

**Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:
Next steps for the UK chemical industry - policy, regulation, growth and sustainability**

Timing: Morning, Monday, 7th September 2026

Taking place online



**WESTMINSTER ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT &
TRANSPORT FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Reforming UK REACH - supporting competitiveness while maintaining safety**
Marc Casale, Deputy Director, Chemicals and International, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **UK REACH implementation - considerations for compliance, regulatory alignment, efficiency and competitiveness**
Senior representative, industry
- 9.40 **Next steps for industrial competitiveness, decarbonisation and resilience in the UK chemical sector**
Industrial Strategy priorities for chemicals as a foundational sector | implications of foreign competition, recent closures and output declines | investment confidence, domestic capacity and long-term sector resilience | potential pathways for addressing industrial electricity and gas prices | the British Industrial Competitiveness Scheme and the Critical Chemicals Resilience Fund | supply chain resilience, trade pressures and strategic onshoring | industrial decarbonisation and preventing carbon leakage | contribution of electrification, hydrogen, CCUS and alternative feedstocks to low-carbon production | workforce retention, skills shortages and long-term capability
Professor Raffaella Ocone, Professor, Chemical Engineering, Heriot-Watt University
Senior representative, skills
Senior representative, downstream sector
Senior representative, innovation
- 10.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.35 Break
- 10.45 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 **Environmental considerations for chemical regulation**
Senior representative, regulation
- 11.10 **Priorities for prevention and remediation of chemical pollution**
identifying and addressing sources and pathways of chemical pollution | implementation of the PFAS Plan and UK REACH restrictions on PFAS | reducing exposure and addressing legacy contamination | practicalities for treatment, disposal and long-term management of pollutants | monitoring, enforcement and remediation capacity | downstream responsibilities and application of the Polluter Pays Principle | development and deployment of remediation technologies | agriculture, pesticides, fertilisers and sludge management | evidenced and proportionate approaches to regulation | implications of the UK-EU Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement for pesticide regulation
Simon Tilling, Partner, Burges Salmon
Thalie Martini, CEO, Breast Cancer UK
Senior representative, agriculture
Senior representative, downstream users
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.55 **Circularity, decarbonisation and low-carbon production in the chemicals sector**
priorities arising from the forthcoming Circular Economy Growth Plan for chemicals and plastics | chemical recycling, advanced recycling technologies and sustainable feedstocks | reducing reliance on virgin feedstocks and diverting chemical waste from landfill | innovation in treatment and destruction of PFAS | transparency and traceability in chemical supply chains | investment and financing requirements for circular infrastructure and innovation | role of industrial clusters in scaling circular and low-carbon production | aligning industrial transition with decarbonisation and net zero objectives | implications for competitiveness, investment and emerging global markets
Dr Parimala Shivaprasad, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, University of Nottingham
Senior representative, industry
Senior representative, technology
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Policy priorities for investment, resilience and sustainability**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum