

A sustainable chemicals economy – a common vision and the need for new collaborative approaches.

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The German Environment Agency (UBA) is an authority and research institution that aims to support and actively shape the transformation to sustainable development. In particular, we support the chemical industry in its important task of developing, manufacturing, and supplying substances and products by conducting environmental impact assessments as part of approval processes. We provide concepts for sustainable production and sustainable chemicals management and advise political decision-makers in environmental concerns.

The chemical industry and the chemicals economy as a whole are currently undergoing profound transformation processes in terms of the circular economy, renewable energy supply, resource transition, etc. A common goal of all stakeholders is a reliable long-term perspective for the economy. However, transformation naturally entails uncertainties for businesses. Policymakers are called upon to create framework conditions that serve a just transformation of the economy.

A common vision for a sustainable European chemical industry can help to create stable framework conditions in a highly dynamic economic environment. Here we present our proposal for a common vision and would like to discuss and incorporate other perspectives. We would like to take this opportunity to address target conflicts in the area of social, economic, and environmental sustainability.