

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, many 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.

Unleashing growth and innovation

It has been recognised at the highest political level that, in order to restore the competitiveness and innovative strength of the economy, a significant reduction of unnecessary bureaucratic burden is required. The corresponding commitments must also be implemented in concrete terms at the working level in relation to individual legislative proposals. The timely removal of unnecessary regulatory burdens is not intended to scale back the ambitions of the Green Deal; rather, it is necessary to ensure that the EU continues to have a strong industrial base and the necessary resources to meet those ambitions. The omnibus packages adopted to date (e.g. on the CSRD, CSDDD or CLP) can serve as positive examples. However, they must be implemented in a way that is practical in the legislative process and complemented by further measures.

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 fulfill 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

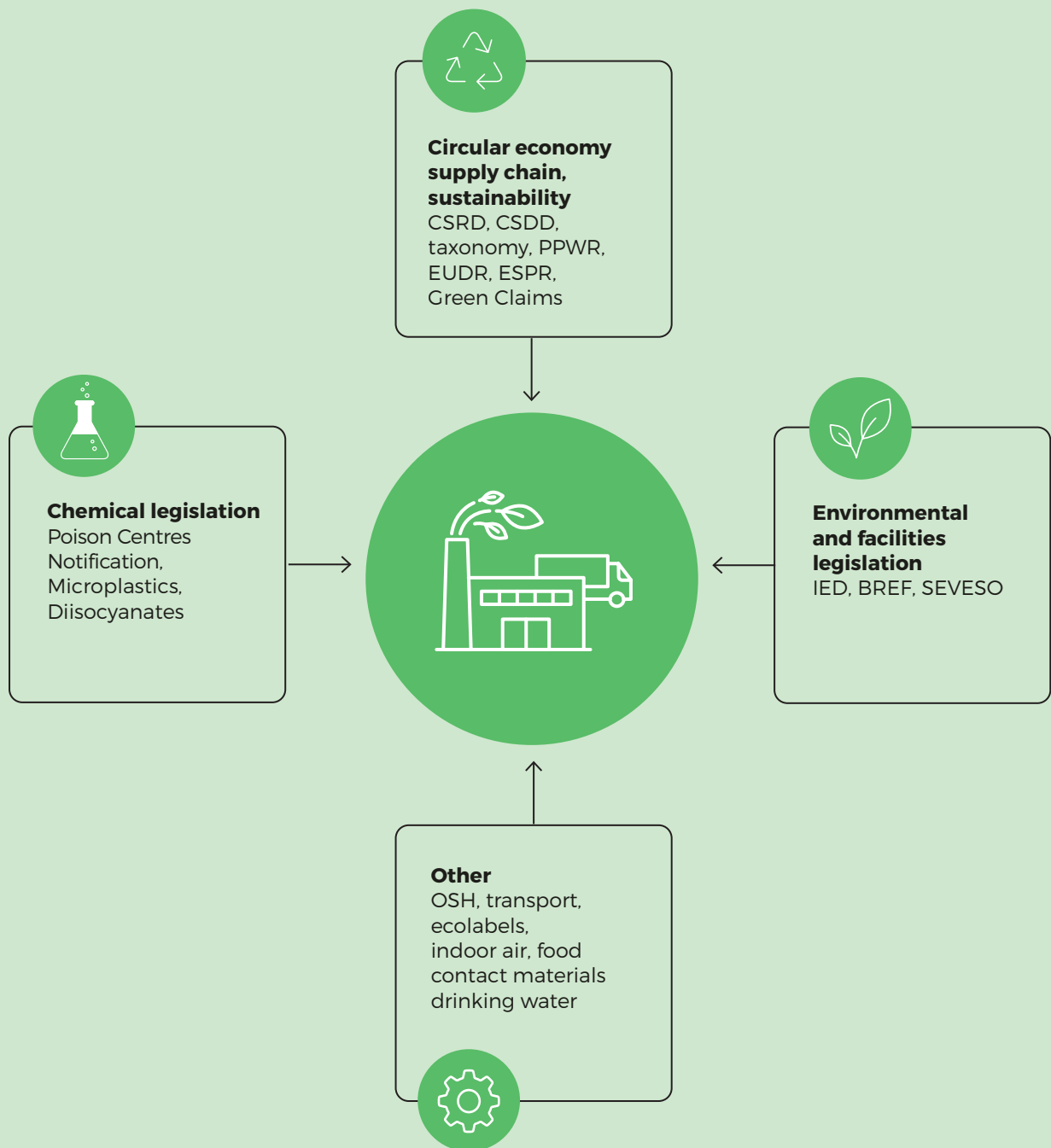
- Chemical legislation must take the functionality of chemical products into account
- Tailored risk-based approaches instead of general bans

Chemicals Industry Package should be considered broader than just REACH

REACH is at the heart of chemical legislation, but is only part of the regulatory burden for formulators. Therefore, the chemical industry needs further regulatory relief (e.g. 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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