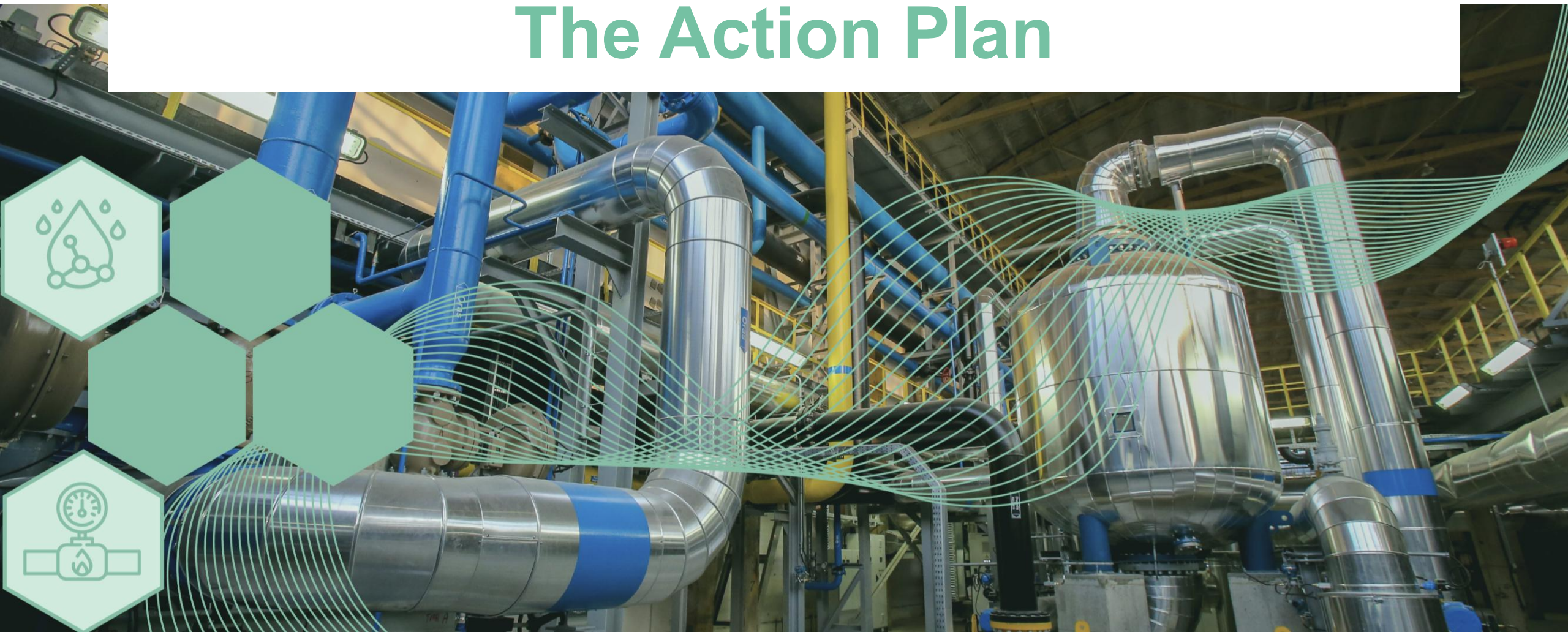


A Stronger EU Chemicals Industry: The Action Plan



Agenda

Welcome

Introduction to the Action Plan

Presentation of the Transition Pathway Stakeholders Support Platform
for Chemicals

Q&A



Setting the scene



The Chemical Industry

- The industry of industries
- 4th largest manufacturing sector in the EU; essential to 96% of manufactured goods
- Key role in strategic sectors: clean tech, defence, health, digital
- Challenges: declining global share, high energy and feedstock costs, low demand and production site closures



Why an Action Plan now



What the Action Plan builds on

- Competitiveness Compass
- Clean Industrial Deal
- Strategic Dialogue with the Chemical Industry (May 2025)

Goal

- Secure global competitiveness
- Maintain production base
- Align with the green and digital transitions



The four pillars



Which are the four pillars

1. Strengthening resilience
2. Securing energy supply & supporting decarbonisation
3. Creating lead markets & promoting innovation
4. Simplifying the regulatory framework



1. Strengthening resilience



Maintaining critical production

- Loss of >50% global share since 2003; closures threaten jobs and value chains.
- New initiative: Critical Chemicals Alliance. The alliance will work on:
 - establishing criteria to identify critical chemical productions and molecules for the European economy.
 - mapping out critical molecules which can benefit from enhanced trade monitoring and support, including under the Customs Surveillance Systems.
 - supporting the EU and Member States in aligning investment priorities and guide coordination of EU support mechanisms with national projects.



Supporting Regions and Industry

- 150+ chemical parks in the EU → hubs for innovation and employment.
- Use of cohesion funds, Just Transition Fund, InvestEU.
- Co-creation of regional plans for critical sites (industry–academia–authorities).



Trade and Level Playing Field

- Chemical exports: EUR 285 billion (2023) → EU trade surplus, but pressure from imports.
- Actions include:
 - Expanding FTAs & trade partnerships.
 - Strengthening trade defence (anti-dumping, anti-subsidy). Enhanced Import Surveillance Task Force and Customs Data Hub.
 - Risk-based market surveillance to ensure compliance.



2. Securing energy and supporting decarbonisation



Affordable Energy Supply

- Energy = up to 75% of production costs.
- Actions:
 - Update ETS State Aid Guidelines (Q4 2025).
 - Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework – relief tied to decarbonisation.
 - Faster permitting via Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act (2025).
 - Improve grid access for electrification projects.



Hydrogen and Clean Transition

- Hydrogen as both feedstock and energy source.
- Low-carbon hydrogen delegated act + Hydrogen Bank (2025).
- Industrial Decarbonisation Bank – pilot EUR 1 billion auction for process decarbonisation.



Circular and low-carbon shift

- Bio-based feedstocks
- Chemical recycling
- Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS)



3. Lead Markets and Innovation



Creating Lead Markets

- Clean technology incentives through taxation and procurement.
- Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act → resilience and sustainability criteria.
- Tax credits & accelerated depreciation for green investments.



Driving Innovation

- Launch of EU Innovation and Substitution Hubs (2026).
- Support for Safe and Sustainable by Design chemicals (SSbD).
- Advanced Materials Act (2026) and Common Data Platform on Chemicals.
- Roadmap to phase out animal testing (2026).



4. Simplifying the Regulatory Framework



Reducing administrative burden

- Target: –25% for all businesses, –35% for SMEs.
- Sixth Simplification Omnibus (2025): simplifies CLP, Fertilising, and Cosmetics Regulations.
- Environmental Omnibus and Biocontrol Omnibus (2025).



REACH and ECHA Reforms

- Targeted REACH revision (Q4 2025):
streamline authorisations and
evaluation.
- ECHA Basic Regulation (Q3 2025):
improve governance, financing, and
SME support.



PFAS and Safety Framework

- Ongoing PFAS restriction process (ECHA opinion 2026).
- Balance between environmental protection and critical applications.
- PFAS monitoring framework (2026) + research on remediation tech.
- Stronger worker protection through updated Occupational Safety and Health Directives.



Implementation and next steps



Delivery timeline overview

- 2025–2026: rollout of all major initiatives (Critical Chemicals Alliance, Energy Acts, Omnibus reforms).
- Continuous monitoring via Competitiveness Coordination Tool.



Working together

- Implementation success depends on:
 - Member States and regions
 - Industry and SMEs
 - Research and innovation actors
 - Social partners and civil society

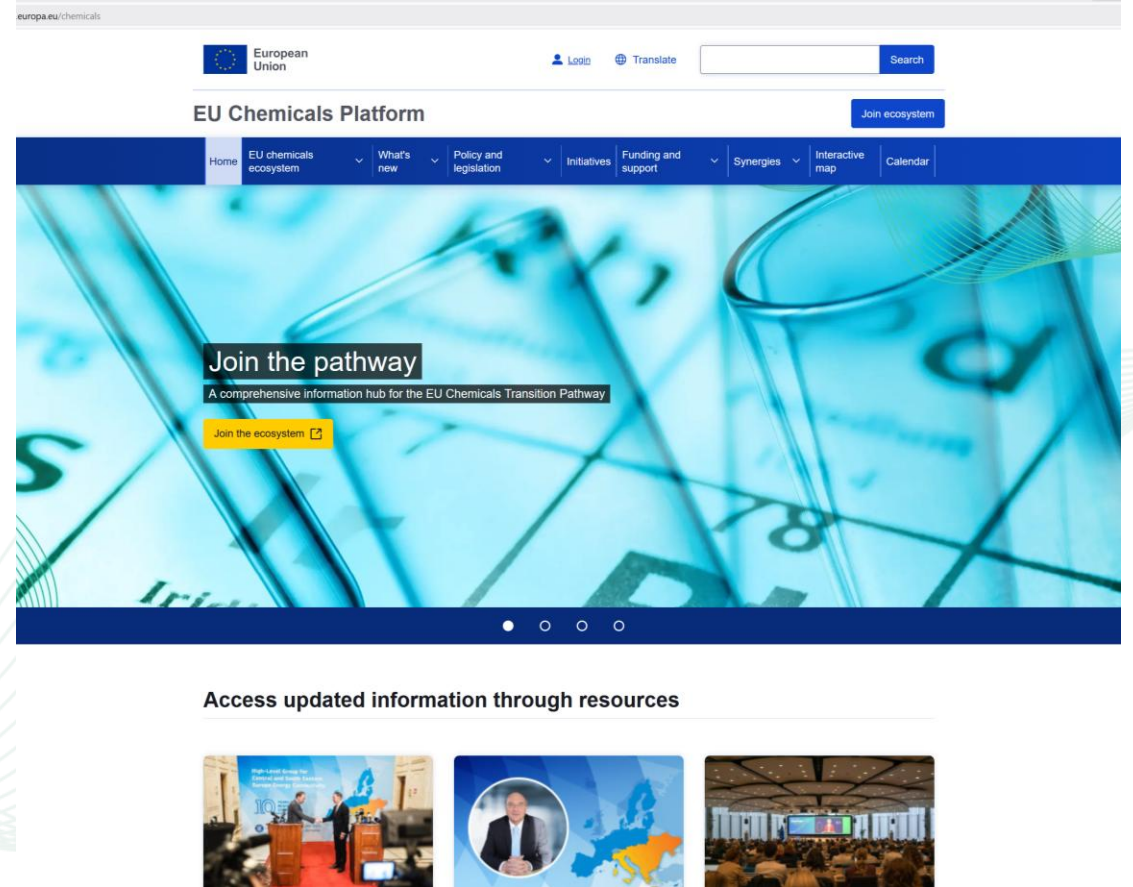


Stakeholder Support Platform



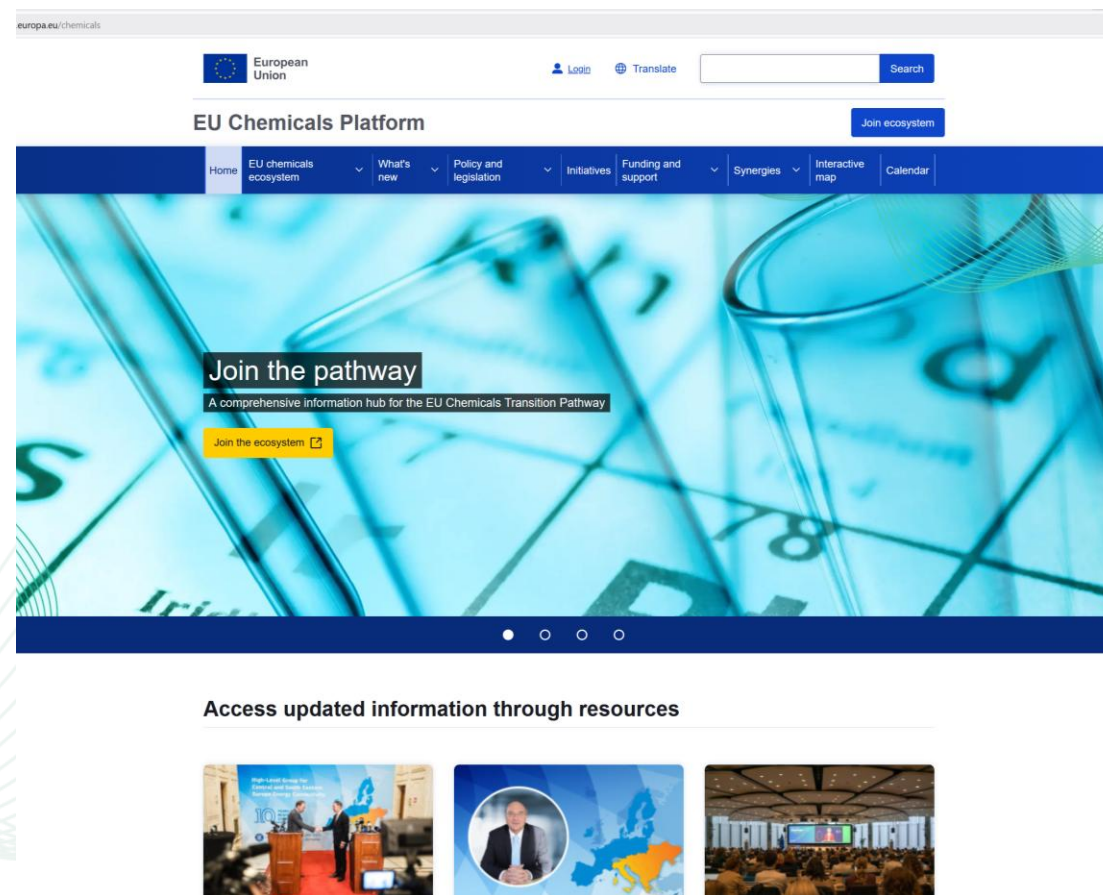
The platform

- The primary objective of the platform is to accelerate the twin transition (green + digital) within the EU chemicals ecosystem. It supports the Action Plan's ambition by:
 - Facilitating access to funding and support instruments;
 - Improving transparency about regulatory and policy developments;
 - Promoting collaboration among industry, research, regions and authorities;
 - Enabling initiatives to be shared and scaled across borders.
 - In other words, it bridges information, resources and actors to transform the industry.



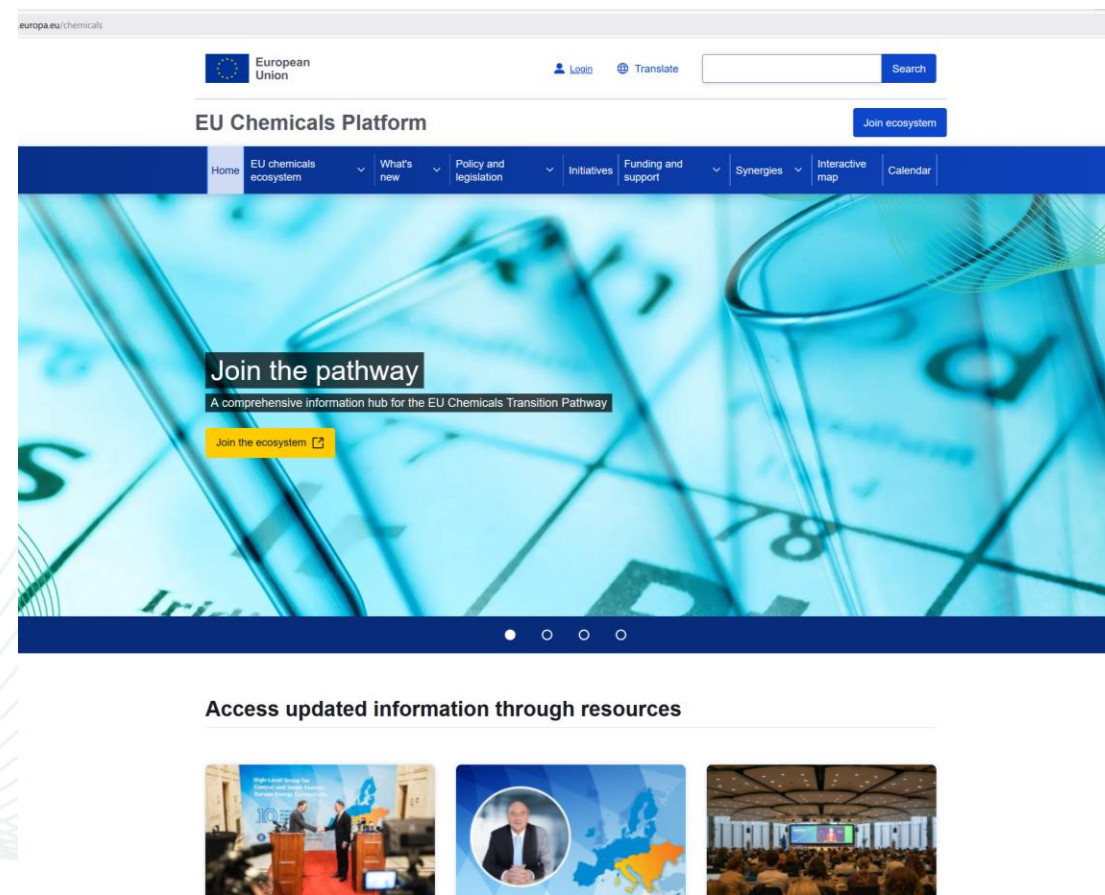
Join the platform

- Stakeholders can join the platform by clicking on the “Join the ecosystem” tab
- Use of ECAS account to join and log in



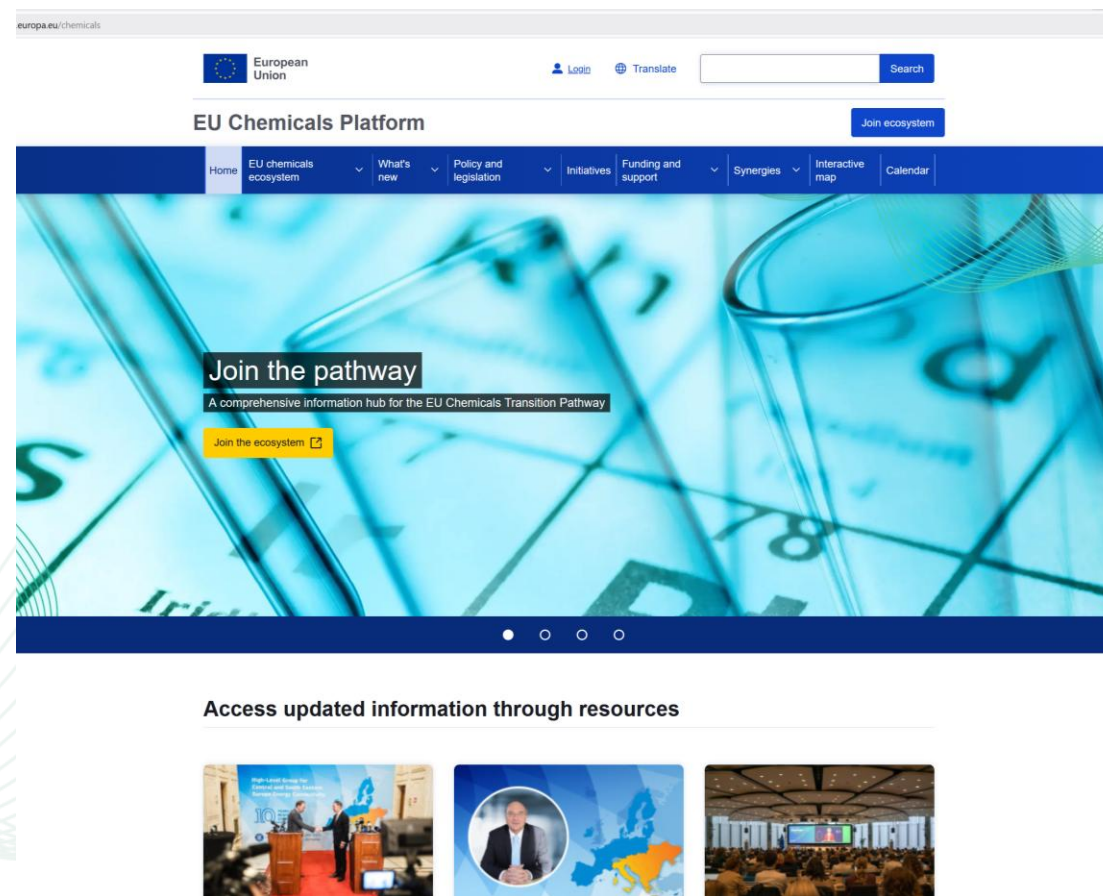
Platform categories

- **Home:** all information collected in one place
- **EU Chemicals ecosystem:** sectorial reports and statistics, all relevant to the Chemicals ecosystem
- **What's new:** news and multimedia relevant to the sector
- **Policy and legislation:** regulatory and policy updates relevant to the green and digital transition
- **Initiatives:** sum of stakeholder initiatives submitted so far
- **Funding and support:** EU and national funding instruments relevant to the sector
- **Synergies:** sectoral and cross-sectoral synergistic actions
- **Calendar:** all time sensitive actions



Join the platform here:

<https://transition-pathways.europa.eu/chemicals>



Q & A





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