ZerOPM

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 – 11.25	**Coffee break**
Chapter 2:	**How much is out there?**
11.25 – 11.35	**The scale of the problem** *Sarah Hale, German Water Centre: TZW and Hans Peter Arp, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute: NGI*
11.35 – 11.55	**Making the invisible visible through 'radical collaboration'** *Stéphane Horel and Raphaëlle Aubert, Le Monde*
11.55 – 12.15	**The scale and struggle with PMT/vPvM substances for drinking water** *Harrie Timmer, Vewin*
12.15 – 12.35	**Keeping track of chemical pollution – can we identify and prevent harm before it occurs?** *Magnus Løfstedt, European Environment Agency*
12.35 – 14.00	**Lunch**
14.00 – 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 **Tools developed by ZeroPM: The Alternatives Assessment Database**
Romain Figuière, Stockholm University

11.30 – 12.20 **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

12.20 – 12.40 **Persistent toxicity as a new unified hazard parameter- why and how?**
Beate Escher, UFZ

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 Universitet

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 – 16.40 **Coffee break**

16.40 – 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 Jacobs, 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: Competitiveness comes from inclusivity

9.00 – 10.00 **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

10.00 – 10.10 **Competitiveness comes from putting prevention first**
Sarah Hale, German Water Centre: TZW and Hans Peter Arp, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute: NGI

10.10 – 10.30 **Alternatives Assessment: Foundational Advances and Future Directions**
Molly Jacobs, Umass Lowell

10.30 – 10.50 **Social and behavioural dimensions of the PFAS transition**
Sabine Pahl, University of Vienna

10.50 – 11.10 **Coffee break**

Chapter 8: Putting prevention first

11.10 – 11.20 **Bringing it back to the toxic free hierarchy**
Hans Peter Arp, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute: NGI and Sarah Hale, German Water Centre: TZW

11.20 – 11.40 **Incentivising the transition away from PFAS for a competitive Europe**
Kristen Schreiber, European Commission DG GROW

11.40 – 12.00 **Hazardous Chemicals: The Investor Case for a Phase Out**
Caroline Sundin, Swedbank Robur

12.00 – 12.20 **Tools developed by ZeroPM: Assessing and preventing PFAS use in the green energy transition**
Ian Cousins, Stockholm University

12.20 – 12.40 **Embedding PMT/vPvM in the SSbD framework**
Zhanyun Wang, University of Southern Denmark

12.40 – 14.00 **Lunch**

14.00 – 14.10 **Prevention for Innovation**
Sarah Hale, German Water Centre: TZW and Hans Peter Arp, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute: NGI

14.10 – 14.30 **Tools developed by ZeroPM: Guiding the market transition away from persistent and mobile substances**
Jerker Ligthart, ChemSec

14.30 – 14.50 **How Coop Denmark led national change on PFAS**
Louisa Raith Sørensen, COOP Denmark

14.50 – 15.50 **Panel discussion: how to incentivise the Chemicals Industry Action Plan**
Andreea Pantazi, European Commission, DG GROW
Tatiana Santos, European Environmental Bureau
Caroline Sundin, Swedbank Robur
Louisa Raith Sørensen, COOP Denmark

15.50 – 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