CHEMICALS STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABILITY: HOW CAN WE ENHANCE SAFETY & COMPETITIVENESS?

Tatiana Santos

Chemicals Policy Manager

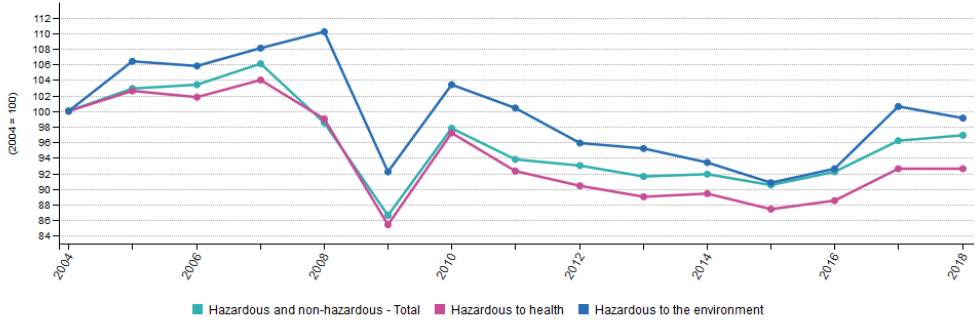
EEB
European Environmental Bureau

Chemicals/Plastics Production

Tweet The production of chemicals hazardous to health in the EU was 222.6 million tonnes in 2018.

Tweet The consumption of chemicals hazardous to health increased in the EU by 5 million tonnes in 2018.

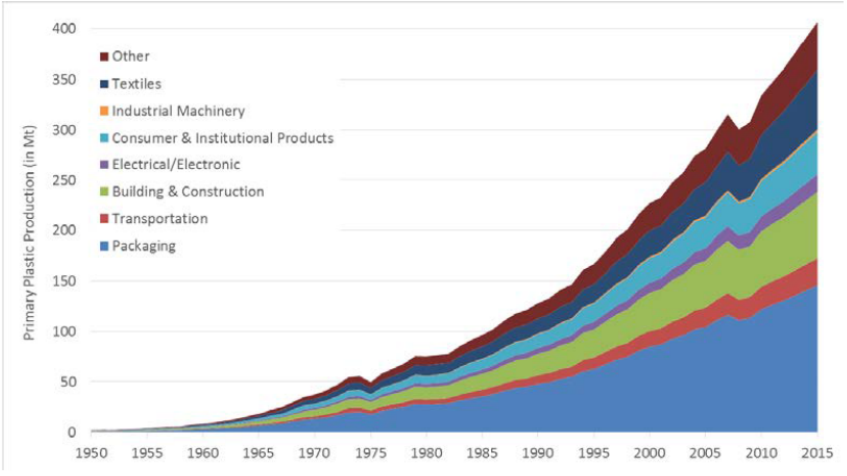
Production of chemicals, EU-28, 2004-18



Note: the y-axis is cut.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: env_chmhaz)

Figure 1. Global plastics production: 1950 to 2015

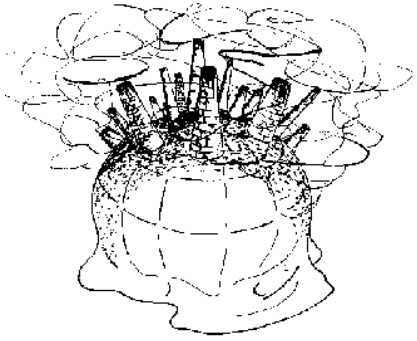


Source: Geyer, R., J. Jambeck and K. Law (2017), "Production, use, and fate of all plastics ever made", *Science Advances*, Vol. 3/7, p. e1700782, http://dx.doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.1700782.

- **The share of hazardous substances** among the new substances manufactured or marketed since 1981 **is about 70%** *(Commission).*
- Production of **toxic groups of chemicals in EU is about 300 Mt/y** *(EEA-Eurostat)*
- **6 300 million tonnes of plastics waste** (1950 - 2015) of which 9% recycled and 12% incinerated -> 80% accumulate in landfills or the natural environment

EEB European Environmental Bureau

THE CHEMICALS POLLUTION PROBLEM



The **toxification of the planet** is an increasing global threat to people and wildlife

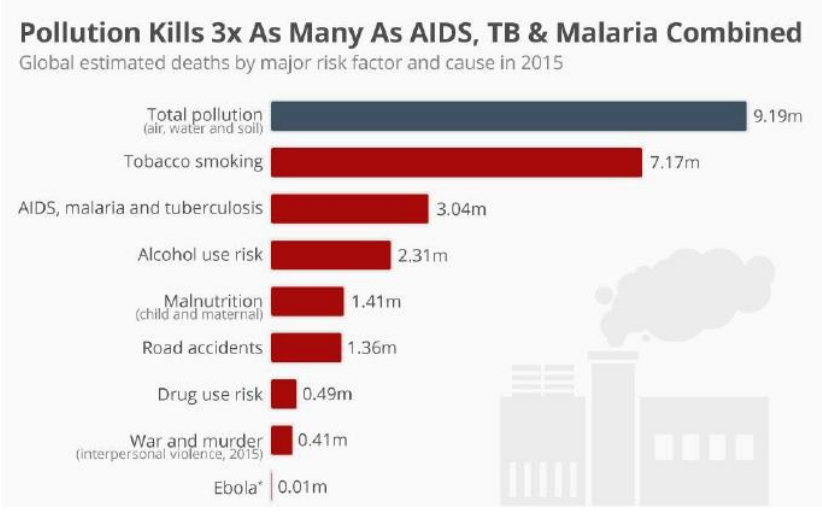
Today, chemical pollution, has reached the **most remote corners of the globe, contaminated the circular economy** and our **bodies.** Even **babies are born today 'pre-polluted'**.

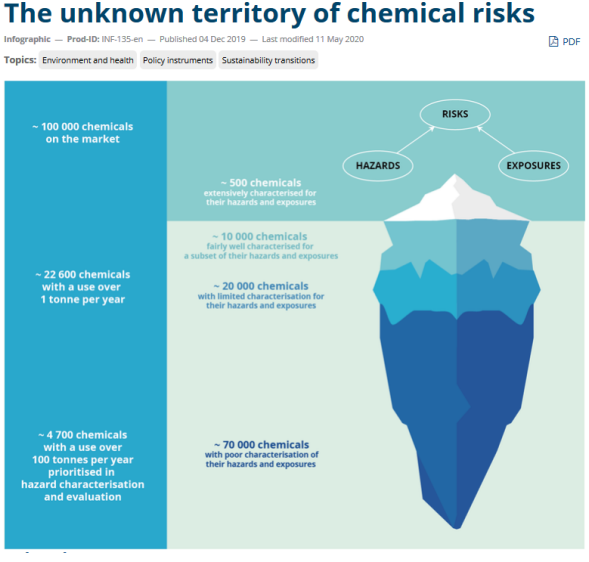
Chemicals also contribute to the rise in severe **health** problems (**intelligence, developmental disorders of children**, **reduce fertility, cancers)** and the strain on Europe's ecosystems and **polluters don't even pay for it.**

EEB
European Environmental Bureau

Why chemical pollution is one of the main threats to our future

Pollution is the world's largest environmental cause of disease and premature death.





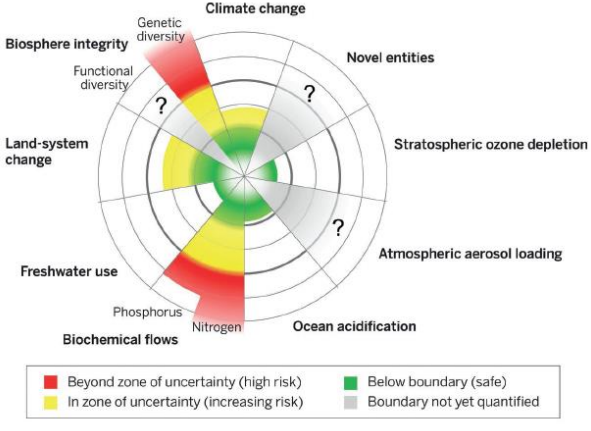
Toxic air, water, soils and workplaces kill at least 9m people a year, threatens 'survival of human societies' and cost trillions of dollars every year.

EEB
European Environmental Bureau

Why chemical pollution is one of the main threats to our future

Chemical pollution impacts climate, biodiversity and circular economy.

Chemical sector is the world's second largest industry, by far the largest industrial user of energy and one of the biggest emitters on the planet.



Chemicals and waste relevant for and supports the implementation of all SDGs.

6 of the 9 planetary boundaries have a close relationship to chemical pollution.

EEB European Environmental Bureau

THE WAY FORWARD: TOWARDS A TOXIC-FREE ENVIRONMENT

The CSS can be truly transformative, driving the detoxification and decarbonisation of our economies while creating millions of secure jobs and shifting from toxic and linear resource-intensive production models to safer and more sustainable circular ones that seek zero pollution and zero waste.

https://eeb.org/library/towards-a-toxic-free-environment/

1. Detoxify the planet & reduce exposure
2. Coherence and synergies
3. Substitution and green innovation

https://eeb.org/library/joint-policy-recommendations-for-better-eu-chemical-safety-laws/

EEB
European Environmental Bureau

DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

Amendment 2

*"Calls on the Commission to come up with a **comprehensive chemicals strategy** for sustainability to bring about the necessary **paradigm shift** to implement the zero-pollution ambition for **a toxic-free environment**, ensuring a **high level of protection** of human health, animal health and the environment, **minimising exposure** to hazardous chemicals, with particular regard to the **precautionary principle** and **effective protection** of workers, minimising the use of animal testing, **preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity**, **fostering innovation** in sustainable chemicals, as the basis for a European strategy for a **resource-efficient, circular, safe, sustainable economy**, while strengthening the **competitiveness** and innovation power of the Union's economy and ensuring the security of supply and boost employment within the EU;*

*Underlines that the forthcoming chemicals strategy for sustainability must also address the **sustainable sourcing of materials, energy intensity** in the production of chemicals throughout the supply chain, as well as **health, social and environmental standards, and human rights**"*

EEB
European Environmental Bureau

Tackling pollution for green recovery

Dr Pieternel Levelt
Professor
KNMI, TU Delft

Dr Leonardo Trasande
Professor, New York University of Medicine

Veronica Manfredi
Director, Quality of Life
European Commission

Dr Hans Bruyninckx
Director, European Environmental Agency

16 June 2020
15:30 - 16:45 CEST
Zoom

Password: 0s$7$04J
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/1-1vMJ_B6mhIGYns6WWcc6oEQqbYaaa8gSVKq_tezzBXIfSUj6KgaxBL4IGmu3E?startTime=1592314230000

EEB
European
Environmental
Bureau

THANK YOU!

www.eeb.org

@Green_Europe

@EuropeanEnvironmentalBureau

eeb@eeb.org

The EEB gratefully acknowledges the financial support from the LIFE Programme of the European Union. This communication reflects the organizers' views and does not commit the donors.