

**OECD Workshop on  
Managing Contaminants of Emerging Concern in Surface Waters:  
Scientific developments and cost-effective policy responses**

*Supported by the Government of the Netherlands*

**FINAL AGENDA**

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*Monday 5 February 2018  
OECD Headquarters, Paris*

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## ***Rationale***

Contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) comprise a vast array of contaminants that have only recently appeared in water, or that are of recent concern because they have been detected at concentrations significantly higher than expected, or their risk to human and environmental health may not be fully understood. Examples include pharmaceuticals, industrial and household chemicals, personal care products, pesticides, manufactured nanomaterials, and their transformation products.

While these substances have undeniable benefits, countries struggle to address their potential impacts on freshwater ecosystems. Some countries embark in sophisticated and costly treatment of wastewater. Others emphasise control at source. New scientific developments such as advanced monitoring methodologies open the door for innovative policy responses.

Policy-makers need tools and instruments that contribute to effective management of CECs, both in the chemical and water sectors. Part of the challenge is the increasing need to find cost-effective solutions and how the Precautionary and Polluter Pays principles can apply.

## ***Aim and objectives of the Workshop***

The aim of the Workshop is to ultimately deliver preliminary recommendations to manage CECs. The Workshop builds on the scoping paper, case studies submitted by OECD countries and discussions held at previous OECD meetings of the Working Party on Biodiversity, Water and Ecosystems, and the Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and the Working party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology.

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Take stock of recent developments in CECs management in OECD countries;
- Identify lessons learnt from case studies and requisites for effective policy design and implementation; and
- Discuss barriers to effective policy reform and improvements in water quality, and how these may be overcome, including policy-making under scientific uncertainty.

The Workshop is designed to be interactive. Each session will start with a series of short presentations, followed by a discussion on the themes raised. A number of discussion themes are suggested in the agenda. The moderator will provide a summary of the discussion.

The outcomes of the workshop will inform the final OECD report on *Policy Responses to Contaminants of Emerging Concern in Freshwaters of OECD Countries*, which will feature case studies and include policy recommendations.

## ***Recommended background reading material***

- Submitted case studies for discussion at the workshop (to be shared in advance of the workshop).
- Delegate may wish to refer to the Proposed Programme of Work: Policy Responses to Contaminants of Emerging Concern in Freshwaters of OECD Countries (document ENV/EPOC/WPBWE(2017)8 and ENV/JM(2017)11).

Please note that in an attempt to go paperless, hard copies of the above documents will not be available at the workshop.

## Agenda

### 5 February 2018

<b>09:00 – 09:15</b>	<p>Opening remarks and introductions: Aims, expectations and structure of Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Noé van Hulst, Netherlands Ambassador to the OECD</li> <li>○ Anthony Cox, Acting Director, OECD Environment Directorate</li> </ul>
<b>09:15 – 09:45</b>	<p>Setting the scene (Moderated by Xavier Leflaive, OECD Environment Directorate)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Contaminants of Emerging Concern: known knowns, known unknowns and unknown unknowns</i>, Thomas Backhaus, University of Gothenburg, Sweden (15')</li> <li>○ <i>What is the appropriate level of response to CECs in water? Viewpoints from a water utility</i>, Laurent Moulin, Eau de Paris (10')</li> </ul>
<b>09:45 – 11:00</b>	<p>Session One: What is being done? A range of national policy responses (Moderated by Xavier Leflaive, OECD Environment Directorate)</p> <p>Presentations (30')</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>UK Water Industry Research Chemicals Investigation Programme 2010-20: Economic appraisal of policy responses</i>, Nick Haigh, Defra, UK (7')</li> <li>○ <i>Advanced wastewater treatment for separation and removal of pharmaceutical residues and other hazardous substances: Needs, technologies and impacts</i>, Kerstin Joyce, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Sweden (7')</li> <li>○ <i>Future of monitoring CECs in Korea</i>, Dr. Tae-Jin Park, National Institute of Environmental Research, Korea (7')</li> <li>○ <i>Tax to update wastewater treatment plants to treat micropollutants, Switzerland: Legislative, financial and technical dimensions</i>, Dr. Florian Thevenon, WaterLex (7')</li> </ul> <p>Discussion and open Q&amp;A(45')</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What are the major challenges in terms of managing CECs in OECD countries?</li> <li>● What are the consequences (economic, social and environmental) of business as usual?</li> <li>● What opportunities are there for new and effective policies, and what are the high level barriers to policy development and implementation?</li> <li>● What new opportunities are there to design and implement innovative and effective policies?</li> </ul>
<b>11:00 – 11:30</b>	<p><i>Morning tea / Post-it's from Participants for the Moderators to raise in discussions (main issues, questions for discussion, sticky points)</i></p>
<b>11:30 – 13:00</b>	<p>Session Two: New opportunities with advances in analytical methods and risk assessment (Moderated by Prof. Scott Belcher, North Carolina State University)</p> <p>Presentations (30')</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Predictive and alternative testing strategies of chemicals in water</i>, Bruno Tisserand, Veolia (7')</li> <li>○ <i>Modelling of human and ecological risks of chemicals, including nanomaterials and microplastics, focusing on quantifying and assessing uncertainty</i>, Prof. A.M.J. Ragas (Ad), Radboud University, Netherlands (7')</li> <li>○ <i>Establishment of decision support tools for environmental monitoring of priority and emerging contaminants using novel technologies and data management tools</i>, Prof. Fiona Regan, Dublin</li> </ul>

City University, Ireland (7')

- *Environmental and human-health risk assessment of emerging contaminants*, Stéphanie Rinck-Pfeiffer, Global Water Research Coalition (7')

Discussion and open Q&A(60')

- How can these advances help inform regulatory decisions? If not, what else is needed?
- How can governments stimulate diffusion of innovative solutions?

**13:00 – 14:30** Lunch

**14:30 – 16:00** Session Three: Aligning chemical policy with water quality policy (Moderated by Jeffery Morris, U.S. EPA)

Presentations (40')

- *Pharmaceutical usage in the context of demographic change - The significance of growing medication consumption*, Friederike Lauruschkus, Civity management consultants, Germany (7')
- *Pharmaceutical residues in water, and the Netherlands "chain approach" to tackle them*, Marc de Rooy, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, Netherlands (7')
- *Assessing and Managing Medicines in the Environment as a Global Pharmaceutical Company*, Dr. Jürg Oliver Straub, Roche, Pharmaceutical company, Switzerland (10')
- *Policy responses to emerging contaminants in drinking water resources in the Netherlands: the case of Pyrazole*, Julia Hartmann, Delft University of Technology, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, Netherlands (7')
- *Defining and circulating good practices and innovative solutions through financial incentive: Micropollutants in urban waters*, Olivier Gras, Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition, France (7')

Discussion (50')

- What critical partnerships need to be forged to pave the way for policy alignment between the chemical and water sectors?
- What role should the Precautionary Principle play?
- How can governments support the cooperation between different sectors and actors?

**16:00 – 16:30** Afternoon tea

**16:30 – 18:00** Session Four: Developing preliminary policy recommendations to tackle CECs – barriers and how to overcome them (Moderated by Jake Sanderson, Environment Canada)

Presentations (25')

- *Key barriers to effective management of CECs*, Florence Metz, University of Bern
- *State of play on policy development to manage CECs in the EU*, Peter Korytar, European Commission

Discussion (65')

- What are the solutions to overcome barriers to effectively managing CECs? Is infrastructure always the best solution?
- Who should pay for the cost of pollution and how should this be characterised?

- How can resistance to regulation be overcome?
- What don't we know? What are the future research priorities?
- What policy recommendations are appropriate for OECD member countries?

**18:00 – 18:30** Closing session (Moderated by Xavier Leflaive, OECD Environment Directorate)

- Tour de table: Key lessons learnt from the workshop
- Take-home messages. Hannah Leckie, OECD Environment Directorate (10')

Final remarks from the Netherlands and the OECD

**18:30** *Workshop adjourns*

**18:30 – 20:00** *Cocktail (drinks and nibbles) in the Roger Ockrent room of the OECD Château (adjacent to the OECD Conference Centre).*