Pollution, chemicals and health
From inaction to action?

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About CHEM Trust

• A charity that works at UK, EU & International levels to protect humans and wildlife from harmful chemicals
• Working with science, technical processes and decision makers, in partnership with other civil society groups
• We particularly focus on endocrine disrupting chemicals
• See our blog & twitter accounts for more
Environment

• We need to return to a full view of the environment
  – Not just low carbon & resource efficient, biodiversity

• We must get pollution back into the environmental agenda
  – Whether from chemicals, air pollution…

• Minimising pollution must be part of the Green Economy agenda
  – In products, supply chains, operations
Environment is not just low carbon & resource efficient!
Sustainability

- Sustainability is vital
  - It is about jobs – and growth (in wellbeing)
- It’s about innovation to better approaches
  - If Europe doesn’t, others will
- It’s not about protecting vested interests (who are making the money now) & their old, dirty, technologies
  - E.g. Proposed authorisation of DEHP in PVC
- It’s time to stop evidence-free, vested-interest driven, anti-regulatory rubbish
Science

• Science is a vital tool
  – But often hard or impossible to find definitive answers
  – Many decisions – to do something or not do something (still a decision) – are made with uncertain knowledge

• Strong pro-inaction campaigns from producers, e.g. on hormone disrupting chemicals
  – Have learnt from tobacco & climate debates
  – Strategy is to create doubt, delaying action

• Need a faster, more balanced approach
  – Decisions need to be made with available evidence
  – We need active scientists to be more visible (as climate)
Summary

• Pollution – including chemicals - must be re-integrated into the environmental narrative.
  – and be part of green economy plans
• We need to re-focus on sustainability - including jobs and growth - in wellbeing.
  – Ignore evidence-free, vested-interest driven, anti-regulatory rubbish
  – Promoting innovation to safer chemicals
• Science must be used to establish balanced case for action vs inaction
  – Use available evidence & get the active scientists out!