The chemicals strategy for sustainability – will it widen the gulf between the EU and UK regulatory regimes

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About CHEM Trust

- A charity working mainly at EU level to protect humans & wildlife from harmful chemicals
- Working with scientists, technical processes and decision makers, in partnership with other civil society group
- Focus on identification of, and action on, endocrine disrupting chemicals
- See our blog & twitter for more: https://chemtrust.org @chemtrust
Risk to GB outside of REACH

The UK should remain within EU REACH – or negotiate to re-enter it, e.g. as an associate member of ECHA

**BREACH: risks to human health and the environment:**

- No commitment to mirror EU outcomes on hazardous chemicals, or update regulations in line with REACH
- ‘Empty’ database - less information on chemical properties & uses
- A more closed, less transparent process
- Less capacity and expertise
- Strong risk of weaker regulation vs EU
  - No commitment to follow EU decisions
  - History shows that UK tends to be less willing to regulate than EU

- Risk of trade deals which make things worse – e.g. US is currently pushing its ineffective regulatory approach in trade deals
2021 – some key actions:

- **Roadmap to prioritise restrictions under REACH** for the most harmful chemicals.
- Amend the **CLP Regulation** to introduce **new hazard classes**, e.g. on EDs, PBTs/vPvBs
- **PFAS** - emissions from industrial plants; new legal requirements on PFAS in products (2021-22)
Potential Brexit Scenarios

No deal:
• Negotiations likely to restart in 2021, with UK outside single market

Thin deal:
• Non-regression mechanism?
• Negotiations to build further chapters/annexes over years ahead
Conclusions & actions

• UK REACH will not be as protective to human health and the environment as EU REACH

• We want to continue working with other stakeholders to keep the UK close to ECHA & REACH
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• For more, see: https://chemtrust.org/brexit/