

# Sustainable Chemistry 2015: the way forward

*24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015, DBB Forum, Berlin*

## *1. Title of the session, speakers and their affiliation*

Session 4: Growing sustainable chemistry through the supply chain (part 2): sector-specific challenges

Break-out group A) “Per- und polyfluorinated chemicals in the textile sector”

Moderated by Reinhard Joas, BiPRO

Impulse statement by Kirsten Brodde, Greenpeace

## *2. Summary (1 -2 short paragraph summary of the panel/keynote)*

In session 4, the break-out group “Per- und polyfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) in the textile sector” was moderated by Reinhard Joas, BiPRO. The group gathered more than 30 participants from all stakeholder groups for a 1-hour discussion.

The impulse statement, held by Kirsten Brodde, Greenpeace, illustrated the Detox campaign’s achievements in eliminating toxic chemicals in textiles along the supply chain. The campaign showed the potential to drive policy change and investment in innovation by raising consumer awareness. Greenpeace’s “Footprint in the snow” report demonstrated the presence of PFCs in remote locations. Greenpeace calls on phasing-out the entire group of PFCs, including short chain PFCs.

In the discussion, the challenges, solutions, and key drivers to promote sustainable chemistry throughout the supply chain in the textile sector were addressed. The group acknowledged as major challenges the **complexity** of the supply chain, the **lack of consensus** on the issue, as well as the **lack of alternatives**. The group identified as a possible way forward the consideration of the **performance aspect** for alternatives, general **commitment**, as well as **communication and cooperation** between stakeholders. Key drivers for transformation include governance, the public sector, NGOs and the general public, with their potential to provide the **regulatory framework**, **promote R&D**, **raise awareness**, and influence **market demand**, respectively.

The group could build on the fruitful discussions of the previous sessions.

## *3. Key takeaways (bullet points)*

Challenges:

- **Complexity** of the supply chain in the textile sector
- **Transparency** of information along the supply chain
- Lack of **consensus** (e.g. on definitions, standards, research results, policies)
- Lack of economical, equally performing and sustainable **alternatives**

- **Investment and R&D** is expensive and long-term
- Satisfy **market demands** and customer needs (e.g. performance, price)
- Access and placement of **new technologies** along the supply chain

#### Solutions:

- Consideration of the **performance aspect** for alternatives
- Public **commitment** of all stakeholders
- Multi-stakeholder **communication** and **cooperation** (e.g. collaboration centres, round tables)
- **Prioritization** (e.g. priority chemicals, priority activities)
- Promote **knowledge and information** (e.g. awareness raising campaigns)
- Readiness for **compromise**
- Implementation of the **precautionary principle**
- Influence **market drivers** (e.g. consumers)

#### Key Drivers:

- **Governments** - facilitate multi-stakeholder communication, develop policies and incentives (e.g. labels), promote green procurement, support initiatives for SMES in developing countries
- **Private sector** – promote supply chain communication, promote R&D, invest in sustainable alternatives, perform audits
- **Non-Governmental Organizations** – raise awareness among the general public
- **Academia** - promote knowledge and information in higher education
- **General public** – consumers as market drivers