



# A blueprint for sustainable chemicals in a circular economy

**PROGRAMME | 24 MAY 2023**



## About the event

---

While the chemicals industry is an integral component of modern society, the European Union aims to transition to safer alternatives in order to achieve greater sustainability and better health protection.

To do so, sustainable chemistry must be embraced to stimulate innovation across all sectors to design and discover new chemicals, advanced materials, production processes, and product stewardship practices that provide improved performance and value while meeting sustainability goals.

This GLOBE EU event will examine the EU's chemicals policy and regulatory framework, emphasizing the importance of science-based decision-making to achieve systemic change. Speakers will discuss how to foster sustainability, improved exposure control, and promote innovation throughout the chemicals value chain.

Speakers include representatives from the European Commission, the European Parliament, the OECD, NGOs, academia, as well as industry.



## About GLOBE EU




---

GLOBE EU is a leading platform within the European Parliament fostering discussion on EU policy and coordinating political initiatives among like-minded legislators in the European Parliament and at Member State level.

GLOBE EU seeks to facilitate structured discussions between Members of the European Parliament, Commission officials, specialists, and a diversity of stakeholders through high-level round tables, workshops and conferences.

In addition, GLOBE EU engages in partnerships with organisations whose objectives on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals are complementary. These partnerships form the basis for enhanced cooperation on issues of mutual concern and go above and beyond the support which GLOBE EU enjoys from a variety of stakeholders, notably in the preparation of topical events.

The partnerships include the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), as well as the World Resources Institute (WRI).

-  Wednesday 24 May 2023
-  16:00-19:00 CET
-  European Parliament, Spinelli Building (ASP) 6D128 *(above the library)*

## Programme

---

- 16:00** Welcome address by **MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen**, President of GLOBE EU
- 16:10** Introductory remarks by **MEP Maria Spyra**
- 16:20** Insight from the chemical value chain
- Case study presented by **Beth Uhlhorn**, Global Product Safety & Compliance Director, Dow
  - Case study presented by **Myriam Tryjefaczka**, Sustainability and Public Affairs Director, Tarkett
  - Case study presented by **Alette Brochier**, Business Director General Industrial, Sherwin-Williams
- 16:50** A systemic approach enabling sustainable chemicals  
Moderated by MEP Maria Spyra
- **Eeva Leinala**, Principal Administrator of the Risk Reduction Programme, OECD
  - **Frida Hök**, Deputy Director, ChemSec
  - **Roberto Rinaldi**, Policy Officer, Transition Pathways for Chemicals, DG GROW, European Commission
  - **Wolfgang Dekant**, Professor of Toxicology, University of Würzburg
- 17:40** Fostering innovation through Safe & Sustainable by Design criteria
- **Jürgen Tiedje**, Head of Unit Industrial Transformation, DG RTD, European Commission
- 17:50** Closing remarks by **MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen**
- 18:00** Networking cocktail at the Multifunctional Restaurant *(ground floor)*
- 19:00** End of the event

*Please note that to enter in the European Parliament, an individual accreditation is required.  
If you do not have an EP badge, make sure to inform the organiser.*



## Speakers

---



### Sirpa Pietikäinen

Member of the European Parliament & President of GLOBE EU

Sirpa Pietikäinen is a Member of the European People's Party (EPP) in the European Parliament and has previously served as Minister of Environment in Finland (1991-1995). She started her political career at the Finnish Parliament in 1983 until 2003. She first came to the European Parliament to replace Alexander Stubb in 2008 and was re-elected in 2009 and 2014.

In the European Parliament, Sirpa Pietikäinen is member of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee (ECON), the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee (FEMM), and substitute member of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee (ENVI) and the Tax Matters Subcommittee (FISC).

She has been driving parliamentary work as rapporteur and shadow rapporteur on a number of files including the report on Circular Economy, the EU Taxonomy Regulation, the Sustainable Europe Investment Plan, the EU Gender Action Plan III, and the Equal Pay Directive.

She holds position of trust in many organisations including Mieli ry (Finnish Association for Mental Health), the Alzheimer Society of Finland, Alzheimer Europe, The Martha Organization, and KONE Foundation. Sirpa Pietikäinen holds a Master of Economics from the Helsinki School of Economics and still teaches university courses on negotiations theory and practices.



### Maria Spyraiki

Member of the European Parliament

Maria Spyraiki is a Greek Member of the European Parliament since 2014. She is now serving her second mandate with Nea Demokratia party – European People's Party (EPP), as a member of the Committees Industry, Research, and Energy (ITRE) and Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI). She is also co-chair of the Intergroup on Climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development and Vice-Chair at Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China.

During this mandate she has been the rapporteur on the Motion for Resolution on Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability. She was also the rapporteur of the report "Maximizing the energy efficiency of buildings" at ENVI Committee and the shadow rapporteur on behalf of EPP on "Energy Storage" report and on the Public Loan Facility in the Just Transition Mechanism at ITRE Committee.

Maria Spyraiki's first degree is in Chemistry at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. She has an MSc in Energy Law, Business, Regulation and Policy from International Hellenic University, Greece. She has worked for 22 years as a journalist, until 2014, when she was elected MEP.

## Speakers

---



### **Eeva Leinala**

Principal Administrator for Programmes on Risk Management, OECD

Dr. Eeva Leinala is the Principal Administrator for Programmes on Risk Management, Good Laboratory Practices and Mutual Acceptance of Data at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Eeva collaborates with OECD member countries and stakeholders to advance approaches for risk reduction of chemicals as well as leading the programme on Good Laboratory Practices and Mutual Acceptance of Data.

Projects related to risk reduction include approaches to risk management, shifting to safer alternatives to PFAS, approaches for substitution of harmful chemicals and alternatives assessment, and projects related to sustainable chemistry. Eeva is also collaborating on projects related to design of sustainable plastics, improving socioeconomic assessment of chemicals management, chemicals policy and the chemicals/waste policy interface.

Previously, Eeva led the Hazard Assessment Programme at the OECD and prior to the OECD. She worked in the area of chemical management at Health Canada for 12 years and holds a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Queen's University in Canada.



### **Frida Hök**

Deputy Director, ChemSec

Frida Hök has a Master of Science degree in Environmental Science. She has a solid background in the field of environmental NGOs.

Frida joined ChemSec 2009 and is responsible for driving ChemSec strategic policy work as well as coordinating all ChemSec projects.

During the years at ChemSec, her work has focused mainly on the implementation of REACH, the benefits of a strict regulation also for business, the need to strengthen the voice of alternative providers and more lately the need for an ambitious chemical strategy.

## Speakers

---



### **Roberto Rinaldi**

Policy Officer, Transition Pathways for Chemicals,  
DG GROW, European Commission

Roberto Rinaldi is an economist who joined the European Commission (Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs) as Policy Officer in December 2021.

Here, he is working on the EU chemical industry's transition pathway, as well as on the Globally Harmonised System (GHS) of classification and labelling of chemicals developed by the United Nations, and on the Good Laboratory Practice.

His former professional experience includes working as a policy officer on environmental and climate change issues at subnational level in the European Committee of the Regions and in a not-for-profit think tank.

He holds a MSc in environmental economics & environmental management, and a MSc in European economy & business law; following bachelor studies in business administration.



### **Wolfgang Dekant**

Professor of Toxicology, University of Würzburg

Dr. Wolfgang Dekant is Professor of Toxicology at the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology of the University of Würzburg. He has a track record of internationally acclaimed research on the biotransformation of xenobiotics and studies related to interactions of biologically reactive intermediates with cellular macromolecules and function.

His research focuses on the application of mechanistic toxicology to risk assessment of synthetic chemicals. He was a member of the Scientific Committee on Toxicity, Ecology and the Environment (CSTEE) of the European Union, the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER), the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) and the Food Additives Panel of EFSA

## Speakers

---



### Jürgen Tiedje

Head of Unit Industrial Transformation, DG RTD, European Commission

Jürgen Tiedje is the Head of Unit for Industrial Transformation at the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation at the European Commission.

Prior he was Head of the Advanced Manufacturing Systems and Biotechnologies Unit at the European Commission, where he managed and oversaw the funding of around 260 research projects focusing on advanced manufacturing processes under the Horizon 2020 program and coordinated the work around contractual Public-Private Partnerships within the Commission.

A trained lawyer, Tiedje joined the European Commission in 1992 and has occupied different positions in European policy making since then, including within industry, services and financial services.



### Beth Uhlhorn

Global Product Safety & Compliance Director, Dow

Beth Uhlhorn serves as Global Director of Product Safety and Compliance for Dow. In this role, she sits on Dow's Environment, Health, Safety, and Sustainability (EHS&S) Leadership Team, and has oversight for Dow's global product safety program. She leads Dow's professionals in the fields of Product Stewardship, Product Regulatory, Hazard Communications, and Toxicology, Environmental Research, and Consulting (TERC). Uhlhorn also leads Dow's Safer Materials focus area, one of three key sustainability areas for Dow.

Prior to this role, she held several roles in Product Stewardship and Product Sustainability, and served as Sustainability Program Manager for Nature and Ecosystem Services at Dow, where she oversaw design and implementation of Dow's 2025 Sustainability Goal to Value Nature. She has also held several finance positions throughout the Company, including Finance Manager with both Dow's Construction Chemicals business unit and Dow Kokam.

Before joining Dow, Uhlhorn worked in the non-profit sector with the World Wildlife Fund. There, she was a research associate on the Conservation Finance team and later helped banks create and enforce environmental policies. She has also served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Cameroon, West Africa, where she trained farmers in natural fertilization techniques and developed small agricultural businesses.

Beth holds dual MBA and MS degrees through the Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise at the University of Michigan. She also received a BA in environmental science and political science from the University of St. Thomas, in St Paul, Minnesota.



## Speakers

---



### **Myriam Tryjefaczka**

Sustainability and Public Affairs Director, Tarkett

Myriam Tryjefaczka joined the Tarkett Group in 2015 where she holds the position of Sustainability and Public affairs director for the EMEA division.

Tarkett has developed an eco-design approach based on Cradle to Cradle® principles to close the loop for floorcoverings. This includes the development of ReStart® take back programs and recycling technologies. Collaboration and Transparency are key elements supporting Tarkett's shift towards Circular economy.

In her role, Myriam participates in the activities of European industry associations and think tanks in the field of circular economy and construction sector. She follows the development of the European green Deal and circular economy related policies, REACH revision and transparency requirements, the current revision of Construction product regulation, the development of Extended producers' responsibility for building and construction materials and products scheme in France, to mention a few.

Prior to Tarkett, Myriam has developed thorough expertise on sustainability and public affairs at Camfil, a leading manufacturer of clean air solutions, where she participated in the development of EPBD harmonized standards on indoor environment quality.



### **Alette Brochier**

Business Director, General Industrial Coatings, Sherwin-Williams

Alette Brochier is Business Director General Industrial at Sherwin-Williams Europe. She joined the company in 2012 where she held previously Business Manager position and Product Management Director role for the EMEA division.

Sherwin-Williams has developed Powdura® ECO powder coatings which are a next-level approach to sustainability. This transformative product collection elevates powder coating sustainability to new heights – providing customers a more eco-conscious solution to product protection, color and performance. The innovation behind Powdura ECO powder coatings is extraordinary. Plastic waste converts into a durable, high-performing polyester resin that contains 25% post-consumer recycled plastic (rPET).

Alette is participating to the promotion of Powdura ECO for various Industrial segments such as Design, Building Products, Furniture. Alette has a Chemistry Engineer diploma specialised in coatings. She started her career as Development Chemist then Marketing and Sales position in international coatings companies



## Notes

---



We look forward to  
welcoming you!