

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. **[Landscape] Understanding the landscape of biodiversity metrics used in sustainable finance initiatives and their relationship to chemical safety assessment.**
3. **[Practice] Aligning tools and methodologies 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 potentially submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

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Workshop Programme

Day 1: 4 May 2026		
Time	Agenda item	Who
12.00 – 13.30	Arrival, registration and welcome lunch	
13.30 – 13.40	Welcome & practicalities Workshop objectives	ECETOC Lorraine Maltby (University of Sheffield)
Introductory session Chair: Lorraine Maltby		
13.40 – 13.55	Science-policy interface and key challenges	Vujadin Kovacevic (DG-ENV)
13.55 – 14.20	Current regulatory status and vision for biodiversity	Anna-Maija Nyman (ECHA) and Domenica Auteri (EFSA)
14.20 – 14.35	Consideration of biodiversity in chemicals regulations/policy – Findings from ECETOC Task Force	Christoph Mayer (BASF) - Online
14.35 – 14.50	Definitions and metrics of academic literature: what is in the pipeline?	Aaron Stoler (Exponent)
14.50 – 15.20	Coffee break	
Session 1: Biodiversity metrics & tools/methodologies relevant to assessing chemical impacts Chair: Sarah Hughes		
15.20 – 15.35	Metrics gap in ecotoxicology to effectively protect biodiversity in chemical regulation	Marta Baccaro (DG-JRC)
15.35 – 15.50	Linking biodiversity to ecotoxicological testing	David Bohan (INRAE)
15.50 – 16.05	TerraChem – From soils to apex species : Chemical pathways, effects and impacts on terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystem services and applications for better chemicals management	Gabriele Treu (UBA)
16.05 – 16.30	Coffee break	
16.30 – 16.45	MIND – Biodiversity : A Strategic & Collaborative Platform for Next-Generation Environmental Risk Assessment of Chemicals to better protect biodiversity	Romana Hornek-Gausterer (University of Applied Sciences Technikum Wien)
16.45 – 17.50	Q&A/discussion on presentations and on topics for tomorrow’s breakout group discussions	Chair: Sarah Hughes (Shell)
17.50 – 18.00	Close Day 1 and plan for Day 2	Sarah

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Day 2: 5 May 2026		
Time	Agenda item	Who
Session 1: Biodiversity metrics & tools/methodologies relevant to assessing chemical impacts [Cont.] Chair: Sarah Hughes		
09.00 – 09.15	Welcome and split into breakout groups	Sarah Hughes (Shell)
09.15 – 11.15	Breakout group discussions	Tools [Room 1/Plenary]: Moderator: Nika Galic Rapporteur: David Bohan Metrics [Room 3]: Moderator: Aaron Stoler Rapporteur: Marta Baccaro Definitions/Protection goals [Room 4]: Moderator: Siân Ellis Rapporteur: TBC
11.15 – 11.45	Coffee break	
11.45 – 12.30	Plenary discussion: Rapporteurs summarise breakout group outcomes + Q&A	Breakout group rapporteurs Chair: Sarah
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch break	
Session 2: Gaps and synergies between chemicals regulation and sustainable finance initiatives: Linking biodiversity science to finance initiatives Chair: Johannes Tolls		
13.30 – 14.00	Metrics and methods used in sustainable finance	Christian Hell (EY Parthenon)
14.00 – 16.15	Breakout group discussions	Metrics: finance and chemicals regulation [Room 1/Plenary]: Moderator: Johannes Tolls Rapporteur: TBC Biodiversity metrics and financial assessments [Room 3]: Moderator: Hans Sanderson Rapporteur: Samantha Deacon Connections between tools and topics [Room 4]: Moderator: Sarah Hughes Rapporteur: Francesca Trivelloni
16.15 – 16.45	Coffee break	
16.45 – 17.30	Plenary discussion: Rapporteurs summarise breakout group outcomes + Q&A	Breakout group rapporteurs Chair: Johannes Tolls (Henkel)
17.30 – 18.30	Cocktail networking event	

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Day 3: 6 May 2026		
Time	Agenda item	Who
Session 3: Addressing gaps between implementable chemical management and available knowledge and tools <i>Chair: Nika Galic</i>		
09.00 – 09.10	Welcome and plan for Day 3	Nika Galic (Syngenta)
09.10 – 09.45	From EU projects on chemicals & biodiversity to practical protection : Findings, gaps, and future opportunities	Anja Gladbach (Bayer)
09.45 – 11.00	Breakout group discussions	Topic 1 [Room 1/Plenary]: Moderator: Anja Gladbach Rapporteur: Frédéric De Laender Topic 2 [Room 3]: Moderator: Lorraine Maltby Rapporteur: Virginie Ducrot Topic 3 [Room 4]: Moderator: Marta Baccaro Rapporteur: TBC
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break	
11.30 – 12.15	Plenary discussion: Rapporteurs summarise breakout group outcomes + Q&A	Breakout group rapporteurs Chair: Nika
12.15 – 12.30	Next steps and close	Nika
12.30 – 13.30	Farewell lunch	

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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
Cristina	Martin Sanchez	ECETOC
Lucy	Wilmot	ECETOC

Practicalities

Venue

Hotel The Standard, Brussels

[Bd Roi Albert II 30, 1000 Bruxelles](#)

Contact

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Organisers Information

ECETOC is a not-for-profit scientific association that provides a collaborative space for leading scientists from academia, governments and industry to develop and promote trusted and practical scientific solutions which ensure a safe, sustainable and healthy world. For more information please visit <https://www.ecetoc.org/>

ECETOC has significant experience organising workshops and conferences to facilitate the communication of science.