

Zero PM

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Achieving Zero Pollution of Persistent and Mobile Substances: The Way Forward

8th- 10th September 2026

Location: Thon Hotel EU Brussels



Tuesday 8th September

09.00 – 9.30 Coffee and Registration

Chapter 1: In the beginning**9.30 – 9.45 Actioning the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability and propelling towards the Chemicals Industry Action Plan***Hans Peter Arp, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute: NGI and Sarah Hale, German Water Centre: TZW***9.45 – 10.05 Keynote - Towards zero pollution - progress and outlook of EU Chemicals legislation***Veronica Manfredi, Director of Zero Pollution, Water Resilience & Green Urban Transition, DG ENV***10.05 – 10.15 Persistent and Mobile substance in EU Chemicals legislation and the UNGHS***Sylvain Bintein, European Commission, DG ENV***10.15 – 10.30 The way forward to minimize emissions of PMT/vPvM substances***Michael Neumann, German Environment Agency UBA***10.30 – 10.40 Tools developed by ZeroPM: ZeroPM's policy recommendations***Lise Oulès, Milieu Law and Policy consulting***10.40 – 10.55 PFAS work by members of the European Parliament***Cristina Guarda, MEP Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance***10.55 – 11.20 Coffee break****Chapter 2: How much is out there?****11.20 – 11.25 The scale of the problem***Sarah Hale, German Water Centre: TZW and Hans Peter Arp, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute: NGI***11.25 – 11.45 Making the invisible visible through 'radical collaboration'***Stéphane Horel and Raphaëlle Aubert, Le Monde***11.45 – 12.05 The scale and struggle with PMT/vPvM substances for drinking water***Harrie Timmer, Vewin***12.05 – 12.40 Panel Discussion: Member State National Authorities on water quality+chemicals (PFAS) challenges****12.40 – 14.10 Lunch****14.10 – 15.00 Spotlight on the ZeroPM research highlights from our early career researchers****Chapter 3: The limits of remediation****15.00 – 15.10 Economic, technical and socio-economic limits of remediation***Hans Peter Arp, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute: NGI and Sarah Hale, German Water Centre: TZW***15.10 – 15.30 Tools developed by ZeroPM: Removal of PFAS from drinking water***Marcel Riegel, German Water Centre: TZW***15.30 – 15.50 The Limits of PFAS Remediation***Ali Ling, University of St Thomas***15.50 – 16.10 Water system sustainability assessment in ZeroPM***Greg Peters, Chalmers University of Technology***16.10 – 16.40 Coffee break****16.40 – 16.50 Competitive, sustainable and resilient water***Sarah Hale, German Water Centre: TZW and Hans Peter Arp, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute: NGI***16.50 – 17.40 Panel Discussion: Securing water resilience to the threat of PFAS***Bert Leemans, European Commission, DG ENV
Athanasios Staninakis, University of the Aegean
Oliver Loebel, Eureau***17.40 – 17.50 Close of the Day***Hans Peter Arp, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute: NGI and Sarah Hale, German Water Centre: TZW*

Wednesday 9th September

8.45 – 9.00 Coffee and Registration

Chapter 4: Pathways to prioritization with limited data**9.00 – 9.10 Closing data gaps to enable EU innovation and substitution hubs***Sarah Hale, German Water Centre: TZW and Hans Peter Arp, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute: NGI***9.10 – 9.30 Tools developed by ZeroPM: Browsing PFAS and Transformations***Emma Schymanski, University of Luxembourg***9.30 – 9.50 Tools developed by ZeroPM: Hazard prioritization***Hans Peter Arp and Sivani Baskaran, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute: NGI***9.50 – 10.10 Addressing data gaps in persistence assessment – Advances in high-throughput biodegradation testing and structure-based prediction***Kathrin Fenner, University of Zurich*

10.10 – 10.40 Coffee and tea

Chapter 5: Pathways to prioritization considering hazard and exposure Part I**10.40 – 10.50 Accelerating risk assessment for one substance one assessment***Hans Peter Arp, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute: NGI and Sarah Hale, German Water Centre: TZW***10.50 – 11.10 Protecting us against mobile and bioaccumulating substances while phasing out animal testing***Elisabet Berggren, Joint Research Centre***11.10 – 11.30 Persistent toxicity as a new unified hazard parameter- why and how?***Beate Escher, UFZ***11.30 – 11.50 Tools developed by ZeroPM: The Alternatives Assessment Database***Romain Figuière, Stockholm University***11.50 – 12.40 Panel discussion: What do we need to support Persistency testing/data***Kostas Andreou, European Chemicals Agency**Emma Schymanski, University of Luxembourg**Kathrin Fenner, EAWAG**Chris Hughes, Embark Chemical Consulting**Sylvain Bintein, European Commission DG ENV*

12.40 – 14.10 Lunch

Chapter 6: Pathways to prioritization considering hazard and exposure Part II**14.10 – 14.20 Reducing exposure to reduce risk***Sarah Hale, German Water Centre: TZW and Hans Peter Arp, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute: NGI***14.20 – 14.40 Tools developed by ZeroPM: The risk prioritization matrix***Timo Hamers, Vrije Universiteit***14.40 – 15.00 Towards Understanding PFAS Exposure in the Netherlands***Femke Affourtit-van Driesten, Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, RIVM***15.00 – 15.20 PMT/vPvM chemicals in agricultural wastewater reuse - potential for human exposure and ground water contamination***Daniel Zahn, UFZ***15.20 – 16.20 Short courses session 1***1. Prevention tools: Substitution for Innovation**2. Prioritization tools: Cheminformatics for grouping and identify transformation pathways and products**3. Prioritization tools: Risk Assessment**4. Removal tools: Monitoring, analysis and pilot scale remediation*

16.20 – 16.50 Coffee break

16.50 – 17.30 Panel discussion: Enabling substitution hubs/using substitution hubs to close data gaps*Kostas Andreou, European Chemicals Agency**Elisabet Berggren, Joint Research Centre**Sylvia Escher, Fraunhofer ITEM**Molly Lefevre, Umass Lowell**Aleksandra Malyska, European Commission, DG ENV***17.30 – 17.40 Close of the Day***Hans Peter Arp, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute: NGI and Sarah Hale, German Water Centre: TZW*

19.00 Evening event at the Thon hotel EU

Thursday 10th September

8.45 – 9.00 Coffee and Registration

Chapter 7: Sustainable societal innovation

9.00 – 9.10 **Competitiveness comes from putting prevention first**
Sarah Hale, German Water Centre: TZW and Hans Peter Arp, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute: NGI

9.10 – 9.30 **Alternatives Assessment: Foundational Advances and Future Directions**
Molly Lefevre, Umass Lowell

9.30 – 9.50 **Social and behavioural dimensions of the PFAS transition**
Sabine Pahl, University of Vienna

9.50 – 10.50 **Short courses session 2**
1. Prevention tools: Substitution for Innovation
2. Prioritization tools: Cheminformatics for grouping and identify transformation pathways and products
3. Prioritization tools: Risk Assessment
4. Removal tools: Monitoring, analysis and pilot scale remediation

10.50 – 11.20 Coffee break

Chapter 8: Make change happen

11.20 – 11.30 **Bringing it back to the toxic free hierarchy**
Hans Peter Arp, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute: NGI and Sarah Hale, German Water Centre: TZW

11.30 – 11.50 **Embedding PMT/vPvM in the SSbD framework**
Zhanyun Wang, University of Southern Denmark

11.50 – 12.10 **Tools developed by ZeroPM: Assessing and preventing PFAS use in the green energy transition**
Ian Cousins, Stockholm University

12.10 – 12.30 **Tools developed by ZeroPM: Guiding the market transition away from persistent and mobile substances**
Jerker Ligthart, ChemSec

12.30 – 12.50 **Hazardous Chemicals: The Investor Case for a Phase Out**
Caroline Sundin, Swedbank Robur

12.50 – 13.10 **How Coop Denmark led national change on PFAS**
Louisa Raith Sørensen, COOP Denmark

13.10 – 14.30 Lunch

14.30 – 14.40 **Prevention for Innovation**
Sarah Hale, German Water Centre: TZW and Hans Peter Arp, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute: NGI

14.40 – 14.55 **Closing keynote - Incentivizing Green Innovation towards Zero Pollution**
European Commission TBC

14.55 – 15.45 **Panel discussion: how to incentivise the Chemicals Industry Action Plan**
European Commission, DG-GROW TBC
Tatiana Santos, EEB
Caroline Sundin, Swedbank Robur
Louisa Raith Sørensen, COOP Denmark

15.45 – 16.10 **Setting the course towards the Chemicals Industry Action Plan**
Hans Peter Arp, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute: NGI and Sarah Hale, German Water Centre: TZW