

SPOTLIGHTS 2026

Shaping the Chemical Transition Together

by the German Environment Agency & International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC3)

14th and 15th of October 2026, Dessau-Roßlau, Germany



AGENDA

DAY 1: Wednesday, 14th October 2026

	Programme
10:00	Guided tour of the German Environment Agency
11:30 – 12:30	Registration
12:30 – 12:45	<p>Opening</p> <p>The balance in sustainable development under pressure – why the chemical industry plays a prominent role</p> <p>Prof Dr Dirk Messner, President, German Environment Agency (UBA)</p>
12:45 – 13:45	<p>Session 1</p> <p>The future of the chemical industry in Germany and Europe – strategic leadership and responsibility within planetary boundaries</p> <p>Keynotes by</p> <p>The planetary boundaries as a framework of our actions Prof Dr Ricarda Winkelmann, Founding Director, Managing Director, Director of the Department Integrative Earth System Science, Max Planck Institute of Geoanthropology (MPI-GEA)</p> <p>A vision for a sustainable European chemical industry Dr Volker Strauß, Head of Department Pharmaceuticals, Chemicals, Environmental Testing, German Environment Agency (UBA)</p> <p>The European chemical industry of the future - how can we become the world market leader? Marco Mensink, Director General, CEFIC</p> <p>Transformation as a necessity to safeguard jobs Alexander Bercht, Member of the Executive Board, Industrial Union of Mining, Chemicals and Energy (IGBCE)</p>
13:45 – 14:30	<p>Panel Discussion with the speakers from opening and session 1</p> <p>How can we successfully transition to a sustainable chemical industry with secure jobs within the boundaries of our planet?</p>

14:30 – 15:15	Refreshments and snacks
15:15 – 16:15	<p>Session 2</p> <p>Innovation, investment and new business models for a competitive, sustainable chemical industry – how can we foster closer collaboration between academia, industry and politics to bring research into practical application more quickly?</p> <p>Keynote by Prof Dr Dr hc Peter H. Seeberger, Head of Department of Biomolecular Systems, Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces (MPIKG) and Scientific Director, Centre for the Transformation of Chemistry (CTC)</p> <p>Panel discussion with Christof Günther, Managing Director, InfraLeuna GmbH and Spokesperson of the Central European Chemical Network, tbc</p> <p>Dr Christoph Gürtler, Head of Global Industry Academia Collaborations, Covestro Deutschland AG</p> <p>Sonja Haider, Head of Sustainable Finance division, ChemSec, tbc</p> <p>Dr Anne Lamp, Chief Executive Officer, Traceless Materials</p> <p>Christian Vollmann, Chief Executive Officer, Member of Management Board, C1 Green Chemicals AG</p>
16:15 – 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 – 18:00	<p>Session 3</p> <p>Economy and governance – how can we create a fruitful environment for innovation, competitiveness and sustainability?</p> <p>Keynote by Kristin Schreiber, Director Unit F for Chemicals, Bioeconomy and Retail, European Commission, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW)</p> <p>Panel discussion with: Kristin Schreiber, Director, European Commission, DG GROW</p> <p>Dr Katrin Ostertag, Head of Department of Sustainability and Infrastructure Systems, Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research (Fraunhofer ISI)</p> <p>Kristina Jeromin, Head of “Initiative Made in Germany 2030”, supported by Mercator Foundation</p> <p>Oliver Loebel, Secretary General, European Federation of National Associations of Water Services (EurEau) and more</p>
18:00	End of day 1 of the conference
19:30	Evening programme

Reception and dinner at the Bauhaus Café (at your own expense)
Welcome address: Regina Bittner, Deputy Director of the Bauhaus Academy

Day 2: Thursday, 15th October 2026

	Programme
08:15 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:15	Joint start into day 2 Activation for a successful day and introduction to day 2, Atrium Stefanie Hauer, Planetary Business
09:15 – 10:45	Session 4: Breakout Groups (roundtables and panels) 1 – Innovation and future business Discussion with Dr Anne Braune , Deutsche Gesellschaft für Nachhaltiges Bauen - DGNB e.V. Nora Jeske , Senior Key Expert at Siemens and member of the Sustainability Leadership Council at the Global Electronics Association Dr Nina Fechler , Global Director Strategic Marketing & Business Development, Evonik, tbc Dr Ioannis Hatzopoulos , Director for Sustainability & Science Communications at P&G, tbc and more 2 – Financing the chemical transition – from vision to sound investment Discussion with Matthias Belitz , Head of Sustainability, Energy and Climate Protection, Member of the Management Board, VCI Frank Sibert , Senior Advisor Sustainable Advisory & Business Germany, BNP Paribas 3 – The future of plastics - closing the loop on a global material Discussion with Dr Manuel Häußler , Co-Founder & Chief Security Officer, aevoloop Prof Dr Thomas Müller Kirschbaum , Chief Scientist, Circular Valley Foundation Dr Bettina Rechenberg , Head of Division Sustainable Production and Products, Waste Management, German Environment Agency (UBA) and more 4 – Safe and sustainable consumer electronics Input by

	<p>Prof Dr Rüdiger Kühr, United Nations Institute for Training & Research (UNITAR)</p> <p>Discussion with</p> <p>Dr Henning Friege, N³ Nachhaltigkeitsberatung</p> <p>Prof Dr Rüdiger Kühr, United Nations Institute for Training & Research (UNITAR)</p> <p>Frank Michel, Executive Director, ZDHC Foundation</p> <p>Dr Diana Radovan, Global Electronics Association</p> <p>Dr Erik Schmolz, Head of Division Sustainable Production and Products, Waste Management, German Environment Agency (UBA)</p> <p>5 – Less bureaucracy, more sustainability? Panel with</p> <p>Elisabeth Winkelmeier-Becker, Member of the Bundestag, Germany and Chair of the Parliamentary Advisory Board on Sustainable Development and Future Challenges, tbc</p> <p>Dr Roland Fornika, Head of Technology Management - Operational Efficiency, Röhm AG and President of the European Federation of Managerial Staff in the Chemical and Allied Industries (FECCIA), tbc</p> <p>Florian Schöne, Managing Director German League for Nature, Animal and Environment Protection (DNR)</p> <p>Prof Dr Dirk Messner, President, German Environment Agency (UBA)</p> <p>6 – The chemical industry in transition: zero pollution between regulation and reality Prof Dr Lilian Busse, Vice President, German Environment Agency (UBA)</p>
10:45 – 11:30	Coffee break and snacks
11:30 – 12:00	Reporting back from breakout groups (Session 4)
12:00 – 12:45	<p>Session 5 Recommendations for action and next steps in the transformation of the European chemical industry Panel discussion with the “Reporter” who followed the presentations and discussions closely over both days</p> <p>Dr Veronica Manfredi, Director DG Env.C, Zero Pollution, Water Resilience and Green Urban Transition</p> <p>Dr Patrick ten Brink, Secretary General, European Environmental Bureau (EEB)</p> <p>Joel Tickner, Professor, Department of Public Health UMass Lowell, Founder and Strategic Advisor, Industrial Transformation, Change Chemistry</p> <p>and more</p>

12:45 – 13:00	Closing remarks Antje von Broock , Head of Directorate-General Circular Economy, Immission Control and Chemical Safety, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany (BMUKN)
13:00	Lunch together , canteen German Environment Agency
14:30	Guided tour of the Bauhaus Dessau , Special event for the 100 th birthday (https://bauhaus-dessau.de/en/to-the-core/)
