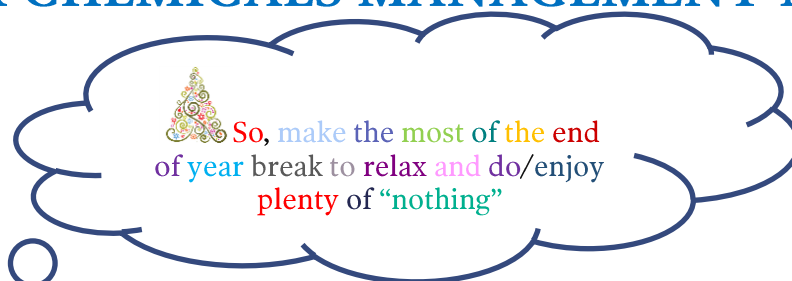


EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT NEWS



But before that, in December please join us on GoToMeeting for:

- 14 December: Human Health Taskforce Meeting
- 15 December: Risk Management Taskforce Meeting

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Dear All,

This is about sense in the nonsense and/or vice-versa, the lightness of nothingness in ‘the whole shebang’, 2020 nuances of end-of the-year-feelings and maybe some wise words at the end?

We are in December, again, already or finally. Time has been flying by, albeit pursuing a peculiar course: variable, deviating from the ‘normal’, unpredictable in its length. Working hours have been stretched by the magic of a home desk, the moments spent on public transport last year have turned into pyjama parties, long-term predictions in the agenda were overruled by short-term opportunities and our usually too short days off ...well, remained too short (despite the transmutation of holidays abroad into staycation in a short perimeter).*

And we have been surfing with success (sometimes more, sometimes less) on the time turbulences, remained ‘alive and kicking’ with what we had at hand, to make the most of the elapsed seasons that passed by in lockdown.

Let’s be fair, the regulatory tumult has lent its assistance in the shrinking of our days this year. Consultations, publications, decisions, intentions, programmes, objectives, roadmaps: all of these overwhelmed us, forcing us to act and react, pandemic or not, sometimes even becoming a timely handhold in the broader furore. And yes, we somehow managed.

And this deserves a cosier end of 2020, to still celebrate what is now qualified as anno horribilis but also entailed its part of achievements (yours, ours) and smiles (yours, ours). It will be an alternative Christmas for most of us, a risk-reduced New Year’s Eve but let’s make the most of it....

So, let’s not regret what we won’t have but celebrate what we still do (have) and try and snatch - in these challenging weeks ahead - some time to prepare this, for you, your beloved, and for 2021 to come.

Some random suggestions?



Make a metal Christmas tree

Put on some metal pigments coloured lights

Draw a precious metal jewel you would like to offer

Classify the content of your cupboards in massive or powder

Reconcile yourself with ink: go for handwritten Christmas cards (you can take to the post box!)

Dance on Hit the Road MAF

Create a CSS cocktail

Cook in article 12(b) compliant materials for your neighbours

Invent new theories on the (frozen)water column

EDcetera.

And send us pictures!!

“Nothingness is an absolute infinite potential, not an empty box. Adyashanti”.

“A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men. Roald Dahl”

Ailsa Lee and Violaine Verougstraete

COMMISSION

CARACAL: 37th meeting

The 37th meeting of the Competent Authorities for the REACH and Classification Labelling and Packaging Regulation (CLP) Regulations (CARACAL) was held on 17-18 November via WebEx. Among the hot topics – for which input had also been discussed ahead of the meeting with the CARACAL Taskforce – we should note the discussions on the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS), on the challenges of introducing an ‘essential uses’ concept for EU chemicals legislation, on the need to further discuss the ‘intermediates issues’ at CARACAL level, on More than One Constituent (MOC) substances, on the interface between REACH and Occupational Safety Health (OSH), on ECHA’s Integrated Regulatory Strategy, on activities at GHS level (including annexes 9.7 and 10 on metals), on the classification of certain borate compounds, and on the status of bioelution. Of particular relevance, we should note that the Commission stated in response to Eurometaux’s concerns over the CSS, in particular regarding its definition for substances of concern, that the Commission is “fully aware that there are some metals that are important for the digital and climate transitions” and that they “will not get in the way of those”. A thorough summary of the discussions including follow-up action points has been circulated to the relevant Taskforces (more information: Noam El Mrabet).

Industrial Emissions Directive: the Commission outlines plans to revise the IED

Under its so-called “Zero Pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment”, the Commission foresees to review EU measures to address pollution from large industrial installations (‘the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) revision’). It has now laid out its plans for the months to come. An open public consultation should be launched by the end of the year. A targeted survey for IED experts and stakeholders will be available in due course and will be followed by meetings of specific focus groups and dedicated interviews. A kick-off online stakeholder workshop will be organised in the second half of 2020. The event will be live-streamed and interested stakeholders will be able to express their interest to participate in due course. A final stakeholder workshop will take place towards the end of the impact assessment. Participation details will be made available in due time (more information: Noam El Mrabet).

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT & COUNCIL

MEPs: “water legislation fit for purpose and should not be revised”

On 1 December, the Environment Committee (ENVI) adopted its non-binding resolution on the implementation of EU water legislation with 68 votes in favour, 2 against and 10 abstentions. Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) agree with the Commission's assessment that the Water Framework Directive (WFD) is fit for purpose and should not be revised, but they strongly regret that half of the bodies of water in the EU are still not in good condition and that the objectives of the WFD have not yet been reached. This is mainly due to inadequate funding, particularly slow implementation, and insufficient enforcement. The precautionary and polluter-pays principles are not being implemented properly, and many member states are using exemptions too broadly, they say. Now the plenary will vote on the resolution during its 14 – 17 December session (more information: Noam El Mrabet).

EU AGENCIES

EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA)

ECHA COMMITTEES

RAC-55: Cd OEL discussion on 30 November

In 2017, the Scientific Committee on Occupational Exposure Limits (SCOEL) issued an opinion for an Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL) on Cd and its inorganic compounds, with a proposal to have either a 8h Time Weighted Average (TWA) (1 µg/m³ inhalable) or a combination of a TWA (4 µg/m³ respirable and

a BLV (2µg/g creatinine). Commission adopted an OEL of 1 µg/m³ inhalable as 8h TWA in 2019 but with a note that it would assess within 3 years the option to add a Biological Limit Value (BLV). A mandate was given to RAC to assess the option of an airborne occupational exposure limit and/or a combination of an airborne occupational exposure limit and a biological monitoring value for cadmium and its inorganic compounds based on their possible equal effectiveness in protecting the health of workers. ...'the scientific evaluation shall include, where appropriate, review of/ or proposals for OEL(s), biological limit value(s), health surveillance measures concerning biomonitoring and/ or appropriate notations. The existing scientific evaluations by SCOEL are considered to be up to date, unless new scientific information indicates that this is not the case' A background report was prepared by ECHA, followed by a Public Consultation ending mid-November. On 30 November, RAC discussed the first draft opinion prepared by the Rapporteurs on ECHA's background report. RAC members agreed that a combination of an OEL and a BLV is more effective than using only the OEL or the BLV. RAC also agreed that general population epidemiological studies should be considered to derive workplace values, to consider the accumulation of Cd in the body and the different exposure routes contributing to the body burden, also outside of the workplace. With regard to the values, to be further discussed in March though, they consider that a BLV of 1µg Cd/g creatinine can be justified, supported also by the biomonitoring data from the HBM4EU project indicating a 95 percentile of the general population is at 0.57 µg Cd/g creatinine. An OEL of 1µg/m³ inhalable was proposed but it has been requested to compile a more solid justification and to consider in particular the quantification of the cancer risk and the recently updated sublinear "German AGS" approach. Industry was able to intervene and comment on the relevance of human lung cancer data to consider in the derivation of the air limit value and on the uncertainties associated with the data from the general population at very low exposure levels if used to derive occupational exposure limit values for cadmium (more information: Noömi Lombaert, Mik Gilles, Patrick De Metz, Howard Winbow and Violaine Verougstraete).

SEAC-49: 2 weeks of intensive meetings with focus on Substitution Plans

SEAC-49 will run continuously from 30 November to 10 December given the long series of Authorisation Applications (AfAs) and Restriction proposals to review. ECHA received many new Downstream User AfAs and Review Reports (follow-up of an AfA once expired) for metal coatings (Cr6+) which would, no doubt, set a precedent for future cases. On its first day SEAC agreed on its opinion on specific uses of CTP-HT providing *for the first time a negative advice* due to the existence of alternatives. Luckily, this opinion does not cover the wide use of this substance in the metals sector although it will for sure increase the pressure to maintain the search for alternatives. SEAC has also started evaluating the different substitution plans submitted on metals plating under the new SAGA (Suitable Alternatives Generically Available) requirement imposed by the Commission due to the Acrylamide court case. Again, this will be precedent setting. Furthermore, SEAC will be informed on the Commission's views of its (new) tasks under the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS) whilst the Commission wants to discuss with SEAC how the *economic feasibility criterion* should be concluded for AfAs and Restrictions in the future, a critical aspect for the metal sector. While there are many restrictions under discussion, one will absolutely dominate the attention: the restriction on microplastics with as most important source, the releases from tyre wearing, a release source relevant for many metal sectors. Finally, SEAC was informed that Member States agreed to conduct a large and coordinated enforcement programme in the metals plating sector to check for the correct application of authorisation and restriction conditions. The main further outcomes of this extended SEAC session will be reported in the next News (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

ECHA Management Board Strategic sub-group: progress made towards the publication of the 2021-2024 Programming document

Since 2020, ECHA annually updates its rolling 3-year Programming Document, a key reference document that besides ECHA's vision and mission also describes the priorities for the upcoming 3 years including the resources allocations and the agency's financial situation. The new update will be endorsed by ECHA's Management Board (MB) mid-December and was reviewed and commented by the Strategic Planning subgroup of the MB in which Guy Thiran from Eurometaux represents Industry. The challenge is much greater this time given the ongoing discussions on the EU-Budget (MFF (Multiannual Financial Funding) 2021-2027). The MB was informed just in time that Commission's contribution to ECHA (2/3rd of its budget) will remain stable thereby clarifying that no major budget cuts had to be expected. However, ECHA's registration and authorisation fee incomes are decreasing drastically and thus will entail cuts in the programme. ECHA clarified to the sub-group where they intended to decrease funding, mainly in industry support programmes such as ENES and Communication. Industry supported by the Commission reacted to

these cuts as being inappropriate given supply chain communication is a critical task under REACH. ECHA also announced they will, in Q1 2021, suggest a new fee income to compensate for the decreasing trend. Something industry will carefully watch for. The sub-group further provided an advice on the scheduled 3rd REACH review which ECHA will conduct in the first semester of 2021. Industry likes the proposal to report on the REACH impacts but warns that there needs to be a causal proven link between the measurement tools (like number of applications) and the progress on impact (e.g. higher protection of Human Health and the Environment in the EU) (more information: Guy Thiran and Hugo Waeterschoot).

ECHA OTHER ACTIVITIES

iUVCB and info cards: on the ECHA Dissemination website

While checking on the substances info card details published on the ECHA website and on how clearly these can illustrate the different classification details provided in the registration dossiers, ILA flagged some mistakes leading to the identification of Pb UVCBs (Unknown or Variable Composition, Complex Reaction Products and Biological Materials) as Pb classified compounds, rather than presenting their specific classifications. To understand how the info cards were prepared and ensure correct reporting of classifications on complex substances, Eurometaux contacted ECHA to discuss these cases. A conference call was organised in November and allowed ILA and EM to explain how complex Pb UVCB substances were studied to derive correct boundary compositions and classifications. ECHA explained that whereas the self-classification details are not in the current info cards, the different substances' composition and their classification will be better linked and reflected in the updated Classification and Labelling inventory, which is expected to go live in 2022. We explained how relevant it is for registrants to see the cut-off concentrations well represented in the dissemination website and we proposed to further support the inventory and info cards development, sharing information and replying to their questions as appropriate. Additionally, we tried to establish some links with the ongoing discussions on inorganic UVCB reporting in IUCLID, to ensure overall consistency and we will follow this up in the coming months, especially should any IUCLID field be identified as fundamental for C&L inventory reporting (for more information: Lisa Allen, Federica Iaccino and Violaine Verougstraete)

6th ECHA/Industry exchange call: registration trends closer to forecast and CSR completeness checks postponed to 2021

The 6th ECHA-industry exchange call took place on the 20th of November. During the call ECHA provided updated REACH registration statistics, showing that the registration trends are getting closer to what was initially forecasted. They also explained that UK companies are smoothly approaching the end of the BREXIT transition period and have started to transfer their registration assets from the UK to the EU; such operations need to be completed before the 31st of December before the UK registrations start to be revoked. ECHA also took the opportunity to confirm that the completeness checks on the Chemical Safety Reports (CSRs) will not start in 2020; the exact timing will be decided before the end of the year.

The next call will be held on the 15th of January 2021 and will include an update on the status of industry's best practices for updating the registration dossiers, currently under development. ECHA will be happy to discuss how they could support the dissemination of such guidance. If you wish other topics to be raised in the upcoming calls, please inform us (more information: Lorenzo Zullo and Violaine Verougstraete).

T25-Carc Expert Group: some progress

The T25 method used to determine carcinogenic potency for inhaled substances and inorganic metals has raised concerns over the years, including by the metals industry. A Eurometaux review in 2018 suggested that the T25 method could result in most inorganic substances being classified as high-potency carcinogens following inhalation exposure. Indeed, T25 is calculated using only one dose and provides the daily dose that would induce a tumour incidence of 25% with lifetime exposure while the Benchmark Dose (BMD) uses 3 doses and takes into account the shape of the dose-response curve increasing the robustness of the derived potency estimate. BMD modelling is already being pushed forward by several major regulatory and scientific organisations. Therefore, ECHA plans to start using this BMD method for setting specific concentration limits (SCLs) for carcinogens under Classification Labelling and Packaging Regulation (CLP). An expert group was set up by ECHA last year to tackle this issue. A database was generated based on the OECD eChemPortal and the ECHA website to retrieve data from substances having a carcinogenic inhalation study. A group of volunteers was constituted in order to calculate the T25 and the BMD10 for

each of these substances. The aim is to have enough T25/BMDs to represent the entire chemical world in order to draw conclusions by end of December 2020.

ECHA's expert group's final meeting will take place early next year and a report will be published, and its recommendations will be included in ECHA's guidance (more information: Ruth Danzeisen and Lara Van de Merckt)

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA)

EEA Air Quality Report out: marked improvements in quality, fewer deaths linked to pollution

On 23 November, the European Environment Agency (EEA) [released](#) its 2020 report on "Air quality in Europe". Better air quality has led to a significant reduction of premature deaths over the past decade in Europe. However, the EEA's latest official data show that almost all Europeans still suffer from air pollution, leading to about 400,000 premature deaths across the continent. Six Member States exceeded the EU's limit value for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in 2018: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Italy, Poland, and Romania. Only four countries in Europe (Estonia, Finland, Iceland and Ireland) had PM2.5 concentrations that were below the World Health Organization's (WHO) stricter guideline values. The EEA report notes that there remains a gap between EU's legal air quality limits and WHO guidelines, an issue that the European Commission seeks to address with a revision of the EU standards under the Zero Pollution Action Plan. On metals specifically, the report states that concentrations of As, Cd, Pb and Ni above the EU standards are highly localised and that the highest emissions are typically related to specific industrial plants. The EEA report also contains an overview of the links between the COVID-19 pandemic and air quality, which confirms earlier assessments showing up to 60 % reduction of certain air pollutants in many European countries where lockdown measures were implemented in the spring of 2020. The EEA does not yet have estimates on the potential positive health impacts of the cleaner air during 2020.

EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

REACH REGISTRATIONS

UK REACH: ECHA guidance on how to transfer REACH registrations prior to the end of the BREXIT transition period

REACH registrations and notifications done by registrants based in the UK will be void following the end of the transitional period of the UK's withdrawal from the EU on 31 December 2020. In order to provide support to UK registrants, ECHA has published a new guidance document ["How to transfer your UK REACH registrations prior to the end of the transition period of the UK withdrawal from the EU"](#).

The document contains a step-by-step approach to be followed in REACH IT to transfer the registrations, as well as an explanation of the actions needed by the "successors" to accept and complete the transfer. Companies receiving the registration assets have time until the end of March to accept/receive the registration, i.e. within three months after the end of the transition period, in line with the implementing regulation on dossier updates.

According to the information recently provided by ECHA to industry, the registrations still belonging to UK companies after the 31st of December will be revoked. However, this might take some time since it is an operation to be done "manually" by ECHA. And due to the holiday season, these operations are expected to start mid-January at the earliest (more information: Lorenzo Zullo).

Webinar on Mixtures under REACH: exemplification of the LCID output in the safety data sheet (21.11.2020)

On Friday 21 November, Cefic held a webinar on how to communicate on safe use information in the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for mixtures, using the LCID (Lead Component Identification) tool. As set forth under Article 31 of REACH, suppliers of hazardous mixtures must comply with SDS requirements. In doing so, according to Article 31 paragraph 7, any downstream user shall include relevant exposure scenarios from the safety data sheet supplied to him when compiling his own (mixture) SDS for identified uses. Cefic and ECHA worked on the application of the Lead Component Identification methodology for communication in

the safety data sheet of a mixture. After a quick summary of the LCID methodology and especially of the supporting documentation available, several examples on how to communicate LCID outputs in the supply chain and through extended Safety Data Sheets (eSDSs) were given and discussed. Beside explaining how LCID could be used for improving the mixture SDS (e.g. how to discriminate between constituents needing the reporting of Exposure Scenarios or not), the webinar aimed at reporting overall improvement of workability and quality of the SDSs along the supply chain. Backup material and additional information will be shared with the Registration Taskforce (more information: Federica Iaccino and Violaine Verougstraete).

RISK MANAGEMENT

Mixture Assessment Factor: metal impact briefing session on risks from combined exposure to non-intentional mixtures of chemicals

With the publication of the CSS, the Commission confirmed its intention to progress with a Mixture Assessment Factor (MAF) to deal with unintentional mixture effects. Commission will start implementing this under REACH by 2022 and extend it later to other policy areas like the Water Framework Directive. Eurometaux organised a briefing session on the 26 November in order to define the potential impact as well as to define ways out to demonstrate safe use for unintended combined exposure.

Members were informed about the upcoming regulatory schedule starting with the publication this year of a roadmap up to the adoption of the technical proposal to change REACH at the end of 2022. Members were also informed about the outcome of the first results of the initial impact study the sector is conducting. It demonstrates that especially for the environment, 80 % of the metals could be seriously affected by this MAF proposal and thus have to embark on a largescale refinement process. The initial study also indicated what aspects need to be considered in the first steps of such a refinement strategy, but also confirmed that for “data rich metals” already reliant on measured data this would be much more difficult. The webinar further allowed to define some key points of attention for advocacy as soon as the roadmap consultation starts. The most important suggestion is to exclude the workplace from the scope of the MAF given combined exposure is already regulated under Occupational Safety Health (OSH); whilst the environment refinements should allow for the use of “good (biological) quality status” of the receiving compartment (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot and Violaine Verougstraete).

WATER

Water Framework Directive: meeting of the Strategic Coordination Group

During the last WG-chemical meeting, it was proposed to hold a call with the sub-group on the Review of the Priority Substances (PS) list, a “save the date” for the 15-16 December was sent out, but the confirmation is still pending.

The call will focus on which substances will be retained as candidates (based on the EQS dossiers available by then) as well as deselection criteria and proposals, and existing PS for Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) review.

The time frame for work on revising EQS for some existing PSs, and for deciding on candidates for deselection, will be determined in the light of the additional information on toxicity and monitoring data received from WG Members (and gathered from the EEA database etc.).

Note that the timeline for EQS dossier finalisation for Silver is mid-January 2021 and mid-October 2021 for Uranium and Selenium (more information: Lara Van de Merckt).

TOOLS

Bioaccessibility-bioavailability-bioelution: where do we stand?

On 6 November, an interim webinar of the OECD Expert Group was held to present and discuss the available data on the relationship between *in vitro* bioaccessibility and *in vivo* bioavailability for metals. This webinar was set up following the request of some National Coordinators (from DE, DK and NL) and was the opportunity to present the review carried out by Dr Yvette Lowney in 2018 and more recent data on nickel and cobalt. Adriana Oller gave an outstanding presentation. Next step at OECD level will be to discuss a revised version of the draft Test Guideline and reply to the comments submitted by the National

Coordinators involved in the Expert Group. The next meeting is foreseen for end of January. On 18 November, a Commission paper providing a status update on the bioelution activities was briefly discussed in CARACAL. Some Member States representatives reiterated their concerns. Comments on the paper can be submitted until 7 January and the next meeting of the CARACAL Sub-group on Bioelution -discussing how to use bioelution results in CLP- is scheduled for February. The topic will be further discussed by the Human Health taskforce on 14 December (more information: Adriana Oller and Violaine Verougstraete)

Multi-Metallic Database: first version ready for testing, official release expected in January 2021

We are glad to inform you that the development of the first version of the online Multi-Metallic Database (MMD) has been completed and is now ready for testing. In the coming weeks, several metal organisations will receive their access codes and will have the opportunity to test the various functionalities and verify the correctness of the data associated to their respective substances before the official release, which is expected in January 2021.

Besides providing centralised access to a broad range of human health and environmental information for more than hundred substances, the MMD will allow users to compare data across substances and their various forms, in easy-to-read comparison tables which can also be downloaded in excel format.

Data owners will be able to autonomously modify and update their own data. Changes in the data will be recorded in a dedicated log so that users can quickly identify new information in the database.

In the second release, expected in Q1 2021, the MMD will be capable of automatically running periodic checks with the data in the ECHA dissemination portal; in case of divergencies, the respective data owners will be able to quickly update the data or add an explanation. This would allow the MMD to be recognised as a comprehensive and always up to date database for metals' hazard properties. Regulators and general users will be able to access the database in a viewing mode only and data sharing rules will be subject to the existing legislations requirements (more information: Lorenzo Zullo, Federica Iaccino, Violaine Verougstraete).

SpERCs: the Member States' NEXPO project is close to an end

Following the long lasting activities conducted by industry in cooperation with ECHA and several Member States to develop a set of quality criteria to objectively evaluate the robustness of the Specific Environmental Release Category (SpERCs), a group of Nordic Member States has launched a project, called NEXPO, to confirm that the criteria are fit for purpose. The Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency has informed the cross-industry SpERCs taskforce that a project steering group meeting was organised at the end of September to discuss preliminary results following the application of the quality criteria to some industry SpERCs. They are now evaluating the results which will then be summarised in a final report. The draft report will be sent for comments to the steering group in December.

We believe that no major changes are expected to be proposed on the Quality Criteria, especially considering the hard work that was done with the direct involvement of ECHA and Member States in the process. Plausibly, their conclusions will only lead to the introduction of some clarificatory text on how the quality criteria shall be interpreted and applied. Further considerations will be discussed by the cross-industry SpERCs taskforce once the final report, expected to be published in January 2021, will be available (more information: Lorenzo Zullo, Frederik Verdonck and Violaine Verougstraete).

METALS & INORGANICS SECTORIAL APPROACH (MISA)

MISA 4 -Exposure: second webinar on workplace assessment

The second MISA exposure webinar, focusing on 'workplace exposure' was held on 23 November. The list of topics for discussion was based on the outcomes of the self-assessment tools (SATs) and the analysis ECHA did of some workers' CSRs. After a setting-the-scene session, where both ECHA and Eurometaux reflected on their learnings, the group discussed successively a) the reporting requirements/contextual information for measured data and the important assessment of quality/representativity, b) a decision tree to identify the need for a separate risk assessment for an impurity and c) the estimation of co-exposure as a basis for combined risk characterisation across metals present at the workplace (UVCBs).

The open exchanges between ECHA and industry, but also the in-depth preparation of the webinar by EBRC and ARCHE, allowed to clarify some improvements to include when it comes to requirements but also some topics/possible improvements of IUCLID to be further discussed.

The minutes, which will highlight the key agreements, are currently being reviewed by ECHA and will soon be circulated to the MISA community for comments. Once finalized, they will be posted on the MISA blog

with the presentation (more information: Daniel Vetter, Maxime Eliat-Eliat, Federica Iaccino, Hugo Waeterschoot and Violaine Verougstraete).

OUTREACH

OECD

BIAC: preparing the OECD Joint Chemicals meeting

Contrary to other years the agenda and main issues of the OECD chemicals joint meeting were very light due to the Covid pandemic, hence the need for BIAC's (the Industry representation at OECD level) review and interventions. Most of the session related to progress reports on ongoing activities whereby the expansion of the Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) criteria to computing models, the development of defined approaches for sensitisation and the outcome of the work on contaminants from product use on surface waters in particular drew the attention of the metals sector represented by Kai-Sebastian Melzer and Hugo Waeterschoot. One item that received quite some support from the BIAC membership is the ongoing activity on the development of Willingness to Pay for non-lethal non-CMR (Substances classified as Carcinogens, Mutagens or toxic to Reproduction) endpoints, an activity that is sponsored by ECHA and the Commission, and provides reference values for the health impact cost for SEA assessments. As usual, but "virtually" this time, the head of these OECD programmes (Bob Diderich) joined BIAC for an informal exchange on issues. He explained the concept and objectives of the OECD Global Forum that was organised back to back with the OECD Chemicals Forum. Finally, Kai provided a short overview presentation on the CSS for the attending BIAC membership indicating the main new concepts proposed (for more information: Kai Melzer or Hugo Waeterschoot).

OECD: Global Forum 3-4 November a window to the world on chemicals management

The OECD Global Forum is an occasional high-level conference aiming for an interactive communication between OECD countries and developing countries on chemicals management needs and practices. When it was planned, the agenda aimed to assess the outcome of the 5th International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM 5) to define what role the OECD could play in helping deliver on the worldwide commitments to promote chemicals safety towards the 2030 UN-SAICM objective. However, ICCM 5 was postponed due to Covid, until the summer of 2021, where it will take place in Bonn. Therefore, the agenda was changed, focusing on sharing national experiences and perspectives. Several high-level speakers including (former) ministers, UN global directors, the Secretary general of the OECD and others, raised several aspects related to chemicals management that were interesting for other jurisdictions. The themes debated covered: "grouping of chemicals to improve chemicals management" (experiences from Canada and New Zealand); "communication challenges along the supply chain and the importance of "safe by design" (OECD, RIZA (NL) including attention on the release of nanomaterials from tyres; "best practice sharing" like Thailand's pragmatic approach to nanomaterials to boost their use in their national economy; "needs and experience in setting up legal and institutional frameworks for chemicals management" (UNEP, Australia, South Korea, ECHA, Turkey, ..) and inevitably "the contribution that the chemicals management system can provide in helping confront the Corona pandemic". Overall, the Forum provided quite some interesting insights at global level, also for the metals sector (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

OTHERS

NeRSAP/WeRSAP: two webinar brainstorming sessions on the effectiveness of Risk Management

NeRSAP, the network of REACH SEA and Alternative Practitioners went in webinar mode hence calling it WeRSAP. More than 80 practitioners covering consultants, Commission and ECHA personnel, SEAC members and national experts attended this year's session that covered a special programme focussed on learnings from the Risk Management Measures (RMM) process experience.

During the first session held in October three sets of couples presented their views on learnings and proposals (see News n° 106). This was followed by a questionnaire aiming to gather further ideas and opinions to which many responded. Three sets of couples reviewed and interpreted the outcome each from

their perspective (regulators: ECHA and SEAC; Consultants and NGOs and Industry: Cefic and Eurometaux). They reported their findings to WeRSAP 2 organised early November before breaking up in working groups to define key proposals. Some generic recommendations were outlined in the subsequent plenary in which all participants could express an opinion via a voting session. One of the issues that achieved the highest recommendation was to make the RMM process less adversarial by starting the Assessment of Alternatives (AoA) identification at candidate listing by defining SAGA (which could go for restriction), thus removing some pressure on Authorisation. Also, it was surprising to note how well this interactive way of working was achieved in webinar format with so many participants (more information: Michel van der Straeten and Hugo Waeterschoot).

CALENDAR

For meetings at Eurometaux

For the moment no measures have been taken to cancel our next meetings, but due to travel restrictions imposed on certain member companies/associations, it will be possible to join meetings by GoToMeeting, Skype (or remotely). Any further decisions and/or cancellations will of course be communicated in due time.

For meetings at ECHA

ECHA confirmed that **until the 30 June 2021 all ECHA meetings will continued to be held remotely**. ECHA will keep the situation under review and will provide any further information as appropriate. This information is published on ECHA's [website](#)

Further information on the COVID-19 situation information can be found on the [ECDC website](#)

- 30 November-10 December: SEAC-49 – ECHA
- 30 November-11 December: RAC-55 – ECHA
- 8-11 December: MSC-72 – ECHA
- 14 December: Human Health Taskforce meeting
- 15 December: Risk Management Taskforce meeting
- 16-17 December: MB-60 – ECHA

GENERAL INFORMATION & ACRONYMS

Follow the logo and check out our new Metals Gateway website.



This website is a (new) one stop information source for regulators & risk assessors dealing with metals/metal compounds and is tailored to the specific needs of the metals industry sector.

A continuously updated list of acronyms is available under the Reach Metals Gateway (RMG)