



**EEB**

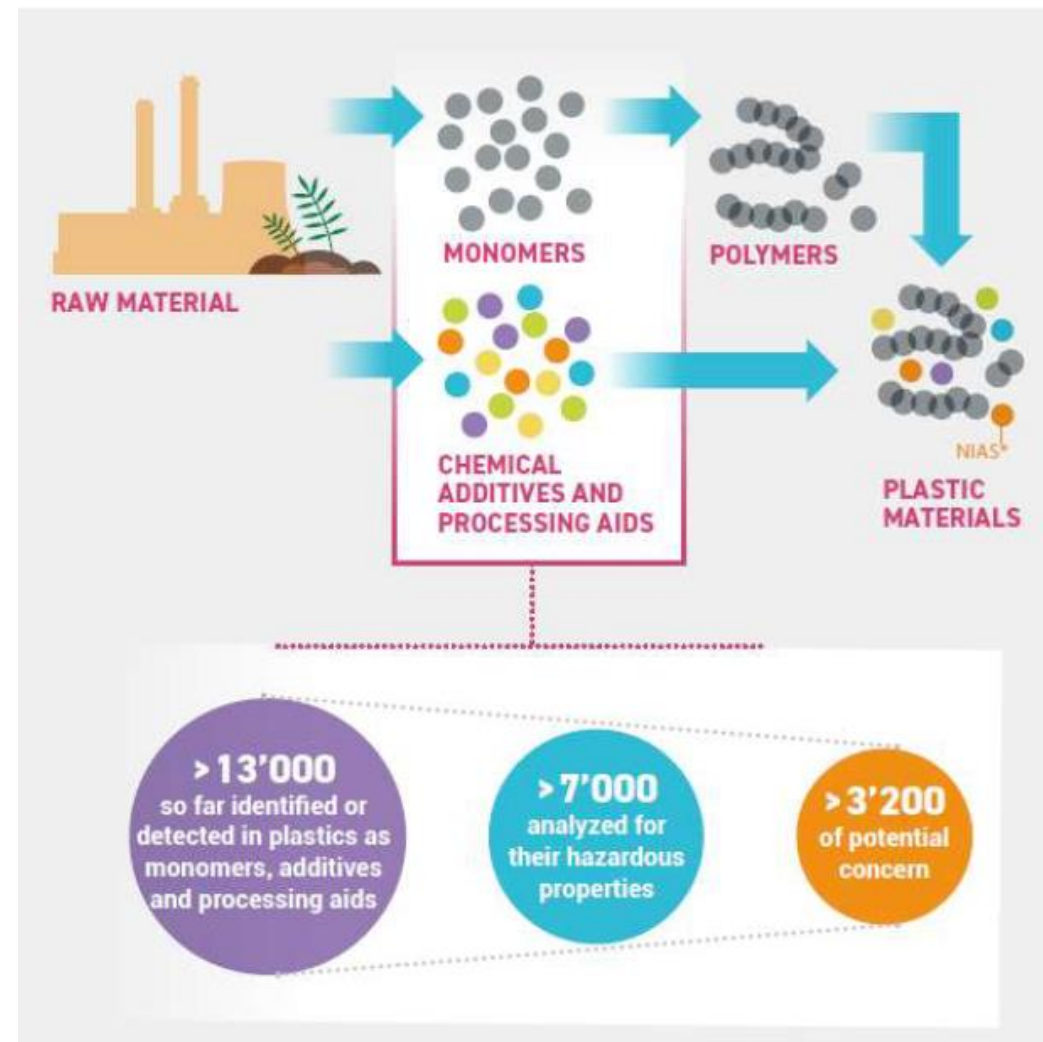
European  
Environmental  
Bureau

**Supporting end of plastic pollution from full life-cycle**

**UNECE 9<sup>th</sup> WGP to PRTR Protocol  
Item 5b Plastic note (24/11/2022)**

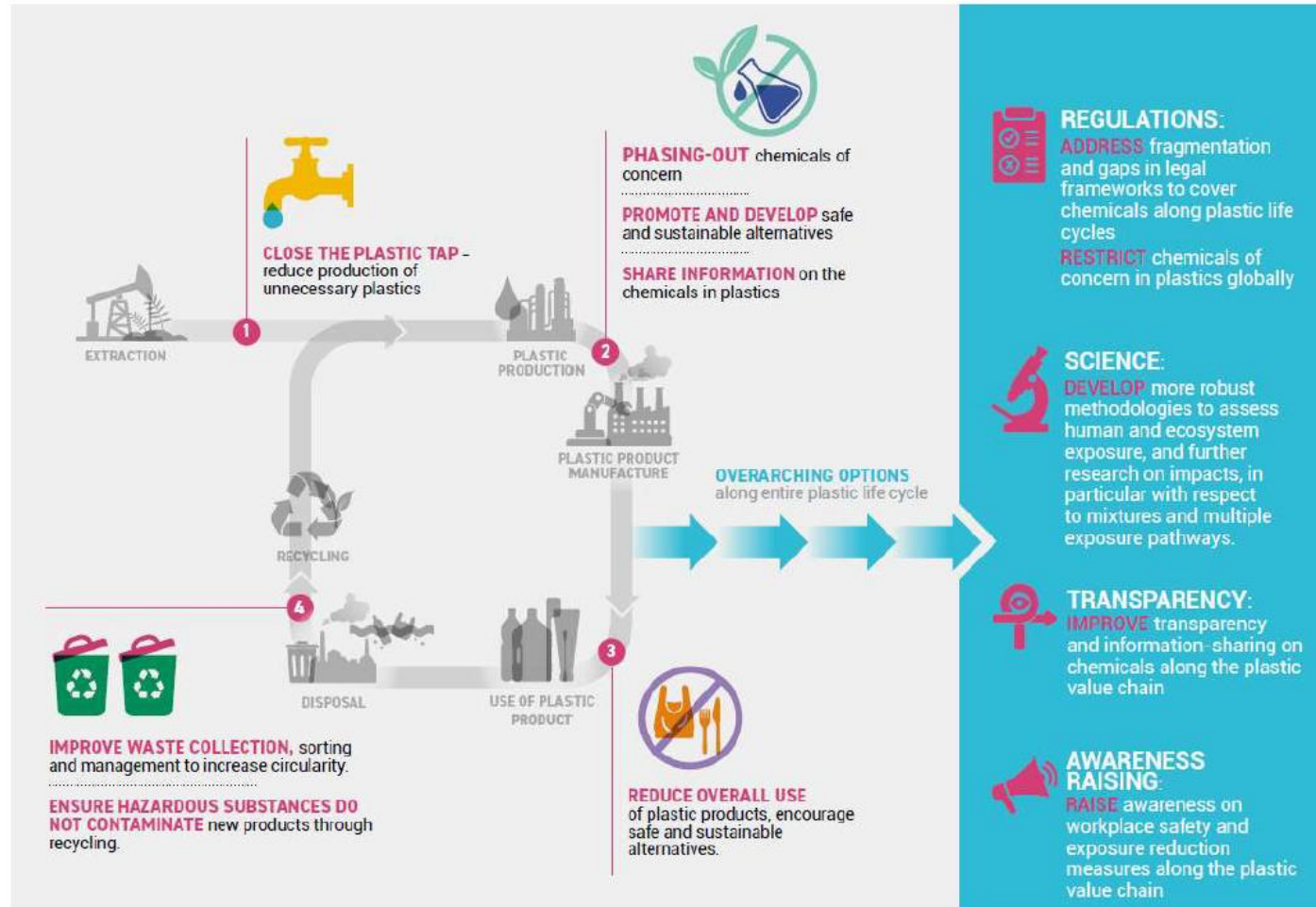
# STOPPING PLASTIC POLLUTION (WHY?)

- >370 Million tonnes of plastics produced each year (2020) of which >14 Million tonnes end up in the oceans each year (8°% of marine debris). Production may reach up to 1.1 Bn tonnes in 2050!
- >13K substances are associated with plastics, about 3.2K hazard properties of concern to health and/ or environment
- Plastics is everywhere (toys, food contact material, electronics, vehicles, clothing, buildings, medical device, personal care, aquaculture and fisheries).. Microplastics + associated toxic chemicals found in animal species incl. human blood
- Fossil based feedstock
- It is a global crisis needing a global action



# STOPPING PLASTIC POLLUTION (1/3) (HOW & PRTR RELEVANCE?)

Figure 5. Overview of options to address chemicals along the plastic life cycle.



Source: UNEP (draft) key findings, *Chemicals in Plastics: a technical report*

# STOPPING PLASTIC POLLUTION (2/3) (HOW&PRTR RELEVANCE?)

Embrace full life cycle approach: production, use, end-of life phase

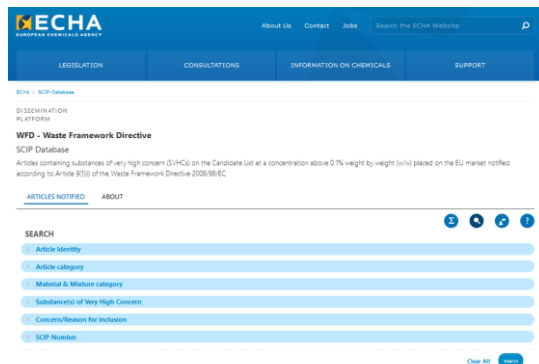
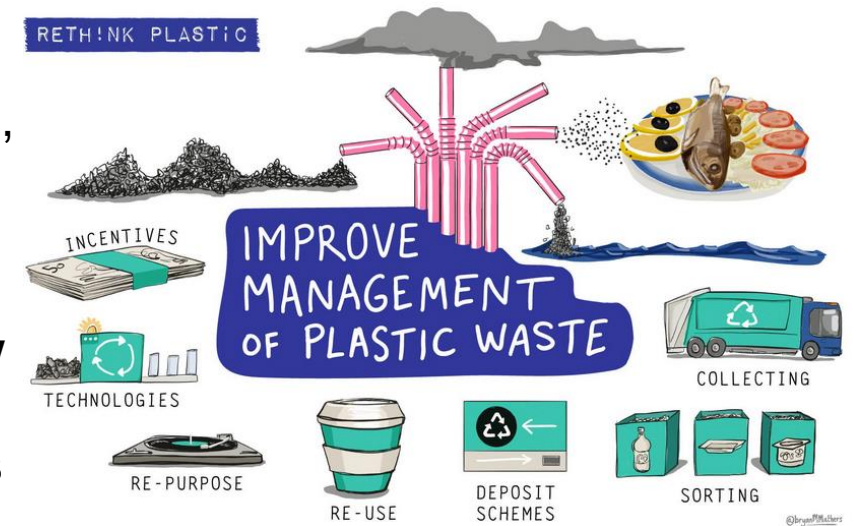
- **Step 1 design out chemical of concern (Safe and Sustainable by Design)** (set BAT on alternative plastics production / process changes, containment of pellets, phase out of synthetic foal polymers etc REACH restrictions, Product legislation (Ecodesign, Ecolabel), Waste legislation). Move from “no data = no market” to “no evidence of no harm = no market”
- **Cut out “non essential use”** of plastic consumption, promote safe use (Product Policy, Ecolabel) and track use related impacts, awareness raising (“diffuse emissions” PRTR)



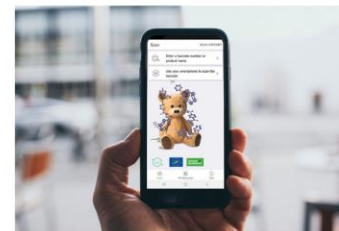
# STOPPING PLASTIC POLLUTION(1/3) (HOW&PRTR RELEVANCE?)

**Embrace full life cycle approach: production, use, end-of life phase**

- **Support proper waste management to close the plastics loop,** ensure circular economy, not (re)circularity of pollution. Needs better up-stream sorting / tracking of waste treatment activities
- **Track and trace effort sharing of all actors in prevention (new plastic streams) + control and remediation (legacy plastics)** producers, users, waste treatment operators and decision makers in achieving phase out of plastic pollution



SCAN4CHEM APP FOR CHECKING SUBSTANCES OF VERY HIGH CONCERN IN PRODUCTS LAUNCHED



The smartphone app Scan4Chem developed by the EU LIFE project ASUREACH is now made available for consumers in Europe. The free-of-charge app allows consumers to easily request product information about the presence of substances of very high concern (SVHC) from suppliers.

The underlying consumer "right to know" is established in the EU chemicals regulation REACH.

# Follow up considerations (PRTR RELEVANCE?)

- **Is the list of pollutants still adequate? (group approach e.g. PFAS, flame retardants, lubricants, softeners, stabilisers etc)?**
- **Mandatory disclosure of chemicals used in supply chain**
- **How to link databases / PRTR to “product passport” (interoperability) so to enhance citizen’s choice, ensure interoperability of knowledge sharing for full life prevention/control measures**
  - **information to be broken down (e.g. Waste codes, CLP classification),**
  - **Ensure source separation of plastic streams**
  - **How to track “zero pollution ambition” for industrial production, “diffuse emissions” not reported in PRTRs (very few exceptions)**
- **How to define “essential use” of plastics and suitable substitutes (bio-plastics v. resource use impacts), anticipate pressures from fossil feedstock switching?**
- **Tools for ranking of efforts and improvement potential for producers and (main) users as to impact associated from plastics e.g. use release estimation techniques at country level ? (need data on production / import volumes)**

## How EU policy can tackle microplastic pollution



How EU policy can tackle microplastic pollution

Categories: Circular Economy, Product Policy, Waste and Recycling

Types: Joint Publication

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Size: 10.76 MB

Microplastics are everywhere in the environment in the ocean and on land, even in remote regions of the world still considered pristine. As plastic pollution is expected to increase by 33-36% by 2025, and even more by 2030, we need effective and sustainable solutions to prevent microplastic contamination and minimise its impacts. This brochure presents the recommendations to EU policy makers developed by the EEB, Seas at Risk, ECOS and Surfrider Foundation Europe.

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## Our resources

Welcome to our library, where you can find the full range of infographics, reports, position papers and videos on plastic pollution by the Rethink Plastic alliance and its member organisations. Browse our latest publications!



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 @Green\_Europe

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[Christian.Schaible@eeb.org](mailto:Christian.Schaible@eeb.org)

IPDV: <https://eipie.eu/projects/ipdv/>

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# READING MATERIAL

- <https://eeb.org/tag/plastics/>
- <https://rethinkplasticalliance.eu/>
- <https://eeb.org/library/joint-letter-calling-on-the-european-commission-to-deliver-the-toxic-free-plastics-vision-under-the-css/>
- <https://eeb.org/library/how-eu-policy-can-tackle-microplastic-pollution/>