



European Chemical Industry Prospects

ECRN-CoR Joint Event

Brussels, 07 June 2017

Timoteo de la Fuente

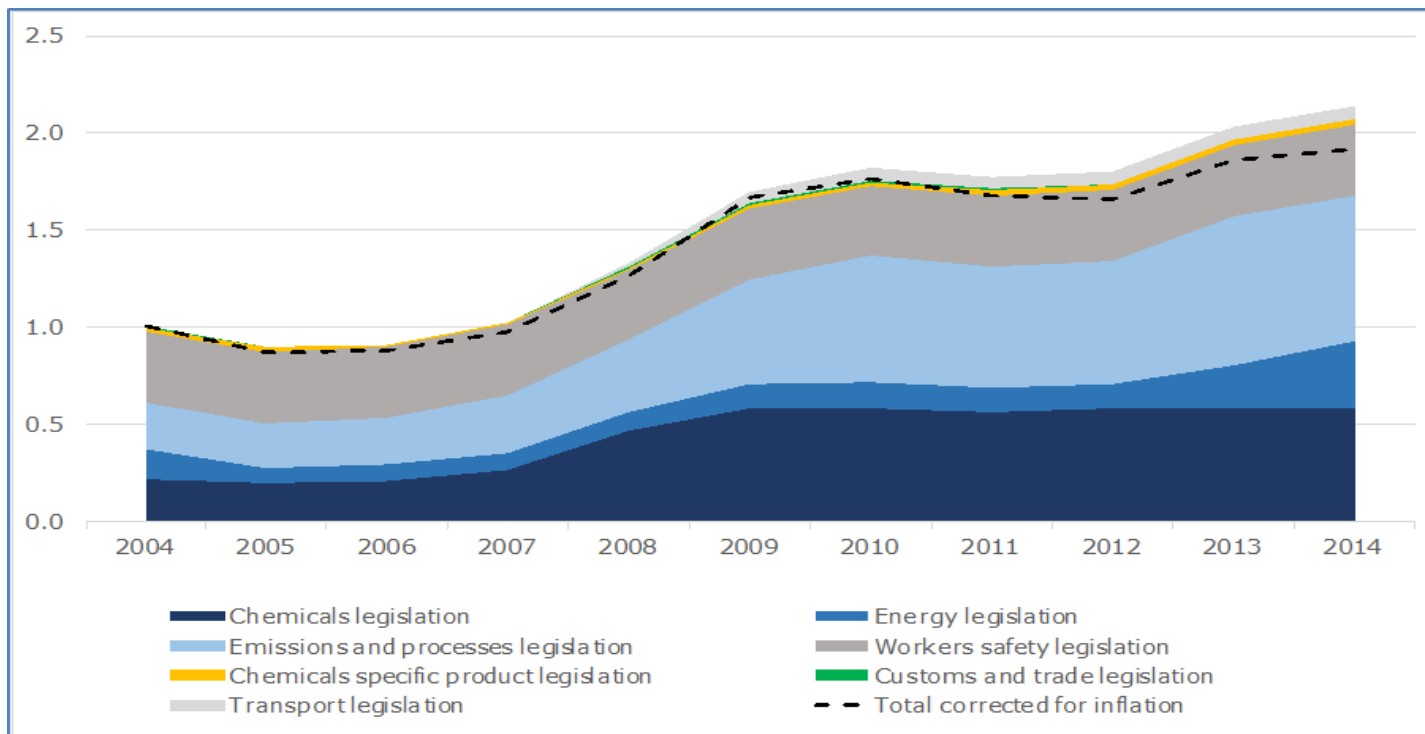
DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (GROW)

Unit D.2 Chemicals

Importance of the EU chemicals industry

- Key contributor to jobs and growth in the EU
- The EU chemical industry represents around 1.1% of EU GDP, Sales > 500 B€, trade surplus closed to 50 B€, direct employment > 1.1 M people
- Key supplier of many downstream sectors. Innovations in the chemical sector are key for the whole EU manufacturing industry
- Energy-intensive sector, high resource efficiency achieved, production decoupled from energy consumption
- Significant cumulative regulatory costs

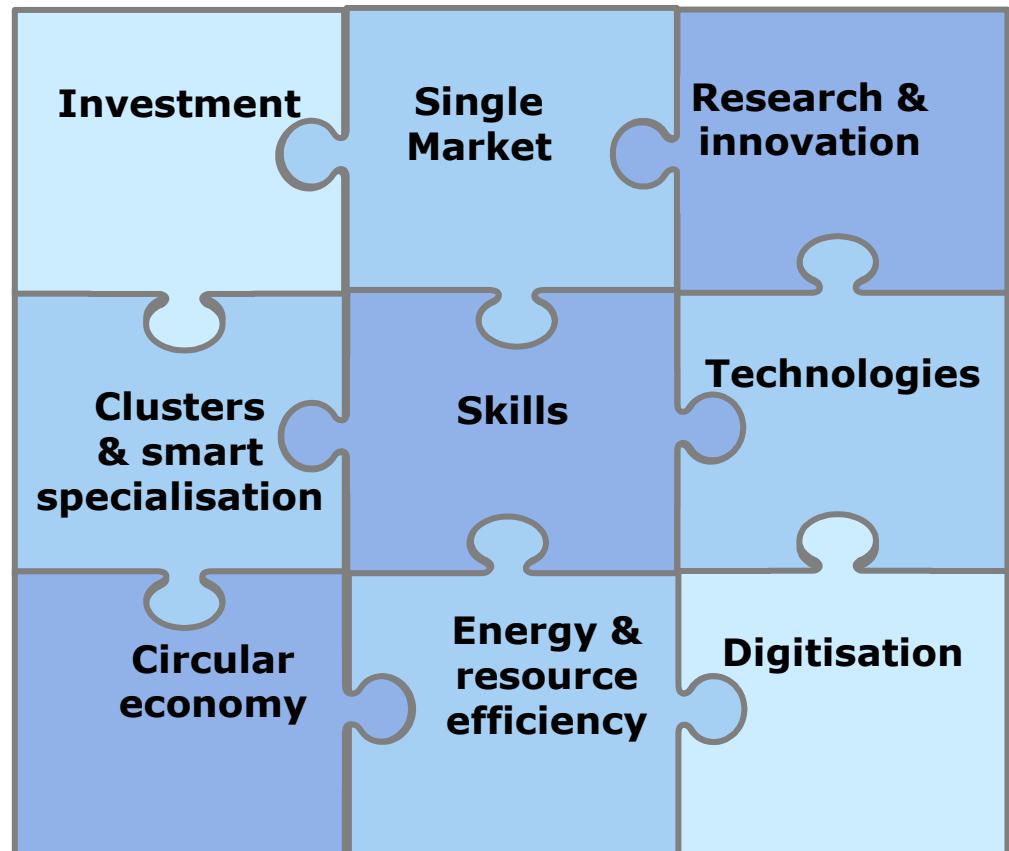
Chemicals industry: regulatory costs



Evolution of costs (2004-2014) (*index 2004=1*)

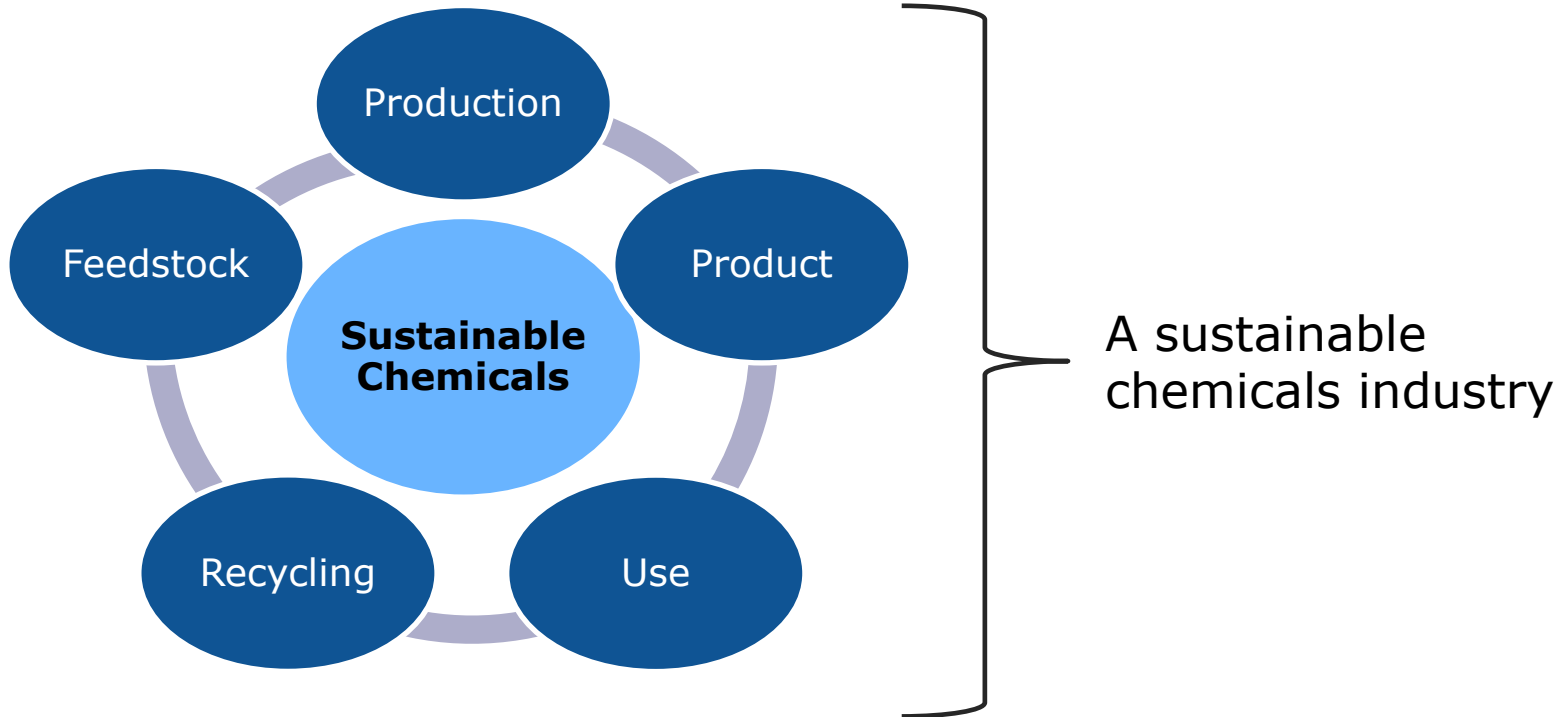
Policies for the chemical industry

Industrial dimension
integrated across
policy areas

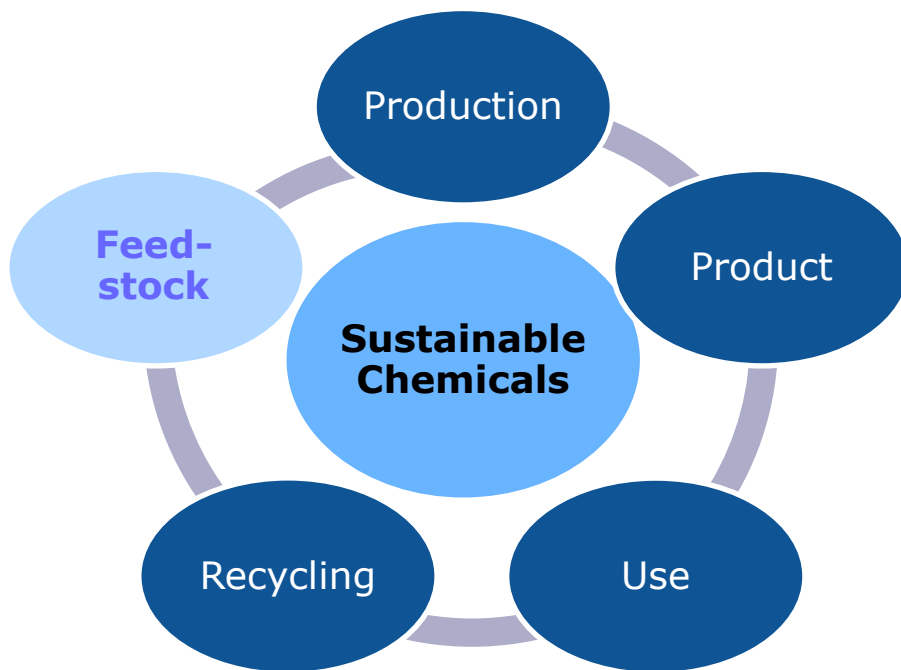


Sustainable chemicals

Covering the full lifecycle



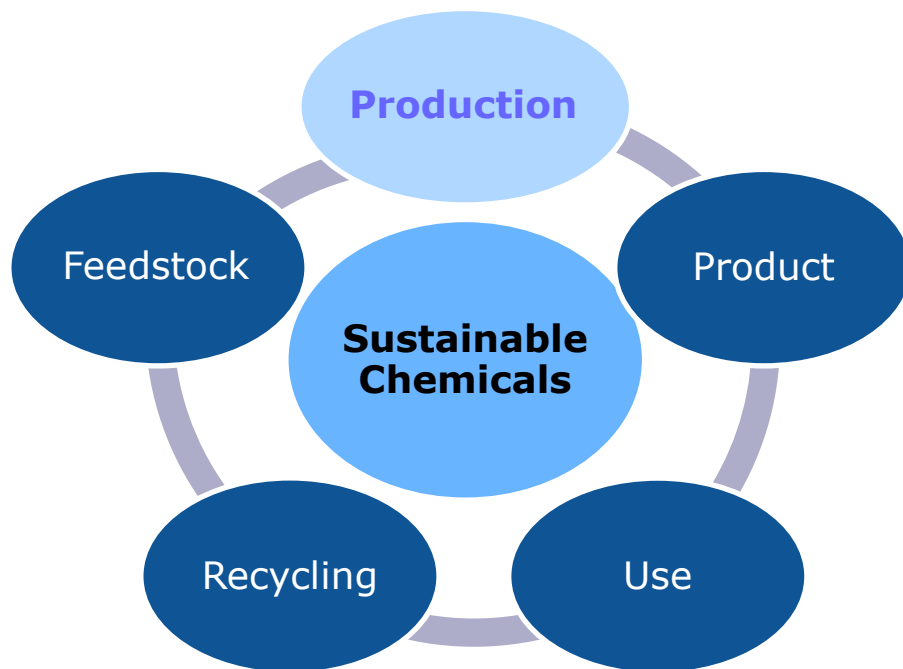
Sustainable chemicals



Sustainable feedstock

- Diversification of feedstock
- Sustainable biomass
- Recycled plastics
- Re-use of sustainable CO₂

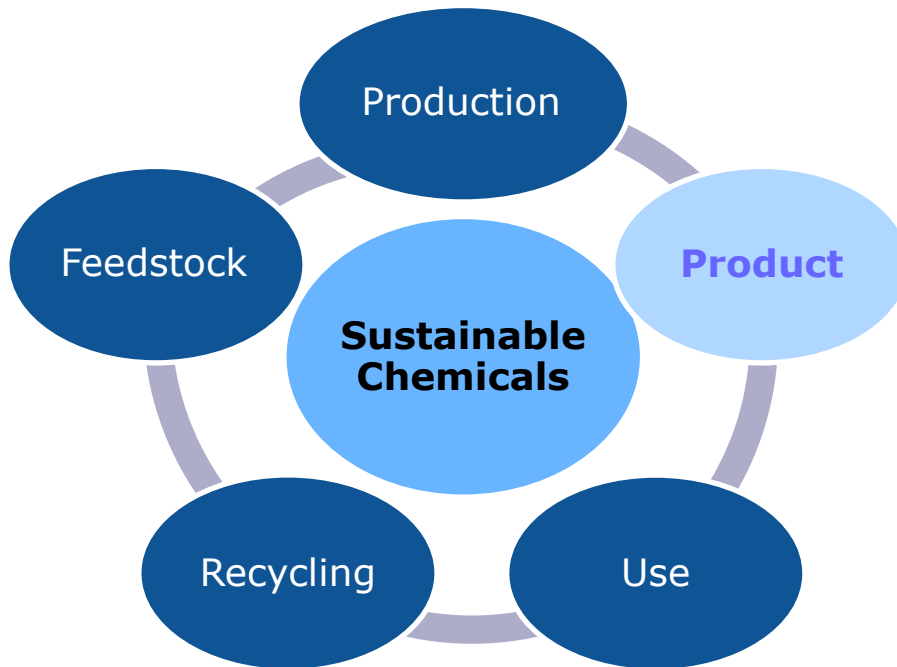
Sustainable chemicals



Sustainable production

- Industrial symbiosis
- Integration of industries
- Resource efficiency
- New business models
- Process innovation
- Worker protection

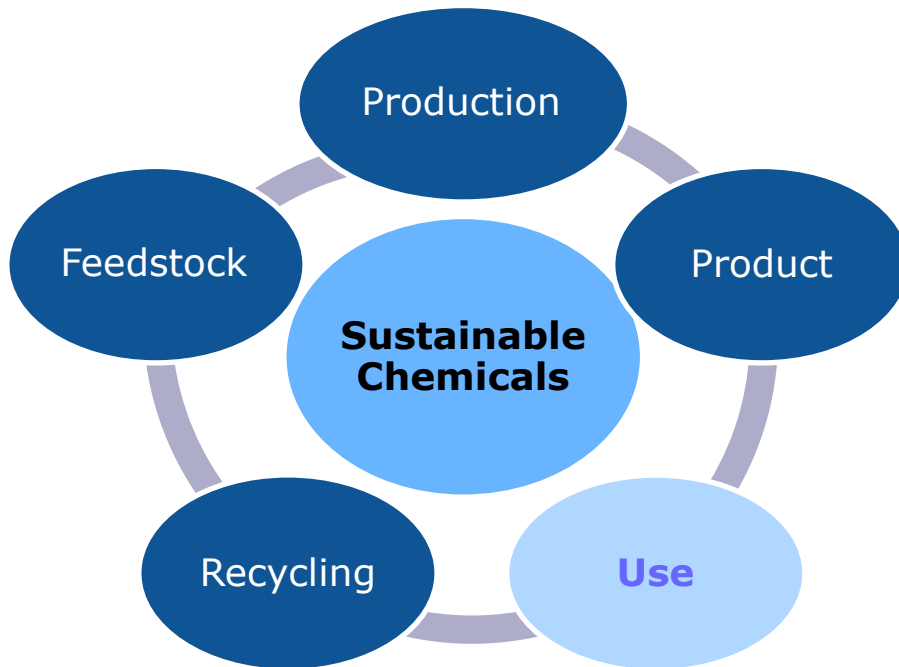
Sustainable chemicals



Sustainable products

- New functionalities
- Product safety
- Biodegradability
- Saving materials, energy, water

Sustainable chemicals

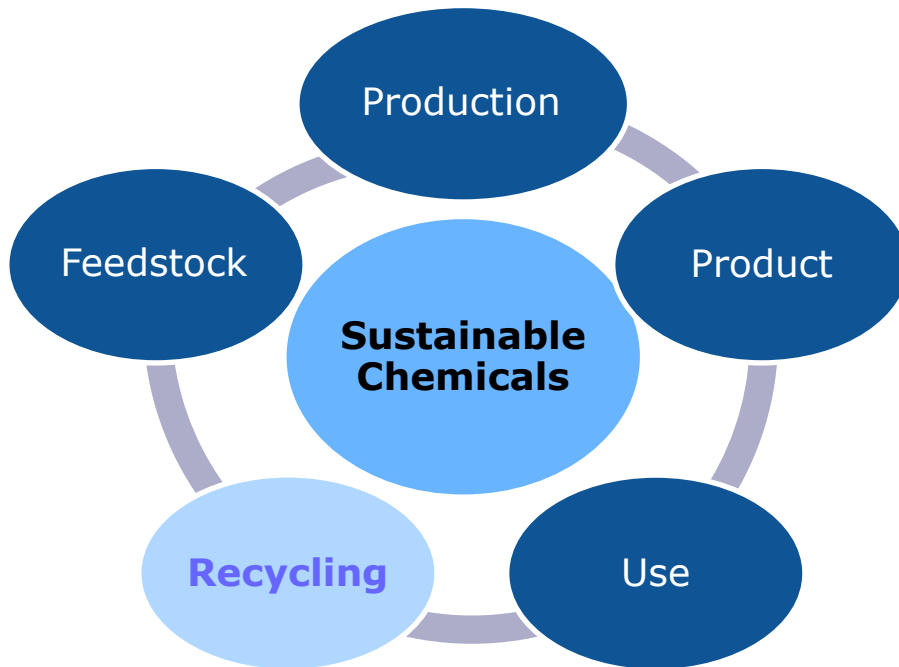


Sustainable use

- Consumer information (on safety, sustainability, etc.)

e.g. effective & efficient labelling (CLP and other legislation)

Sustainable chemicals



Sustainable recycling

- Recyclability & re-usability
- Recovery of energy
- Chemical recycling

On-going actions

- **Better Chemicals Regulation**
(ensuring that chemicals legislation is fit-for-purpose)
 - Fitness check on chemicals legislation (excluding REACH)
 - REACH REFIT evaluation
- **Circular economy action plan**
 - Chemicals-products-waste interface
 - Plastics strategy
 - Revision of the Fertilisers Regulation
- **7th Environment Action Plan** (non-toxic environment)
- **Supporting regions**
(European Sustainable Chemicals Support Service)
- **Supporting SMEs to substitute substances of potential concern**
- **Lifecycle Assessments studies and methodologies**

etc.

Questions

GROW-D2@ec.europa.eu