October 2017

EU Exit and Chemicals Regulation - Briefing Paper

Following our workshop on '**Science and the Development of Chemical & Environmental Policy**'
5 July 2017, Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London.

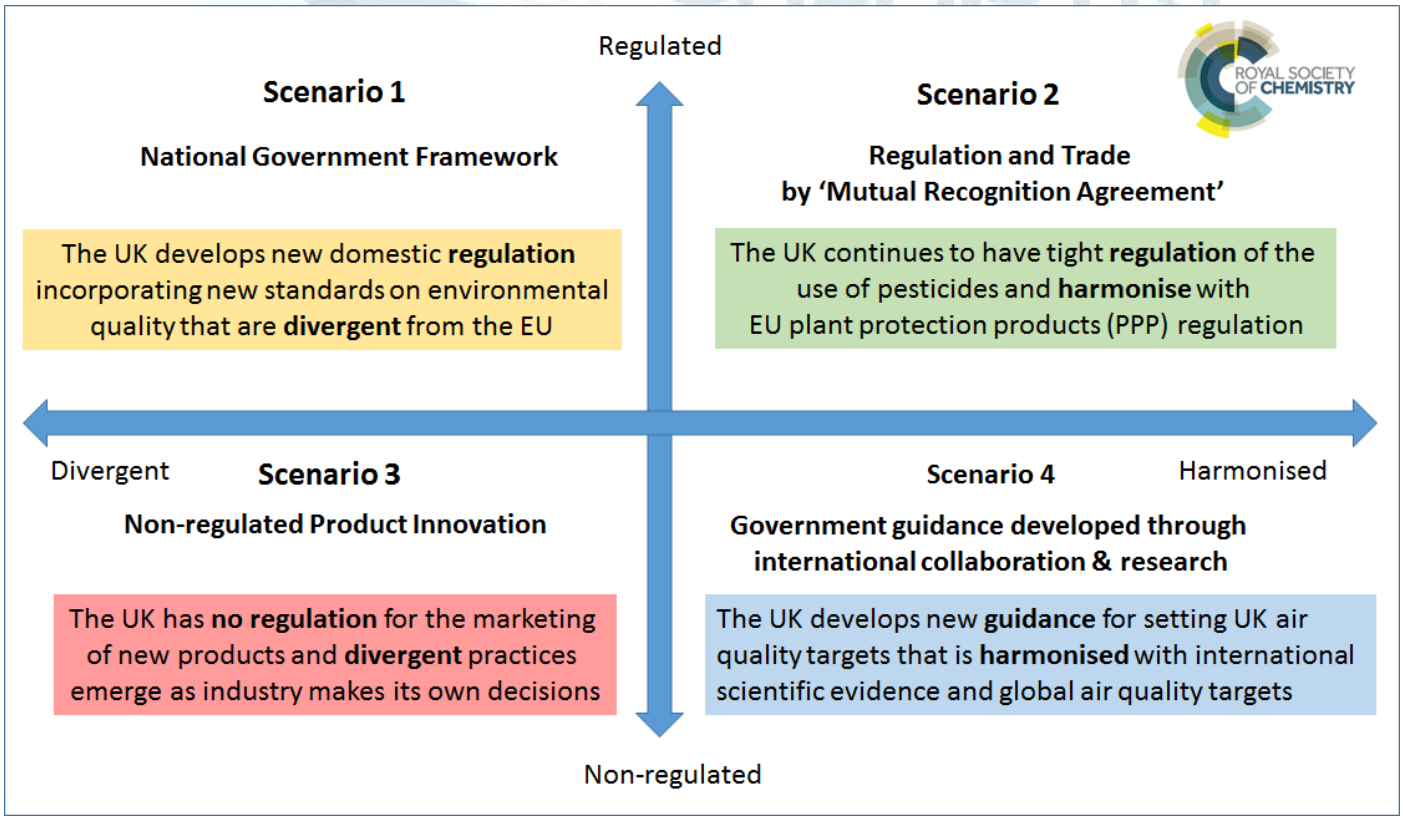
The overarching Royal Society Chemistry position is that the UK needs a future regulatory system that achieves a balance between

- **nurturing innovation**
- **protecting the environment and human health and**
- **enabling the UK to trade internationally.**

Future Regulatory Scenarios

On 5 July 2017, the Royal Society of Chemistry held a workshop **'**Science and the Development of Chemical & Environmental Policy**'** that brought together over 50 expert scientists and policymakers to discuss four of many potential future regulatory scenarios post EU-exit. Our scenarios shown in the diagram below, spanned two dimensions designed to cover the space of post-EU Exit options regarding regulation:

1. strongly regulated to completely un-regulated chemicals management frameworks
2. complete divergence from or complete harmony with EU or other global regulations.



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Critical Requirements related to Scientific Data and Expertise

What was clear from the discussions at the workshop is that, regardless of the outcome of the negotiations and the overarching principles that form the basis for future UK chemicals regulation, the following four elements relating to scientific data and expertise will be critical for our future regulatory system:

1) Chemical Safety Assessment Frameworks: Consistent and systematic scientific frameworks are essential to integrate different types of data for performing chemical safety assessment. Some are already established at global level and others, such as nanomaterials safety assessment, are in development. It is crucial that decisions on chemicals are made in a pragmatic and balanced way, using evidence from both chemical safety assessment and cost-benefit socio-economic analysis.

2) Data: The UK will need to define the requirements for the data that underpins the implementation and enforcement of chemicals regulation, and then gain access to or generate it to populate chemicals safety assessment frameworks.

3) Scientific Expertise: The UK must be in a position to draw on expertise from both the UK and international science base to enable data generation, interpretation, and evidence gathering. Such expertise resides across sectors in industry, academia, government or consultancies. It is likely that the UK will need to find new ways to facilitate and manage the engagement of scientific experts within a UK scientific committee structure that is fit for purpose should a new UK regulatory framework be developed.

4) International scientific collaboration: International collaboration is crucial for harmonisation of approaches in chemicals regulation. UK scientists must have mechanisms to continue to share scientific knowledge and advice with colleagues internationally, including those in the EU. International engagement between scientists avoids duplication of effort. It is also essential in ensuring that a breadth of top international scientific advice facilitates mutual regulatory recognition globally when evaluating key substances for global markets.

The Royal Society of Chemistry will focus evidence gathering in these four areas as we work to support the development of regulatory policy options going forwards, drawing on expertise from across our community.

Contact
The Royal Society of Chemistry would be happy to discuss any of the points raised in this briefing.
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With over 50,000 members and a knowledge business that spans the globe, the Royal Society of Chemistry is the UK's professional body for chemical scientists, supporting and representing our members and bringing together chemical scientists from all over the world. Our members include those working in large multinational companies and small to medium enterprises, researchers and students in universities, teachers and regulators. See www.rsc.org

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