

EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT NEWS



As you know we have a lovely new Metals Conference Centre (MCC), so we would very much like to welcome you in person at our next meetings.

- 14 June: ZPAP Project Group
- 14 June: Lead Classification Taskforce
- 21 June: Risk Management Taskforce
- 21-22 June: MEED Workshop
- 01 September: Chemicals Management Steering Committee

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Dear All,

And here I am, back in Helsinki!

Whilst preparing my suitcase for the 5 days, I felt something that resembled a little first-meeting nerves. After more than two years of pandemic rhythm, what would it feel like to find my way back to the hotel and meeting rooms? Spending the days -from breakfast time to the late night hours- focused on dossiers and to do's, and switching my quiet (real) coffee breaks for networking "events"?

Once the plane had landed, exactly five minutes before Finland defeated Canada in ice hockey (turbulences!), I concluded that like cycling, one does not 'lose it'. I could still walk to the gate while reading a book, my PC was switched on as soon as the "fasten seat belts" sign vanished, and three minutes were sufficient to transfer the content of my suitcase into the room's cupboard, neutralise the air conditioning (cursing the windows that cannot be opened), remove my shoes and connect to the hotel's Wi-Fi.

From stage fright to entering a pair of old slippers.

Same sensation at the meeting premises: lists of names, allocated seats, water and ECHA sweets were at their 'original' place. For a moment it felt as if these last two years had not existed.

However, there was clearly more warmth in the greetings people were exchanging. It is true that the last time we had been together was the week of 9 March 2020, with every day bringing more worrying news and hesitations about touching doors or sitting close to one another, and a grand finale with the meeting being abruptly stopped before the end, to send people home.

Now, eight remote RAC meetings later, with only short appearances on the camera during the long Webex sessions, we were all looking at each other curious to see how we all got through this; "this" referring both to Covid and to the solutions that were put in place to continue our work 'from a distance'. Were we all there, did we look older, had we become any wiser, did the remote mode change us?

As soon as the actual debates started, after a speech given by the Chair praising everyone for their efficiency throughout the pandemic, it became palpable in the room what we had missed during these two years: the 3D! The movements in the meeting room to have a (tangible) chat with someone, the gestures towards one another, the body language now visible (including the looks before a vote), the emotions/reactions playing in the background (RAC remains RAC!) ...all this composes a multi-dimensional ballet one cannot get on screen.

Telling the stories in so much more detail than any recording can.

Putting the drivers and positions in the spotlight.

Making you part of the composition

Allowing to anticipate the next movement.

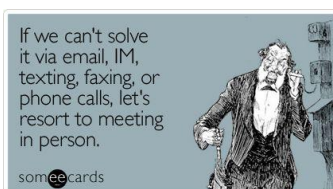
Leaving you with more understanding of the production.

The realisation of this, and of the need to cherish what had been lost and found again, transformed the (old) slippers into dancing shoes.

Clearly, the world changes, needs to adapt and we will need to think about alternative models for travels and workshops. But we won't be able to leave aside the fact that real interactions need to be part of sustainable work- and meetings.

Try it out!

Violaine Verougstraete



EU AGENCIES

EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA)

ECHA COMMITTEES

RAC-61: plenary meetings with plenty of classifications

RAC 61 had a full agenda for its first face-to-face plenary meeting since 2020 but also celebrated being back and its 500th CLH opinion. The workplan for the next meetings confirmed that the first plenary discussion on the classification of copper is tabled for December (in remote), while the cobalt Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL) will be first debated in September in Helsinki.

RAC started by finalising its discussions on glyphosate, concluding that the existing classifications as a substance that causes serious eye damage and is toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects should be retained. The Committee found that the available scientific evidence did not meet the criteria to classify glyphosate for specific target organ toxicity, or as a carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic substance.

On silver, RAC agreed on STOT-RE 2 (brains), Category 2 for fertility based on evidence for spermatogenic effects in studies having used silver nanoparticles (and weak evidence on sexual function and fertility with silver acetate), no classification for development based on inconclusive data, no classification for effects on or via lactation. This ends the RAC journey of silver, made very complex by the diverging positions of RAC members on the relevance of read-across between the different silver forms and compounds, their consideration (or not) of mode of action and toxicokinetics data, and by the repeated submissions of data EPMF had to compile to share the outcomes of the Extended One-Generation Reproductive Toxicity Study (EOGRTS) that was still running at the time the CLH discussion started or to reply to the Committee requests. The latter required an impressive teamwork (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot and Violaine Verougstraete).

RAC-61: but also restrictions..

Besides classification cases, RAC also handled a long series of restriction cases including the final discussion on the restriction on Pb in ammunition. RAC agreed to ban the use of Pb in concentrations > 1% in different forms of ammunition for outdoor civilian use like gunshot and bullets but recognised relevant exemptions. Allowing up to 3% of lead in copper is probably the most important exemption to note, noticing that the opinion includes the obligation to search to reduce this level to below 1%. This restriction is important for the metals sector as lead in ammunition is by far the largest source of lead emitted to the environment. This restriction sets precedents by keeping the soil and groundwater impacts assessed at local scale (so by national/local authorities and not by EU control), and introducing a new qualitative risk assessment approach to score and compare relative risks of environmental nature (birds secondary poisoning, ..), shooters' health risks and game meat pollution. It is expected that such an approach will be regularly used in the future when risks of completely different nature must be compared and assessed in a joint way (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

RAC-61 and SEAC-55: the scope of the restriction on the use of CTP not yet clarified; Cu raised as a potential alternative for creosote substitution

RAC also discussed the restriction of the use of Coal Tar Pitch (CTP) for Clay Target (CT) shooting. The metal sector is one of the largest users of CTP for electrodes, sliding gates, refractory bricks and other uses, hence the importance to follow the discussion and check for possible precedents. For this case, the Restriction aims at reducing the releases to the environment from the clay targets as well as the exposure of workers manufacturing the clay targets. RAC's interpretation of the latter aspect are relevant for the uses in the metal sector.

The main (ongoing) discussion item related on what set of PAHs (Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) to include in the assessment for the Restriction: the "18 indicators" recommendation used by the US and proposed by ECHA, those included in Annex VI of the Classification Labelling and Packaging Regulation (CLP) or those on the Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) list?

Another tricky item is the potential inclusion of naphthalene given it is only classified as a Category 2 CMR (Substances classified as Carcinogens, Mutagens or toxic to Reproduction), a category which is normally out of scope for restrictions. Industry proposed to stay as close as possible to the 18 indicators and exclude naphthalene considering Occupational Safety Health (OSH) and other PAH related legislations, but the RAC experts were divided, and Commission did not seem to be intervening in this principle issue.

A second Restriction with indirect impact on metals is the Restriction of creosotes for the protection of wooden train bills (sleepers). Several alternatives including copper salts were considered but questions were raised about their environmental and health impact when reused or disposed of (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

OTHERS

ECHA project on EOGRTs: *consultation on the interim report*

The extended one-generation reproductive toxicity (EOGRT) study was accepted as OECD Test 187 Guideline (TG) 443 in 2011 and became a REACH information requirement in 2015, replacing the two-generation reproductive study (OECD TG 416). A number of EOGRTs have been conducted since.

Last year, a project was launched aiming at analysing the performance of the EOGRT study in relation to the design of the study, its conduct and the toxicological findings. Based on the toxicological findings, the project lead by ECHA further aims to analyse how these clarify the identified concern and how they can be used for regulatory processes such as hazard classification and/or identification of additional concerns (substances of very high concern, endocrine disruption, etc.). The project started by evaluating 36 EOGRT studies basis by analysing the respective IUCLID study records and full study reports. The outcomes of this evaluation were published early May and circulated for comments. The report, in addition to the findings of the evaluation, includes recommendations for registrants and test laboratories to improve the design, conduct and analyses, as well as suggestions to ECHA and the OECD with respect to clarifying the test guideline and guidance documents.

Eurometaux, Cefic and Concawe had several calls to identify and agree on the key concerns to be submitted, e.g., Eurometaux's Human Health Taskforce provided comments that were submitted on 30 May (deadline) (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot and Violaine Verougstraete).

EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

Chemicals Management Steering Committee: *2nd meeting of the year*

The second hybrid meeting of the year took place in the MCC. Key items for discussion at the meeting included the possible update of the 2020 survey evaluating the impacts of the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS) in regard to the vast Impact Assessment (IA) the Commission is currently running.

The meeting subsequently discussed the development of a Roadmap for "Sustainable or Zero Harm Metals" which was supported by Eurometaux's Executive Committee in April and made useful suggestions for its drafting that will start on 13 June. This Roadmap aims at helping to demonstrate that the metals needed for Europe's clean energy goals will not result in harmful pollution or problematic emissions, and secondly to prioritise the circular management of metals/minerals in Europe's stock through multiple lifecycles.

Updates were provided on the new Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) ([more below](#)) and the associated potential concerns, as well as on key issues in the Water prioritisation process ([more information here below](#)).

The Committee subsequently discussed a project on the conditions and boundaries of the application of the Precautionary Principle (PP) and guiding principles/lines for Risk Management under REACH 2.0.

The meeting ended on a positive note with feedback about the very satisfactory 1st Metals Academy ([more info below](#)). The complete minutes of the meeting will be sent shortly (more information: Violaine Verougstraete).

CHEMICALS STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Another survey... on GRA and Risk Management options for the REACH Reform

VVA Consulting developed a very elaborated questionnaire for Commission to explore the potential business impact of the different risk management options foreseen in the new proposals of the REACH Reform, exclusively focussed on industry. The consultants focussed in particular on the impact of the scope & extension of the Generic Risk Approach (REACH Article 68 (2)) and the different options suggested to streamline, abandon, or integrate the Authorisation under the Restriction scheme.

Eurometaux used the outcome of the impact assessment it conducted a year ago when the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS) was launched, to draft a response that was reviewed and complemented by the members.

Key messages include the need for a risk-based approach, that most impacts will come from the new endpoints to be addressed (e.g., STOT-RE (Specific Target Organ Toxicity (classification endpoint) - Repeated)) and the potential

expansion of the GRA to professional uses, but also that the option of potential sectorial derogations for classical Restrictions (under REACH Article 68 (1)) was welcomed as it would allow to better consider metals specificities.

The survey was complemented by extensive personal interviews (with Kai-Sebastian Melzer and Hugo Waeterschoot) and by an Eurometaux document summarising the typical aspects and concerns of the metals sector related to risk assessment and risk management, as well as the recommendation to keep Risk Management focused on what matters: targeted and effective when relevant (more information: France Capon, Kai-Sebastian Melzer and Hugo Waeterschoot).

High-Level Roundtable Industry Sherpas Workshop

The Sherpas met again on 3 May for further discussion on the preparations for the 3rd meeting of the High-Level Roundtable (HLRT) on 18 May. Discussions were around the content and format of the draft joint report on “Research and Innovation for the transition to safe and sustainable chemicals”. This covers both Safe and Sustainable-by-design (SSbD) and the Strategic Research and Innovation Plan (SRIP) for chemicals and materials in the Green Deal Era. In previous discussions it became very clear that the main area of disagreement on SSbD is whether the “safety assessment” should include considerations of risk and exposure or be based solely on hazard. Industry supports the risk-based approach, NGOs are against, and the academic community were roughly 50:50 split. Differences of opinion also existed on whether SSbD should be a “full lifecycle” consideration or not – industry supports the lifecycle approach, but NGOs are against as the data requirements are very significant.

Further debate on these topics was expected, but in fact there had been much compromise-seeking in the background by a sub-group of Sherpas to include both hazard and risk considerations, over the full lifecycle of chemicals and materials. This was a positive step and allowed progress on further drafting of the recommendations for the joint report. The same sub-group of Sherpas agreed to finalise the text of the relevant recommendation, which now calls for the most intrinsically hazardous chemicals not to be considered as SSbD, but also for differences of exposure and differences of risk management options to be considered in the SSbD assessment, taking a lifecycle approach.

A second area of contention was the use of new testing methods including non-animal (NAMs) and what part these play with respect to future innovation on chemicals and materials. Another sub-group of Sherpas volunteered to refine the text of the recommendation on NAMs (which is to support further development and validation of NAMs suitable for application at early stages of chemical development and enhance synergies for use and acceptance of NAMs), for the draft report to be discussed at the 18 May meeting (more information: Simon Cook).

High-Level Roundtable on the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS)

The third meeting of the High-Level Roundtable (HLRT) took place on 18 May in Brussels, this time face to face (which was greatly welcomed by the participants). The meeting focused on Safe and Sustainable-by-Design (SSbD) and the Strategic Research & Innovation Plan (SRIP). The Commission is expected to present a Staff Working Document and a Commission Recommendation on these topics. A joint report on these topics was presented and discussed at the meeting.

In addition to the joint report, the meeting also included:

- A statement from Commissioner Sinkevičius on the state of implementation of the CSS
- Brief reports on the role of ambassadors of the transition to safe and sustainable chemicals – given by Cosmetics Europe, Covestro, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, OECD, SME United. The report from Covestro is to note as they presented Niaga’s digital product passport, which includes CAS numbers of substances and a search-function for end-criteria. Information on disposal and recycling can also be added.
- An update from DG GROW on the transition pathway for chemicals and follow up on the HLRT joint report on enforcement (not new information).

The draft joint report was presented by ChemSec, Cefic, Solvay, University of Massachusetts Lowell, and EUChemS. In the discussion that followed, various points were touched upon. The importance of the development and acceptance of NAMs was shared among a broad range of stakeholders. A NGO raised a reservation, saying there is “an issue around the level of evidence for restrictions”, and that it remains important to do read-across and grouping. This requires modification in CLP and REACH. On funding for innovation, some NGOs argued to also consider the stick, rather than only the carrot approach. In other words, they advised using “punitive financial mechanisms” and said: “marketing hazardous chemicals should be costly”. The speaker from France, holding the Presidency of the Council, responded by reminding of co-financing rules and that public funds can help realise improvements. He added that SSbD should be an incentive tool. Various speakers reiterated that SSbD should not become too complex and that the international approach should be kept in mind.

Most NGOs are calling for a more regulatory approach and call for transparency. On SSbD and its purpose, the Commission made it clear that SSbD is not a regulatory tool and is instead an innovation and design philosophy that applies to the whole value chain for chemicals, materials, and products.

The draft joint report was not adopted in the form presented, as several stakeholders felt that the quality was not high enough and had been partly sacrificed for speed. The Commission agreed to allow a short time for further comments to be made before the document is finalised by a professional writer. The report will then be adopted by written procedure.

After summer, the Commission and Sherpas will start preparing for the next meeting of the HLRT, in November 2022, and contemplate a full discussion on the Transition Pathway for the chemicals industry. Participants welcomed this topic but questioned whether it would be too late in the Commission's timeline for the HLRT discussion to have much impact (more information: Guy Thiran & Simon Cook).

ZERO POLLUTION ACTION PLAN

Zero Pollution Monitoring & Outlook Workshop: 1st workshop

On 24-25 May, the Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform held its first workshop under the title "Towards a Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook". The event included preparations for the first Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook and the Integrated Nutrient Management Action Plan (INMAP). The agenda, background document, presentations at the event and the FORENV Synthesis Report were published [here](#).

The next meeting of the ZPAP Project Group is scheduled on 14 June (more information: Lorenzo Marotti & Lara Van de Merckt)

REACH REGISTRATIONS

REACH REGISTRATIONS - Completeness checks

During the last months there has been an increase in TCC & MCC (technical & manual completeness checks) failures, when submitting dossiers or dossiers' updates. With the intention to identify best practices for successful submissions, some specific examples collected by industry have been shared with the ECHA dedicated team. Timelines for communicating failures in the completeness check, unpredictability of the completeness check outcomes and difficulties with complex dossiers checks were discussed.

ECHA explained the procedures, recommended that industry use the TCC/MCC updated guidelines to reduce failures and provided explanations on the specific timelines for completeness checks they are subject to. On the practical cases shared, ECHA agreed that some refinements are needed overall, for instance to avoid long timelines for providing rationales for failures.

Moreover, ECHA suggested industry make use of the contact form for TCC/MCC, to set up direct communication (as in case of urgency in submission).

Details on the ECHA's feedback were shared with the Registration Taskforce and further exchanges are expected (more information: Federica Iaccino & Lorenzo Zullo).

CLASSIFICATION

Li CLH Taskforce: *important Taskforce call on 18 May*

The Taskforce members were updated on the developments since the March CARACAL meeting during which the chair, Francesco Gattiglio (Albemarle) presented industry's concerns on the proposed classification, highlighting the strategic importance of lithium salts and the high socio-economic impact that would result from the severe category 1A classification for reproductive toxicity. CARACAL members were able to submit comments in follow-up.

Several meetings were organised with Member States to ask them to support industry's concerns on the science backing the classification and raising awareness about the incoherence between the climate, chemicals management and circularity objectives. However, only a few comments were submitted. The next discussion at CARACAL will take place early July, and hence the coming weeks are crucial to raise again the issues with the EU countries.

It should be noted that UK is currently developing its own technical report on the classification and industry hopes that the UK will reach a different conclusion than RAC.

Eurometaux also presented the Assessment of Regulatory Needs (ARN) document for Li compounds that was published by ECHA on PACT (Public Activities Coordination Tool) that announces the authorities' intentions regarding certain

substances. The ARN for Li compounds proposes in its conclusion a CLH group proposal, based on the CLH process for the three compounds just discussed by RAC.

Participants were invited to all contribute as much as possible to further mobilise Member States before the July CARACAL meeting where the 21st ATP will be re-discussed. The draft minutes were sent to the Taskforce (more information: Francesco Gattiglio and Violaine Verougstraete).

RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Management Taskforce meeting: so much going on in parallel

An extra Risk Management Taskforce meeting was set up on 12 May to deal with the long series of parallel Commission and ECHA activities that affect the metals sector.

In a first session focussed on “taking stock on recent developments”, members of the Taskforce were briefed on the REACH Committee’s recent experience demonstrating that the present authorisation system is “a dead-end route”. ECHA held its word when they stated that they would regularly update the Restriction Roadmap; which they did in May providing good insight on what Restrictions -that could affect the metals sector- were to be expected, including some indirect ones like on inorganic impurities in fertilisers.

The participants also discussed the high-level learnings of the Generic Risk Assessment (GRA), Essential Use Concept (EUC) and Risk Management Reform under the REACH Review Impact Assessment, also planning industry’s observations -related to the Public Consultation on the 11th priority list for Authorisation recommendations that includes lead metal. ILA concluded that listing lead would result in up to 2000 or more Applications for Authorisations if Commission were to proceed with this Authorisation.

The second part of the meeting debated on how we could -as a sector- be strategically focussed and well prepared for the steps that will come after the publication of the REACH Impact Assessment study, namely the drafting of a new REACH section on Risk Management. Our input on the VVA Risk Management Impact Assessment survey (see further in this News), how and to what extent product legislation (like RoHS, ELV, ...) could be aligned with REACH and other aspects helped us progress in our views on the key items that need to be defended for the REACH Reform drafting.

The meeting ended with a short explanation on the delivery of the updated Risk Management Option guidance and exemplification on our website so we can start further promoting this (more information: France Capon, Klaus Kamps, Michel van der Straeten and Hugo Waeterschoot).

INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS

Air Quality: update and project

Citizens in European Union countries [may be able to sue their governments for financial compensation if illegal levels of air pollution damage their health](#). The adviser's opinion follows a string of rulings at the Luxembourg-based Court of Justice of the EU in recent years, with around 10 EU countries including France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Poland, Romania, and Bulgaria found guilty of illegal air pollution. Air pollution is responsible for roughly 300,000 premature deaths a year in Europe, [according to the European Environment Agency](#). The EEA has branded air pollution "the biggest environmental health risk in Europe". The list of diseases inflamed by chronic exposure to air pollution includes respiratory issues, lung cancer, heart disease, and stroke.

On 17 May, Eurometaux supported by ARCHE, participated in SETAC 2022 in Copenhagen to bring the perspective and raise awareness on the issues facing the NFM Sector, advocating for improvements in air quality to be achieved in the most cost-effective approach possible, without disproportionate costs for industry. The poster was very well-received and met the interest of numerous people, including institutions, professors, and scientists from Academia. This represented a unique occasion to build trust, engage in the discussion and make the NFM sector more known, by promoting its activities, highlighting its central role towards the digital and green transition, in the strategic EU raw materials independence, whilst at the same time calling for proportionate regulatory actions that acknowledge the NFM sector’s added value for society. The outcome and feedback will be presented in detail at the next ZPAP Project Group meeting on 14 June.

On 30 May, [Euractiv published a report as a series of articles](#) focused on European cities putting measures in place to reduce toxic emissions from vehicles in a bid to improve air quality and save lives. Most deaths from poor air quality are centred in cities, where residents tend to live alongside dense traffic. The urban dimension of these health problems puts

local governments on the front lines. While air quality standards are agreed in Brussels and national parliaments, it is generally up to public authorities to enact them (more information: Lorenzo Marotti)

Industrial Emissions: updates in a nutshell

On 5 May, the OECD held a webinar on 'Value Chain Approaches to Determining Best Available Techniques (BAT) for Industrial Installations' focusing on how a more systematic consideration of value chain aspects in the BAT determination process could help mitigate overall environmental impacts. It was discussed how to incorporate value chain approaches in BAT determinations and related environmental regulatory concepts as well as the challenges faced and possible solutions.

On 10-11 May, the JRC held the Expert Group meeting on the exchange of information on Best Available Techniques related to industrial emissions (IED Article 13 Forum). The relevant presentations on the new IED Proposal were circulated to the Industrial Emissions Taskforce.

Eurometaux is currently drafting a letter/position paper to be circulated to members of the Industrial Emission Taskforce for review, to have it ready to be used for advocacy before the first discussions in Parliament, which is meant to reflect the specific issues of the NFM sector. Furthermore, Eurometaux is exchanging views in the Industrial Emissions Alliance platform to prepare a high-level joint statement/paper with common messages agreed by the major industrial sectors, which is meant to reflect the general issues facing Industry. This will be followed by advocacy at Parliament and Council level (more information: Lorenzo Ceccherini, Lighea Speciale and Lorenzo Marotti).

LVIC BREF

On 30 May, an analysis of the various comments from the members of the Large Volume Inorganic Chemicals (LVIC) Technical Working Group (TWG) was shared with the Eurometaux LVIC Working Group in a document summarising the main input regarding sulphuric acid provided by Member States, including the positions of Fertilisers Europe and Eurofer. Eurometaux is currently gathering comments from members, with the aim to draft the strategy for the Kick off Meeting, which is foreseen for the end of September/October 2022 (more information: Lorenzo Marotti, Lorenzo Ceccherini, Lighea Speciale).

WATER

Working Group Chemicals: and the updates on the prioritisation process

A Working Group (WG) Chemicals meeting was held on 4 May. The meeting was quite disappointing, and the agenda originally only included the Watch List. However, as discussed before, we had prepared comments to bring the prioritisation process and the setting of Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) to the table, which was on the day, added in the AOB item of the Commission's agenda.

a. On The Watch List (WL):

Cu/Cu oxides substances will be reassessed in 2023/2024 but will not be included in the Watch List exercise 2022. The Joint Research Centre (JRC) will establish an EU-wide EQS for Cu before it is proposed for the next list of Priority Substances (PSs). The Watch List is still a provisional list as it has not yet gone through the Commission procedure. It is important to note that free cyanides are no longer on the WL (they will probably be included again in the next round).

b. The Prioritisation Process:

While the timeline to adopt the legislative proposal on the review of the Priority Substances list set by the Commission has not changed, some dossiers are still being evaluated by the Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER).

No further meetings were scheduled to discuss the final SCHEER opinions published (or the revision of PS list in general). The proposal that the EU Commission will make on the Impact Assessment (IA) will only be published after its adoption (09/2022). For most substances, the SCHEER opinions correspond to the EQS that will be set.

In the case of nickel, the procedure (set by Commission themselves) was not followed at all. The Ni dossier was fast-tracked and none of the members of the WG Chemicals were informed that the dossier had been finalised and sent to SCHEER.

In the meantime, the Commission sent an email on 30 May changing the course of action for several existing PSs, including nickel, for which a new round of comments on the draft Ni EQS dossier is open until 7 June. A meeting of the

expert group will take place on 8, 9 or 13 June (depending on the availability of experts), then the JRC will revise the dossier one last time and send it back (again?) to SCHEER for feedback.

The next meeting of WG Chemicals will take place on 5 or 6 October 2022 (tbc) (more information: Lara Van de Merckt).

Water Taskforce meeting: *interesting panel discussion*

On 31 May, we held a very successful Water Taskforce meeting. This meeting was a time for reflection as another multi-year Prioritisation Process comes to an end. It was time to reflect on what had happened and to draw conclusions and perspectives for the future. To this end, the meeting was divided into two parts. The first part was about updates and new project ideas. The second part was a panel discussion on "The Future of Advocacy in the Prioritisation Process", which will guide our future work. The conclusions from this panel discussion will feed into a white paper for our internal use, but also into the paper on the learnings of the Prioritisation Process that we are preparing for advocacy (more information: Lara Van de Merckt).

METALS ENVIRONMENT EXPOSURE DATA PROGRAM (MEED)

MEED program: *workshop on mixture effects showed extensive literature exists on the theme*

A MEED workshop was organised on 10 May to report on the progress made with the program's literature assessments on the metal-metal mixtures and the metals-organics mixtures projects. These showed that extensive evidence is available on metal-metal mixture effects (particularly on specific metals mixtures), while on the metals-organics issues the number of relevant existing studies is -as expected- pretty limited. The researchers (ARCHE and University of Ghent) conducted extensive reviews, presenting the retrieved data in clear overview schemes. In general, those allow to conclude that the REACH assumption of "additional mixture effect" is overly precautionary while "independent action" is a much better prediction for metals but may in some case not be protective enough.

These assessments helped to define for which metal "couples", information on combined effects is lacking and how a data filling testing scheme could be designed.

MEED sponsors were invited to comment the reports in a written follow-up phase while the researchers would focus on providing a first outline for a testing scheme on metals mixtures to be debated at the next MEED sponsors Workshop on 21/22 June (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot, Violaine Verougstraete and Diana Dobre).

TOOLS

Multi-Metallic Database: *up and running!*

The Multi-Metallic Database (MMD) is up and running thanks to the data owners' commitment to fill it and to keep it up to date.

To maintain it at its best, the MMD team sends out regular reminders to ensure monitoring and the ability to solve timely any discrepancies appearing with the data published on the ECHA dissemination website.

As anticipated prior to launching the database, we intend to present the tool to ECHA and to the OECD IUCLID Expert Group, once the data process is regularly kept up to date. Ideally, the presentations will happen in Q4 2022, giving data owners some additional time to get well acquainted with the tool and the updates requirements and allowing the developers to analyse and solve possible bugs.

Please note that the MMD team is always available for any questions, doubts or remarks (more information: Federica Iaccino, Violaine Verougstraete and Lorenzo Zullo).

OUTREACH

OECD

OECD Working Party on Hazard Assessment: *update of the Guidance on Grouping of Chemicals for the summer*

The OECD Guidance on Grouping of Chemicals, issued in 2014, is currently undergoing an update to include last years' experience on grouping but also to bring in elements like Adverse Outcome Pathways (AOPs), New Approaches Methodologies (NAMs), etc. A Steering Group was set up end of last year to prioritise the sections of the guidance that need to be updated but also to do the actual drafting. The group decided to work in stepwise way, starting with the

introductory section (including important definitions, applicability and limitations), then moving to the uncertainty analysis and read-across justifications and if resources allow, developing further examples.

The guidance includes two important sections for our sector, i.e., on inorganic UVCBs and metals, with the metals section being heavily commented by the German BfR, regarding the use of bioaccessibility as line of evidence for grouping. Hence Eurometaux volunteered to be part of the BIAC representation in the Steering Group, to also make the link with the work done to develop a Test Guideline under the same OECD auspices.

Significant work has been done on the two first “steps”, under the lead of a.o. US EPA, ICAPO and ECHA. A call end of June will decide on the way forward for the examples and substance-specific sections. If it is agreed to move forward, we will need to deliver input (e.g., updated sections) in the coming months (more information: Kate Heim, Adriana Oller and Violaine Verougstraete).

SETAC

SETAC: re-establishing the network contacts with the environmental science community

Eurometaux attended the annual SETAC conference, using this opportunity to present the objectives of the MEED program and the intentions of its Air Quality program. The conference was very well attended with hundreds of presenters, which allowed to spot some clear trends. The most notable included: focus of attention of nanos moving to nanos released by important sources (tyre debris and brake pad releases), significantly less metal publications and many more on pharmaceuticals, and a lot of attention for the EU Mixture Assessment Factor (MAF) and Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS) policies with well attended panels and debates.

Most important for Eurometaux was to re-establish some key contacts and to exchange on how to resolve the MAF challenge. On the latter Eurometaux was able to speak with Professor Backhaus, a key player in this field, and the RIVM authors of the EU MAF study as well as with DG GROW. These interactions will allow us to better promote and communicate the outcome and learnings of the MEED MAF work (more information: Lara Van de Merckt, Lorenzo Marotti and Hugo Waeterschoot).



OTHERS

Metals Academy: a success story

Like the Phoenix, the Metals Academy seemed to disappear, but we never believed in its destruction and indeed it returned and was able to take place in the most pleasant of locations (De Priorij in Corsendonk) from 3 to 6 May.

The 10 speakers, whom we kindly thank once more, spent 3 days imparting their valuable knowledge to the 17 participants. All the feedback we received was most positive and our students -who proudly graduated at the end- were able to learn plenty of useful facts, gather new information and learn about (new) ways of working. Skills & knowledge that will help them in carrying out their daily tasks and allow them to build further their careers.

As “all work and no play makes jack a dull boy” the Metals Academy was also about socialising, enjoying nice meals in the sun, playing (instructive) games & discovering the countryside.

Thus, the Organising Committee members, the speakers & the students all went home wealthier from this fantastic experience (more information: Violaine Verougstraete, Ailsa Lee, Frank Van Assche, Staf Laget & Mark Mistry).

COMMUNICATION

Chemicals Management for Electronics in Europe: Chemical Watch Virtual Conference

This virtual conference will be held on 11-12 July with amongst others Lisa Allen, Hugo Waeterschoot & Francesco Gattiglio as speakers.

The screenshot shows an email announcement for the "Chemicals Management for Electronics in Europe" virtual conference, held on 11-12 July 2022. The email includes a "PROGRAMME NOW LIVE" button and a list of speakers. The speakers listed are:

- Randy Flinders: Compliance Specialist, GreenSoft Technology, United States
- Jonathan Kleinink: Senior Chemicals and Business Advisor, ChemSec
- Lisa Allen: Senior Regulatory Affairs Manager, International Lead Association (ILA)
- Hugo Waeterschoot: Chemicals Management Advisor, Eurometaux, Belgium
- Francesco Gattiglio: Director External Affairs, EU, Albemarle
- Sander Kroon: Global Regulatory Affairs Manager, ICL IP, The Netherlands

The email footer includes the Twitter handle @Eurometaux, the page number Pg. 23, and the Eurometaux logo.

CALENDAR

Please find here below a non-exhaustive list of the meetings that are planned for Q2 – Q3 2022.

For meetings at Eurometaux

The MCC has been opened to allow hybrid meetings, **we will inform our members if our meetings will be held as hybrid or online only** (links to join will be sent ahead of the meetings).

For meetings at ECHA: this information is published on ECHA's [website](#)

- 07-10 June: SEAC-55
- 08-09 June: Helsinki Chemicals Forum [Programme 2022 | Helsinki Chemicals Forum 8-9 June 2022 \(messukeskus.com\)](#)
- 13 June: Roadmap project: "Metals in the EU's Zero-Pollution ambition" Working Group meeting
- 14 June: ZPAP Project Group meeting
- 14-16 June: ECHA MSC-78
- 22-23 June: ECHA MB
- 21 June: Risk Management Taskforce meeting
- 21-22 June: MEED Workshop
- 04-07 July: ECHA RAC-62 CLH + AfA WG
- 05-06 July: CARACAL Meeting (TBC)
- 11-12 July: Chemicals Management for Electronics in Europe Conference (Chem Watch – Virtual)
- 18 August: ECHA RAC-62 REST WG
- 1 September: Chemicals Management Steering Committee
- 05-09 September: ECHA RAC-62 Plenary (reserve) & SEAC-56
- 12-16 September: ECHA RAC-62 Plenary & SEAC-56
- 19-23 September: Chemicals Management Autumn Week
- 29-30 September: ECHA MB
- 28 September: Risk Management Taskforce

GENERAL INFORMATION & ACRONYMS

Follow the logo and check out our 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)
