EU’s Chemicals Strategy and Essential Use

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Take home messages

- **Green chemistry principles**
  - Chemicals should be safe and sustainable by design
  - Protective “upstream” policy approach
- **“Essential use” concept**
  - Concept can speed up phase outs of hazardous substances
Essential use and PFAS

- Phasing out the use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the EU, unless uses are essential
  - specific PFAS “action plan” published separately

- Essential use concept more broadly applied
  - applied to all hazardous substances
  - EU to come up with own criteria
Madrid Statement

• Signed by over 200 scientists

• Production and use of PFAS should be limited

May 2015
Phasing out uses of PFAS

• Impractical to ban all uses in one step
  – Some may serve a critical role for which alternatives do not exist (essential)
  – **Non-essential uses** could be rapidly eliminated

• Criteria on essentiality from Montreal Protocol

• Over 200 uses of PFAS
Cosmetics

- Hair products, mascara, foundations, face creams, sun blocks, skin creams, lip pencils
- **Non-essential use**
- Several major retailers/brands (L’Oréal, H&M, Lumene, The Body Shop, Isadora and Kicks) phased out of PFAS
Ski Waxes

Fluorvallor används i dag brett inom skidsporten men även av motionärer som söker snabbaste skidan från Sälen till Mora i färdens spår. Baksidan är att farliga kemikalier sprids i miljön. Det är hög tid att förbjuda fluorvallorna och att tänka nytt och göra rätt vid substitution och riskbedömning av kemikalier, skriver fyra forskare.

Non-essential use

FIS BANS SOME SKI WAXES

Fluorinated ski wax will not be able to be used by racers next season due to its impact on the environment and health.
Much work remains

• Many success stories to date

• But over 200 uses and over 4000 PFAS

• Many non-essential uses

• Some essential uses
  – For health and safety
  – But not permanent

• Progressive chemicals policy 😊
Thank you for your attention!