

# Chemicals in everyday life

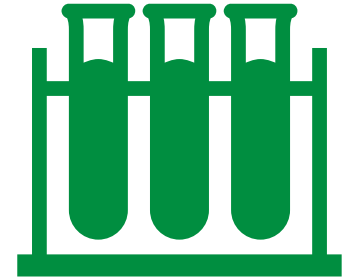
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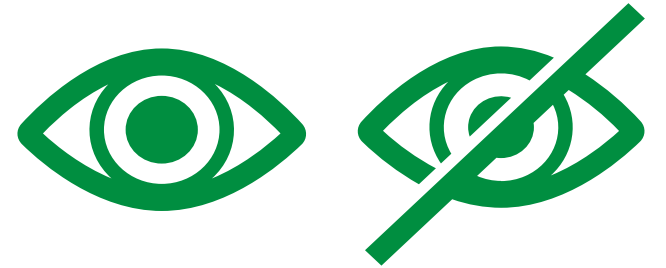
# What characterises chemicals?

- Many(!) different substances, but (maybe) only a few harmful ones
- Complex and dynamic field
  - Products, legislation and knowledge are moving
- Chemicals are difficult-to-handle substances
  - Invisible, fleeting, migrating
- Chemicals can be "necessary" - also in the green transition



# Sinners of the past and future

- Often the focus is on the harmful chemicals of the past – legacy substances that are banned but still in circulation.
- Also concern for the chemicals of the future – substances used today that could be potentially harmful in the future.
- Often asymmetric information
  - Manufacturers have greater knowledge than the regulator
- A global problem – challenging with a solitary Danish approach



# A challenge to the circular economy

- Content of harmful chemical substances can hinder reuse and recycling.
- Great focus on constituents and documentation in the EU – but what about imports from other countries?



# What could be key questions?

- How do we get control of (the harmful) chemicals?
- Which regulation is the right one?
- Do economic instruments have a role?
- Can we prevent future problems with chemicals?
- Are cost-benefit analyses a good tool?
- Is reducing the number of chemical substances a goal in itself?
- How do we ensure greater transparency for the regulator and consumers?
- Are harmful chemicals a bomb to the circular economy?



# Presentations

Bjørn Hansen, tidligere administrerende direktør, ECHA:

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

Christine Ellemann, Direktør Fødevareinstituttet, DTU

*Chemicals all around us*

Henrik Søren Larsen, kontorchef, Miljøministeriet

*Chemicals – essentials*

*The benefits, the hazards*

*- the regulation to control the risk*