

A close-up photograph of a petri dish containing a bacterial culture. The surface is covered with numerous streaks of white, fuzzy bacterial growth on a reddish agar medium. The streaks are arranged in a series of parallel lines, with some showing more dense, confluent growth. The lighting is bright, highlighting the texture of the colonies.

The EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability and biocides – the case of microbial control

Paul Girard
Chemical Watch Biocides Europe 2020
SESSION 6: EMERGING/HORIZONTAL ISSUES
December 2nd, 2020

MCEC | MICROBIAL CONTROL
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

About us

Who are we?

- A sector group of the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) founded in 2012
- An initiative of the world's leading companies in developing and supplying microbial control technology and solutions

What are we aiming to achieve?



a favourable political environment for our industry



higher protection of consumers, workers and the environment



sustained business opportunities



an increased level of innovation

Our members



What are microbial control technologies?



- Building blocks of wide range of disinfectants and antimicrobial products
- Aim to tackle microscopic organisms' growth responsible for diseases, infections and material degradation
- Solutions are wide in scope and applications
 - protecting our health from germs
 - ensuring sustainability aspects of entire value chains



- There is no sustainable future without microbial control -

Why is this important



Protecting Health & Well Being

- Used for disease and infection control (e.g. Covid, food-borne diseases, etc.)
- Protect food production facilities from micro-organism contamination
- Used in specialised coatings with applications in hospitals and schools
- Control risk of corrosion so to increase workers safety and environmental protection



Conserving Energy & Resources

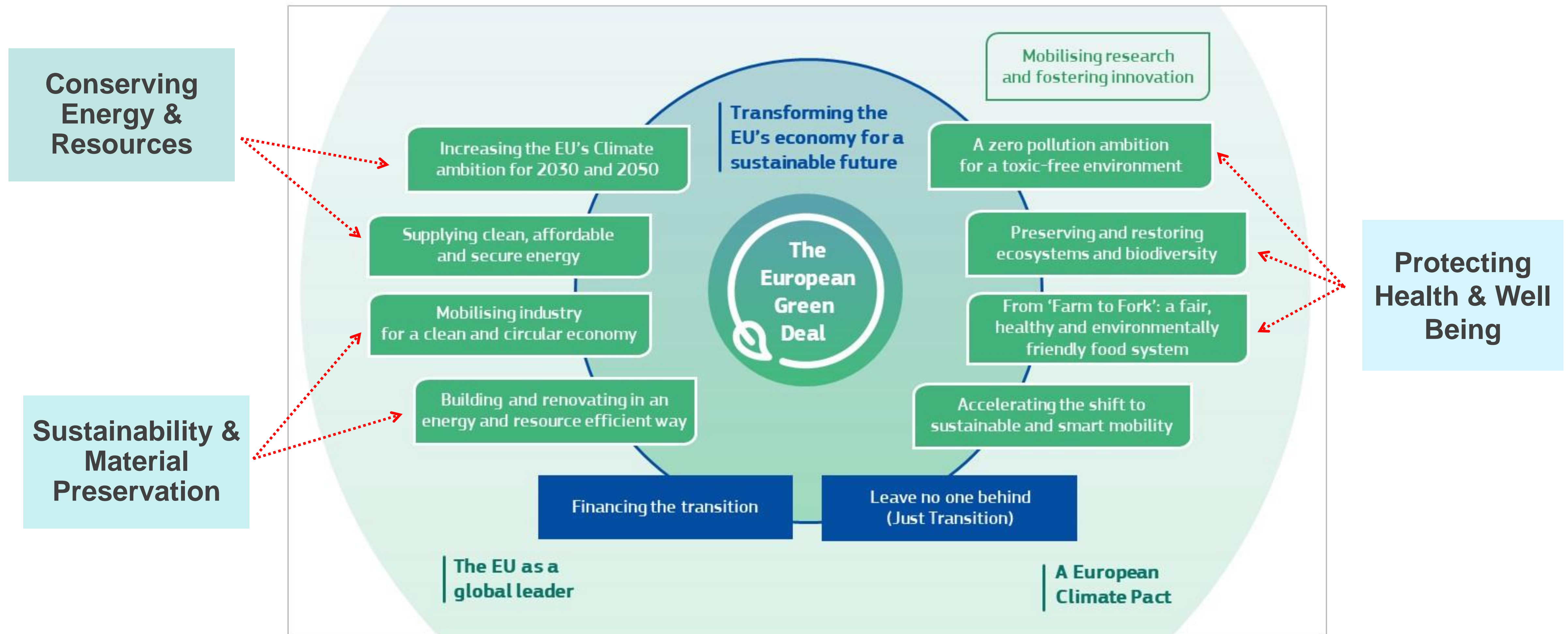
- Reduce ship drag resistance, thus fuel consumption savings for marine transportation
- Preserve industrial water resources and uses
- Reduce need for maintenance in industrial processes



Sustainability & Material Preservation

- Preserve materials e.g. wood & plastics for longer use, thus avoiding waste
- Prolong detergents and cleaning products shelf life & quality
- Help prevent mold and fungi growth in paints, adhesives & sealants and preserve their efficacy

Supporting Europe's 2050 ambitions



Even when you can't see it, microbial control is essential to the EU Green Deal

Key considerations from the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability



Will increased emphasis on hazardous properties of chemicals become sole trigger for regulatory action?



Are new proposed hazard categories increase hazard-based classifications of substances, and how?



How are new concepts like '*essential use*' and '*safe and sustainable design*' developed further?



More restrictive regulatory approach as unique driver for innovation?

What are the tools to incentivise other continents to follow the European approach?

The impact on microbial control

Apparent impact on Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR) is limited:

- Regulation not covered in the CSS and not expected to be reopened
- On data requirements, BPR is likely to be a regulatory model for REACH and other legislations

However, other regulatory impacts could be more significant:

- Changes to **REACH** (e.g. grouping restrictions) impacting availability of co-formulants?
- **New hazard categories** under CLP (e.g. EDs, environmental persistence & mobility, etc.) leading to extended exclusion criteria under BPR?
- Concept of '**essential uses**' – how to make it work for product preservation?
- Unintentional effects from **combined exposure & mixtures**?
- **Toxic-free hierarchy** and '**Safe and sustainable by design**' criteria workable for biocidal substances?



Figure: The toxic-free hierarchy –

Key messages to CSS implementation



Microbial control technologies play a **vital role in many aspects of our society** and to a modern and sustainable way of living, producing and consuming



Microbial control solutions **bring value to the European Green Deal**. In Covid-19 times, it provides hygiene to homes, hospitals, schools...



A **risk/safety ratio must prevail** prior to adopting further regulatory mechanisms and restrictions on substances that play a key role in ensuring our well-being



Sole hazard-based approach may result in less protection of all against well-identified and serious threats for our health

- There is no sustainable future without microbial control -

Want to catch-up?
Paul Girard,
MCEC Sector Group manager
pgi@cefic.be



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