

EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT NEWS



Please join us in November for:

- 9 November: Pb ENV classification Communication and Advocacy Meeting (online)
- 10 November: CARACAL TF Meeting (online)
- 18 November: Water TF Meeting (online)

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Dear All,





Let me start by saying that this is a Brussels-weather centric editorial. It may be less relevant for those who have loads of daylight coming in at this time of the year, who can start and end their days in short sleeves and can imagine having a drink outside in the evening.

This is for the poor individuals who are seeing their days shrinking at the speed of light 😊, having to think (twice) about the clothes to wear in the morning and explore the resistance of umbrellas confronted to heavy rain and wind. Some welcoming words for November and the multiple nuances of grey seasons!





It is an attempt to provide you with “cheer-ups” and prevent you from thinking about the luminous summer we had/did not have (please strike through the incorrect scenario)!

I arranged the cheer-ups in a tiered approach with different options, as this is one of our sector’s traits but also because this allows you to move up and down the complexity depending on the weather previsions, the time you have and your surroundings:





- **Tier 1: easy options**

-  Option 1.1: This is the moment of the year where you have the best alibi for the consumption of hot chocolate: you need to warm up your hands. Go for it! Dark, milk, white are the possibilities: go for the sweet and comforting formula!
-  Option 1.2: After autumn comes winter and its Christmas decorations... the proposal here is to already hang some coloured lamps in your garden/on your terrace without waiting for December
-  Option 1.3: Randomly select someone in your contacts’ list and send an email to ask how he/she is-coincidentally, it might be a person you have not seen since March 2020 and news may be surprising! Up to you to define the extent and modalities of the random selection
-  Option 1.4: Buy yourself a pair of woollen socks with implausible motives (you can hide them in the spring at the back of your cupboard or use them to polish the floor and non-restricted silverware)

- **Tier 2: more difficult**

-  Option 2.1: Go and sit outside in a park (wearing warm clothes) and observe children playing around for 10 minutes before queuing for a warm waffle
-  Option 2.2: Select a completely different route to reach the office, giving yourself the luxury of covering some additional kilometres at snail speed to discover a yet unknown neighbourhood (and either may want to avoid in future or to the contrary further explore)
-  Option 2.3: Buy fresh and coloured veggies to prepare a fantastic soup in too big quantities and share it with one of your neighbours
-  Option 2.4: Look at yourself in the mirror and throw yourself 3 different compliments (you may use the socks in option 1.4 for this)

- **Tier 3: up for a bigger challenge**

-  Option 3.1: Consider starting a bike tour in the dark at 7:30 in the morning until the sun comes up (or there is some daylight) -wear your fluo jacket and take a thermos of hot chocolate (iteration of option 1.1)
-  Option 3.2: Get out of your comfort zone: play this <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQusfSWFt6M> in the corridor of the offices and dance!
-  Option 3.3: Learn something that may appear useless (reason why you never did it before) and do it every Sunday morning at a fixed time: knitting, painting, DJing, cooking, making candles ...note: all this may help for the Christmas presents
-  Option 3.4: Come over and share a moment with your favourite EM staff... we can implement options 1.1, 1.2 (making the N° 168 look bright!), 2.1, 3.2!

Please let us know how it goes! And above all, take care!

Violaine Verougstraete

COMMISSION

CARACAL

Commission moves ahead with its 18th ATP to CLP: *and follows all RAC opinions*

On 19 October, the Commission presented to CARACAL its final draft delegated act for the 18th adaptation to technical progress (ATP) to CLP. As explained previously, the Commission followed all 2020 RAC opinions, including V2O5 as Carc. 1B and 2-EHA as Repr. 1B. This meeting was mainly a formality, as the Commission is merely consulting the Member States before adoption, the vast majority of which agree with all RAC opinions. Yet, one single proposed classification was revised: Silanamine, which was set to be classified as *both* Acute Tox. 2 by inhalation *and* STOT RE 2, will *only* be classified as STOT RE 2, as “new scientific information was assessed by the Commission and was found to require further assessment by RAC”. This is quite unprecedented, but it remains to be seen if RAC will revise its opinion. The draft delegated act for the 18th ATP is in the process of being adopted by the College of Commissioners as we write this update. Taking into account the following 2-month scrutiny, it should be published in the Official Journal around January 2022 and will apply 18 months later, i.e., June/July 2023 (more information: Noam El Mrabet).

Consultation on REACH information requirements for Endocrine Disruption: *Eurometaux's contribution*

As part of the REACH review process, the European Commission launched a consultation to support the introduction of standard Information Requirements for Endocrine Disrupting properties. This consultation followed the in-depth discussions held in the CARACAL sub-group on Endocrine Disruptors (CASG-ED) where proposals for revising the REACH Annexes were discussed.

The overall initiative was supported by the Commission Communication ‘Towards a comprehensive European Union framework on endocrine disruptors (EDs)’ which confirmed the Commission’s commitment to update data requirements in the different legislative frameworks to improve the identification of endocrine disruptors.

Eurometaux contributed by i) nominating an expert to the newly established Commission Focus Expert Group on EDs (on top of those already sitting in the CASG-ED) and, ii) with the support of various Taskforces, responding to the consultation, leveraging the metal-specific expertise related to testing and on ED mechanisms (more information: Violaine Verougstraete, Marnix Vangheluwe and Lorenzo Zullo).

EU AGENCIES

EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA)

ECHA COMMITTEES

RAC-59 CLH WG: silver environmental classification... after the lead case another challenging one

Besides the challenging health classification discussion, RAC extensively debated the environmental classification proposal for silver metal during its latest RAC Working Group session. The Dossier Submitter had made a proposal for an Ecotoxicity Reference Value (ERV), which forms the basis for the classification. The value presented was reviewed in a precautionary way by RAC given it was based on the lowest value of an extensive ecotoxicity data set without any normalisation nor pH banding as is usually done for metals. However, industry agreed this was not really incorrect for silver.

On the other hand, RAC did not recognise that silver was an excellent example of Rapid Transformation (removal) which has a negative impact on the environmental classification. Industry raised concerns about this and was able (at least) to keep the door open for a careful examination by RAC of the submitted evidence.

While the Dossier Submitter already proposed to classify nanos separately from the other metal forms, the critical point for silver metal is if RAC would accept to make a distinction between the massive and the powder forms. This issue was only introduced at this session but the flow of the meeting gave us the

impression that a split classification between the massive and powder form remains open. This issue will be the main discussion point for the next RAC CLH Working Group session in January whereby RAC promised to look in detail at the information recently provided by the silver sector demonstrating the absence of release of Ag metal powder from massive applications of the metal. The way RAC reviewed the bioaccumulation data on Ag raised an additional concern requiring quick and responsive action from the sector given this could lead to a classification as a bioaccumulative substance. This assessment deviates from the metals guidance and is not justified based on the scientific evidence (more information: Jelle Mertens and Hugo Waeterschoot).

RAC capacity-building seminar : added value, uncertainties and contextual information for the use of biomonitoring

On 13 October, ECHA organised a capacity-building seminar for the RAC members on the use of biomonitoring data in the context of risk management (i.e., restrictions and authorisations). The session was animated by experts in the field. RAC's starting point was the assumption that the use of human biomonitoring is reasonable and fit-for-purpose whilst adding value to the specific context application for authorisation/substance/use but it requires some guidance on the interpretation and the reporting format. Consequently, the seminar started with a presentation on the history of Human Biomonitoring (HBM), the benefits and difficulties encountered, but also the ethical aspects. The presentation highlighted the existing differences in Member States in how biomonitoring is considered. This was followed by a presentation going more in detail on when and how to use biomonitoring for exposure and risk assessment.

A key message provided to RAC was that biomonitoring may help to target risk management but requires striking a balance between the information that can be provided and the 'invasive' aspects. It also requires understanding the toxicokinetics of a substance.

FIOH made a presentation on some technical aspects related to the interpretation of the biomonitoring data and the selection of the reference population. The main aim was to better describe the possible uncertainties, to avoid RAC Rapporteurs' reluctance to use biomonitoring data.

Metals were largely mentioned in FIOH's presentation: onsetting biological values, reverse and forward calculations!

Several references were made to the HBM-4EU project, whose objectives are to harmonise the procedures and tools for HBM at EU level, but also to develop novel methods to identify human internal exposure to environmental and occupational chemicals and establish the casual link with human health effects.

The session ended with the presentation of two case studies, in the context of a substance evaluation and an authorisation.

The discussion that followed identified several action points: need to reflect further in case RAC should ask for biomonitoring data for the general population living around sites who are exposed to substances for which an application for authorisation is submitted, identify the best format for reporting the data (e.g., include the reference values and accompanying information) and a checklist.

Eurometaux's draft notes were circulated to the Human Health Taskforce (more information: Violaine Verougstraete).

MSC-75: written approvals on dossier and evaluation decisions decrease transparency and learning potential for industry

In October, for the first time the ECHA-Member State Committee reached agreements in a written procedure on all testing proposals, dossier and substance evaluations. While ECHA sees this as an important milestone in effectiveness improvement the reactions coming from industry were much more diversified. Indeed, the outcome of the written processes mostly remains unknown to the observers in MSC (industry as well as NGOs) hence it is unclear if this is the result of decreased attention by authorities, or increased effectiveness of the review procedures. Moreover, the MSC deliberations provide important learnings to industry, to prevent that such cases would appear again, a benefit that has now been lost. Industry raised this concern in the annual review with the MSC secretariat which resulted in an agreement to increase the debriefing information level from the agreements reached in written agreement (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

MSC-75: MSC reached agreement to review the genotoxicity testing strategy

MSC agreed with the proposal of a Member State Expert Group to review the *in vitro* and *in vivo* testing strategy for mutagenicity. So far, this endpoint was evaluated by a chromosomal aberration (CA) test, often in combination with a Micronucleus test (MNT). An expert group recommended to replace the chromosomal aberration test by a Comet Assay, a relatively new test that allows for more flexibility to investigate potential clastogenic or aneugenic genotoxicity concerns. Industry was also part of the expert group and the recommendations received wide support. However, there are concerns that ECHA or Member States may now ask consortia to conduct a Comet test when a mutagenicity testing strategy in registration files was solely based on a chromosomal aberration test or in combination with the micronucleus test. Eurometaux and other industry delegations in MSC will therefore ask that previous agreements are honoured unless there are serious concerns of genotoxicity potential going undetected (more information: Elliot Deag, Violaine Verougstraete and Hugo Waeterschoot).

CLP: survey on awareness raising on the impact of the environmental classification of lead

In follow-up of the RAC opinion on the lead metal environmental classification, ILA and Eurometaux started an awareness-raising campaign. A survey was developed as a self-awareness assessment tool that especially helps users to define if they could be impacted by the environmental classification of lead metal. While not aiming to define the extent of the impact, the survey explores if consortia have the knowledge or are aware that extremely low levels of Pb as an alloying element or Pb as an impurity may affect the classification, or worse lead to more impacting legislative requirements like dangerous goods transport, Seveso or environmental permit change requirements. As of the publication of this news more than 220 companies and consortia have completed the self-assessment survey. If you haven't done so, feel free to complete it by using the following hyperlink <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FJMQ2NX>.

In follow-up ILA and Eurometaux are organising on 9 November an information session on the outcome and consequences of the proposal as well as preparing key messaging for national and EU advocacy. Just send us a mail in case you have not seen the invite (more information: Diana Dobre and Hugo Waeterschoot).

RAC CLH Working Group: discussions on silver and SO₂

The RAC CLH Working Group also discussed the human health aspects of the silver metal classification proposal but focused on the endpoints not concerned by the ongoing Extended One-Generation Reproductive Toxicity Study (EOGRTS). More specifically, the Working Group agreed with the Rapporteur's proposal to not classify silver metal for physico-chemical properties. For human health, there was support for the Rapporteur's proposal to not classify Ag metal for acute toxicity dermal and inhalation, STOT-SE (Specific Target Organ Toxicity via Single Exposure), skin and eye irritation/corrosion. The endpoints acute toxicity (oral) and skin sensitisation need further elaboration, but the Rapporteur's proposal was to not classify for these endpoints.

This proposal is in line with the industry position. Eurometaux also followed the very thorough discussions on sulphur dioxide. The proposals that will be further discussed in plenary include a classification for STOT-SE Cat. 1 (making the link with the Reactive Airways Syndrome and existing data in miners), no classification for skin sensitisation and no classification for carcinogenicity.

Mutagenicity will be further debated, bringing together EFSA's -who made a presentation- and the Rapporteur's arguments. Several interesting issues popped up along the SO₂ discussions, with the possibility of creating some precedents, relating to the terminology to be used (inconclusive, lack of evidence on effects, lack of data) when concluding to no classification, up to the possible requests for additional tests (not in RAC's mandate though) (more information: Anissa Alami, Jelle Mertens, Rodger Battersby and Violaine Verougstraete)

ECHA OTHER ACTIVITIES

ERRATUM: Monthly update (News 117): ECHA announces the launch of IUCLID 6.6 and the upcoming webinar on CSR completeness check

Last month in News N°117 we announced the 12 November as the date for ECHA's webinar on Chemical Safety Report (CSR), it seems the official date has now been fixed on **16 November** (more information: Lorenzo Zullo, Federica Iaccino and Violaine Verougstraete).

For information the next monthly meeting has been postponed to 26 November.

EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

CHEMICALS STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability Project Group meeting: 5 October meeting

The group met to review progress since the summer break, and to discuss three main items: preparations for the next meeting of the High-Level Roundtable (HLRT), our position on the “One Substance One Assessment” (OSOA) approach, and suitable messaging for the upcoming Chemical Watch event on the CSS (see later).

On the HLRT, the group was updated on discussions so far on the topic of strengthening enforcement of chemicals legislation, and the preparation of a “joint report” on the subject. Industry believes that current indicators on enforcement do not create a suitable sense of urgency that improvement is needed, and that it is important that we bring concrete examples of where enforcement is failing, into the discussions – to be used as learning opportunities. To this end, the group discussed suitable examples from the metals sector. The conclusion was that four would be put forward – one on an existing restriction, one on online sales of substances of very high concern (SVHCs) directly to consumers, and two on substance classification and labelling resulting in a non-level playing field with respect to competition. There were also discussions on other points that the group felt should be made during future discussions on enforcement within the CSS cross industry group and the Commission Sherpas group.

On One Substance One Assessment (OSOA), the group dealt with an action from Chemicals Management Week to brainstorm a sector position on the concept. After a recap of the several workstreams proposed by the Commission, the group revisited previous discussions on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of OSOA, and moved on to developing a short list of main “concerns” (with supporting examples). This was a useful process and ultimately, as OSOA is still in the early stages of development, the group agreed to focus on “guiding principles” rather than delving deeply into technical details. It was agreed that the Eurometaux secretariat would have an informal discussion with the Commission to cover these main principles (citing examples where appropriate) and seek some feedback. Creation of a written position may later be justified depending on what is learnt (more information: Simon Cook).

Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability High-Level Roundtable: Sherpas Group meeting

On 14 October the Commission hosted a second “Sherpas workshop” to provide input for the HLRT joint report on improving enforcement. The workshop was in three sections. The first was a mind-mapping exercise, to capture thoughts on what successful enforcement of/compliance with chemicals legislation looks like, what are the main barriers to successful enforcement and full compliance, and what should be our goals and priorities moving forward. The output from this was captured using virtual “sticky notes”. The second and third parts of the workshop were break-out sessions to dig deeper into three enforcement-related topics, again with all output captured in writing:

- Chemicals in the online world (online sales)
- Complying with EU rules
- The role of stakeholders in enforcement (industry, consumers etc.)

With two sessions and three topics, it was only possible for Eurometaux to attend two discussions, which were on the first two topics above. To finish the event, there was a final session in plenary – during which further discussions were possible and where some further significant disagreements did emerge e.g., on the importance of “enforceability” of future restrictions. Industry’s view is that future restrictions should only be implemented if adequate enforceability can be demonstrated. Other stakeholders believe that the priority is to introduce restrictions on groups of hazardous substances, and then later deal with how to enforce such restrictions. Intermediate positions also exist e.g., a “ban” can only be enforced if it exists in the first place. There are also different views within the group on the role of consumers and consumer groups in enforcement, and on which part(s) of the value chain should bear the burden of improving enforcement and compliance.

The output from the whole workshop has been used by a professional writer to create the first draft of the HLRT joint report. This has been circulated to the Sherpas for comments by 27 October – of which there have been many, which show alignment in some areas but disagreement in others. Generally, the industry

view of the report is that it represents well the discussions that took place in the workshop but lacks concrete outcomes and recommendations – and instead represents more of an “assessment” of the current situation with respect to enforcement. Industry, led by Cefic, has put forward a proposal to the Commission for how a list of ten recommendations could be developed, through collaboration in the Sherpa group. This list could then be used to measure performance and improvements moving forward. To date there has been no agreement on how to move forward with such a list of recommendations (more information: Simon Cook).

ZERO POLLUTION ACTION PLAN

ZPAP: Project Group meeting and new Stakeholder Platform

On 19 October, Eurometaux Secretariat organised the second meeting of its Zero Pollution Action Plan (ZPAP) Project Group. The main focus of the meeting was (1) to take stock of what has been achieved so far since the publication of the ZPAP; (2) to reflect on how to position the non-ferrous metals sector within the so-called ‘zero pollution’ framework; and (3) to discuss the current Open Public Consultation on the revision of the Ambient Air Quality Directives (deadline 15 December) and potential technical needs. It was decided that Eurometaux would come forward with a strategy for the coming months, as well as a proposed response to the Open Public Consultation on Air Quality. Finally, Eurometaux Secretariat also announced that the Commission was setting up an expert group called the “Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform”, with a view to organising a meeting as early as mid-December. This expert group is open to industry stakeholders and Eurometaux submitted a formal application (more information: Lara Van de Merckt, Lorenzo Marotti and Noam El Mrabet).

REACH REGISTRATIONS

Industry guidance on REACH registration dossier updates finally published: have a look at the check-list for co-registrants!

The industry guidance to clarify duties to update the REACH registration dossiers has finally been published. This document is the outcome of Eurometaux and Cefic’s joint effort to facilitate the interpretation of the obligations related to Implementing Regulation 2020/1435 on REACH Dossier Updating, which in turn is intended to provide greater clarity about REACH Article 22 on Registration dossier updates. An important section, authored by Eurometaux is about co-registrant updates within joint submissions: Chapter 12 contains an 11-point check-list indicating the key dossier aspects for co-registrants to review when deciding whether a co-registrant update is required by their company.

The guidance is available on the REACH Metals Gateway (more information: Lorenzo Zullo).

INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS

Industrial Emissions Taskforce meeting: status update and agreed actions

The Taskforce meeting on 22 October received a status update on the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) and European Pollutants Release & Transfer Register (E-PRTR) revisions that are running in parallel.

The revision builds on different policy options (POs) linked to the problem areas identified in the IED and E-PRTR evaluation exercises, with PO4 being the most ambitious. The Commission will ultimately make a choice between the different Policy Options but did not exclude that some specific measures will be implemented even if they do not belong to the preferred POs. Some examples were shared to show that the Commission might implement policy measures in BREF reviews even before the finalisation of the IED review – should there be enough support for them. The group agreed that it would be useful to summarise EM’s position on the proposals once more in a position paper that could be used for advocacy. Some feedback was provided on the IE Alliance meeting, particularly on the joint actions (CBI in E-PRTR and taxonomy).

The group also agreed on which forthcoming BREF revisions need to be followed in the coming months: The Surface Treatment of Metals and Plastics (STM) BREF will be followed by commodities, with EM in the role of observer only while EM will actively engage in the high-profile Large Volume Inorganic Chemicals (LVIC) BREF as it is a horizontal topic. On the latter, members were invited to send their completed “wish list” to the EM secretariat.

Next, the IED and taxonomy issue was raised and explained in detail. Criteria are being developed for defining sustainable contribution for mining & metals processing in the context of the EU Taxonomy, the main challenge will be addressing pollution whilst also focusing on Circular Economy (CE). The sector can contribute to the design of the criteria through the Platform on Sustainable Finance that was set up, but some challenges are being encountered, in particular when addressing pollution as there are some links made with the BREF that may interfere with advocacy on IED. The Taskforce agreed to explore further possibilities, e.g., look at the JRC reports and the proposed possibility to work on 'Relative improvement – evolution of a metric over time', but also to reconsider an earlier proposal is made before on dust + SO_x (see above) but also a reference to ISO 14001.

The group discussed the call for expression of interest (deadline for application on 3 November 2021) to participate in the high-level Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform. Post-meeting info: Guy Thiran's candidature has been sent.

Eurometaux closed the meeting by addressing Air Quality and the new guidelines that the WHO have released with an Open Public Consultation ongoing on Ambient Air Quality Directive (AAQD). Overall, the sector needs to advocate and demonstrate mainly that the NFM sector is committed to continue lowering emissions, and that their emissions do not contribute significantly to air quality pollution compared to other sectors' emissions. The proposal is thus (in collaboration with the ZPAP PG) to continue engagement in stakeholder platforms, respond to public consultations, write a position paper, and to launch a Project on Air Quality.

This meeting was co-chaired by Eva Tormo and Mik Gilles (IZA) who will officially replace Juan-Antonio Suarez when he retires end of the year, whom we thank warmly for his brilliant chairmanship (more information: Lorenzo Ceccherini, Lighea Speciale, Lorenzo Marotti and Violaine Verougstraete).

WATER

Technical Guidance for implementing Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) for metals: *is finally published*

The long-awaited guidance was endorsed by the Water Directors in Helsinki on 26 November 2019 and was finally published on 12 October 2021. This [guidance](#) is crucial for conducting metal assessments in the aquatic environment and the prioritisation and EQS review process (more information: Lara Van de Merckt)

Working Group Chemicals meeting: 21 October

The last Working Group Chemicals meeting held on 21 October was very short and did not leave much room for discussion. Two of Helen Clayton's (on leave) colleagues are taking over for the time being: Hans Stielstra and Rolf-Jan Hoeve. DG ENV announced the publication of the technical guidance for implementing EQS for metals. We commented that this guidance is critical for assessing metals in the aquatic environment (i.e., the 3rd River Basin Management Plans (RBMP)). DG ENV and Wood Consulting presented an update on the impact assessment (IA) work following the WFD fitness check, including the priority substances (PSs) list review. They are currently in the data collection stage (e.g., through literature review, the comments received from the Open Public Consultation and Expert survey, etc.).

JRC reviewed the candidate PS draft EQS dossiers' status and gave a small update on the Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER) opinion on the silver dossier, leaving almost no time for discussion. JRC confirmed that a meeting with the Expert sub-group working on silver would soon discuss this further in an upcoming meeting (still to be set once the SCHEER's final opinion has been published).

Keep in mind that the Commission's President singled out the review of the PS list to be a top priority on the Commission's agenda, as stated in a letter of intent to the EU council and Parliament. It is scheduled for adoption in September 2022, a deadline DG ENV is strongly committed to meeting. Therefore, we asked for more information regarding the timelines:

Draft EQS dossiers are still being sent out for opinion to SCHEER, until probably February-March 2022.

The SCHEER will then issue their preliminary opinions, followed by four weeks to submit comments. Once SCHEER has given their opinions, the consultants in charge of the IA will then conduct the cost/benefit's analysis. The finalisation of the first draft is to be ready by May-June 2022 and sent to the Regulatory

Scrutiny Board (RSB) by early summer 2022. Then based on the RSB opinion, Commission will draft the final version and submit it for adoption. We all agree that this timeline is ambitious and does not allow stakeholders and members to reflect and provide comments on the different draft dossiers in a timely manner.

Commission did not give further information on the status of the review of the existing PSs, besides saying that the work has started...The activities regarding the deselection of PSs tackled in the IA are strictly handled by the JRC who gave an overview of the comments received on the updated deselection criteria document. They concluded that they needed to improve the paper as they received a lot of comments. Note that they will consider metals' bioavailability in the improved document (as we pointed out in our written response to the document).

A second workshop to present the preliminary results of the Impact Assessment was initially scheduled for this autumn. It has been postponed to early 2022 (possibly February).

The next meeting of the Working Group Chemicals is tentatively scheduled for 10 February 2022 (more information: Lara Van de Merckt)

Strategic Coordination Working Group meeting:

Last Thursday, was held the Water Framework Directive (WFD) Strategic Coordination Group meeting. Rolf Jan Hoeve (DG ENV) presented the ongoing Impact Assessment process for surface and groundwater pollutants updates. Nothing new from what was presented during WG Chemicals on the 21st except for one thing: he presented a slide reviewing all the status progress on the different substances' dossiers: it states that the review of the existing priority substances dossiers in CIRCA-BC (including for lead and nickel) are currently being checked by the Member States. We do not know which Member States are submitting comments, how these would be processed and which consequences this could have. No more information was given on this topic. We will investigate further (more information: Lara Van de Merckt).

In case it is not yet in your agenda, do not forget our next Water Taskforce meeting on 18 November!

TOOLS

Multi-Metallic Database: *training completed... ready to launch*

The Multi-Metallic Database (MMD) is ready! After a few months of testing and tuning conducted in cooperation with data owners, the MMD was officially presented on 14 October. During a dedicated online session, Eurometaux explained its various functionalities, for example how to compare data across multiple substances. It was clarified that data owners are responsible for maintaining their data up-to-date. The use of the database is also subject to the acceptance of a disclaimer.

We are now finalising some supporting guidance, and also considering the creation of short videos/tutorials. An account will be automatically created for those that have already have access to the REACH Metals Gateway. Additional accounts can be requested via an online form that will be circulated in the coming days (more information: Federica Iaccino, Violaine Verougstraete, Lorenzo Zullo).

OUTREACH

OECD

The OECD is pleased to announce the release of version v3.8 of [eChemPortal](#) on 13 October 2021. This new and improved version enables users to access property and effect values expressed in different units in fewer steps.

OTHERS

Chemical Watch Conference: *the CSS, one year on*

On 20 October Eurometaux presented at a virtual event – “The EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability – One Year On”. Eurometaux gave the metals sector perspective on the CSS and the importance of balancing

the “3Cs” – Chemicals, Climate, and Circularity - given the increases in demand anticipated for many metals (many of which have hazardous properties) due to their various uses in the green (and digital) transition. The 3C model was introduced, starting with Climate. Metals enable many value chains that are key to the green transition e.g., clean energy – these chains simply do not exist without metals, this was explained and examples given. The second C – Circularity – relates to the many interdependencies that exist between metals, and how they manifest themselves in recycling – metals cannot be produced, used or recycled independently from one another. The importance of greater and more efficient recycling of metals moving forward was stressed, in order to recycle the “anthropogenic stock” (the stock of metals in use, above ground) and meet circularity objectives. The third C – Chemicals – refers to the hazard-based approach proposed in the CSS and the fact that it covers most of the metals needed for the green transition. It was shown how adopting a hazard-only approach to metals could make achievement of climate and circularity goals impossible. A solution was put forward, which is to focus on risk rather than hazard, and to take a holistic view of metals that takes into account all sustainability aspects over the full lifecycle of substances. This is captured in the sector’s “Sustainable Metals Concept” that also introduces considerations relating to industrial and innovation goals, EU competitiveness and strategic autonomy.

Eurometaux finished by outlining the sector’s commitment to assist decision making (e.g., on alternatives) by continuing to invest in relevant knowledge and data on hazard, uses, exposure and risk. We invited all stakeholders to contribute to further refinement of the Sustainable Metals Concept moving forward.

Following on from the conference, Eurometaux has been asked to write a short “opinion” for the Chemical Watch website, on the hazard-based approach to chemicals management, and what implications this has for the metals sector. This piece follows a similar message build-up to the conference presentation, and then goes on to discuss when it is justified to use hazardous substances. The fact that industry does not do this lightly is emphasised, and the point made that powerful market forces exist which drive substitution where close next best alternatives are available.

Other topics covered in the conference included the restrictions roadmap, amending REACH requirements under the CSS, amending hazard classes under CLP, safe and sustainable-by-design criteria, the essential use concept, the hazard vs risk approach (panel discussion), and the global impact of the EU CSS (more information: Simon Cook).

CALENDAR

Please find here below a non-exhaustive list of the meetings that are planned until end 2021.

For meetings at Eurometaux

The MCC has been opened to allow hybrid meetings with sanitary measures put in place (maximum n° of participants and for those having to travel to Brussels, please note that the Belgian authorities are in the process of imposing the COVID-safe ticket (more details on <https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/>), **but due to an unfortunate rise of Covid cases in Belgium (and other member countries) for the moment we prefer – for the safety of all – to hold our meetings online** (links to join will be sent ahead of the meetings).

For meetings at ECHA

ECHA meetings, including those of formal ECHA bodies, will be held remotely until further notice. 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](#)

- 9 November: Pb ENV classification Communication and Advocacy Meeting (online)
- 10 November: CARACAL TF Meeting
- 18 November: Water TF Meeting
- 17-18 November: CARACAL-42
- 22-26 November: ECHA RAC-59 & SEAC-53 Meetings

- 29 November-3 December: ECHA RAC-59 & SEAC-53 Meetings
- 07-08 December: ECHA Committee Meeting (TBC)
- 08 December: Chemicals Management Steering Committee Meeting
- 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 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)
