

Some insights to how the EU (doesn't) work(s)

Experiences from EU Chemicals

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Good to know

- Staff in the EU institutions want to listen!
- Multiple options to be heard.
- The problem is to be understood!

‘What is the policy question science is answering’, compared to ‘What is the policy question policy thinks science is answering’.

EU Chemicals Management System

- Risk Assessment: What's the problem?
- Risk Management: How to reduce the risk to an acceptable level?
- Analysis of Alternatives: What alternatives exist?
- Impact Assessment: What is the cost of action and the cost of inaction?
- Decide!

Where does Economics come in

- Preparing EU Legislation
 - Data: What data must industry generate
 - Generic Risk: Risk Managing (often banning) substance uses based on their hazard
- Managing Chemicals within EU Legislation
 - Specific Risk: Risk Managing a (group of) chemicals based on specific information

Problems

- Data: With data you know there's a problem, without you guess there could be a problem.
- Alternatives: When does substituting one chemical by another less performing or more costly chemical actually matter and to who?
- Impact Assessment:
 - Cost of action/inaction fall on different people
 - How to include 'sustainability'