

4-6 May 2026 | Hotel The Standard , Brussels

ADVANCING BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

UNIFYING APPROACHES TO CHEMICAL RISK ASSESSMENT IN THE EU CONTEXT

This workshop is part of ECETOC's 2026 NEXUS WEEK

Workshop background and objectives

There is growing attention on biodiversity and the potential impacts of chemical exposure, highlighted by key strategic documents like the EU Biodiversity Strategy, the Farm to Fork Strategy, and the Chemical Strategy for Sustainability. In September 2023, an ECETOC Task Force began reviewing the consideration of biodiversity in relevant regulatory and strategy documents, EU-funded research on chemicals and biodiversity, and the definitions and metrics used to measure it.

This workshop will build on the work of the ECETOC Biodiversity Task Force and unite scientific, regulatory, and policy experts from various chemical sectors, including LCA practitioners and green finance experts. Together, we will explore tools, share insights, and identify practical actions towards aligning chemical management with European Union (EU) biodiversity goals.

The workshop objectives are to:

1. **[Theory] Toolbox:** Explore available and developing biodiversity definitions, metrics and methodologies relevant to chemical risk assessment.
2. **[Practice] Aligning tools and instruments to achieve the policy objectives:** Identify key actions to bridge the gap between existing scientific understanding and policy objectives for better chemicals management.

A summary of the workshop outcomes will be prepared and submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

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Workshop Programme

Day 1: 4 May 2026	
Time	Agenda item
12.00 – 13.30	Arrival, registration and welcome lunch
13.30 – 13.40	Welcome, practicalities and workshop objectives
13.40 – 14.00	Summary of ECETOC Biodiversity Task Force activities and insights
14.00 – 14.30	Keynote: Current regulatory status and vision for biodiversity, including protection goals
Session 1: Biodiversity metrics & tools/methodologies relevant to assessing chemical impacts	
14.30 – 14.55	Biodiversity metrics used in research
14.55 – 15.10	Misalignment between biodiversity metrics and ecotoxicological testing in chemicals regulation
15.10 – 15.40	Coffee break
15.40 – 16.05	Tools to address the misalignment between biodiversity metrics and ecotoxicological testing
16.05 – 17.30	Breakout group discussions (Round 1)
17.30 – 18.00	Close Day 1 and plan for Day 2
Day 2: 5 May 2026	
Time	Agenda item
09.00 – 09.10	Welcome and split again into breakout groups
09.10 – 10.30	Breakout group discussions (Round 2)
10.30 – 11.10	Plenary discussion
11.10 – 11.30	Coffee break
Session 2: Gaps and synergies between chemicals regulation and sustainable finance initiatives: Linking biodiversity science to finance initiatives	
11.30 – 11.50	Keynote: Metrics and methods used in sustainable finance
11.50 – 12.30	Breakout group discussions
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch break
13.30 – 14.15	Plenary discussion
Session 3: Bridging scientific understanding and implementable chemicals management	
14.15 – 14.25	Key findings from ECETOC Task Force in terms of how biodiversity is currently (implicitly or explicitly) considered in chemicals regulations
14.25 – 15.30	Breakout group discussions (round 1)

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Day 2: 5 May 2026	
Time	Agenda item
15.30 – 15.50	<i>Coffee break</i>
15.50 – 16.45	Breakout group discussions (round 2)
16.45 – 17.30	Plenary discussion
17.30 – 18.30	Panel discussion
18.30 – 19.30	<i>Cocktail networking event</i>

Day 3: 6 May 2026	
Time	Agenda item
Session 4: Addressing gaps between implementable chemicals management and available knowledge and tools	
09.00 – 09.25	Keynote: EC investment in biodiversity research, and links to policy objectives and decision-making needs
09.25 – 10.45	Breakout group discussions
10.45 – 11.15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.15 – 12.00	Plenary discussion
12.00 – 12.30	Next steps and close
12.30 – 13.30	<i>Farewell lunch</i>

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Workshop Organising Committee

Marta	Baccaro	DG - JRC, IT
Sian	Ellis	Corteva, UK
Nika	Galic	Syngenta, CH
Anja	Gladbach	Bayer AG, DE
Sarah A.	Hughes	Shell Global Solutions (US) Inc, US
Philippe	Lemaire	TotalEnergies, FR
Lorraine	Maltby	Sheffield University, UK
Christoph	Mayer	BASF SE, DE
Anna-Maija	Nyman	ECHA, FI
Hans	Sanderson	Aarhus University, DK
Aaron	Stoler	Exponent, US
Johannes	Tolls	Henkel, DE
Andrea	Lopez Vignote	ECETOC
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Lucy	Wilmot	ECETOC