

Zero Waste Live!

12 May 2020 - 02.00 p.m. CET



FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS



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Protecting humans and wildlife
from harmful chemicals

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The need for new EU legislation on food contact materials

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ZWE webinar

May 12th, 2020





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Protecting humans and wildlife
from harmful chemicals

Contents

- Introduction to chemicals in FCM and their migration
- Basic problems with the EU legislation on FCM
- Hazardous Chemicals in Plastic Packaging
- Five key principles for better legislation

About CHEM Trust

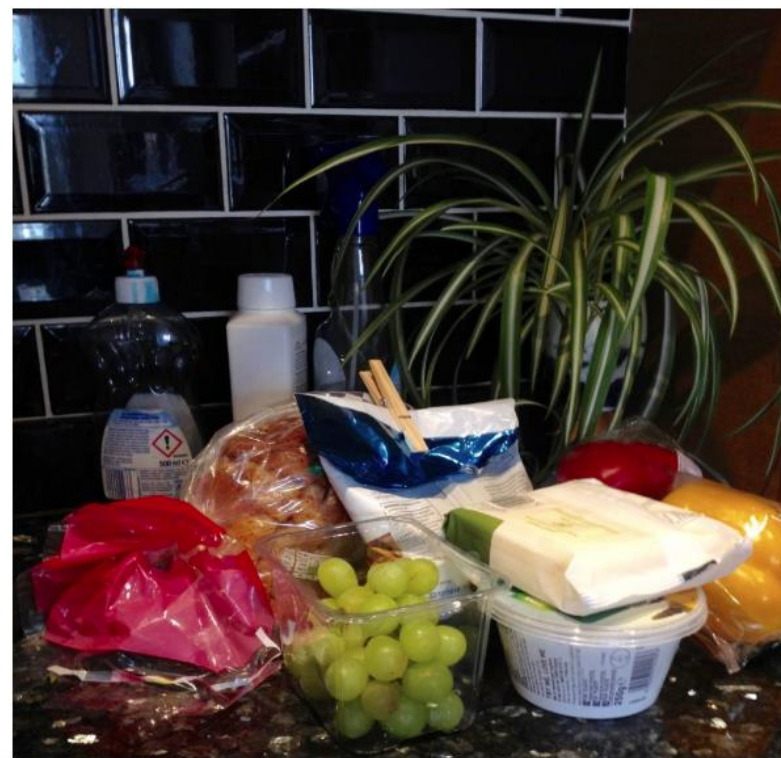
- A charity working at UK, EU & Global levels to protect humans & wildlife from harmful chemicals
- Working with scientists and decision makers, in partnership with other civil society groups
- Focus on endocrine disrupting chemicals

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Is the EU finally set to update its outdated laws on chemicals in food contact materials?

April 14, 2020 By Michael Warhurst



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Study Finds Toys Made of Black Recycled Plastics Pose Serious Threat to Children's Health#recycling

New report from @ToxicsFree:
open.org/news/some-plas...



What are Food Contact Material?

Materials and articles, which:

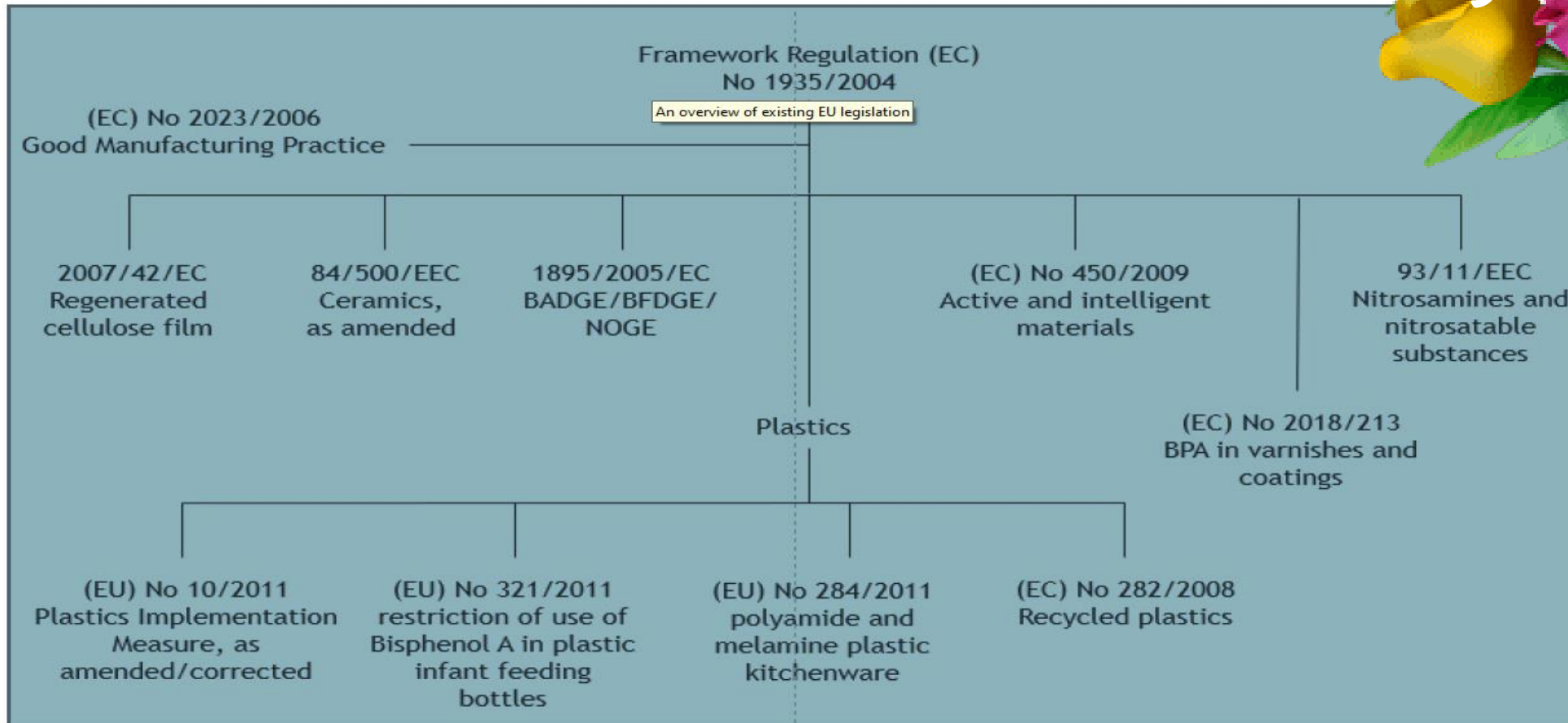
- Are **intended** to be brought into contact with food;
- Are **already** in contact with food
- Can reasonably be **expected** to be brought into contact with food

Important to know:

- FCM contain chemicals that can migrate into the food
- Some of these are hazardous



Current FCM legislation



Overview of the EU legislative system for FCM. Published by; UK Food Standard Agency, June 2019, Biobased materials for use in Food contact applications.

Read more at Commission's website: https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/chemical_safety/food_contact_materials_en

Framework Regulation, Article 3

“Materials and articles.. shall be manufactured..so that under foreseeable conditions of use, they do not transfer their constituents to food in quantities which could:

- Endanger human health, or
- Cause unacceptable change in the composition of the food, or
- Bring about a deterioration in the organoleptic characteristics”.

Some basic problems with the rules

Lack of harmonised rules for most materials

No specific harmonised EU rules on chemicals in most FCMs such as paper, board, ink, glue.

Lack of information transfer in the supply chain

No effective obligation to pass on information in FCM supply chains

Lack of information on the NIAS (Non-Intentionally Added Substances)

Chemicals formed during processing and storage, are not identified or tested, although they may migrate from the final Food Contact Articles in significant volumes

Lack of adequate safety data assessments

EDC properties etc. not included in routine assessment

Lack of control and enforcement

Due to unclear rules, vague placement of responsibilities, missing test methods,

The HCPP Project

Partners

Multi-year research project on Hazardous Chemicals in Plastic Packaging, including:

Database on chemicals identified in plastic packaging

Environmental risk assessment of benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP)

Report on possibilities for replacing phthalates

Study on health effects of phthalates

Socioeconomic studies

Funded by the Mava foundation

Food Packaging Forum, Zürich: Dr. Jane Muncke, Dr. Ksenia Groh, Dr. Birgit Geueke

University of Gothenburg, Department of biological and environmental Sciences: Dr. Bethanie Carney-Almroth, Prof. Thomas Backhaus, Dr. Pedro Inostroza

University of Gothenburg, Centre for environment and sustainability: Dr. Daniel Slunge

Dr. Maricel Maffini, independent consultant, Baltimore, MD, USA

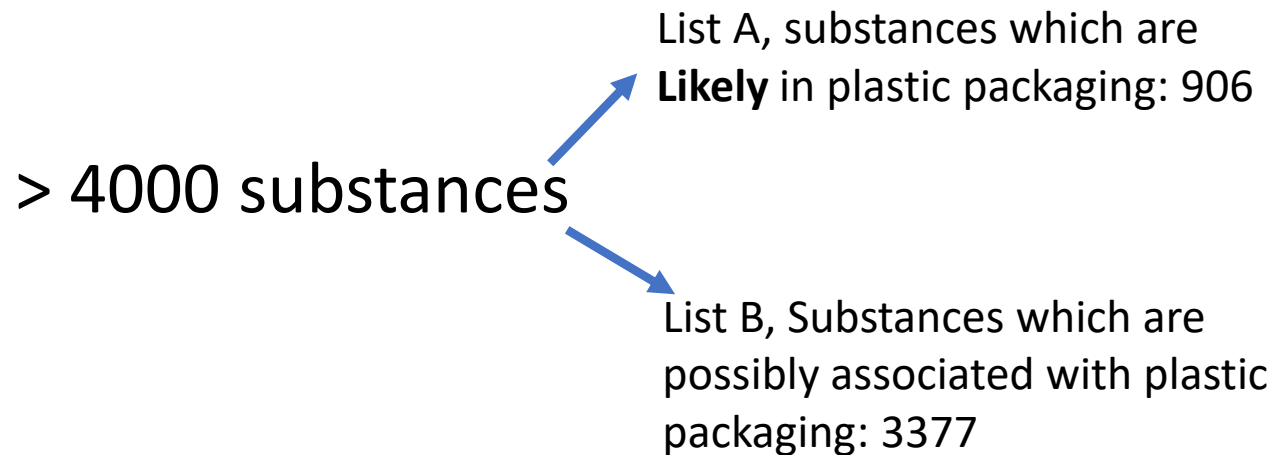
New York School of Medicine: Dr Leo Trasande

ChemSec: Dr. Anna Lennquist, Dr. Jonathan Kleimark

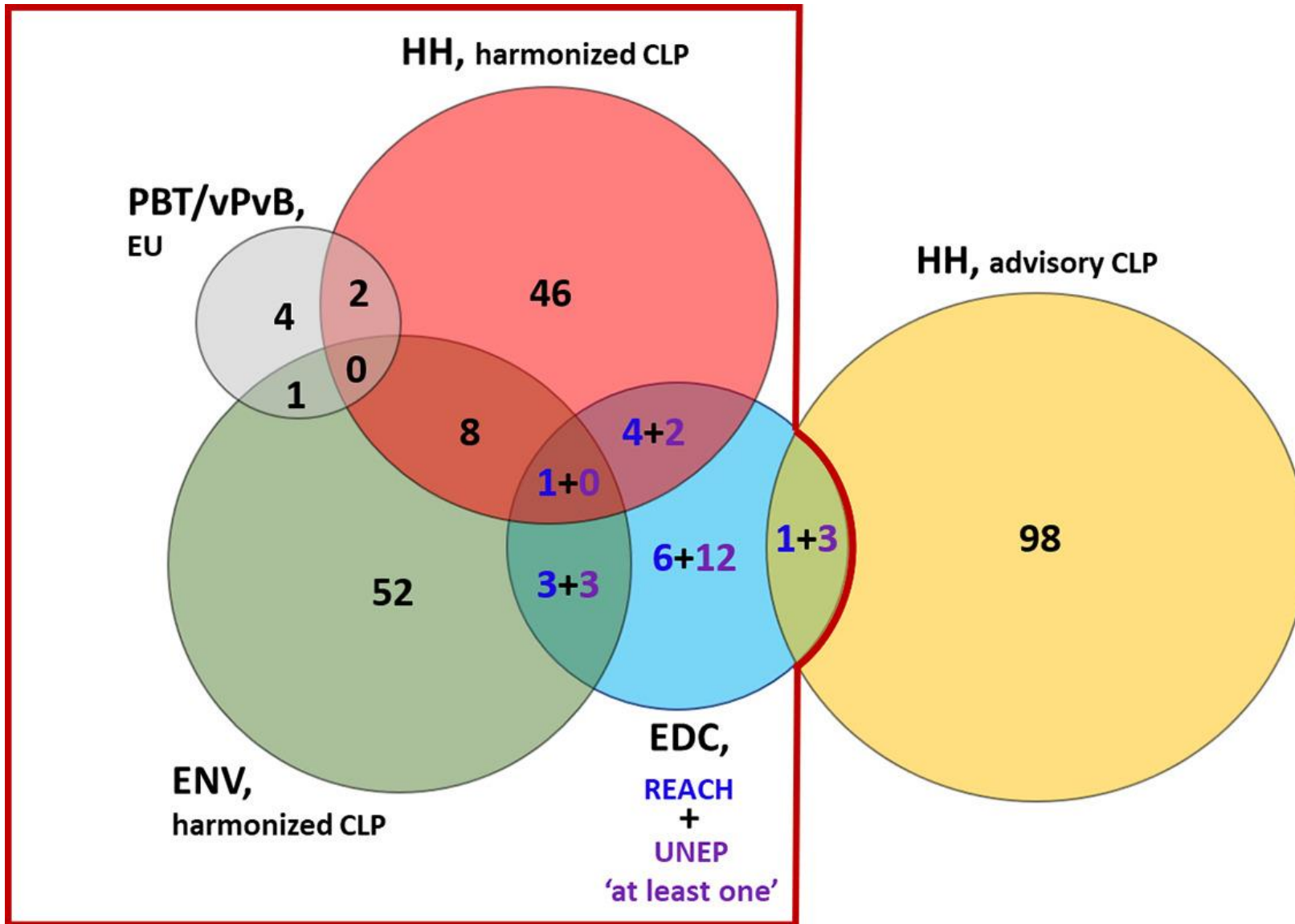
Chem Trust: Dr. Michael Warhurst, Dr. Anna Watson

New Database, CPPdb

Data from 14 publicly available information sources on all types of plastic packaging



Overview of known plastic packaging-associated chemicals and their hazards. Ksenia Groh et al (2019) Science of the Total Environment 651, 3253-3268



List of 148 most hazardous chemicals likely associated with plastic packaging

Key points from the study

Lack of available information on both use and toxicity was a major challenge for this work

Many hazardous chemicals are used

Lack of information may hamper recycling goals

The phthalates were prioritised for further studies

More information:

<https://www.foodpackagingforum.org/hcpp-project>

5 Key Principles

- Principles for the future legislation on FCM
- Developed by CHEM Trust in cooperation with Food Packaging Forum, BEUC, HEAL, ClientEarth, EEB, Danish Consumer Council, US Breast Cancer Prevention Partners
- Published April 2019
- You can still sign on 😊
- More info: <https://chemtrust.org/5-key-principles-fcm/>



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Home About us Our work Problem chemicals Chemical impacts Chemicals policy **Take Action**

Five key principles for future EU regulation of chemicals in food contact materials

April 9, 2019 By Sidsel Dyekjaer



CHEM Trust has highlighted for nearly five years, that the **current EU laws** regulating the chemicals used in **food contact materials** (FCM) such as food packaging, cutlery, and factory equipment **do not properly protect public health**. Many materials, such as **paper, card, inks and linings** are not controlled by harmonised EU-level laws, and where harmonised laws exist, like e.g. for plastic materials, the system is weak and outdated.



The European Commission has finally begun to **review these laws**, and their consultants are currently running a public consultation. CHEM Trust has been working with other civil society groups to establish some **key principles** for an **effective new system** for regulating the materials that are in contact with the food we eat every day.

The public consultation

The current **public consultation** is open until **May 6th 2019**. This consultation is a part of a **broader** evaluation instigated in September 2018 by the EU Commission to assess the current effectiveness and added value of the legislation governing the use of chemicals in FCM.

5 key principles for the future legislation

Since the Commission's evaluation was launched, CHEM Trust has been cooperating with **a group of NGO's** (European Environmental Bureau, ChemSec, Client Earth, Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC), Danish Consumer Council and US Breast Cancer Prevention Partners) and the science research organisation Food Packaging Forum to pinpoint the **main problems** with

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@zerowasteurope

#DYK that chemicals used for food #packaging directly impact people's health? @r_sidsel from @CHEMTrust will talk about hazardous chemicals in #plastic packaging & how these should be better regulated by the EU during our webinar on 12/05.
zerowastecities.eu/webinar/food-c...

Zero Waste Live!

12 May 2019 - 12:00 p.m. CEST

FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS

New EU regulation of chemicals in FCM must ensure:

1. A high level of protection of human health
2. Thorough assessment of chemicals in materials and final articles
3. Effective enforcement
4. A clean circular economy based on non-toxic material cycles
5. Transparency and participation



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Protecting humans and wildlife
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We are eager to see
steps from the EU
Commission..

Towards safe food in
safe packaging.. i.e.

FCM without harmful
chemicals, based on
the 5 key principles

Thank you!