

EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT NEWS



Please join us online for:

- 3 February: IED Follow-up call
- 11 February: Water Taskforce
- 25 February: Chemicals Management Steering Committee

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Dear All,

I must admit that I am not a big fan of Valentine Day's celebrations. The easy argument being that I find them overly commercial and "sweetish", discriminating the 'together' from the 'alone(s)'. However, it could also be that the underlying message "prioritise today what you consider as a given the other days" makes me feel a bit uncomfortable, reminding me that my attention and gratitude often succumb to the 'functioning of the relationship' and that "time goes by, so quickly". Thus, the red hearts festoons, flowers and chocolate are rather poor ways to make it up.

So, when Ailsa came with the proposal to make this editorial 'Valentine', I grimaced. However, this year is not like the others. And maybe we could tweak 14 February a little to all benefit from the 'red glow and warmth' and make it an inclusive celebration of the essentials.

As Ailsa found in her research, 'Valentinus' comes from the Latin word for worthy, strong, or powerful. It was a popular name and there have been several Saint Valentines (including martyrs and a St Valentina!). St. Valentine has wide-ranging spiritual responsibilities in his/her portfolio, going beyond watching over the lives of lovers and being the patron saint of engaged couples. More surprisingly are his/her interventions regarding beekeeping and epilepsy, as well as the plague, fainting and travelling.

We may not need Valentine for that latter aspect for the moment but receiving some extra strength and resistance to plagues (Covid and its collateral damages) may be welcomed! So why not celebrate our mates, friends, partners, companions, fellows this month? They are our indispensability! As they are also the essence that will take us through the rest of the year.

And we also wanted to share a song with you, in these times where 'essential' became the hit word, soon to dethrone the 'can you hear me?': just a wink!

Pas Essentiel (Not essential)

Grand Corps Malade <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NencPxx7qgY>

I'm going to get out of my house and walk outside
To stop for a moment, and look at the sky
The sun, on the roofs, will set its golden reflections.
I'm going to love looking at it, since it's not essential.
I'm going to sit on a bench for five minutes with me.
Looking at people, being reborn in the plural
I will speak in silence and smile out loud
I can do this for a long time, since it's not essential.
I would like a soundtrack for my film of the day.
So I'm going to put sound in both my ears
My pockets are full of hands and my eyes are full of love.
This is an important moment, as it is not essential.

Not essential
Not essential
Not essential

Kissing someone: not essential
Opening a book: not essential
Sincere smile: not essential
Going to concerts: not essential
Walking in the forest: not essential
Dancing in the evening: not essential
Reuniting with people: not essential
Live show...

*Not essential
Not essential
Not essential*

*After a few months without much colour
Black and white confinement, rainbow delivery
I will offer songs, smiles and flowers
I'll have my hands full of them seeing it's not essential.
I'm going to drink a toast with the first to arrive
If, to party, I feel a good potential
With family, friends and strangers
We'll raise our glasses to what is non-essential.
Since life is a succession of superfluous things
Let's be super crazy and superficial
Let us protect the futile, and on this I conclude
Don't listen to this song, it's not essential.*

Not essential

Ailsa Lee and Violaine Verougstraete

COMMISSION

CARACAL

Next CARACAL Meetings: 3-4 March

The 38th meeting of the Competent Authorities for the REACH and CLP Regulations (CARACAL-38) will be held via WebEx on 3 and 4 March 2021. Many hot topics are on the agenda of this two-day meeting divided between REACH-related aspects on the first day, and CLP related aspects on the second day. Agenda items include essential uses, intermediates, endocrine disruptors, our very own MISA, CLP Annex VI entries, and bioelution. The Secretariat is currently preparing a dedicated Master Document, as well as summaries of feedback received from stakeholders on several crucial Commission documents (more information: Noam El Mrabet).

CARACAL: record amount of feedback received on ‘essential uses’

Over 30 organisations from all around the globe have submitted feedback on the ‘essential use’ paper (CA/61/2020) shared by the European Commission ahead of CARACAL-37 last November. NGOs are calling for a complete overhaul of the current regulatory system, with a de facto ban on all substances of concern unless proven essential. Only a handful of Member States have submitted comments, including France, Germany, Austria, and the Netherlands. They mostly call for pragmatism by focusing on derogation for essential uses rather than generic bans, while still creating regulatory incentives for industry to move towards safer alternatives. Industry, on the other hand, is well aligned, with no stakeholder bluntly rejecting the concept, rather attempting to find solutions to implement such a novel concept. As part of its CARACAL activities, EM Secretariat is preparing a thorough summary of the feedback received (more information Noam El Mrabet).

EU AGENCIES

EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA)

ECHA COMMITTEES

ECHA MB: agreed to consider a reduction in service for balancing reduced fee income

The ECHA Management Board (MB) met just before the Christmas break and we were recently informed on the main outcome. The MB took note of the agreement reached on the EU-multiyear budget thereby confirming 2/3 of ECHA’s incomes for the years to come. The remaining part has to come from the different fee structures that exist (Registration, Authorisation, ...). In follow-up ECHA’s MB agreed with the proposal from ECHA’s management to compensate for the reduced REACH registration fees by some staff reduction but mainly by cutting activities like ENES and programmes related to supply chain communication or some help-desk support (see also below). Additionally, we were informed that ECHA is preparing a new fee structure to compensate for the gap, a proposal that may be expected in Q1 of this year. When this appears industry will have to balance the suspended services by the new fees proposed (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

ECHA OTHER ACTIVITIES

ENES: REACH Review Action 3

The Exchange Network on Exposure Scenarios (ENES) Coordination Group held a webinar on 22 January to discuss the outcomes of the December ECHA Management Board meeting and the recommendation to ECHA to pause the support to the supply chain work. Considering their shrinking resources, ECHA was requested to focus on its core legislative tasks and regulatory outputs (i.e., evaluation, authorisation, restriction, classification and labelling). Pausing these activities means that there might not be further ECHA work on the REACH Review Action 3 development plan, which includes a method for mixtures, the minimum requirements for exposure scenarios, the standardised XML format or aspects of the downstream supply chain (apart from those directly supporting registrants’ Chemical Safety Assessment -which include

MISA!). They will further ensure the maintenance and development of Chesar but reduce their participation to ENES to a minimum. More details will be communicated to CARACAL early March. The other ENES partners (industry, Member States, Commission) have started to reflect on possible ways to continue the work in the network so as to ensure that what has been agreed/done so far is used in the best way (more information: Federica Iaccino, Lorenzo Zullo and Violaine Verougstraete)

“New”: the manual completeness check of chemical safety reports will start on 1 March 2021.

ECHA has confirmed that the manual completeness check of the Chemical Safety Reports (CSRs), initially announced for April 2020, will start early March. ECHA’s objective with this check is to ensure that all required elements are included in the registration dossier so as to improve the prioritisation and communication in the supply chain. It will apply to both new registrations and updates of existing ones.

Advice on the scope of the checks is available in this information document published on the ECHA website: https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13652/manual_completeness_check_en.pdf. The information on the CSR check starts on page 9. More material/information is available on the ECHA website <https://echa.europa.eu/technical-completeness-check>.

EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

EUROMETAUX FUNCTIONING

Human Health: EOGRTs guideline 443 under review.

Soon the outcome of more than 120 OECD Extended One-Generation Reproductive Toxicity Study (EOGRTS) tests will be reported in the REACH registration files thereby forming a *treasure of practical experience*. ECHA therefore announced that they would conduct an extensive review of this first experience with the guideline. The review aims for taking stock of practical experiences that would require clarification of the guideline as well as learnings from the design of the test to ensure the outcome can be successfully used to decide either “no consequences for both endpoints” or the need for further regulatory action. A MSC working group of Member State experts has been established for that purpose and a proposal for the scope and questions for the review are being prepared. Industry was invited to participate in this programme as an observer as well as to provide comments on the review’s scope and questions. Supported by the Human Health Taskforce, Eurometaux agreed to act as an observer for this study given many consortia are involved in EOGRTS test work or will soon be involved in the years to come. Eurometaux further appointed a scientific expert Lindsay Aveyard from GPC Consulting to support its review activity of the draft and final report that the MS group will produce (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

Environment Taskforce meeting: focus on Environmental Classification of metals in massive form and learnings from the impact of a MAF (Mixture Assessment Factor) on the Environmental Exposure assessments

The Environmental Taskforce met on 20 January focussing on 2 issues that may impact the metals sector to a great extent. The first one relates to the different **environmental classification proposals for metals** (Pb, Ag and Cu) that will be reviewed by ECHA along 2021. The ENV TF reviewed the challenges of each of them, concluding the need for collective action and support to prevent that metals in massive form should be classified inappropriately, or that powders should be classified as the nanoform if such forms would exist. Specific actions were agreed whereby Eurometaux’s role focusses on collecting and communicating the replies with ECHA and ensuring all relevant consortia are on board and participate in the support action. Besides these 3 metals up for RAC review in 2021, ECHA already announced they would review the metals’ environmental classification guidance and check if previously harmonised classifications had been conducted according to the Classification Labelling and Packaging Regulation (CLP) guidelines. Eurometaux has therefore already informed all concerned consortia/commodities. The second main agenda point related to the outcome of the **final report on the initial impact assessment of the MAF** for unintended mixed exposure on the ENV Risk Characterisation Ratios (RCRs), as prepared by ARCHE. This study confirmed the extensive impact of the MAF on the ENV Exposure Scenarios (ES) both for water and for soil. It concluded that more than 70 % of the ESs would require refinement when considering them combined. Correcting for natural background had a positive outcome mainly for soil but far from enough to reduce the need for higher tier refinement approaches. The need for a communication package for members

and external audiences (Commission and ECHA), was agreed upon, preferably combined with the learnings from the HH MAF impact study conducted by EBRC. Moreover, in parallel with appropriate advocacy, the metals sector will have to work on refined approaches for probably half the ENV exposure scenarios which could include research and development activity. It is the intention to schedule a plan for this by June when it will be clearer if the advocacy engaged to reduce the impact of the MAF has been successful (more information: Jelle Mertens, Stijn Baken and Hugo Waeterschoot).

CHEMICALS STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability: *successful webinar on the Self-Assessment Survey*

Eurometaux organised on 14 January a briefing session **on the CSS Self-Assessment Survey**. The survey aims at helping consortia/commodities/associations to reflect and define on what and to what extent the new CSS tools (Mixture Assessment Factor (MAF) factor, minimisation of use for Substances of Concern (SoCs), identification as Most Harmful Chemicals (MHC) and (non-) essential use) could hamper the future of the metals they represent.

The reasons behind and the way to conduct the survey, were explained in detail using the guidance manual Eurometaux developed for this purpose. Members raised suggestions for improvement of the guidance which were taken forward in an updated version circulated on 22 January to the membership. Consortia/commodities/associations are invited to complement the survey by the end of February and to share their conclusions with Eurometaux who will derive key issues for advocacy and material that could be used to respond to upcoming Commission impact studies on these tools.

Finally, Eurometaux informed the participants that Michel Vander Straeten was appointed to respond to further questions of consortia/commodities whereby he would act as a trustee when confidential information would be involved. (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot, Michel Vander Straeten and Violaine Verougstraete).

Environment/Competitiveness Council: *outreach begins.*

In cooperation with the Communication/Public Affairs and the Sustainability Committees, we have started our outreach towards EU Member States on two topics on the agenda of the Environment and Competitiveness Council configurations: the Council conclusions on the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS) and the Proposal for a Batteries Regulation. On the CSS specifically, our overall approach consists in being cautious in three key areas:

1. Carry out an impact assessment before expanding the generic approach
2. Ensure that essential use is implemented with the flexibility necessary for such a high number of chemicals
3. Link the CSS with EU open strategic autonomy goals (notably for those chemicals/materials required in the green and digital transition)

Many web-meeting will be held in the coming weeks, with the participation of our national members, and we will report on interim outcomes of the outreach during the Chemicals Management Steering Committee meeting of 25 February 2021 (more information: Noam El Mrabet, Chris Heron and Kamila Slupek).

ChemicalWatch event: *Eurometaux calls for clarity on “essential uses”*

On 13 January, at a ChemicalWatch conference dedicated to the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, Eurometaux made a presentation on essential uses calling for more clarity on the concept, comparing the current situation as the aftermath of the collapse of the Tower of Babel where everyone seems to be using the concept in different ways. Eurometaux advised caution when trying to address the “non-essentiality” of uses in a generic way and recalled that the concept should not be yet another layer of complexity to the current risk management system whereas the ECHA’s Integrated Regulatory Strategy (IRS) is currently aiming at better integrating and streamlining the existing risk management needs (more information: Noam El Mrabet).

REACH REGISTRATIONS

EU-UK agreement: 1200 pages ...what now?

The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) was signed on 30 December 2020 and has been applied provisionally from 1 January (until 28 February 2021) in light of the exceptional circumstances of the agreement. The formal ratification by the EU will be possible upon consent by the European Parliament. Finally, the Council will have to adopt the decision to conclude the Agreement allowing its entry into force. The TCA covers the following areas: trade in goods and in services, digital trade, intellectual property, public procurement, aviation and road transport, energy, fisheries, social security coordination, law enforcement and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, thematic cooperation and participation in Union programmes. It includes provisions ensuring a level playing field and respect for fundamental rights and regulatory autonomy. However, decisions are still to be made on data sharing and on financial services, and the agreement on fishing only lasts 5 years. The EM staff, under the lead of the Trade Department, has prepared an analysis of the main issues relevant to metals sectors, covering the issues of trade and customs, chemicals management, energy & climate change. This analysis document will be circulated soon to the different EM committees. It is also proposed to discuss further the “UK REACH topic” (working out what and how UK-REACH registrations need to be done and having the consortia documentation review/support on data-sharing aspects) in the EM Registration Taskforce (more information: Elena Vyboldina, Sharon Candela, Lorenzo Zullo and Violaine Verougstraete)

INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS

Industrial Emissions Alliance: IED Review workshop outcomes, consultations and next steps

Eurometaux participated in the interesting Industrial Emissions Alliance webinar hosted by EXCA on 13 January. Discussions focused mainly on the December IED Review workshop outcomes and the consultation on the IED/PRTR review. The exchanges allowed to identify the key issues for the different sectors but also to reflect on the most appropriate strategy to reply to the ongoing consultations (IED/PRTR Review, ZPAP). The outcome will be shared with the Industrial Emissions Taskforce during its webinar on 3 February (more information: Violaine Verougstraete).

WATER

PRIORITY SUBSTANCES

Sub-group & WG chemicals

The next Sub-group meeting, planned for the 3rd of February will, in addition to the candidate Priority Substance (PS) discussions, tackle the existing PSs and the deselection criteria. The next WG chemicals will follow on the 4th of February and the Guidance on Implementing bioavailability in the Metals Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) is finally on the agenda! *To be continued... in our next CM News!* (more information Lara Van de Merckt)

WCA opinion paper

The PS process has raised several issues including the lack of consideration for industry's feedback at the technical level, as well as concerns with the procedural aspects of such an important process (e.g. lack of transparency, flawed analysis of data, limited opportunity to interact and discuss).

WCA, together with several members, have drafted and now published (<https://setac.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/etc.4987>) an opinion paper to tackle a technical issue regarding the exposure datasets used in the EQSs derivation, in particular dealing with monitoring data that are below the limit of detection (more information Lara Van de Merckt).

NEW DRINKING WATER RULES

The recast [EU Drinking Water Directive](#) entered into force on 12 January 2021, guaranteeing access to water as a right to all EU citizens. Countries now have two years to transpose the text. The recast was the Commission's response to the European Citizens' Initiative [Right2Water](#) — which gathered 1.8 million signatures to demand that access to water and sanitation be guaranteed as a right under EU law. The text

sets lower maximum limits for pollutants like lead and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and requires that the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) develop a list of chemicals that can be safely used in materials that come into contact with drinking water. ECHA mentioned in a [statement](#) that the list is expected to cover around 1,500 chemicals and be adopted by the Commission by 2025. “After the adoption, all entries in the lists will be reviewed within 15 years,” the agency said. The Commission and the European Environment Agency will also create a watchlist and monitor substances of emerging concern, including endocrine disruptors, pharmaceuticals and microplastics (more information Lara Van de Merckt).

TOOLS

Bioelution: discussions at the OECD Expert Group

On 25 January, NiPERA and Eurometaux participated in a new round of discussions of the OECD Expert Group in charge of examining the ‘transformation’ of the gastric bioelution test in an OECD Test Guideline. Just before Christmas, EURL ECVAM/Commission had submitted a revised draft as well as further data/information. The revised draft tried to accommodate as well as possible many of the comments that had been received in follow-up of the September discussion. Most of these comments were submitted by NL, DK and DE, still opposing to a reference to bioaccessibility and to qualify the gastric test as an *in vitro* test. With no surprise, the first half of the discussions on 25 January focused on the same points (introduction, scope and limitations) and some areas for further refinement or to the contrary, clear identification of disagreements were highlighted. During the second half though, thanks in particular to the calm and constructive chairmanship by EURL ECVAM and the support of the UK, Canada and US, the group ran through the 60 paras of the draft test guideline. Next steps are to revise the guideline again and circulate it to the OECD WNT group (more information: Adriana Oller and Violaine Verougstraete).

METALS & INORGANICS SECTORIAL APPROACH (MISA)

MISA 4-Environmental Exposure: webinar 3 took place over two days.

The third MISA 4 exposure webinar, devoted to environmental exposure, was held on 26-27 January. The objectives of the webinar were to:

- clarify the pros and cons of the different approaches used by consortia/associations for the environmental exposure assessment in the REACH files, considering the available data and need for safe use demonstration;
- provide guidance on good practices for local and regional assessments for metals with no, small or large exposure datasets;
- discuss how to anticipate the introduction of a MAF & demonstration of safe use while considering the current registration files and metal specificities;
- provide indications on triggers for updating the exposure section of the REACH datasets.

On the first day, after a short introduction recalling the importance of exposure in the upcoming Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS) and Zero Pollution Action Plan (ZPAP) agendas, Eurometaux shared their observations and learnings on the Self-Assessments Tools (SATs). ECHA presented a series of observations based on the analysis of some metal CSRs, a slag dossier but also Applications for Authorisation (AfA) and exchanges with the sector along the development of Chesar. This was followed by a series of presentations by consortia/association representatives on how they performed their environmental exposure for their different metals. The learnings and questions from these sessions were subsequently discussed by a panel of experts (from ECHA, ARCHE Consulting and Eurometaux) on the morning of the second day and the outcomes were debated with the consortia/associations in the afternoon. The webinars were very well attended and Eurometaux would like to wholeheartedly thank the panellists, the speakers and the participants for the very good preparation and exchanges. Detailed minutes are currently being reviewed by the consortia speakers and ECHA and will be circulated with the main learnings (more information: MISA team).

MISA: presentation at Chemical Watch Global Forum and report to CARACAL

Eurometaux was invited to make a presentation at the Chemical Watch virtual event ‘Global Chemicals Management Towards 2030 and Beyond’ on the cooperation with ECHA in the context of the MISA programme. The presentation -displayed on 20 January- highlighted the drivers and modalities for our

cooperation, as well as the benefits and main outcomes up to now. The presentation was followed by a panel discussion, where two aspects were brought up: how this EU work could be of relevance for international chemicals management activities and what ‘makes MISA work’. The possibility to have a forum to raise technical/scientific issues but also the openness/willingness of participants to make it work, both on industry and ECHA side, are clearly key factors. The slides are available on request. ECHA will more formally 😊 report on the MISA approach to CARACAL on 3-4 March, highlighting the achievements and dynamics (more information: MISA team).

MISA UVCBs: *January calls with ECHA*

Over the last months, ECHA and Eurometaux have been discussing details of the iUVCB risk assessment methodology to ensure clarity and completeness of the assessment approach, as well as to improve transparency on how to deal with assessment presenting additional difficulties, e.g. inorganic UVCBs having wide-dispersive uses and possible constituents’ data gap situations.

In January, Eurometaux and ECHA set up a couple of calls to follow up on the clarifications further proposed by industry to meet regulators’ expectations: with a clearer distinction on worst-cases selection for those few iUVCBs with wide-dispersive uses (as is the case of some slags) and well-defined steps to fill possible constituents’ data gaps, ECHA and Eurometaux have finalised the risk assessment strategy discussion.

Furthermore, ECHA has launched internal meetings to develop a sustainable IUCLID reporting strategy: regulators’ intention is to define pragmatic IUCLID solutions to link iUVCB constituents to their parent dossiers data (upon legal access to the data, as REACH demands) and to restrain the number of robust study summaries requested by Article 10 of the Regulation, to a restricted number of constituents. ECHA knows that this information is crucial for the dossiers refinements and will come back to Eurometaux to inform us of further testing and developments.

The last piece of documentation will be to refine ECHA’s scheme summarising the specific iUVCBs assessment. Once the IUCLID reporting strategy will be finalised, the scheme will be fine-tuned too (more information: Federica Iaccino and Violaine Verougstraete)

OUTREACH

OECD

OECD: *mid-year call for the Working Party on Hazard Assessment*

The OECD WPHA organised a webinar on 28 January to provide an update on the status of various WPHA projects and related OECD projects and discuss a project proposal led by Italy on a Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationship (QSAR) Assessment Framework. The latter project aims at developing a systematic and harmonised assessment framework for (Q)SAR model predictions, to build on the existing OECD (Q)SAR validation principles, revise their applicability, complement/update (if necessary) existing tools, to create a standardised basis for assessing (Q)SAR model predictions and address uncertainty/confidence in (Q)SAR predictions. Although QSAR(s) may seem not directly relevant to metals, it is interesting to note that it is, as in addition to Italy, several EU Member States and ECHA are closely following this 18-month project and that one of the outputs would possibly be the development of a scoring system, to reflect different levels of confidence/uncertainty. The WPHA also received a detailed overview of the work to date to develop standardised transcriptomics and metabolomics reporting frameworks. Efforts will now be injected to discuss e.g. the steps that are needed to help build regulatory applications of omics data and elements or analyses that would facilitate regulatory use of omics data. The OECD secretariat provided an update on a series of working items, i.e. publications, IT tools (Global Chemicals Knowledge Base, QSAR Toolbox, eChemPortal, IUCLID, OECD Harmonised Templates (OHTs)), IATA Case Studies Project, derivation of occupational biomonitoring effect levels, defined approaches for skin sensitisation etc. The next meeting of the WPHA will take place the week of 21 June -virtually. One of the topics on the agenda to follow is the updating of the OECD Guidance on Grouping and use of New Approaches Methodology or NAMs (non-animal technology, methodology, approach, or combination thereof used to provide information on chemical hazard and risk assessment) for prioritisation. Eurometaux’s detailed notes of this webinar are available on request (more information: Violaine Verougstraete).

OECD PRTR: focus on core PRTR activity, but a surprising report on the use of PRTR data for progress measurement of Sustainable Development Goals

The OECD recently organised its 4th Working Party on Pollutants release and Transfer Register (PRTR) (28-29 January) obviously in a remote way. The meeting was extremely well attended by more than 75 representatives from most countries (EU, the American continent as a whole, Asia and Oceania) including many that are not adherent countries of the OECD. IND was only represented by one BIA representative (Eurometaux). Most of the sessions' attention was focused on the pressure to update the classical PRTR systems by increasing the substances and sectors covered. Most notable in this respect was the open critique of several EU countries of the EU Commission on the European Union's slow progress. Quite some time was then spent on the way how the data were stored and could be reviewed from a worldwide perspective, as well as on the planning on upgrades of national PRTR schemes. However, the issue that clearly "stole the show" was the presentation by the US and Sweden on the outcome of the pilot study demonstrating the relevance of PRTR data for progress measurement on crucial SDG-targets (UN-Sustainable Development Targets) in particular target 12.4 on *the implementation of risk management systems and the demonstration of effective reduction of exposure*. The study based on 7 PRTR systems and 14 chemicals confirmed improvement of atmospheric releases but at a very slow pace. Besides Hg and Cd, the study also selected Ni as a reference metal for (assumed) heavy pollution by emissions. It concluded the important role of basic metal manufacturing of these substances in emissions, especially when expressed as weighted for CMR (Substances classified as Carcinogens, Mutagens or toxic to Reproduction) and Ecotox impact. Eurometaux contested the comparison of the emissions of manufacturers with ambient air quality given for Cd and Ni it concerns mostly diffuse non-point sources like energy generation that are responsible for ambient concentrations. The study will be finalised soon and prepared for wide distribution to OECD members and scheduled to be presented at the SAICM meeting in November in Bonn.

Eurometaux would hence suggest that the Cd and Ni sectors carefully review and respond to the reporting on their manufacturing sectors. Eurometaux will draw horizontal learnings from this exercise given it is the intention from the OECD PRTR-WP to extend this activity to other substances (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot)

COMMUNICATION

We are delighted to announce that the Chemicals Management team is expanding.

Lara Van de Merckt has joined the Chemicals Management Staff as Chemicals Management Officer since the 1st of February. Most of you know Lara as she has been trainee in Eurometaux and started by developing a card game on metal specificities but also led a project on the Metals Toolbox and Gateway websites, did scientific research covering diffuse sources and emissions of metal substances in the EU environment, did digital projects management (RMOs section on the Reach Metals Gateway website, from graphic design to coding and participated in the creation of a database for the ECHA Expert Group on potency - T25 (from data analysis to T25 & BMDs modelling). Lara has also taken over the secretariat of the Water Taskforce since end of November. Lara has a Master's degree in Organisms Biology and Ecology.

CALENDAR

**Please find here below a non-exhaustive list of the meetings that are planned so far for 2021.
This list will be kept up to date on a regular basis and communicated throughout the year.
Please save the dates for the meetings of interest for you.**

For meetings at Eurometaux

For the moment due to the current situation beginning of 2021, it will be possible to join our meetings by Webex (links to join will be sent ahead of the meetings).

Any further update, 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](#)

- 03 February: IED Taskforce (Follow-up Call)
- 03 February: SG-R Meeting (Priority Substances)
- 04 February: Working Group Chemicals Meeting
- 04-05 February: REACH Committee Meeting
- 11 February: Water Taskforce Meeting
- 8-12 February: ECHA MSC-73 Meeting (including adoption of the CoRAP and the 10th priority list)
- 25 February: Chemicals Management Steering Committee Meeting
- 02-03 March: WPC meeting TBC
- 03-04 March: CARACAL-38
- 8-12 + 15-19 March: ECHA RAC-56 & SEAC-50 Meetings (incl. Pb env. classification)
- 25 March: Risk Management Taskforce Meeting
- 25-26 March: ECHA MB-61 Meeting
- 19-23 April: Chemicals Management Spring week
- 27-28 April: REACH Committee Meeting
- 28 May: Chemicals Management Steering Committee Meeting
- 31 May-4 June: ECHA RAC-57 & SEAC-51 Meetings
- 7-11 June: ECHA RAC-57 & SEAC-51 Meetings
- 14-18 June: ECHA MSC-74 Meeting
- 15-16 June: WPC meeting
- 22 June: Risk Management Taskforce Meeting (TBC)
- 23-24 June: ECHA MB-62 Meeting
- 24-25 June: REACH Committee Meeting TBC
- 29-30 June: CARACAL-39 TBC
- 31 August: Chemicals Management Steering Committee Meeting
- 06-10 September: ECHA RAC-58 & SEAC-52 Meetings
- 13-17 September: ECHA RAC-58 & SEAC-52 Meetings
- 21 September: Risk Management Taskforce Meeting (TBC)
- 23-24 September: ECHA MB-63 Meeting
- 22-23 September: ECHA Committee Meeting TBC
- 27 September-1 October: Chemicals Management Autumn week
- 05-06 October: WPC meeting TBC
- 11-15 October: ECHA MSC-75 Meeting
- 17-18 November: CARACAL 40 TBC
- 22-26 November: ECHA RAC-59 & SEAC-53 Meetings
- 29 November-3 December: ECHA RAC-59 & SEAC-53 Meetings
- 08 December: Chemicals Management Steering Committee Meeting
- 07-08 December: ECHA Committee Meeting (TBC)
- 13-17 December: ECHA MSC-76 Meeting
- 15-16 December: ECHA MB-64 Meeting
- 21 December: Risk Management Taskforce Meeting (TBC)

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)
