

## Zero Pollution Action Plan

### Subject Overview

The EU Commission has developed an action plan for Zero Pollution. The goal is to better prevent, manage, monitor, and report on the pollution of water, air, and soil. The aim is also to separate economic growth from an increase in emissions, strengthen the connection between environmental protection, sustainable development, and human well-being, and mainstream the Zero Pollution concept into all regulations.

The Zero Pollution plan serves as a starting point and a cross-cutting idea for future legislative projects. It impacts various initiatives in energy, industry, transportation, agriculture, biodiversity, and particularly climate issues and chemical strategy. Zero Pollution is a key part of the EU's Green Deal.

The Zero Pollution package includes several draft directives or proposals for revisions, such as the revision of the urban wastewater directive, the drinking water directive, the healthy soil directive, and environmental targets related to water.

### Objective of the Chemical Industry

The chemical industry is strongly committed to the principle of "preventing harm to humans and the environment" and continuously seeks to improve by reducing its emissions. This commitment can be verified through our Responsible Care indicators. The products and solutions produced by the chemical industry play a crucial role in achieving the Zero Pollution goal, which, according to the EU Commission, does not mean zero emissions but rather a balance between potential harm and benefits, with a net positive impact.

Crucial for the realization of the Zero Pollution goal is broad cooperation and open dialogue among various stakeholders to create an effective policy framework that enables the significant investments required to implement the Green Deal as a whole. This policy framework should build upon existing and proven legislation.

The chemical industry is closely monitoring the draft proposals for the urban wastewater directive and the directive concerning soil health.

### Current Situation and Timeline

The EU Commission released its Zero Pollution Action Plan concept in May 2020. In October 2022, a new Zero Pollution package was published, addressing air quality, urban wastewater, and changes to the substance listings of the Water Framework Directive. In the summer of 2023, a proposal for a directive concerning soil health was published.

### Additional information and materials:

[Read more on the Zero Pollution Action Plan](#)

## **SOIL**

### **What This Is About**

As part of the EU Green Deal, the EU released the Soil Strategy in 2021, with the vision that by 2050, all EU soil ecosystems will be healthy, requiring determined changes in this decade. As a measure to improve soil quality, the Commission released the Soil Health Directive in the summer of 2023. It includes elements such as regional monitoring of soil conditions, harmonization of soil sampling and analysis, continuous monitoring, principles for sustainable land use, identification of contaminated areas based on risk assessment, and the implementation of risk reduction measures.

### **The Chemical Industry's Goal**

The chemical industry emphasizes risk-based assessments and actions in various evaluations and activities related to soil. Through anticipation and strong environmental expertise, soil contamination is sought to be prevented using the best possible methods.

### **Current Situation and Timeline**

The European Commission released the Soil Strategy as part of the Green Deal program in 2021. The Commission's proposal is under consultation in the fall of 2023. The proposal will be discussed in the Parliament and the Council in the fall of 2023, but a more specific timeline is not yet available.

### **Additional Information:**

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