

Toxic Footprints - Europe

Questions for investors and lenders to ask management

Recommended Questions

Q.1 Question: *Do you know your toxic footprint by facility?*

Background: 125 million tonnes of chemicals released in the Trilateral Chemical Region since 2010 caused 24,640 years of healthy life being lost and 57 billion species being potentially affected. There are also over 17 thousand tonnes of chemical releases that entered the environment by accident.

Target: Reduce the toxic footprint of the overall company and its facilities.

Q.2 Question: Does your company and its facilities share the complete set of pollution data?

Background: Production data is a valuable metric for the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register ("PRTR"), so users could benchmark the pollutant releases of facilities based on the quantity of products that are manufactured. This data is not available but will be a requirement of facilities to report from 2024 onwards.

Target: Data transparency and public access to environmental information through the PRTR.

Q.3 Question: Does the management team operate these facilities in the safest way using up to date emission control technologies?

Background: One of the principles for the emissions reporting system is that the polluter should bear the cost of pollution and that environmental impact assessment, as a national instrument, shall be undertaken for proposed activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

Target: Reveal the capex on up to date emission control technologies.

View the Interactive Dashboard here.

Report Key Takeaways

- The financial market appears largely unconcerned by toxic emissions.
- 1,093 facilities operate in the Trilateral Chemical Region of Europe (Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands).
- These facilities have released and transferred 125 million tonnes of chemicals since 2010 resulting in an estimated 24,640 years of healthy life being lost and 57 billion fractions of species being potentially affected.
- Germany accounts for the greatest harm to species (ecotoxicity), while Belgium has on the worst impact on human toxicity. The average releases per facility have been consistently higher in the Netherlands than facilities in the other countries.
- BASF (BAS) and Solvay (SOLB) are the most toxic polluters in the region.
- The financiers behind these toxic footprints are led by BlackRock, Vanguard and JPMorgan Chase.

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