

Save the date 18 September 2025

Workshop on a (network of) EU Substitution centre(s) – lot 1 (DRAFT)

1. Background

The European Parliament recognises that more support is needed to help companies, particularly SMEs, substitute hazardous substances. The European Commission has launched a pilot project to develop and test options for how a new EU (network of) substitution centre(s) could support the substitution of hazardous chemicals. In addition, substance specific pilot studies have been set up to investigate how to facilitate the research and implementation of safer alternative.

WSP and project partners [RISE Research Institute of Sweden](#), [Green Chemical Design](#), [Green Rose Chemistry](#) and [Wyeside Consulting](#) have been contracted by the European Commission to research options for a potential EU substitution centre (or network of substitution centres) and to test its functioning, under lot 1 of this pilot project. Further details of the scope of work are at: [EC-GROW/2024/OP/0038](#).

The purpose of the potential new substitution centre(s) would be to support the identification and implementation of less hazardous chemical alternatives, to help meet existing obligations. Under lot 1 we will be performing the role of a prototype secretariat within the context of a substitution centre, which will guide and support the ‘pilot co-operation groups’, or groups that are being set up by lots 2 to 4 on a set of groups of chemical substances to drive substitution in specific applications. In this role, we will gain experience with setting up an effective and efficient framework, including relevant mechanisms and tools, that foster collaboration of the various actors that play a role in developing and implementing safer alternatives.

As part of the study, a workshop is being organised to present, discuss, validate and refine the findings that have led the Commission and the study team to identify the most viable option(s) for a (network of) substitution centre(s). The workshop stakeholders will be invited to comment on the findings, and present additional data that validate or support the refinement of the option(s).

A background document will be issued in advance of the workshop and the information gathered from the workshop will be used to refine the structure and activities of the proposed EU (network of) substitution centre(s). The information gathered during the workshop will form part of a workshop report.

2. Time and location

Date: 18 September 2025

Time: All day event, exact timings to be confirmed (approximately 9.00-16.30 CET)

Location:

- Auditorium (level 4 - souterrain), DG GROW, Avenue d'Auderghem 45, Brussels.

- The Online link for the open session will be communicated closer to the workshop

Registrations:

Expressions of interest will open in May 2025. Invitees will be invited to complete a form online, and stakeholder invitations will be confirmed and issued 5 weeks after.

Due to capacity limitations, it is possible that not all stakeholders who have completed a form will be invited to attend.

3. Structure

The workshop will be held in a hybrid format (both online and in-person). The workshop will have an introductory session and two plenary sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, followed by a short Q&A and then longer break-out groups to discuss key points. The size of the break-out groups will be approximately 15 people, both online and in person.

For more information contact: eunetsubcentre@wsp.com