

The Global Chemicals Outlook II (GCO-II)

*From Legacies to Innovative Solutions:
Implementing the 2030 Agenda*

Overall Messages of GCO-II

1. The global goal to minimize adverse impacts of chemicals and waste will not be achieved by 2020.
2. While many chemicals are important for sustainable development, trends are a cause for major concerns, requiring urgent action: Business as usual is not an option.
3. Solutions exist, but more ambitious worldwide action by all stakeholders is urgently required.

GCO-II: Key findings

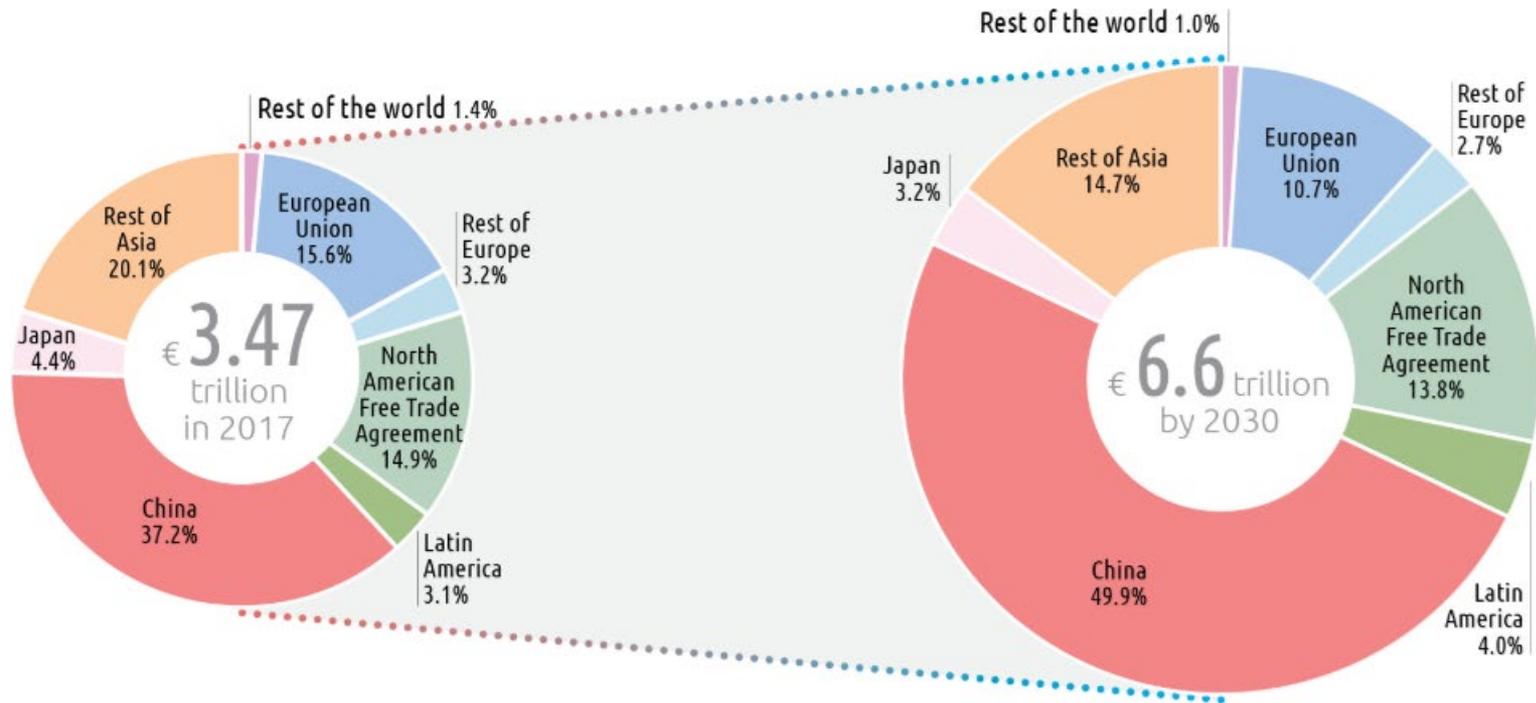
	The global chemical industry is projected to double by 2030, with rapid growth in emerging economies. Global supply chains and trade are becoming increasingly complex.
	Driven by megatrends, growth in chemical-intensive industry sectors creates risks, but also opportunities to advance sustainable consumption, production and product innovation.
	Releases continue in large quantities and chemicals are ubiquitous in humans and the environment, highlighting the need for sustainable materials management and circularity.
	The benefits of action have been estimated in the high tens of billions annually. The burden of disease from is high and chemical pollution also threatens a range of ecosystem services.
	International treaties and voluntary instruments have reduced the risks of some chemicals and wastes, but progress has been uneven and implementation gaps remain.

GCO-II: Key findings

	Addressing legislation and capacity gaps a priority, but resources have not matched needs. There are opportunities for new and innovative financing.
	Resources can be saved by sharing knowledge on chemical management instruments more widely, and by enhancing mutual acceptance of approaches.
	Frontrunner companies are introducing sustainable supply chain management, full material disclosure, risk reduction beyond compliance, and human rights-based policies. However, widespread implementation has not yet been achieved.
	Consumer demand as well as green and sustainable chemistry education and innovation are among the important drivers of change. They can be scaled up through enabling policies.
	Global knowledge gaps can be filled, for example, by taking steps to harmonize research protocols, considering impact information to set priorities, and strengthening the science-policy interface.

Chemical industry growth

The size of the global chemical industry exceeded United States dollars 5 trillion in 2017. It is projected to double by 2030



Projected growth in world chemical sales (excl. pharmaceuticals) (CEFIC)

Action areas identified by GCO-II

	Develop effective management systems: Address prevailing capacity gaps across countries, strengthen national and regional legislation using a life cycle approach, and further strengthen institutions and programmes.
	Mobilize resources: Scale up adequate resources and innovative financing for effective legislation, implementation and enforcement, particularly in developing countries and economies in transition.
	Assess and communicate hazards: Fill global data and knowledge gaps, and enhance international collaboration to advance chemical hazard assessments, classifications and communication.
	Assess and manage risks: Refine and share chemical risk assessment and risk management approaches globally, in order to promote safe and sustainable use of chemicals throughout their life cycle.
	Use life cycle approaches: Advance widespread implementation of sustainable supply chain management, full material disclosure, transparency and sustainable product design.

Action areas identified by GCO-II

	Strengthen corporate governance: Enable and strengthen the chemicals and waste management aspects of corporate sustainability policies, sustainable business models, and reporting.
	Educate and innovate: Integrate green and sustainable chemistry in education, research, and innovation policies and programmes.
	Foster transparency: Empower workers, consumers and citizens to protect themselves and the environment.
	Bring knowledge to decision-makers: Strengthen the science-policy interface and the use of science in monitoring progress, priority-setting, and policy-making throughout the life cycle of chemicals and waste.
	Enhance global commitment: Establish an ambitious and comprehensive global framework for chemicals and waste beyond 2020, scale up collaborative action, and track progress.

Thank you for your
attention.



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