

...Assessing the risk of chemicals and, even more so, managing their risk, is a challenging task and keeps environmental scientists and regulators busy without too much evidence for a clear improvement of the chemical contamination of the environment. Two short articles recently written by [Kathrin Fenner](#) and colleagues try to outline ways forward. The [article in Chimia](#) written on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Chimia and co-authored with Fabrice Gallou from Novartis, discusses the need for more sustainable chemical production processes and products, the challenges involved and the specific opportunities in the Swiss context to tackle these challenges. The [second article](#) is a Viewpoint written for Environmental Science and Technology and co-authored with Martin Scheringer, ETH Zürich/Brno University. Our key point in this article is that chemical risk assessment has not been able to keep up with the number of chemicals on the market and will most likely also not be able to provide a sufficient basis for chemicals management in the future. Our proposal is that “chemical simplification”, i.e., reducing the number of chemicals on the market and in individual products as well as chemical grouping approaches, will be needed as a strategy to effectively manage chemical risk.

If you have any thoughts or comments on these two articles, please let us know about it ([Kathrin.fenner@eawag.ch](mailto:Kathrin.fenner@eawag.ch)).