



Enhancing Industrial Competitiveness – The Chemicals Industry Package

As part of the Clean Industrial Deal, a “Chemicals Industry Package” was announced for the end of 2025, which is set to include specific initiatives to improve the industry’s competitiveness. In order to put the industry back on a sustainable growth path, VdL believes that a new approach to policy-making is needed. It is also crucial to introduce measurable relief for users of chemical substances, such as manufacturers of paints, coatings and printing inks.

Excessive regulation

Companies in the coatings and printing ink industry are confronted with a growing number of increasingly detailed regulations and reporting requirements. In addition, regulatory measures result in a dwindling range of raw materials available for the production of paints, coatings and printing inks. For formulators, including the manufacturers of paints, coatings and printing inks, this means that they are forced to constantly reformulate in order to substitute substances. At the same time, they are trying to maintain the functionality of their products for them to contribute to the green transformation.

Unleashing growth and innovation

To restore industrial competitiveness and innovation within the EU, announcements at the highest political level must be followed by concrete action at the working level on individual legislative projects. Furthermore, a clear and timely reduction of unnecessary regulatory burden, particularly in the chemical sector, is required - not with the aim of lowering the ambitions of the Green Deal, but to ensure that the EU continues to have a strong industrial base and the necessary resources to achieve them. The first omnibus package on sustainability can serve as a positive example here and must be complemented by others.

What we advocate for

Industrial Competitiveness:

- Set a legal framework with clear goals, but without minute and detailed provisions, to give industry the leeway to fulfil the requirements efficiently and flexibly
- An explicit and timely reduction of unnecessary regulatory burdens
- Address the competitiveness of the whole industry, instead of focussing on key technologies

Ensuring functionality and unleashing innovations for the transformation

- Chemical legislation must take the functionality of chemical products into account
- Tailored risk-based approaches instead of general bans

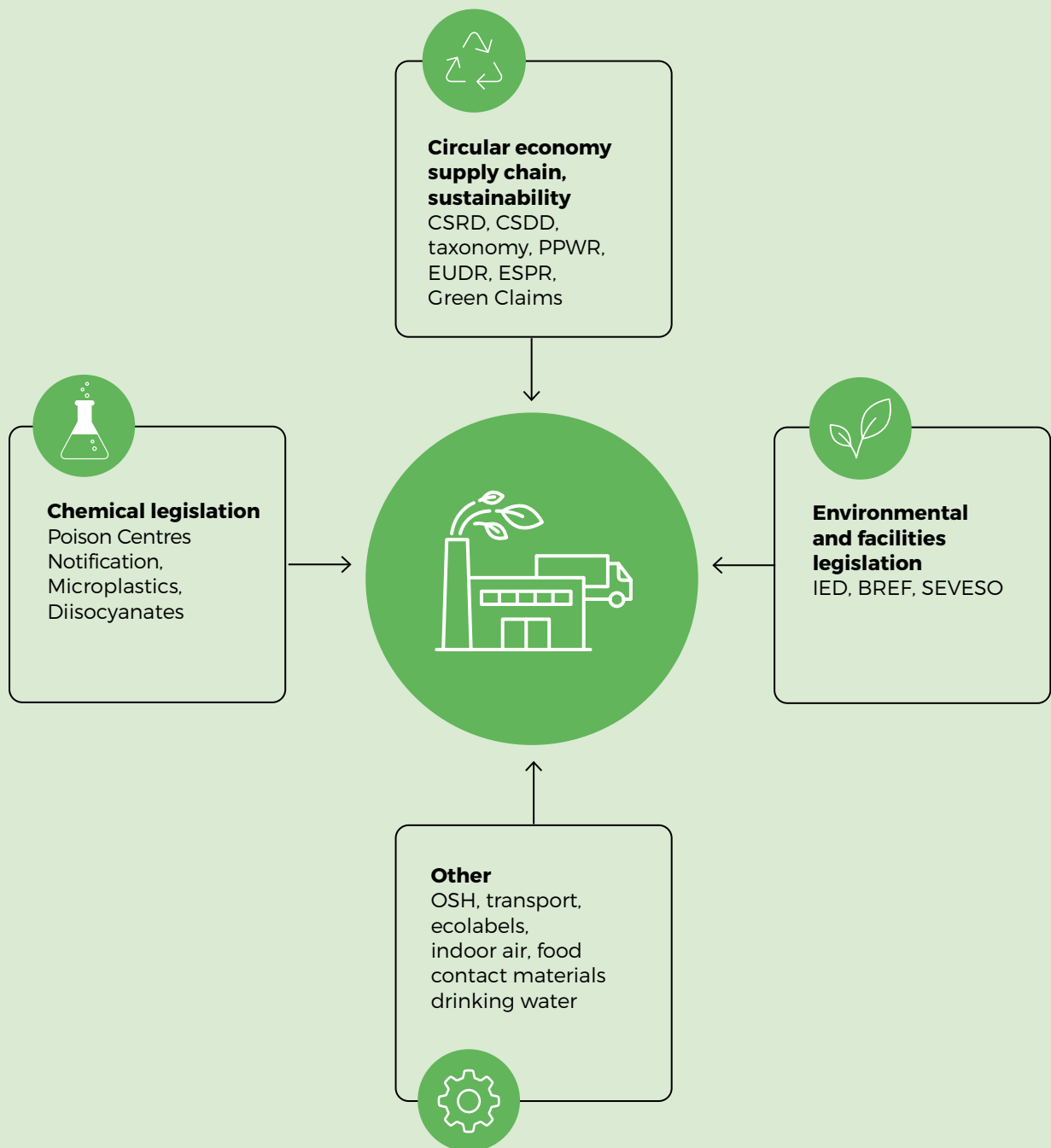
Chemicals Industry Package should be considered much broader than just REACH

REACH is at the heart of chemical legislation, but is only part of the regulatory load for formulators. Therefore, the framework for the chemical industry must prioritize subsequent alleviation (e.g. CLP, ESPR, BPR, PPWR).



High regulatory load

Producers of paints, coatings and inks are confronted with a myriad of regulatory requirements set by the EU legislation - REACH is just one of them.



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