

First stakeholder workshop on unintentionally released microplastics



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**A climate-neutral,
resource-efficient and
competitive economy**



**The value of products, materials and
resources is maintained in the economy
for as long as possible, and the
generation of waste minimized**



**Address the presence of
microplastics in the
environment**

Key product value chains: Plastics

Keeping the
value of (plastic)
material in the
circular economy



Implementation of the EU Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy

- Mandatory requirements for recycled content and waste reduction measures
- Policy framework on bio-based and biodegradable plastics
- Implement the SUP Directive
- **Address the presence of microplastics in the environment**

Addressing microplastics



Address the presence of microplastics in the environment:

- **Restrict** intentionally added MPL and tackle pellets
- **Develop** labelling, standardisation, certification and regulatory measures on unintentionally released MPL
- **Further develop and harmonise** methods to measure unintentionally released MPL
- **Close** the gaps in scientific knowledge

Microplastics in Zero Pollution Action Plan



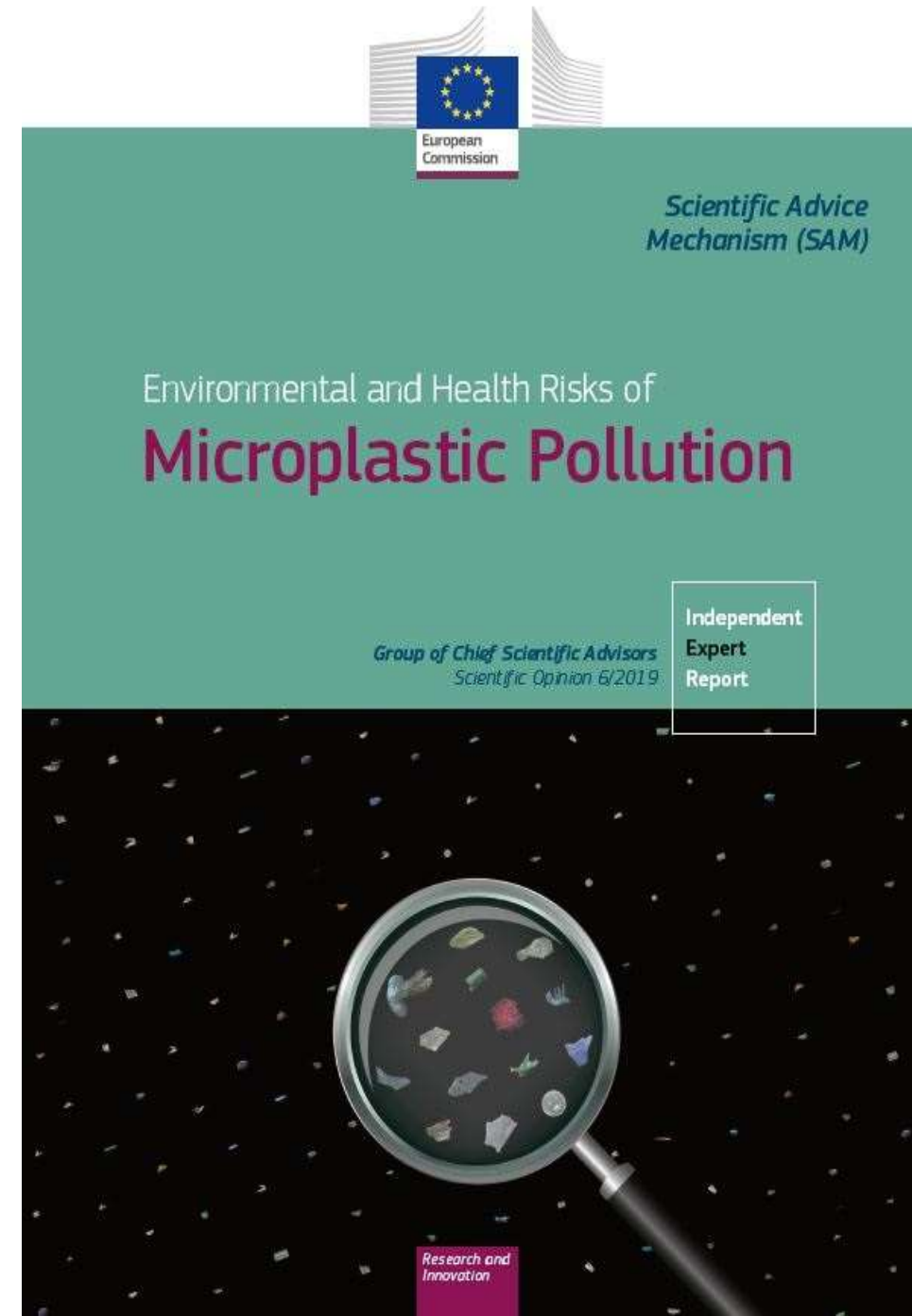
Key 2030 targets to speed up reducing pollution at source include:

- Improving water quality by reducing:
 - plastic litter at sea by 50%
 - and microplastics released into the environment by 30%

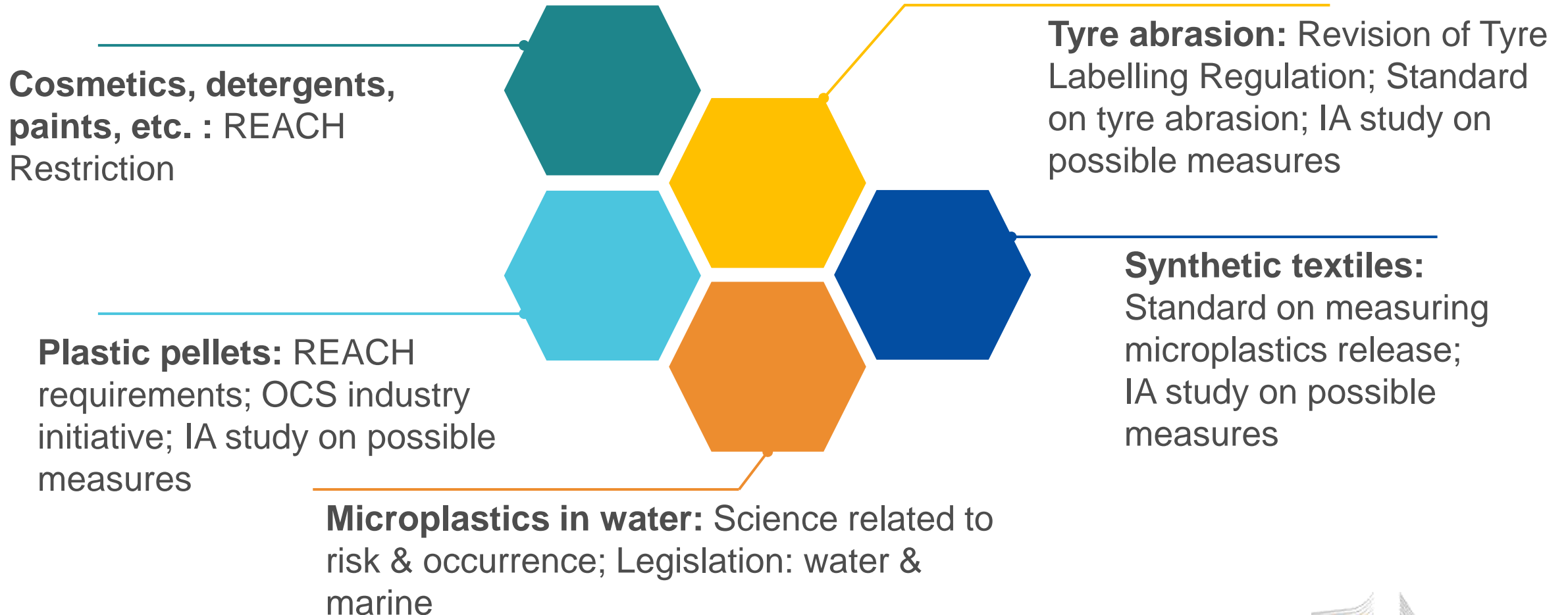
Microplastics & Science

EU Chief Scientific Advisors (2019):

- **Microplastics are widespread in the environment** (air, soil, waters, plants, animals, part of the human diet)
- “Although the currently-available evidence suggests that microplastic pollution at present does not pose widespread risk to humans or the environment, there are significant grounds for concern and for **precautionary measures** to be taken”



Microplastics: state of play



IA study on possible measures: input needed

A priority and complex file:

- A two year-study but conclusions by Q4 2022
- Between 6 and 8 more stakeholder workshops to come
- Knowledge gaps
- Data gaps
- Complementary analytical skills needed
- Several EC DGs involved to coordinate with existing and new initiatives

refuse



share



reuse



return
&
collect



sort



recycle



*Learn more about the plastics strategy, single-use plastics,
microplastics and the circular economy*



http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm

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