

EU CHEMICALS STRATEGY MUST ENABLE PROGRESS IN SUSTAINABILITY, BASED ON SCIENCE

A.I.S.E. press statement

14 October 2020

A.I.S.E. welcomes the publication of the Commission's highly-anticipated Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability and its commitment to safety and sustainability, but reinforces the need for a sound scientific basis rather than generic hazard-based approaches.

A.I.S.E., as the voice of the detergents and maintenance products industry, supports an EU strategy for chemicals that prioritises the **protection of human health and the environment**. Detergents and maintenance products are key to the health of EU citizens - the recent pandemic has shown how critical good hygiene products and behaviours are, both in and outside the home. In this respect, **product safety** is of paramount importance to the industry and European chemicals legislation is already the most ambitious and stringent legal framework in the world.

Susanne Zänker, A.I.S.E. Director General said: *"The detergents and maintenance products industry in Europe is wholeheartedly committed to driving progress in sustainability. We call on all actors involved in the Chemicals Strategy to use science as the core principle to enable innovation."*

A strong and **innovative future for industry** is crucial, at a time of unprecedented disruptions to every aspect of the European economy. Ongoing investment in Europe is needed to drive economic recovery, and **business predictability** is key for such investment decisions.

In this context, A.I.S.E. appreciates the Strategy's acknowledgement of the REACH and CLP Regulations as the EU's cornerstones for regulating chemicals and welcomes its increased attention to **implementation and enforcement**.

Based on our contribution to the [Roadmap](#) in June, we reconfirm the industry's core priorities:

1. **A regulatory framework based on sound science and risk assessment**
2. **The need to foster innovation to inspire true progress in sustainability**
3. **A faster and more agile assessment and approval process for biocidal products**
4. **Consistent communication about product classification and leveraging digital opportunities**

A.I.S.E. is ready to embrace the innovation and changes that will be required to achieve the long-term goal of sustainability. We remain committed to engage in dialogue with the Commission, Competent Authorities and **all stakeholders** – such as through the proposed high-level roundtable - **to optimise the legislative framework**, whilst maintaining the highest standards on safety and environmental performance.

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About A.I.S.E.

A.I.S.E. is the International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Products. Based in Brussels, A.I.S.E. has been the voice of the industry to EU regulators for over 65 years. Membership consists of 29 national associations across Europe, 18 corporate members and 13 value chain partners. Through this extensive network, A.I.S.E. represents over 900 companies supplying household and professional cleaning products and services across Europe.

The industry is a substantial contributor to the European economy with an annual market value of €38 billion, directly employing 95 000 and 360 000 throughout the value chain. A.I.S.E. has a long history in leading voluntary industry initiatives that focus on sustainable design, manufacturing and consumption, product safety and safe use of products by consumers and professional customers. www.aise.eu

