

## Chemical Industry Package

### Context

At the core of the European Commission's 2025 work program (Moving Forward Together: A Bolder, Simpler, Faster Union) is the need to enhance the EU's competitiveness, prosperity, and resilience. To achieve this, the program includes a vision and tools to simplify the regulatory environment of the Union.

One of these tools is the Chemical Industry Package, which, according to the work program, will be tailored to strengthen the competitiveness of the EU's chemical industry by simplifying the processes for substance registration, evaluation, and authorization processes, as well as clarifying obligations regarding PFAS compounds.

Important part of this package will be a targeted review of the REACH regulation, aimed at simplifying chemical safety and environmental protection requirements without compromising high level of protection.

The Clean Industrial Deal emphasizes that the Chemical Industry Package highlights the strategic role of the chemical industry at the beginning of all supply chains—an "industry of industries"—as a supplier of critical molecules. The package will include targeted initiatives to improve the competitiveness, modernization, and support for production and innovation within Europe's chemical sector.

### Industry Position

Recognizing the chemical industry and its value chains as a strategic sector is essential for boosting EU competitiveness, achieving strategic autonomy, and meeting clean transition goals. In addition to the Chemical Industry Package, it is important to assess the industry's overall operating conditions, including the promotion of a circular economy and ensuring access to skilled labor, financing, and clean energy.

The EU must provide industry with a long-term outlook and investment certainty. The Chemical Industry Package should focus on clarifying and simplifying regulations for businesses. While the Commission's program commendably mentions the revision of the REACH regulation, this work must extend beyond REACH to ensure that the numerous regulations affecting the EU's chemical industry and its value chains form a consistent, investment-friendly framework.

Various elements of regulations, permits, pre-approvals, listings, registrations, reports, complaints, threshold values, labeling, bans, and restrictions have developed into a complex labyrinth that places an excessive burden on both businesses and authorities. Many of these procedures are necessary, but in the absence of a comprehensive overview, there is also redundant, contradictory, or ineffective requirements which need to be eliminated.

Chemical legislation requirements must be based on scientific risk assessment and the selection of appropriate regulatory tools, ensuring a genuine improvement in safety (risk-based approach).

Automatic regulatory procedures should be made more flexible when they have significant unintended consequences. For example, the classification of substances intended for hazard communication currently leads to the prohibition of certain uses of classified substances or creates obstacles for recycling waste streams containing them, without exceptions.

Regulatory simplification must translate into improvements for businesses. The automation of procedures or, for instance, the blanket restrictions of large groups of substances do not simplify matters; rather, it undermines scientific risk assessment and reduces industry confidence in the EU as an investment destination—especially when raw materials risk being banned unjustifiably.

### **Timeline and Current Status**

The Chemical Industry Package is expected to be released by the Commission in autumn 2025.