



**CHEMTrust**

Protecting humans and wildlife  
from harmful chemicals

## *Global Regulatory Trends*

**Progress being made, but  
major challenges remain**

CW Regulatory Summit Europe 2019  
14-15<sup>th</sup> October 2019

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# CHEMTrust

Protecting humans and wildlife  
from harmful chemicals

## About CHEM Trust

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

The screenshot shows the CHEMTrust website with the following content:

- Navigation:** About, Our work, Chemical problems, Health impacts, Wildlife impacts, Chemicals policy, Take Action
- Main Article:**
  - Title:** Companies putting public health at risk by replacing one harmful chemical with similar, potentially toxic, alternatives
  - Author:** by ANNA WATSON on MARCH 27, 2018 EDIT
  - Text:** A new report "*From BPA to BPZ: a toxic soup? How companies switch from a known hazardous chemical to one with similar properties, and how regulators could stop them*", published today by CHEM Trust, highlights how industry is being allowed to replace the well-known hormone disrupting chemical bisphenol A (BPA), with very similar chemicals that may also be harmful.
  - Text:** BPA is a chemical that has been used in thermal paper till receipts, polycarbonate water bottles, and food can linings. It's also a common contaminant of house dust. It was first found to be able to mimic the female hormone in the 1930s
- Image:** A graphic titled "THE STORY BEHIND BISPHENOLS" showing a chemical structure, a warning symbol, and the word "PROTEST". Below it, another graphic says "WRONG!" with a chemical structure.
- POPULAR POSTS:**
  - CHEM Trust is looking for a new chemicals and Brexit campaigner
  - Companies putting public health at risk by replacing one harmful chemical with similar, potentially toxic, alternatives
  - Medicines in the Environment: A Growing Threat to Wildlife and Drinking Water
  - PFCS: In our blood, in polar bears - and in packets of microwave popcorn! (updated with Danish controls)
  - Hormone disrupting chemical Bisphenol A can transfer from receipts into our bloodstream
- @CHEMTRUST ON TWITTER:** Includes the CHEM Trust logo and the handle @CHEMTrust.



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# Progress...>20 y of chemical regulation

## Pre-EU REACH

- I started working on chemicals policy over 25y ago
- Wrote assessment of Alkylphenols (EDCs) at end 1994
  - Still talking about them now, e.g. octylphenol in authorisation
- Wrote EDC website in 1995
  - E.g. phthalates, bisphenols, brominated flame retardants (BFRs)
  - Still talking about them too!

## Post-EU REACH

- More data on chemicals, theoretically a fairly comprehensive system
- **But** industry moves from problem chemical to similar ones
  - Still talking about the same chemical groups e.g BFRs, bisphenols; see <https://chemtrust.org/toxicsoup/>
- New problems still emerging
  - E.g. PFAS



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## Some problems with REACH, e.g.

- **Registration**

- Poor quality registration data
- Lacking data on neurodevelopmental impacts – see [chemtrust.org/brain](https://chemtrust.org/brain)

- **Evaluation**

- Too slow
- Too easy for industry to create delays
- E.g. Disputing need for more data
  - E.g. Decabromodiphenyl ethane ('the other Deca') – accumulating in polar bears yet still in routine use in furniture
- Or delivering data late

- **Restriction**

- Too slow
- Not enough grouping, see <https://chemtrust.org/toxicsoup/>
- Little consideration of mixtures
- Too many exemptions to controls

- **SVHC & Authorisation**

- Too slow; Not enough grouping
- Safer alternatives not always recognised
- Monetisation of health costs problematic: <https://chemtrust.org/putting-a-price-on-health/>



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# New EU Commission, new action?

## New “Zero Pollution” strategy

- A chance to tackle air pollution, water pollution and body pollution (our bodies & those of wildlife)
- A chance to fill in the holes:
  - Eg. gaps in EU regulation of chemicals in food contact materials & recycling
  - Inadequate action on EDCs, Mixtures and protection of susceptible groups

**Needs real action, not just words**

## Beyond the EU

- We need a zero pollution strategy for the world
- Stockholm convention important
- Welcome EU’s investment in increasing regulatory capacity
  - REACH outcomes should be an important signal to regulators throughout the world.

**An important start has been made  
– but still a long way to go.....**