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HELCOM Stakeholder Conference 2025
A 'one Baltic' approach towards a sea
unaffected by hazardous substances
31 March 2025

Minimising release of pharmaceuticals in the environment (PIE) – an EFPIA perspective

Dr. Jan Woelz, EFPIA

What is currently happening in the pharmaceutical sector to minimise the release and impact of pollution from hazardous substances?

- EFPIA and its member companies are actively engaged in addressing environmental issues related to pharmaceuticals (PIE)

- Responsible Manufacturing Effluent Management TGD, e.g., implementation of API emission thresholds and monitoring in effluent at company level

- Proactively managing the environmental risks associated with the patient use of human medicinal products, e.g., pro-active concepts to improve ERA in the EU

- IMI project Prioritisation and Risk Evaluation of Medicines in the EnviRonment (PREMIER), e.g., first public API ERA database in EU, featuring concepts for greener APIs

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How could the pharmaceuticals sector support the implementation of the BSAP and the upcoming action plan on hazardous substances?

EFPIA companies manufacture according to Best Available Techniques (BAT) to minimise emission into the environment

Together with our partners, EFPIA actively raises awareness about PIE and promotes proper disposal practices for unused or expired medicines in the EU-27 countries, e.g. https://medsdisposal.eu/

EFPIA supports the Polluter Pays Principle (UWWTD), while requesting sound processes and fair cost sharing

In the IMI PREMIER project, EFPIA companies engage in development of novel tools to assess emissions and effects of PIE

EFPIA is open for exchange with stakeholders such as HELCOM to make progress in PIE related issues