

## EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT NEWS



### June meetings at Eurometaux:

- 07/06: LVIC BREF Working Group
- 14/06: Cross-Industry Particles Platform (hosted by EM)
- 21/06: Chemicals Management Steering Committee
- 22/06: Risk Management Taskforce
- 26/06: Zero Pollution Action Plan Project Group
- 26/06 : Environmental Taskforce

### Content

COMMISSION .....	3
EU AGENCIES.....	4
EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA).....	4
ECHA COMMITTEES .....	4
ECHA OTHER ACTIVITIES.....	5
EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA) .....	6
EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT .....	6
CLASSIFICATION .....	6
RISK MANAGEMENT .....	6
INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS.....	7
WATER .....	8
SOIL.....	9
METALS ENVIRONMENT EXPOSURE DATA PROGRAM (MEED) .....	9
OUTREACH .....	9
OTHERS .....	9
CALENDAR.....	10
GENERAL INFORMATION & ACRONYMS.....	11

Dear All,

May is for me the month during which I give my last teaching hours of the academic year, hoping to prompt lasting interest in the basics of human toxicology and/or the EU regulatory framework.

While the students reply to the last quizzes set up to recall the key learnings of the course (and prepare for their exams), I wonder, as every year, whether I have managed to really trigger their curiosity and if the approach of the content is appropriate. Did my story reach them in what they want to be able to learn, to do, “fit in” with their plans? Did I manage to visualise the content from their perspective, sufficiently enough to pay attention to the explanations? Was the interaction optimal? The system of teachers evaluation at the end of the year provides a glimpse on this but if students fill in surveys like we -older adults- often do for deemed non-essential topics, the outcomes will barely manage to comfort (or discomfort) ...and seldom provide innovative insights. One may conclude that the course works. However, the number of students posing questions about possible jobs in the field is shrinking while we know that people are a key asset for the transitions we need to succeed.

Joel Tickner (Lowell Center for Sustainable Production) wrote recently in Chemical Watch that ‘The stars are beginning to align: recognition of the impacts of toxic chemicals and how chemistry contributes to other global challenges is increasing; global, national and regional policies are being developed; and significant investments and roadmaps are in the works to address climate impact. We need to take advantage of this moment to build a stronger movement to change chemistry, knowing that the transition will take decades not years.’ This movement will require ‘innovative and collaborative spirits’ and understanding for the possible solutions.

The constellation does not explicitly mention ‘skills’, although the required change will require a significant amount of experts to both develop and implement policies. Do we have the resources to contribute to the knowledge, views and cooperations that will be required during the decades the transition will take? A chat with some academics revealed they are struggling with the same (double) challenge: keeping a critical mass of students in the toxicology field (even though effects of chemicals appear as one of citizens’ primary preoccupations), and ensure they give the students they have the ‘proficiencies that will be needed tomorrow’. The innovative solutions may have to start with a re-thinking of the learning mode, further mixing the different spaces of erudition -academics, authorities, industry. This question is not only limited to our future policymakers or industry experts.

Keeping curiosity alive and reflection sparkling is also essential for the current professionals. The assortment of competences required is vast and the enthusiasm at the Metals Academy last month emphasised that there is some demand to keep knowledge building ongoing.

How to best organise this, also taking into consideration the ‘collaborative spirits’ Joel was referring to? Make the Metals Academy program grow to come closer to a format of “metals continued education” (acronym to find 😊), opening it up to collaborations with other stakeholders, have industry investing more in universities, gently forcing the door of EU agencies to provide trainings?

We may need to consider several of these possibilities but overall, we won’t be able to avoid a debate in the coming years on how to ensure we have the key people not only in place but also passionate to be there.

Violaine Verougstraete

# COMMISSION

## **CARACAL: ad hoc meeting to discuss lead, silver and copper**

An ad hoc CARACAL meeting on CLP and CLH took place on 25 May 2023 to discuss the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Adaptation to Technical Progress (ATPs) to the CLP. Metals under discussion included Pb for the 21<sup>st</sup> ATP and Ag and Cu for the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Developments under these files have consequences for metals classification overall.

The Commission presented the latest edits to the 21<sup>st</sup> ATP and expressed hope that this would be the final consultation. The Commission explained that it has maintained the decision to ask RAC to reassess the opinion on Li salts, thus delaying the process for some months as this reassessment needs to be done in the context of the overall data situation, meaning that the Boyle et al. study -identified after the first evaluation by RAC- will be assessed together with the data that has already been assessed.

With regards to Pb, ILA presented two documents submitted by Eurometaux and ILA on the data-rich/data-poor issue and on the snail data. Regarding the data-rich/data-poor approach, the Commission reacted by saying that the paper provides a good overview of the metals experience and is something to reflect upon, but probably not to be taken into account at the moment, to avoid reopening the Pb classification. It could nevertheless be used in the future if the Commission decides to update the guidance on metals classification, since a lot of metals are now under discussion. The Commission summarised the views of the different Member States on the Pb entry and concluded that its compromise proposal for Pb appears to be the most reasonable, which implies a split entry for the two forms, classified as Chronic category 1. The updated 21<sup>st</sup> ATP draft will be now cleaned and undergo scrutiny by the European Parliament and Council. Eurometaux welcomed these efforts to search for possible compromises, and stressed the precedent-setting potential of this case for the rest of the metals, and indicated its willingness to dialogue with authorities to initiate work to mitigate the downstream consequences on permitting, transformation, recycling, etc.

Regarding the 22<sup>nd</sup> ATP, ECI presented the sector's request to use the Specific Surface Area (SSA) instead of the 1 mm diameter for the classification in the case of Cu. The Commission considered this an interesting but new approach since they have been using the 1 mm default to discriminate powder from massive. The proposal to use SSA will be discussed with DG SANTE at the next CARACAL meeting (4-5 July 2023). Eurometaux proposed to prepare a document on the SSA approach as follow-up of this meeting since the Commission expressed interest in its added value.

For the classification of Ag, EPMF presented the reasons to not group silver powder and bulk form with nanosilver for human health hazard assessment and explained the approach followed in the registration dossier.

Commission concluded that they still have to prepare the 22<sup>nd</sup> ATP proposal on the basis of this input. It is yet to be seen whether the proposal will be ready by July, but it will certainly be discussed in the next CARACAL on 4 July.

The deadline to submit comments is 15 June (more information: Ainhoa González Pérez).

## **CHEM4EU: final foresight report on critical chemicals & innovations**

DG GROW commissioned Steinbeis Europa Zentrum (DE), TNO (NL) and 4CF (PL) to work on a Foresight for Chemicals study, Chem4EU through 2022. Chem4EU identified the critical chemicals and innovations needed to accelerate the green and digital transition in Europe and increase Europe's economic autonomy and resilience, focussing on four strategic value chains: hydrogen technology; clean, connected and autonomous vehicles; microelectronics; batteries. The [final report](#) considers which chemicals and innovations are vital to transforming these value chains as well as rendering them more resilient and future-fit.

The approach taken starts with the four value chains, identifies which chemicals are critical, and looks at ten future innovations that are important for transforming the value chains moving forward. The future innovations are not necessarily linked to the critical chemicals. The study team tried to focus on non-raw-material chemicals (effectively excluding metals from the list of critical chemicals), to avoid repeating work already done elsewhere e.g., the Critical Raw Materials methodology. This proved to be impossible - expert stakeholders in the workshops insisted on many raw materials being needed. The final list of 20 critical chemicals includes 16 metals (Be, Pt, rare earths, Ni, Mg, Ti, Ru, Cu, Ir, Mn, Li, Rh, U / Pu, Au, Sn, Co). The future innovations listed are generally favourable towards future use(s) of metals, with the exception of some references to substitution and reducing / minimising use. There is a strong call for risk-based chemicals management systems.

With respect to these strategic value chains, the critical chemicals that enable them, and the innovations that support them, the EU is not well positioned for several reasons:

- Many of the identified chemicals are critical as the EU relies heavily on imports and has no significant recycling. EU will compete with other regions for critical chemicals.
- In the innovation space, EU activity (measured via patents filed) is very low compared to other regions.
- For microelectronics the EU lacks critical chemicals, many parts of the value chain, and also necessary workforce skills – so is more dependent on other regions than for the other three strategic value chains (more information: Simon Cook).

---

## EU AGENCIES

### EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA)

#### ECHA COMMITTEES

##### ***MSC-82: MSC is slowing down and too many closed sessions made follow-up by IND very difficult***

MSC 82 covered several interesting topics, although quite technical, such as the updated guidance on the Extended One-Generation Reproductive Toxicity Study (EOGRTS), a discussion on the learning and memory test and some interesting Compliance Checks (CCHs), including one on Silicon Dioxide nanoforms.

On the latter, MSC agreed -in a written procedure- that the registrants had to increase their efforts to allocate the different nanoforms to the identified sets by an improved justification based on phys-chem parameters. This is perfectly in line with the previously debated TiO<sub>2</sub> case and a clear standard for any inorganic nanoform. In follow-up ECHA will launch on both TiO<sub>2</sub> and SAS compliance checks that focus on the lacking standard toxicity/ecotoxicity information for each set.

MSC also set a precedent on an organic case by requesting an EOGRTS despite the Lead Registrant (LR) indicating that the substance may need a repro classification as Cat. 1B. But MSC concluded that the registrant cannot waive the test given for now the justification for the classification was not included in the registration dossier.

Industry contested the fact that MSC claimed far too many closed sessions without proper justifications, a concern set aside by the Chair but that did resonate with the Member States. Two such dossiers debated in a closed session were the outstanding issues on the EOGRTS overview report prepared by the MSC Working Group and the reaction of Member States to the Board of Appeal (BoA) conclusion to annul the request of a learning and memory test as part of the EOGRTS, given not part of the standard testing requirements. During the stakeholders debrief on the written procedure cases and closed session outcome, ECHA explained that they expect that Member States may legally challenge the outcome of the BoA case on learning and memory and will thus schedule an extensive discussion at the next MSC (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

##### ***Management Board SPI: preparing a MB workshop on the CSS challenges***

Guy Thiran attended the remote call of the ECHA Management Board Working Group on Strategy, Planning & Implementation (SPI) whose role is to prepare the ECHA Management Board (MB), whose next meeting is scheduled for mid-June. The Management Board was planned to hold an exchange workshop to discuss the new strategic challenges posed by the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS) and the new tasks attributed to ECHA. However, as ECHA's preparatory work has not been completed, this discussion did not take place during this SPI meeting.

On the other hand, ECHA presented a report on how it could streamline and improve its reporting. Commission also made a presentation on the (expected) different new tasks for ECHA following the CSS implementation. The MB delegates and ECHA indicated that the requests need to be aligned with ECHA's expertise, that it will take time to assess and implement them and will also require relevant budgets and adequate human resources.

Guy Thiran insisted on the need for chemicals policy to be coherent with other EU policies relevant to the Green Deal, and suggested that consistency with the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) might be something that the socio-economic impact assessments could check / confirm (more information: Guy Thiran and Hugo Waeterschoot).

## ECHA OTHER ACTIVITIES

### **Network of experts on REACH Processes and REACH-IT: meeting at ECHA Headquarters in Helsinki**

For the first time after the pandemic period, the Network Expert on REACH processes and REACH IT met physically at ECHA premises in Helsinki. The meeting was organised on 25 & 26 May and the two days covered respectively REACH IT and evaluation processes.

The meeting was very effective. It focused on discussing face-to-face with ECHA practical ideas and tactical issues raised by industry. These included technical aspects such as delays in IUCLID 6.7 release, web interface issues, and technical problems with REACH-IT and IUCLID. Additionally, administrative issues were addressed, such as legal entities no longer existing and inquiry processes for new registrations. The meeting also covered practical aspects related to changes in information requirements for low tonnage substances, as well as the implications and how to handle the release of new OECD testing guidelines in case they change requirements for tests that have already been conducted.

The meeting was also an opportunity to hear from ECHA about some initial ideas on implementing a process to revoke REACH registrations as part of the evaluation process.

Detailed minutes of the meeting are in preparation and will be circulated in the coming weeks to the Registration Taskforce. Meanwhile, if you need any information on the above points, do not hesitate to take contact with Eurometaux (for more information: Federica Iaccino and Lorenzo Zullo).

### **Facilitating data sharing across regulatory frameworks and jurisdictions: new ideas for an OECD project**

During the same meeting between representatives from REACH processes Network of Experts and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), a possible OECD project was discussed regarding the use of the same dataset for multiple recipients, with a focus on improving data validation and lifecycle coverage.

The project's primary focus is on enabling data reuse across different jurisdictions globally and within the European Union for various regulatory purposes. Whilst acknowledging that certain aspects, such as waivers, might vary between countries, the participants emphasised the importance of distinguishing between regulatory needs and the data itself.

During the meeting, the significance of the IUCLID (International Uniform Chemical Information Database) was emphasised as a tool designed to facilitate data reuse. Various examples, including ECHA, EFSA, New Zealand, and Australia, were cited to illustrate the effective use of IUCLID. Notably, the origins of the IUCLID initiative can be traced back 20-30 years to the OECD's efforts.

To move forward, the next steps involve the creation of a concise project plan and an overview of ideas to be further discussed.

Eurometaux will follow the development of the project and will participate in the work with the OECD IUCLID Users Expert Group program (more information: Lorenzo Zullo and Federica Iaccino).

### **ECHA Announces New Submission Portal and seeks industry support: ECHA webinar on 6 June**

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has provided an update on the development of a new submission portal aimed at enhancing user experience and efficiency in data submission across different regulatory processes. In a [webinar scheduled for 6 June](#), ECHA will unveil details regarding the portal's background objectives, progress, and current status, while also seeking input from industry stakeholders.

The new submission portal will take into account the extensive research and usability evaluation study conducted between December 2022 and March 2023 which encompassed various ECHA systems, including REACH-IT, R4BP 3, ePIC, with a focus on improving the user interface and overall user experience.

As part of the project timeline, a user interface/user experience (UI/UX) initiative is set to commence in Q3 2023. This phase will involve the development of a prototype and the provision of UI/UX design support in two stages spanning 2023/2024 and 2024/2025. By the end of 2024, a finalised prototype of the new portal is expected. The overarching goal is to have the new portal operational by 2026, with the initial implementation covering REACH-IT and the ECHA submission portal.

The design and development process will also take into account the REACH review, ensuring compliance with updated regulations and requirements. To ensure the needs and perspectives of users are adequately addressed, ECHA plans to establish a user working group. Initially, the group will consist of a limited number of individuals, and an external provider will be engaged throughout the entire process, from late 2023 to 2026.

The upcoming webinar will serve as a platform to present these details to stakeholders and collect feedback from industry representatives. ECHA encourages participation and aims to foster collaboration with the industry to create a submission portal that effectively supports regulatory compliance and streamlines processes for all involved parties (more information: Lorenzo Zullo and Federica Iaccino).

### **Enforcement Project Authorisation: *reveals compliance issues with REACH Authorisation obligations***

A recent ECHA workshop on the enforcement project on compliance with REACH Authorisation obligations (REF-9 project) has highlighted noticeable challenges. The workshop, held on Friday 12 May 2023, provided insights into the extent of inspections conducted across several EU countries, which covered 690 inspections carried out on various substances subject to authorisation, 90% of which focused on downstream users (DUs). However, the results of the inspections were deemed unsatisfactory and several issues identified,

The non-compliance rate was reported to be as high as 40%, with companies failing to fulfil their downstream user obligations and supply chain communication. One of the main problems identified was the lack of supply chain communication, including proper safety information, operative conditions and personal protective equipment. In several cases, risk management measures were inappropriately implemented, monitoring arrangements were found to be absent, and many companies failed to notify ECHA as required by Article 66 (i.e., downstream users covered by an authorisation granted by their supplier must notify ECHA of their use). Distributors were also identified as potential barriers to safety information flowing along the supply chain.

Regarding the next steps, the workshop participants agreed on the need for further reflection and action to address critical issues. The first issue is ensuring clarity of information and requirements, as well as improving the flow of information throughout the supply chain. The second issue is extending obligations to cover the entire supply chain and determining the most effective approach to achieve this. The importance of training companies on their obligations was emphasised. Potential changes to the legal text as part of REACH review will also be considered to improve the overall effectiveness of regulatory tools (more information: Lorenzo Zullo and Federica Iaccino).

\*\*\*\*\*

## **EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA)**

### **EEA's new Health Atlas: *now published!***

On 3 May, the European Environment Agency (EEA) released its Health Atlas. This Health Atlas allows access to maps and information on air and water quality, noise levels, green spaces in cities, etc. and presents data and information in a user-friendly way on how pollution and other environmental risks affect health and well-being <https://discomap.eea.europa.eu/atlas/>

During the next meeting of Eurometaux's Zero Pollution Project Group scheduled on 26 June (14:00-16:00, hybrid) this and other items will be discussed (more information: Lorenzo Marotti).

---

## **EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT**

### **CLASSIFICATION**

#### **CLP ENV classification of Pb metal: *debrief and what can be done to mitigate the effects***

ILA and Eurometaux organised a well-attended webinar on the recent CARACAL outcome on the environmental classification of Pb metal. Members and downstream users of Pb were informed that, while the Commission concluded that a split classification of the powder and massive form was merited, there was not enough support from Member States to deviate further from the RAC opinion. ILA announced that they had already taken some action to mitigate the impacts of the environmental CLP classification of the massive form on UN Dangerous Goods requirements. In complement Eurometaux suggested to launch a program to provide a way forward for alloy manufactures, users and recyclers to demonstrate their alloys show matrix properties, hence supporting less severe classification. Eurometaux will further explore this and present a proposal at the next Environment Taskforce scheduled for 26 June (more information: Steve Binks and Hugo Waeterschoot).

### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

#### **Risk Management Taskforce meeting: *cleaning the sheet before the REACH 2.0 text arrives***

The Taskforce organised an additional session that aimed at progressing on some critical risk management related issues before the REACH 2.0 proposal arrives, either before or soon after the summer holidays.

A status update was provided on intermediates concluding that the technical guidance update from Q4 2022 did not have a real impact on metal uses. However, the proposal to require Strictly Controlled Conditions (SCC) to exempt intermediate uses from the authorisation and restriction risk management tools, necessitates careful attention and preparation of advocacy materials (including case examples) given its high impact.

Recognising the clarification provided at the CARACAL on the scope and phased implementation of the GRA (Generic Risk Assessment Approach) it was concluded that the impact on metal uses would most probably be limited given the lack of extensive exposure potential of metal consumer uses. However, the cobalt sector, based on its material flow and use mapping, demonstrated that potentially some professional uses with high exposure potential not covered by Occupational Safety Health (OSH), could be in the scope of the GRA's applicability domain.

The secretariat provided an update and some insights on the restrictions on PFAS, one that is almost finalised at ECHA Committees' level on the use of PFAS in Fire Fighting Foams and one on universal PFAS that was recently launched by a group of Member States. Members were invited to check carefully if the products they use do not contain PFAS as it is known that the use of this substance is widespread.

The Taskforce agreed to launch an awareness letter including an invite for members to participate in the ongoing Public Consultation but also stating that Eurometaux would not be involved in the PFAS restriction, nor in the detailed substances debate since covered by several Cefic sector groups (more information: France Capon, Klaus Kamps, Violaine Verougstraete and Hugo Waeterschoot).

## INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS

### Ambient Air Quality Directive: update

On 2 May, Eurometaux (in collaboration with ARCHE) presented the final results of its Air Quality Project study in a poster at SETAC 2023 in Dublin, Ireland. The aim of the study was to show that effective and efficient air quality policy can be achieved by quantifying source/sector specific health impacts and then assessing the feasibility and relevance of measures aiming at reducing or controlling emissions. The study puts the emissions of the NFM sector in perspective and also includes key recommendations to stakeholders for achieving better air quality policies.

On 24 May, the European Parliament TRAN Committee (European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism) adopted its draft opinion on the Air Quality Directive. In the Opinion, the TRAN Rapporteur Vera Tax (S&D, NL) stressed the important role played by the transport sector in the EU's efforts to improve air quality. In her view, shifting to zero-emission technologies, vehicles and fuels was imperative to reduce transport-induced emissions and air pollutant concentrations, notably in urban areas and in ports. As such, she welcomed the update of the Ambient Air Quality Directive (AAQD) and proposed to strengthen the transport-related elements that would be part of the information included in Member States' air quality plans. She raised the need to improve the functioning of the sampling points for air pollutants, compel the Member States to report all air pollution abatement measures stemming from the reduction of emissions from road, maritime, and air transport and implement a claim compensation system for citizens affected by air pollution.

On 30 May, Eurometaux delivered a presentation on the status of the AAQD at the Industrial Emissions Alliance. The subgroup on Air Quality produced a non-paper circulated to the members of the alliance to guide discussions, together with a document including key recommendations for Parliament signed by several sectors highlighting the main horizontal issues for Industry.

Eurometaux continues to exchange with key MEPs and the Shadows, ahead of the Parliament ENVI Committee vote on its Draft Report. Eurometaux has also continued its exchanges with several Member States Perm. Reps. and multiple meetings suggested that the AAQD file is not mature yet at the level of Council and that a General Approach will likely be reached only in the last months of 2023 (more information: Lorenzo Marotti).

#### Timeline:

EP TRAN (Committee for Opinion) Adoption of Draft Opinion: 24 May 2023

EP ENVI (Committee Responsible) Vote: 26 June 2023

European Parliament Plenary Vote: 10 July 2023

Working Party on the Environment: COM Proposal Analysis and Discussion (March-May 2023)

Environment Council Policy Debate: 20 June 2023

### Industrial Emissions Directive

On 22 May, Eurometaux participated in the 18<sup>th</sup> IED Article 13 Forum Meeting that reunites expert stakeholders group to facilitate the exchange of information on Best Available Techniques (BATs) with Member States, industry and NGOs concerned in the context of the Industrial Emissions Directive with a view for the Commission to adopt BAT conclusions and to publish the BAT Reference Documents (BREFs). The main objective of the 18<sup>th</sup> Forum Meeting was to obtain the Forum's opinion on the proposed content of the BAT reference document for the 'Slaughterhouses, Animal By-products and/or Edible Co-products industries' (SA BREF), but also to provide an update on the work programme of the EIPPCB and discuss AOB. Eurometaux participated in person and made a statement on the importance of clearly defining KEI (Key Environmental Issue): in the last BREFs reviews and in particular during the discussions of the scope of the LVIC BREF, the new concept of 'Candidate KEI' emerged. This was used to categorise all those KEIs for which data collection and discussion is needed before making a decision on their relevance. However, there is not a clear understanding neither on the definition, nor on the added value of this concept (as nearly any pollutant could be considered as a 'candidate KEI', even those that are not relevant for the process considered). This concept could risk leading to the formulation of non-relevant BAT conclusions that would need to be proved as such by industry and be rejected during the final BREF discussions, also greatly overloading the process. Industry was cohesive on this point, as other industrial associations who made comments on the same lines. This position was even supported by a strong majority of Member States who acknowledged the issue and shared similar concerns. Further discussions will take place, and this could be addressed in the review of the general BREF Guidance. A short presentation by the JRC followed, illustrating the working programme for 2023 and 2024, stating that the revision and formulation of next/new BREF documents, priority will be given to those sectors that will be covered by the expansion of scope of the new IED (i.e., possibly farming, batteries manufacturing and mining activities).

On 24 May, the European Parliament ENVI Committee (Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety) adopted its Draft Report on the new IED Proposal. The ENVI (Committee Responsible, Rapporteur: Radan Kanev, EPP, BG) has voted to adopt its Draft Report with 55 votes in favour, 26 against and 6 abstentions. All CAs were adopted, except CA 9 (Art 79a). On this article, the ENVI voted in favour of the alternative CA 9A tabled by Renew and S&D. Even if some challenges remain, the ENVI Draft Report greatly improves the Commission's proposal with several changes in our favour (which is a rare event, given the strong ambition of the ENVI Committee in general). At the end of the vote, Eurometaux briefly exchanged and congratulated the Rapporteur Radan Kanev, the Shadows, key MEPs and other Industry representatives attending the voting session.

On the same date, the ENVI Committee also adopted its Draft Report on the IEP (Industrial Emission Portal) Regulation (former E-PRTR) with an overwhelming majority of 77 votes in favour, 3 against and 5 abstentions (more information: Lorenzo Marotti).

#### Timeline:

European Parliament Plenary Vote: 10 July

#### **LVIC BREF**

After the informal exchange EM had with the BREF authors in March 2023 where they kindly asked Eurometaux to work on an update of the descriptive part of the Large Volume Inorganic Chemicals (LVIC) BREF on SA production from NFM installations, a draft was shared for comments and feedback and is currently being discussed with the EM LVIC BREF WG. The deadline fixed by the EIPPCB to send bulk information is the end of June 2023. Coordination with ESA (European Sulphuric Acid, Cefic sector group) is ongoing on common issues.

On 31 May, Member States shared with the TWG the lists of proposed well-performing plants on BATIS. The next meeting of the LVIC BREF Working Group is scheduled for 7 June (14:00-16:00, hybrid). During the meeting, the second draft, the LVIC list of well performing plans and the descriptive part of sulphuric acid production from NFM plants will be discussed (more information: Lighea Speciale, Lorenzo Ceccherini, Eleonora Tosi, Lorenzo Marotti).

## **WATER**

### **On the European commission proposal to amend the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Environmental Quality Standard Directive (EQSD) and the Groundwater Directive (GWD): *status update***

Eurometaux met with several MEPs from the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), but also from the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE). The two latter committees are responsible for giving an opinion on the dossier, while the ENVI Committee is in charge of the dossier.



The packages of amendments published by ENVI ([first package](#) and [second](#)) and ITRE ([here](#)) have been analysed and Eurometaux has prepared recommendation papers on both packages of amendments.

In parallel, as a joint action with the JAM group, a general recommendation paper on the ENVI amendment package was drafted and co-signed by FuelsEurope, CropLife Europe, EUROFER, Euromines and Eurometaux.

Eurometaux then contacted the relevant MEPs of both ENVI and ITRE in the light of the analysis with the recommendation papers and the JAM paper. The ENVI committee will vote on their amendments package on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June, the ITRE committee will vote either on the 8<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> of June, the information has not yet been confirmed.

The AGRI Committee voted and adopted its draft opinion on 23 May ([here](#)). It is mainly focused on pesticides, but several amendments are proposed to keep articles 16 and 17 and also to go against the use of delegated acts by the European Commission to set priority substances (PS) and environmental quality standards (EQS).

The plenary vote in the European Parliament on the final amendment packages from the ENVI committee has been moved from 10 July to 11 September (more information: Lara Van de Merckt).

## SOIL

### Short Update

The European Commission's adoption of the Soil Health Law has been postponed from 7 June to 5 July (more information: Lara Van de Merckt).

## METALS ENVIRONMENT EXPOSURE DATA PROGRAM (MEED)

### MEED Webinar: *regional sediment exposure assessment: selective countries provide good historical evidence*

The MEED regional exposure updates for water and soil progressed well, based upon EU-wide available extensive datasets. Given that such EU-wide datasets are lacking in sediments data, an alternative approach is required for this environmental compartment. ARCHE collected good quality and extensive historical datasets for specific countries (Belgium, Finland, Sweden, ...) that allowed to conduct a case-specific approach on metals occurrence. As for water and soil, datasets on some metals were abundant (zinc, copper, lead, cadmium, ...) while on other metals of relevance for the Green Deal, information is lacking (rare earths, lithium, ...).

ARCHE will update and finalise the sediments regional exposure assessment and present an updated version and report at the 27 June workshop. That same day, MEED project updates on regional exposure, smart testing strategy for metals-organic mixtures and the suggested ecorelevance toolbox will be presented and debated (more information: Marnix Vangheluwe and Hugo Waeterschoot).

---

## OUTREACH

## OTHERS

### SETAC-Dublin: *an extensive outreach on MEED*

The annual SETAC meeting allows industry to raise environmental science issues for a large audience of scientists for academia, regulators and industry. The MEED partners, i.e., Ghent University, ARCHE and Eurometaux used this opportunity to inform the scientific community on the progress with MEED resulting in 6 posters and an overarching presentation. This outreach reached hundreds of interested people and resulted in a clear interest of the EU Commission (DG GROW), several Member States and national research institutes (Norway, Sweden, Netherlands, NRW, Switzerland, ...) as well as invitations to exchange experience and datasets for comparable programs conducted in Norway, Rhineland Westphalia, Canada and Japan.

The organising partners also used this opportunity to organise a lunch workshop on an overview of modelling, biomonitoring and OMICs approaches (i.e., areas of biological study defined by the investigation of the entire complement of a specific type of [biomolecule](#) or the totality of a molecular process within an organism) to promote the ecorelevance of local and regional mixture impact assessments. The MEED sponsors will be informed on the detailed reactions of other countries and proposed input on the ecorelevance technique proposals (more info: Charlotte Nys and Hugo Waeterschoot).

### **Chemicals Days 2023: hosted by Norsk Industri**

On 24 May, Eurometaux participated in the Chemicals days 2023 organised by Norsk Industri to present the regulatory consequences of the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability for the Metals Sector.

The presentation focused on the impacts of the various CSS concepts such as Generic Approach to Risk Management (GRA), the Essential Use concept, the Mixture Allocation Factor (MAF), and the One Substance One Assessment (OSOA), on the future risk management of metals. The points made were framed in the context of EU decarbonisation efforts and the greater need for critical raw materials. The presentation of the 4Cs concept, which integrates Chemicals, Climate, Circularity and Criticality priorities for achieving the Green Deal, was welcomed by the audience.

Other speakers included Cefic, ECHA, who talked about the achievements for chemicals safety from the Integrated Regulatory Strategy, and the Norwegian Climate and Environment Minister Espen Barth Eide, who spoke about the government's view on chemicals policy nationally and at EU level (more information: Ainhoa Gonzáles Pérez).

### **REACH Conference in Bratislava: awareness raising on potential impacts of the REACH 2.0**

Eurometaux, EPMF and Cefic co-organised a Chemicals Management workshop in Bratislava with a local partner, Ekotox.sk. The main aim was to share information and views on REACH 2.0 with authorities and industries from Visegrad countries.

The strong contribution by the metals sector allowed to raise the metals agenda. The Commission provided an extensive overview on REACH 2.0 complemented by Eurometaux and EPMF's views and positions on the (Mixture Allocation Factor) MAF, the increase of information requirements for low tonnage, the 4Cs concept and critical aspects of the expected Risk Management update like the Generic Approach to Risk Management (GRA) and Essential Use Concept (EUC), and the Sustainable Product regulation, through presentations and leading discussion panels. REACH responsible authorities for almost all Eastern countries attended the conference being it remotely, while companies of the battery and other sectors attended the meeting in person (more information: France Capon, Kamila Slupek and Hugo Waeterschoot).

### **Eurometaux visit: Boliden in Kokkola, Finland.**

Mid-May, Eurometaux (Lorenzo Marotti) visited the Boliden zinc smelter in Kokkola, Finland. Thanks to our hosts Kai Nykanen and Jarmo Sillanpää for the visit!

At this site, Boliden produces zinc and other products, which will play an important role in the sustainable transition and the goal of net-zero emissions by 2050 set by the EU. Boliden produces zinc at the Kokkola Industrial Park - KIP, which is an example of industrial symbiosis and circularity: companies in the Park implement synergies between production processes, products and the processing of by-products, optimising material and energy flows to reduce the amount of waste significantly (more information: Lorenzo Marotti).

---

## CALENDAR

**Please find here below a non-exhaustive list of the meetings that are already planned for 2023.**

### **For meetings at Eurometaux**

Most of our meetings will now be held as hybrid meetings, and **our members will be informed ahead of the meetings** (links to join will be sent ahead of the meetings).

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

- 01-02/06: Drinking Water Directive - RAC Working Group
- 05-09/06: RAC-65 (Plenary) + SEAC-59
- 7 June: LVIC BREF Working Group
- 12-16/06: SEAC-59
- 14/06: Cross-Industry Particles Platform (hosted by EM)
- 21/06: Chemicals Management Steering Committee
- 22/06: Risk Management Taskforce
- 21-22/06: ECHA Management Board

- 26/06: Zero Pollution Action Plan Project Group
- 26/06: Environmental Taskforce
- 27/06: MEED Workshop on Regional assessment updates and Metal-organics mixture testing program (sponsors only)
- 03-05/07: RAC-66 CLH Working Group
- 06-07/07: RAC-66 AfA Working Group
- 23-24/08: RAC-66 REST Working Group
- 31/08: Chemicals Management Steering Committee (exceptionally held from 10:00 to 13:00)
- 04-08/09: SEAC-60
- 11-15/09: RAC-66 (Plenary) + SEAC-60
- 18-21/09: Chemicals Management Autumn Week
- 27/09: Risk Management Taskforce (Webinar)
- 28-29/09: ECHA Management Board
- 09-13/10: RAC-67 AfA Working Group
- 09-13/10: MSC-83 (Tentative)
- 23-27/10: RAC-67 CLH Working Group
- 07-09/11: RAC-67 REST Working Group
- 27/11 - 01/12: RAC-67 (Plenary) + SEAC-61
- 04-08/12: SEAC-61
- 14-15/12: ECHA Management Board
- 11-15/12: MSC-84 (Tentative)
- 19/12: Risk Management Taskforce
- 20/12: Chemicals Management Steering Committee

## 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)