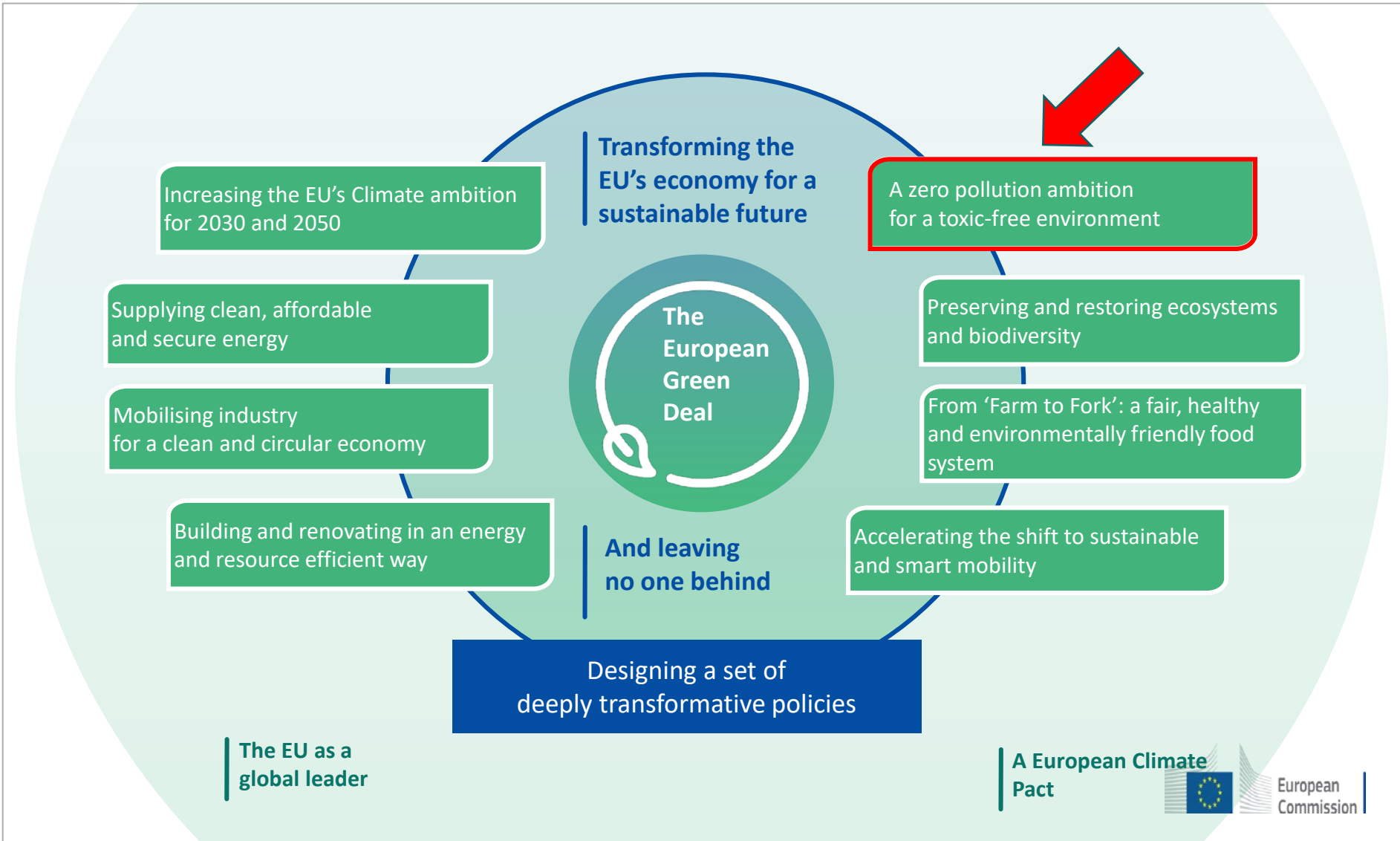
"I will propose a cross-cutting strategy to protect citizens' health from environmental degradation and pollution, addressing air and water quality, hazardous chemicals, industrial emissions, pesticides and endocrine disruptors."

The Green Deal

Objectives

- Europe's first climate-neutral continent
- Protection of the environment and health
- Zero Emission Target

The Green Deal



The Green Deal

- **Zero pollution action plan** for air, water and soil in 2021
- Address **industrial pollution** from large industrial installations in 2021
- **Chemicals strategy for sustainability** in summer 2020

A zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment

The European Green Deal

Designing a set of deeply transformative policies

The EU as a global leader

A European Climate Pact



Chemicals Strategy

Objectives

- Simplify legislation
- Address new challenges (combination effect, endocrine disruptors, etc.)
- Support industry transition towards CO₂ neutrality
- One substance, one assessment
- Planned for summer 2020

What is REACH?

Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the EP and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning:

- **R**egistration
- **E**valuation
- **A**uthorisation and Restriction of **C**hemicals

Preparatory work started in 2001...

... into force since 1 June 2007

Objectives of REACH

- Ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment
- Promoting non-animal testing methods
- Free circulation of substances on the Internal Market
- Enhance competitiveness and innovation

Scope of REACH

- REACH applies to the manufacturing, import, placing on the market and use of substances
 - on their own, in mixtures, in articles
 - Some exemptions apply:
 - Certain natural substances, polymers (registration, evaluation)
 - Defence activities
- Reduced obligations e.g. R&D and intermediates
- Industry responsible to demonstrate safe use

Rationale of REACH

- **Registration** by companies will collect data for substances above 1 tonne/year – close link with **communication along the supply chain**
- **Evaluation** of substances to examine certain testing proposals (animal), fill data gaps and refine assessment
- Regulatory risk management via:
 - **Autorisation:** identification of SVHCs, possibly made subject to autorisation requirement
 - **Restriction:** conditions to address unacceptable risks

Restrictions

Aim: EU-level conditions to address risks not adequately controlled. Applicable to substances, mixtures or articles (EU and non-EU).

Wide scope of application and type of conditions: chromium VI in leather articles, lead in jewellery, BPA in cashier receipts, etc.

Procedure: right of initiative to propose new restrictions is shared between Commission and MS.

Why lead?

- Lead is toxic to people and the environment
- There is no safe level preventing the neurotoxic effect of lead
- Lead is dangerous to the foetus and to children:
 - *Causes neurodevelopmental problems and loss of IQ*
- Lead is dangerous to the environment:
 - *Around 1 million birds die each year due to ingestion of lead pellets*
- Around 20 000 tonnes of lead are released into the environment every year

What was done?

- Certain lead compounds are listed in Annex XIV REACH
 - ➔ subject to authorisation
- the use/placing of the market of certain consumer articles and jewellery containing lead is prohibited
- Proposed restricting the use of lead stabilisers in PVC
- Proposed banning use and possession of lead shot in and around wetlands
- Requested ECHA to investigate the possible risks posed by other types of lead ammunition across all terrains, and by lead in fishing tackle

Thank you



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