



EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT NEWS



Please join us in February:

- 05: Air Quality Taskforce
- 27: Chemicals Management Steering Committee
- 28: Risk Management Taskforce

Contents



COMMISSION.....	3
EU AGENCIES.....	3
EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA)	3
ECHA COMMITTEES	3
EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT	4
CHEMICALS STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABILITY.....	4
ZERO POLLUTION ACTION PLAN	5
CLASSIFICATION.....	6
RISK MANAGEMENT.....	6
INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS.....	6
AIR	7
WATER	7
SOIL	8
TOOLS.....	8
METALS ENVIRONMENT EXPOSURE DATA PROGRAM (MEED)	9
OUTREACH	9
OECD	9
COMMUNICATION.....	10
CALENDAR.....	10
GENERAL INFORMATION & ACRONYMS.....	11

Dear All,

End of January: my New Year's resolutions came and vanished (as expected), the Brussels winter has demonstrated it can do better than 50 shades of grey (sky!) and the agendas are nicely full again.

The end-of-2023 challenges reappeared as Father Christmas didn't manage to solve them all. His assistants told me -in confidence- that the geopolitics and the increasing elections fever are giving him some insurmountable headaches and suggested that I look for other solutions to 'save a coherent world'.

I was wondering what to look for and where when my eye caught the following (thanks Lorenzo!):



Doctor O'RUM BABA
Seer- Healer

Specialist in the immediate return of your loved one or what is dear to you. Succeeds where others have failed!

You are NOT responsible for your problems because every effect has a cause, and every cause has a solution.

Resolves your love problems (absolute fidelity), protection against dangers, disenchantment, luck in games, commerce, competitions, promotion, business, etc.

Guaranteed work, serious, efficient - discretion assured

EASE OF PAYMENT- CONSULTATION 7/7 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.- do not throw this away

What a perfect coincidence! I decided to immediately contact Dr Baba to ask him for help.

But how? As there are no contact details on the leaflet. A simple distraction, a natural selection of the smartest ones or a deliberate decision to make promises but without the pressure to fulfil them?

But luckily, the Brussels bubble is full of resources, Eurometaux has a network, and it is the beginning of the year, which means that you can contact anyone under the motto of 2024 wishes, go for a 'coffee' and slip bizarre questions into the conversation like 'would you -by any chance- have the address of Dr Baba?'

And so, finally, I landed up in one of the small streets at the back of the Berlaymont building. Not the animated ones, full of EU civil servants of course! Rather a dead-end one, easily missed if you do not look for it, with buildings that would benefit from some restoration efforts. I assumed the 'guaranteed discretion' imposed this setting.

Dr Baba himself opened the door. Surprisingly though, he was wearing a suit but no tie (seen as old-fashioned here!) and elegant shoes. I admit that, based on the name and some (idiotic) preconceptions, I was hoping for a few gipsy-like accessories, hinting somehow that the magic (and solutions) was not that far away. But instead, Dr Baba looked as if he could perfectly fit in the Parliament or Commission buildings. He invited me to take a seat in a cozy office (no desk, but couches) and to explain 'my problem'.

My attempts in doing so immediately illustrated the challenge: where and how to start explaining coherently the incoherence? From the Gordian knot of legislation? The short-term urgencies vs. long-term needs (see previous News)? The current buzz words in Brussels? The predictions for the next policy cycle? The future of Eurometaux?

He lent me a listening ear, looking at me in a very friendly way, and asked from time to time to clarify what was difficult or painful, whilst all the time smiling like the Cheshire cat. And exactly 5 minutes before the agreed half hour was over, he raised his hand and said: Lady, I hear you. However, take it easy. Not many geese can sing at the opera, right? And Pavarotti's repertoire in particular? Even if you make a lot of efforts to set up intense singing classes. Think about it. Are you looking at this from the right perspective?

With this, he led me out, shaking my hand gently, not adding a single word.

And here I am, some rays of sunshine through the clouds, the noise of the town and a demonstration in the background, a bit lost.

But not enough to not recognise the silhouette of the Commission official who just entered Dr Baba's house. 'You are not alone'...

Violaine Verougstraete

COMMISSION

CARACAL: 22nd Adaptation to Technical Progress (ATP)

On 24 January, the Commission organised an ad hoc CARACAL meeting focused mainly on CLP-related issues. The brief agenda included a short discussion on the 22nd Draft ATP that includes the harmonised classifications of silver and copper, a presentation of the upcoming 23rd ATP, and an update on the agreement reached by the European Parliament (EP) and Council on the CLP revision.

Regarding the 22nd ATP, the European Copper Institute agrees with the classification for fine forms of copper and welcomes the deletion of the entry for granulated copper as it increases clarity. However, the copper entry does not include the descriptor “fine forms” that has been previously requested, despite the support expressed by the Netherlands and Sweden and the non-opposition of the rest of Member States. At the meeting, Eurometaux raised the issue of the descriptor again. Commission (DG ENV) replied that they will maintain the proposal as it is, with a view to a more generic discussion on existing and future metal entries in upcoming CARACAL meetings scheduled for March and June 2024. For silver, while the European Precious Metals Federation supports the proposed environmental hazard assessment (with separate entries for the different forms of silver), industry’s requests to include different entries for silver metal in powder and massive form (no classification for repro and STOT RE) and for nanosilver (repro 1B and no STOT RE) for human health endpoints has not been taken up in the draft Delegated Regulation.

The final discussion on the draft ATP is announced for the next CARACAL meeting (20-21 March, tbc), after which the Commission is expected to adopt the Delegated Regulation. The European Parliament and Council have a two-month scrutiny period. If they raise no objections during this time, and no further two-month scrutiny period is requested, the Delegated Regulation is then published in the Official Journal and enters into force. An 18-month transition period is foreseen after the entry into force. Comments on the topics presented and discussed can be submitted until **14 February**.

No new information was provided on the status of the Revision of REACH. More information on the CLP Revision is available under the CSS headline (more information: Ainhoa González Pérez).

EU AGENCIES

EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA)

ECHA COMMITTEES

RAC-CLH Working Group: Borates, bromides & lithium on the agenda

On 23-24 January, the RAC Working Group on harmonised classifications met virtually with several substances of interest on its agenda. The mandate of this RAC Working Group is to support the work of the Rapporteurs in discussing the CLH proposals and review opinions for an efficient agreement by RAC in plenary. In practice this means that the classification outcomes, agreed on during the Working Group meetings, still need to be confirmed by RAC in plenary. The RAC-CLH Working Group meetings are important to follow as they are usually characterised by more in-depth discussions and hence possible precedent-settings but also have as deliverable a list of endpoints/substances that will become A-listed at the next plenary (i.e., agreement without plenary debate).

Interesting elements discussed this time included the consideration of (negative) human data vs. animal data and the justification provided (e.g., a negative finding may just reflect inadequate methods to detect effects of insufficient exposures rather than prove the absence of a hazard), read-across (borates and lithium), STOT-RE thyroid (bromides), use of data from the medical field for hazard identification and classification, challenges in inhalation toxicity tests, etc.

The Li Taskforce was provided with an overview of the relevant preliminary outcomes (see below) (more information: Violaine Verougstraete).

MSC: 2023 overview indicates extensive use of written procedure

End of January, the MSC secretariat published its annual report for 2023, concluding to what they call ‘a highly efficient year for MSC’. Their efficiency was measured as: “limited if any” Proposals for Amendments

(PfAs) received on Draft Decisions and maximum closure of Testing Proposals, Compliance Checks and Substance Evaluations in written procedure. The latter means that a majority of MSCAs agree with the decision, during the written consultation that precedes the MSC meeting, meaning that the case is then not presented to MSC for discussion and agreement. While this may be seen as efficient by ECHA, industry raised concerns with ECHA's audit unit as this means that the process is missing input from stakeholders and thus transparency. Moreover, we received signals that many MSCAs do not really check the content of the decisions anymore. This decrease of transparency is worsened by the new testing strategies (like on Learning and Memory Test for neurotoxicity assessment, or the new *in vivo* mutagenicity testing) being discussed in "closed sessions", although industry is sometimes the only party with relevant experience. In addition, MSC installed working groups for pre-discussing difficult Compliance Checks (CCH) or Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) cases, again without any transparency towards stakeholders. Industry finds this a very worrying trend that should not be justified by "efficiency gains by speed" to the detriment of transparency, quality and learning momentum for stakeholders. On one point though, the MSC secretariat did increase its transparency: they resumed the activity on the Manual of Decisions. This compendium of MSC decisions, on specific cases, forms an important reference for industry and consultants, but also for new MSCAs and MSC members. Industry will -in the coming months- further stress the importance of the aspects above to ensure that the Testing Proposals or CCHs are decided in a transparent and highly qualitative way. It is key that the comments/suggestions from the applicants can be listened to, taking into consideration the possible impacts of inappropriate decisions on costs and the quality of the output (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

CHEMICALS STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Transition Pathway Taskforce: 2nd meeting

The Eurometaux Taskforce established to support the drafting of the TP for metals had its second meeting on 24 January. This hybrid meeting covered updates since October, a discussion on overall objectives, a debate on content and format, and agreement on next steps. Eurofer attended the meeting virtually to give the ferrous sector perspective. The main outcomes were:

- An update of the last Commission sub-group meeting in December and an overview of the written feedback received from stakeholders (and where feedback is still lacking).
- Another exchange on how and when to stimulate greater engagement from Member States.
- An overview of the content of the building blocks still to be drafted, and where key topics such as energy, decarbonisation, raw materials, and circularity will be covered.
- The value of a much more concise "executive summary" version of the TP (this was supported)
- A useful discussion on selection of illustrative examples for non-ferrous metals to show how they enable high-level objectives, describe metals specificities, and explore some of the challenges that the sector faces.
- The importance of alignment between the work of the TF and Eurometaux's Communications strategy.

The next meeting of the sub-group of the high-level Expert Group on Energy Intensive Industries (EIIs), established by the Commission to facilitate discussion on the pathway amongst a range of stakeholders, is likely to be in March. This will focus on the "Sustainable Competitiveness" building block and will be the next opportunity to discuss many of the more contentious topics in the pathway e.g., energy.

The drafting of the transition pathway continues, in collaboration with Eurofer (more information: Simon Cook).

TNO study on Transition Pathway emissions: *best emission evidence solicited from specific consortia/companies*

TNO is conducting a key study for the metals sector to support the pathway for the two EU transitions (green and digital). The study aims to counter a raising policy and societal concern that significantly increased metal uses for key supply chains (e.g., electric vehicle (EV) batteries, solar and wind power, and

electronics) would result in a significantly increased impact on the European environment, especially on river basins where such new facilities and capacities would be built.

TNO and Eurometaux defined last year which key supply chains and indicator metals would be key to demonstrate that our hypothesis is correct, namely that those increased volumes and uses have close to no or very negligible impact on the environment whilst, on the other hand, they create high benefits to address the climate challenge. In order to promote good quality estimates, we need the best and most recent estimates of environmental emission ratios for the selected key metals for these supply chains. Hence Eurometaux launched investigations with the concerned consortia/companies on what evidence can be made available to support this key project (more information: Simon Cook and Hugo Waeterschoot).

Final adoption of CLP revision: *status update*

During the 24 January ad hoc CARACAL meeting, the Commission provided an update on the status of the final adoption of the CLP revision text. The text was agreed by Council and Parliament after just one political trilogue on 5 December 2023.

The provisional agreement was validated by COREPER on 22 December 2023 and by the EP ENVI Committee on 11 January 2024. Nevertheless, the timing for final adoption in Plenary and Council is uncertain. The new EP will be bound by the political agreement, so it will merely be a question of when it will vote on it and which version, since a legal linguistic revision is required for adoption, which could take around 2 months to be completed. The Commission explained that it is unclear whether the linguistic revision is needed for the EP to vote on it or whether it can be conducted afterwards. If the review can be made before the last April plenary, the CLP text will be adopted before the summer. If there is a vote before the linguistic review, it will need to be legally clarified over the summer followed by a corrigenda procedure requiring just a formal approval with the new Parliament earliest in September, and adoption could be by the end of the year.

Therefore, there is no risk that the content of the revised CLP will be put into a question, but the timing of the adoption is still unclear. The Commission also provided very detailed slides on the changes contained in the provisional agreement of December 2023, which are available [here](#) (more information: Ainhoa González Pérez).

One Substance One Assessment: *in a nutshell*

After the publication by the Commission of the three proposals under One Substance One Assessments on the 7th of December 2023, co-legislators have started the preparatory work to develop their respective positions on the texts.

The Belgian Presidency has created an ad hoc Working Party on One Substance One Assessment (OSOA) to work on the texts under the leadership of the Council's environment group, with reporting to the representatives of the Agriculture, Health, Technical Harmonisation and Competitiveness sectors, with the objective to cover all the transversal aspects of these legislations.

While the Council is expected to progress on the formation of its opinion, the time constraints make it practically impossible for the EP to work on this file within this mandate. Nevertheless, the files have already been allocated to the ENVI committee and it is expected to be led by the European People Party (EPP) Rapporteur, pending final decision on the referral. The current Parliament may decide to leave the opinion-making to the new Parliament, which will start to work in Q3 2024.

Comments can still be submitted in the 'Have your Say' portal of the Commission **until 27 March** for the proposals on [the reattribution of tasks to ECHA](#) and on the [new data platform on chemicals](#). The feedback received on the proposals is employed by co-legislators to help form their opinions (more information: Ainhoa González Pérez).

ZERO POLLUTION ACTION PLAN

Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform: *meeting and workshop*

On 24-25 January, Eurometaux attended the Stakeholder Workshop on the Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook of the Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform, organised by the European Commission.

During this workshop, Commission (DG ENV), along with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the European Environment Agency (EEA), presented the results and lessons learned from the first edition of the Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook, and the preparations for the forthcoming second edition. The workshop allowed stakeholders to gain insights into the work carried out by EEA and JRC on Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook and how it aligns with other monitoring frameworks of similar initiatives, as well

as to contribute to further strengthening and integrating the evidence base in support of Zero Pollution and the wider green and digital transition.

The second edition of the Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook will present the progress towards Zero Pollution since the launch of the European Green Deal and the perspective on achieving the 2030 targets at the start of the next EU policy cycle, after the election of the European Parliament and the nomination of a new Commission (more information: Lorenzo Marotti).

CLASSIFICATION

Lithium Classification Taskforce: *meeting*

The Li Taskforce was provided on 30 January with a summary of the discussions held during the RAC Classification Working Group. The conclusions will only be confirmed during the RAC plenary meeting on 11 March. The Taskforce discussed some possible remaining actions to feed the plenary debate.

Another topic for the call was the setting of an EQS. Several authorities have already proposed very low values that differ from the REACH dossier ones. Efforts are ongoing to review the literature and consolidate industry's reasoning. Updates on the French and industry RMOAs concluded the call. The latter becomes an essential piece of work to anticipate the next risk management steps. The draft minutes and slides were circulated on 31 January (more information: Francesco Gattiglio, Chris Heron and Violaine Verougstraete).

RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Management review period: *Cefic and Eurometaux file common views*

The Review Period in the case of an Authorisation Application or a Restriction is the deadline by which an applicant needs either to reapply or that the restriction is being reviewed and updated.

SEAC is presently updating its guidance on the Review Period allowing regular stakeholders to provide comments. The primary focus is on Authorisation Applications, but we also considered 'Restrictions' keeping in mind the REACH 2.0 alignment between these two risk management tools. Review Periods are by default set at 7 years with a potential for shorter or longer periods depending on the quality and arguments in the applications. Industry insisted on recognising the economic and technical reality as the main driver for the length of the review period while considering that companies must already start preparatory activities for a reapplication 2.5 years in advance. Research for substitution or implementation of further risk control measures takes time and requires considerable resources. Hence, shortening these timings too much would not enhance the search for alternatives or achieve better exposure results given companies would then have to invest their limited resources in the administration of a new application. Moreover, too many review reports would further pile up on the already large backlog ECHA has (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS

Industrial Emissions Directive: *update & next steps*

On 11 January, the EP ENVI Committee voted to formally endorse the outcome of the trilogues on IED and IEP ('vote on the provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations'). Members of the ENVI Committee overwhelmingly supported the provisional agreement on the IED (with 64 in favour, 5 contrary and 7 abstentions) and on the IEP (with 75 in favour, 4 contrary and 2 abstentions).

On 22 January, Eurometaux organised its Industrial Emissions Taskforce Meeting. The aim of the meeting was to provide an update on the latest developments on the review process, as well as to discuss the changes in the new IED, based on the compromise agreement text available. The relevant documents have been shared with the Taskforce members.

Next Steps:

- 11 March 2024: European Parliament Indicative Plenary Sitting Date
- 14-15 March 2024: European Commission/UBA Workshop on the new Sevilla process under the revised IED
- Next Article 13 Forum: 29-30 April 2024

(more information: Lorenzo Marotti).

LVIC BREF: update

After the final version of the Large Volume Inorganic Chemicals (LVIC) BREF questionnaire was made available by the JRC, Eurometaux prepared a user manual to be disseminated amongst the LVIC WG members to be further delivered to site operators. The aim of the user manual is to guide the operators during the compiling of the questionnaire. The operators will then send their completed questionnaires to Member States Competent Authorities, which in turn will submit it to the JRC.

The EIPPCB made available on BATIS the report from the last site visit in Belgium where two plants of our members were visited, Umicore and Molymet. The content is consistent with the report provided by Eurometaux in November 2023.

Further technical discussions will take place in the dedicated Eurometaux's 'LVIC BREF Working Group' (more information: Lighea Speziale, Lorenzo Ceccherini, Eleonora Tosi, Lorenzo Marotti).

AIR

Ambient Air Quality Directive: *all the latest*

On 10 January, Eurometaux attended Concawe's '15th Symposium – Apportionment & modelling: the right way to address the air quality issue'. As information on the origin of pollution is an essential element of air quality management/planning to identify effective mitigation measures, the event focused on pollutants source apportionment. This is a key research area for the air quality modelling community.

The experts provided insights on its role in supporting air quality assessment and assessing how air quality can be further improved. The session started with a presentation about the recent activities of the FAIRMODE's Working Group on Source Apportionment, while scientists from some of the main research bodies working on this topic (JRC, VITO, INERIS, TNO and Concawe) provided examples from source apportionment methodologies and recent application targeted to major air pollutants. The presentations were followed by a panel discussion.

On 11 January, the EP ENVI Committee (Rapporteur Javi Lopez, S&D, Spain) reported back to the Committee members on the status/outcomes of the trilogue negotiations that took place in December last year.

On 23 January, a political trilogue took place.

On 26 January, the Council of the European Union held a Coreper I Meeting where the Belgian Presidency briefed members on the trilogue negotiations so far.

Finally, on 29 January, EP ENVI Committee (Rapporteur Javi Lopez, S&D, Spain) reported back to the Committee members on the status/outcomes of the latest trilogue discussions. The intention of the Rapporteur is to reach an agreement before spring (more information: Lorenzo Marotti).

WATER

Drinking Water Directive: *Implementing Acts*

The 6 legal acts implementing Article 11 of the Drinking Water Directive (DWD) [were published](#) on 23/01/2024.

Article 11, through its new legal acts (a mix of delegated acts and implementing acts), sets new standards that will apply to materials and products intended to be used in new installations for the abstraction, treatment, storage or distribution of water, or in repair works, such as supply pipes, valves, pumps, water meters, fittings and taps. Materials and products that comply with the new EU standards will receive an EU declaration of conformity and an EU specific marking. One of the implementing acts is the first European positive list (EUPL) of substances that may come into contact with drinking water and the procedure for requesting a new or existing entry on this list.

One of the new EU standards for materials mentioned above is the maximum concentration of lead measured at the tap (= 5µg/L); materials that do not comply with this threshold will not be allowed to be used after 31/12/2026.

Materials that are not on the positive list but comply with the parametric value of 5µg/L Pb at the tap and for which a Member State Competent Authority has granted an authorisation during the period from 13/07/2021 to 31/12/2026 will be granted a transitional period for use in the manufacture of materials or products that come into contact with drinking water until 31/12/2032.

It is still unclear how materials that are authorised by national regulations, but do not have an entry in the EUPL or do not comply with the above conditions, will be managed on the national or international/EU market.

This and several other issues need to be clarified and we, together with the International Wrought Copper Council (IWCC), have started a dialogue with the regulators to seek these clarifications (more information: Lara Van de Merckt).

SOIL

Update:

This dossier seems to be of more interest to the Member States (Council) and the European Parliament (EP) than the dossier on the revision of the Water Framework Directive. Following the publication of the proposal by the European Commission (EC) in July 2023, the file follows the ordinary legislative procedure and is now in the hands of the EU Parliament and the EU Council, which are in the process of preparing their opinions on this file.

European Parliament:

Both the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) and the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) have tabled their amendments and are discussing compromise amendments.

Timeline: The AGRI committee will vote on its opinion on 12 February, the ENVI committee will vote on its opinion on 11 March and the EP plenary vote is scheduled for 10 April.

EU Council:

Several meetings of the Working Party on the Environment (WPE) have already taken place since the beginning of the year (22, 29 January and 2 February), which shows the Member States' interest in this dossier.

A policy debate already took place on 18 December, where Member States mostly welcomed the objectives of the Directive (healthy soils by 2050, the establishment of an EU framework for soil monitoring and filling the knowledge/data gaps), but expressed concerns on several points (i.e., additional administrative and cost burden, criteria for soil descriptors, one-out principle, soil districts,...) and mostly asked for more flexibility in the Directive to take into account the geographical specificities of EU soils.

Timeline: A general approach is expected for the Environment Council scheduled for 17 June.

The trilogues will then probably be held by the Hungarian Presidency in autumn 2024. We expect the debate during these trilogues to be tough, as the preliminary positions of the Member States and the Council are diametrically opposed on several points of the EC proposal.

Eurometaux is actively engaging with the Permanent Representatives on this file (more information: Lara Van de Merckt).

TOOLS

iUVCB Platform: *meeting*

A dedicated iUVCB EM Platform was set up in 2020 to solve the pending assessment and reporting issues ECHA had identified in the NFM sector intermediate dossiers. Some of the issues that were blocking the acceptance of these dossiers included: a) too broad composition ranges in the substance identification, perceived as a risk of grouping different substances under the same registration; b) a substance identification mainly based on elemental constituents rather than purely based on speciation analysis, with a perceived lack of transparency in the way the classification, hazard, and risk assessment processes were reported; c) a breach of Article 10 requirements, as iUVCB dossiers were reporting many constituents information, but only as upper summaries and not including the robust study summaries (RSSs). Several discussions were held with ECHA on these issues, in particular in the context of the MISA programme.

Since its onset, the Platform and the appointed consultants (ARCHE for the environmental assessment and EBRC for the human health assessment) has handled 63 dossiers to facilitate the implementation of the agreements reached after the several meetings and exchanges with ECHA, in a structured way, in all the dossiers, and across consortia.

A dedicated iUVCB meeting was organised on 30 January, to gather the consortia, companies and consultants together, going beyond the members of the platform, to retrospectively look at several of the challenges and actions taken and to discuss if and how the Platform could support consortia further with respect to the Implementing Regulation and update requirements. A few immediate actions have been identified starting with the finalisation of an 'how to assess NFM iUVCBs stepwise' guideline for internal use as well as for communication with ECHA (more information: Federica Iaccino).

METALS ENVIRONMENT EXPOSURE DATA PROGRAM (MEED)

MEED: outreach to increase recognition for more science-based solutions for metals

The MEED program, investigating the effect of combined exposures, progressed well in 2023 and is presently in a testing phase to fill data gaps. Reports on the literature reviews parts are now finalised, allowing some time to set up communication and outreach activities. These activities aim at starting to build support for the conclusions reached so far, focusing especially on the alternative more science-based approach (i.e., the Mixture Interaction Factor or MIF) to the default Mixture Allocation Factor (MAF) promoted by the regulators. The researchers as well as Eurometaux prepared a poster and platform presentation abstracts for 6 contributions at the upcoming SETAC Europe meeting in May. All were accepted and we received the offer for “a speakers corner session”, which Eurometaux and ARCHE will set up together with the University of Ghent and RIVM to enhance credibility/visibility.

From other SETAC abstract contributions, we noted that the Combined Environmental Effect of Mixture Exposure of metals is also discussed at scientific- and regulatory levels in Canada, Japan, South Korea and probably others.

This was testified by receiving expressions of interest from those countries to exchange learnings and concepts and, in a later phase, also data. In January, ARCHE and Eurometaux had the opportunity for an in-depth exchange with Japanese researchers and representatives from the government who are running a relatively comparable program to MEED. The discussions demonstrated an interest in the MIF, the ecorelevance concept and the new gap filling evidence. Industry noted that they are conducting test work that could be complementary and even fill some of our data gaps. It was agreed to further explore cooperation and exchange along the SETAC meeting, with the possibility for the MEED sponsors to attend these exchanges (more information: Charlotte Nys, Marnix Vangheluwe and Hugo Waeterschoot).

OUTREACH

OECD

Working Party Hazard Assessment: webinar on “Good practices and resources to improve the utility of research data in regulatory assessments”

The webinar was organized in the framework of the OECD Working Party on Hazard Assessment (WPHA) project, led by the EU JRC in collaboration with the Karolinska Institute and Stockholm University.

The background is the following: internationally recognized guidelines, like those from OECD, provide a solid foundation for chemical safety assessments. However, assessing chemical safety also requires considering a wide range of scientific sources beyond these standards. This includes data from various studies in peer-reviewed literature, databases, and grey literature, which inform hazard, exposure, and risk assessments. While modern eco/toxicology methods are generating more non-standard data, current standard requirements are not adapting quickly enough to incorporate these advancements. Assessors must navigate with a growing volume of academic and non-standard data with varying reliability and reporting standards, which complicates the evaluation process compared to standard studies. The EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability emphasizes the importance of better incorporating research data into regulations. To address this challenge, the OECD Working Party on Hazard Assessment (WPHA) is developing a Guidance Document to promote best practices for incorporating non-standard scientific data into regulations, assisting both researchers and regulatory assessors, by defining reliability and relevance criteria and providing access to existing resources and tools. During the webinar, an overview of the established and emerging scientific resources, good practices, reporting standards, curated datasets, and knowledge

management tools was presented. The Guidance Document is expected to be published by the end of 2024 (more information: Federica Iaccino).

COMMUNICATION

Metals Academy: on the way there.....

With the help of the Organising Committee, we were most pleased to finalise the agenda for the next Metals Academy and already thank all the speakers who committed to make this edition a most interesting & exciting opportunity for all participants.

This year's academy will bring the whole group together for the first two days and there will be a choice out of 3 "interactive" modules on the last morning.

The final registration to confirm participation was sent end of January, both to those who pre-registered and all members. We aim for a group of maximum 30-35 participants to take part in this new edition. We are already looking forward to welcoming "old" & "new" faces to this now -quite renowned- event (more information: Ailsa Lee and Violaine Verougstraete).

Post-Christmas addendum

Although Christmas and its presents have now passed, we still wanted to share with you an important announcement from Commission on this topic...to help us prepare for December 2024: [read](#)

CALENDAR

**Please find here below a non-exhaustive list of the meetings
that are already planned for 2024.**

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](#)

- 05/02: Air Quality Taskforce
- 6-8/02: RAC-68 AfA Working Group
- 12-16/02: MSC-85 (TBC)
- 27/02: Chemicals Management Steering Committee
- 28/02: Risk Management Taskforce
- 04/03: RAC-68 REST Working Group
- 11-14/03: RAC-68 Plenary
- 12-15/03: SEAC-62
- 14-15/03: RAC-68 DWD Working Group
- 18-21/03: Chemicals Management Spring Week
- 20-21/03: CARACAL (TBC)
- 21-23/03: ECHA MB-73
- 10-11/04: Helsinki Chemicals Forum
- 16-17: Batteries Workshop
- 23-25/04: RAC-69 CLH Working Group
- 23-26/04: Metals Academy 3
- 05-09/05: SETAC 2024
- 07-08/05: RAC-69 AfA Working Group
- 21-22/05 RAC-69 DWD Working Group

- 27-28/05: RAC-69 REST Working Group
- 03-07/06: RAC-69 Plenary
- 03-07/06: SEAC-63
- 10-14/06: SEAC-63
- 10 -14/06: MSC-86 (TBC)
- 18-19/06: ECHA MB-74
- 18/06: Risk Management Taskforce
- 25-26/06: NeRSAP (Belgium)
- 27/06: Chemicals Management Steering Committee
- 01-03/07: RAC-70 CLH Working Group
- 03-04/07: CARACAL (TBC)
- 04-05/07: RAC-70 AfA Working Group
- 04/09: Chemicals Management Steering Committee
- 09-10/09: RAC-70 REST Working Group
- 9-13/09: SEAC-64
- 16-20/09: SEAC-64
- 16-20/09: RAC-70 Plenary
- 24-25/09: RAC-71 DWD Working Group
- 26-27/09: ECHA MB-75
- 30/09-02/10: Chemicals Management Autumn Week
- 08-10/10: RAC-71 AfA Working Group
- 07-11/10: MSC-87 (TBC)
- 15/10: Risk Management Taskforce
- 28-30/10: RAC-71 CLH Working Group
- 06-07/11: RAC-71 REST Working Group
- 20-21/11: CARACAL (TBC)
- 25-29/11: RAC-71 Plenary
- 25-29/11: SEAC-65
- 2-5/12: SEAC-65
- 9-13/12: MSC-88 (TBC)
- 10-11/12: RAC-72 DWD Working Group
- 12-13/12: ECHA MB-76
- 18/12: Risk Management Taskforce
- 19/12: 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)
