

## **“Can One Environment, One Health and Many Chemicals be Sustainable”**

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Abstract:

“With the adoption in 2015 of the Sustainable Development Goals the world embarked on an ambitious journey to obtain a sustainable future by 2030. Chemicals management has a specific target within Sustainable Development Goal 14 is “By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment”. The EU is settings its chemicals and waste policies, within the EU and internationally, to meet this goal.

The EU has also set an ambitious goal of moving towards a circular economy. Achieving circularity requires significant advances in product design, in material development, in collection and recycling/recovery. At the core are materials – as it is the material which gives the product its desired functionality and enables recycling or recovery. For those working in the chemicals area a material is a mixture.

To achieve the sustainable development goals in an EU moving towards a circular economy, requires innovation in chemistry to develop the chemicals which make up circular materials and which minimize the adverse impacts on human health and the environment. There is though much which needs to be put in place to achieve this: from chemicals and waste legislation, from research and industry. But meeting the challenge is a necessity if we want to protect our one environment, provide protection for all citizens and ensure that chemicals can be used to maintain our wellbeing!”