



N° 169 – January 2026



“If speaking is silver, then listening is gold.”  
*Turkish Proverb*

## EUROPEAN METALS CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT NEWS

### Table of Contents

EU COMMISSION .....	3
EU AGENCIES .....	3
EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA) .....	3
ECHA COMMITTEES .....	3
ECHA OTHER .....	4
EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA) .....	4
EUROPEAN METALS CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT .....	5
ZERO POLLUTION AMBITION .....	5
BATTERIES .....	5
ENVIRONMENT .....	5
CLASSIFICATION .....	6
RISK MANAGEMENT .....	6
INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS .....	6
HUMAN HEALTH .....	7
OUTREACH .....	8
OECD .....	8
OTHERS .....	8
KAMILA'S SUSTAINABLE CORNER .....	9
COMMUNICATION .....	9
GENERAL INFORMATION & ACRONYMS .....	9
CALENDAR .....	10

## Investigation at ECHA: The REACH Affair - Episode 3

Previous episodes: The document containing the latest REACH revision proposal has disappeared from the meeting room where it was left for analysis by Dr Sharon Mc Osh and her colleagues. Our investigator has collected some clues in the meeting room and, on her way to see Dr Mc Osh to ask for the list of meetings held the evening before, notices someone with fair hair sitting in the Voima room. However, the door is locked. By colouring in all the squares of a hanging world map with the numbers displayed instead of the sitting plan, our investigator discovers the 4-digit code to enter the room: 7219.

By the time I had gone through the door, the room was empty... Except for a sheet with signatures left on the RAC chair's seat. I could decipher the following initials: KvdJ, MO, MW, PdS, RS, SMO, TS, and X.

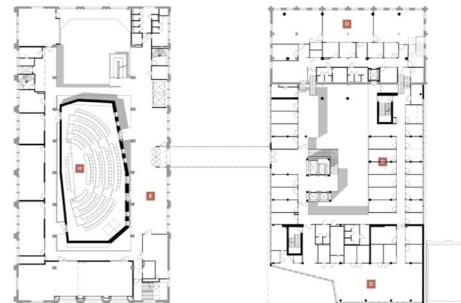
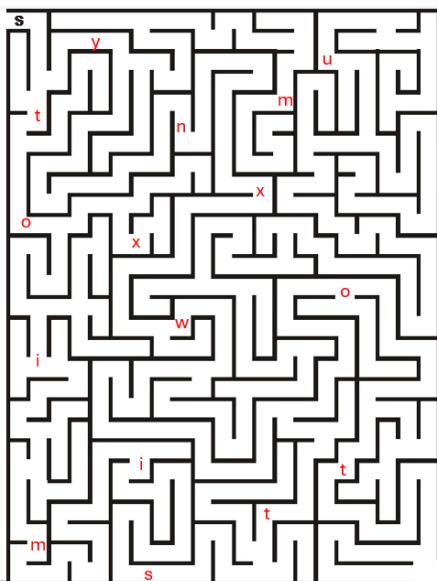
I switched on one of the ECHA secretariat's PCs and I gave myself a couple of minutes to guess the password. My second attempt (NoCat1=nocry!) worked, giving me access to the agendas of the past week.

The initials corresponded to the list of participants who attended a meeting the day before the theft, organised on the REACH thematic! Would these participants not have heard about the secret document? My first task would be to find them and question them.

Hastily leaving the Voima by the backdoor, I bumped into the RAC Chair himself, who surprised, dropped a pile of papers he was carrying. Rushing to pick them up, I could not help but take note of the calculations that were covering the pages. Intrigued, I asked: 'are you really calculating the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint of the RAC activities?'. Rob Straciarella looked at me and mumbled, slightly pushing the pencil he was chewing to the corner of his mouth: 'Of course. Why do you look surprised? Since its entry into force, REACH requires calculating and reporting on the environmental footprint. Now, if you excuse me, Dr Mc Osh is waiting for me to discuss the possibility to bring in RAC coopted members from industry'.

I headed once again towards the stairs leading to the canteen but stopped when I heard an unfamiliar voice muttering... "White paper: 2004, REACH: 2007, CLP: 2008, REACH REFIT evaluation...2016...no 2018! Yes 2018!". The voice was getting closer and I heard distinctly: 'new CLP endpoints: 2023, chromates authorisation sunset date: 2017...' accompanied by muffled sounds and deep breathing.

Suddenly, the person appeared in the corner. He was a tall, impeccably dressed man with grey hair held back by a headband extended by an elastic and a ball which he was punching in front of him while reciting dates. 'Hallo' he said, 'I am Pierre du Sable. Please don't pay attention: I am training with my boxing reflex ball.' I caught the ball as it passed and wondered: "Is it to improve your performance that you wrote RMOA on the ball?" He gave me a hint of a smile and continued on his way. 'Sorry, I have to go, I am busy'. 'Sure' I replied. But before going, could you tell me where I could find the MSC chair?' He handed me over a labyrinth: 'write up the letters you will meet on your way out'.



A	aula	lobby
B	kahvila	café
C	keittio	kitchen
D	toimistot	offices
E	lampa	foyer
F	ravintola	restaurant
G	monitoimisali	multipurpose space
H	komiteasali	committee room

I watched him hitting the ball hard while going to the footbridge. Well, two suspects already and I am tempted to believe that both lied. I am certain they have seen what could be in the secret document. Do you know why? And can you help me find the MSC chair?

## EU COMMISSION

### **CARACAL-56: meeting postponed from November**

CARACAL 56 was quite eventful. The Commission reiterated that the REACH Revision remains ongoing, but the decision to hold a CLP-only CARACAL in March and postpone the next REACH session to 1 July might suggest that no substantial developments or proposals should be expected before the summer.

Brominated flame retardants were discussed, which will be an interesting topic to monitor. A key feature of this future restriction will indeed be the introduction of a “dynamic link” meaning that ECHA shall assess the feasibility of including in the scope of the restriction proposal any substance belonging to the chemical group of non-polymeric ABFRs that will be subject in the future to a harmonised classification in Annex VI to CLP as PBT or vPvB substances.

Chromium was again a central topic: CEIR presented concerns about the ongoing chromates restriction, highlighting the lack of viable alternatives for sanitary and decorative chrome plating, the risk of production shifting outside the EU, and the need for realistic timelines. TATA steel also has submitted a paper highlighting the alternative they have developed for certain applications. A last discussion took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> ATP, which includes the three lithium salts. The Commission confirmed the entries will mirror the reproductive toxicity classifications proposed by the RAC. Industry reiterated its concerns about the scientific basis for the classification, the limited dataset and the downstream impacts on the battery value chain (see also below).

The Particles Platform presented the outcomes of the 2 October workshop and its recommendations.

Regarding the ‘regulatory interface’ topic, DG ENV outlined how the Industrial Emissions Directive interacts with REACH and CLP, emphasising the importance of avoiding duplication and ensuring the most appropriate regulatory instrument is used. Enforcement trends were also discussed, with ECHA’s REF12 project showing high non-compliance rates for imported mixtures and articles. Detailed notes will be sent to the CARACAL Taskforce (more information: Wendy Wellens and Sophia Verbrugghe).

---

## EU AGENCIES

### EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA)

#### ECHA COMMITTEES

##### **ECHA and its Stakeholders: Meeting with the RAC Chair**

Roberto Scazzola, chair of the Risk Assessment Committee, came to the European Metals offices to have his annual catch-up discussion with the industry regular stakeholders (European Metals, Cefic, CropLife Europe). Such chats allow to exchange on the RAC activities, in particular on the new tasks (e.g., drinking water, batteries) and on the dynamics in the committee. European Metals and IWCC are -among others- strongly engaging in the work on the Drinking Water Directive, by preparing mock up dossiers to test the process. But the number of expected applications -still uncertain- also forces reflection on how to prioritise these applications for discussion by RAC, considering resources and expertise. Additional issues, like the limited testing lab capacity or Member States approaches regarding the transition periods were evoked. All these justify and support the organisation of the 5<sup>th</sup> [Symposium on Materials and Products in Contact with Drinking Water](#), scheduled on 17 June (hosted by the European Drinking Water association (EDW), the European Water Services (EurEau) and European Metals (EM)). Also, on water quality and the definition of Environmental Quality Standards (EQS), RAC will have a role to play and ECHA is exploring how to best organise the activities, before and once ECHA’s Basic Regulation will be at play.

Since COVID, industry experts accompanying the industry stakeholders attend the RAC meetings online. This rule was slightly relaxed one year ago after a discussion with Roberto, and industry experts were allowed to attend CLH discussions. This triggered concerns among certain members of the RAC regarding their independence but was supported by others (and by ECHA in general). European Metals asked whether the industry experts on OEL discussions might be allowed in the meeting room, as these would clearly benefit from their knowledge on the actual workplace conditions and industrial hygiene. The chair indicated he would propose this as a possibility to RAC, but with a clear code of conduct.

Finally, ECHA has presented an analysis of recent trends in reproductive toxicity classifications, responding to concerns about the rising number of substances proposed for reprotox classification and the RAC’s increasing

conservatism. The RAC chair was keen to hear the STO's perspectives and whether such work should be followed up (more information: Federica Iaccino, Lara Van de Merckt and Violaine Verougstraete).

## ECHA OTHER

### **ECHA Industry associations: *first call of the year***

The first ECHA-industry associations call of the year took place on 23 January, setting the tone for regulatory priorities in 2025. ECHA presented updated statistics on REACH submissions, noting that while December volumes were 10% higher than in November, overall submissions remained 6% below the 2025 forecast. Similar trends were observed for new and updated registrations as well as Product and Process Oriented Research and Development (PPORD) notifications. In total, around 137.000 submissions were recorded in 2025, the majority of which were CLP notifications (86%), followed by registrations including PPORDs (10%) and other submission types (4%). This represents an overall decrease of 27% compared with 2024. Despite the lower submission volume, 354 new substances were registered during the year, a slight increase compared with the previous year.

Industry associations used the meeting to present their consolidated proposals for improvements to the REACH-IT tools, finalised after the December discussions. A prioritised list covering both REACH-IT and ECHA CHEM was set up and shared with ECHA, with the aim of supporting planning and enabling more targeted technical discussions with dedicated ECHA teams (expected in February). ECHA also clarified that from 1<sup>st</sup> July onwards, company names may be published in CLP notifications unless a confidentiality claim is explicitly submitted. In parallel, IUCLID developments continue, with beta testing of the upcoming release scheduled to start in February. Beta accounts will be created for nominated industry testers to allow hands-on testing of the migration rules. ECHA further confirmed that the basic business rules for microplastics reporting were implemented in IUCLID in October 2025 and that no additional updates are currently foreseen in this area.

ECHA reported on the launch of upcoming compliance campaigns: from February, initial communications will be sent to registrants involved in joint submissions affected by incomplete legal entity changes or lacking a designated lead registrant, with around 150 cases already identified. Finally, a potential date was flagged for the next ECHA-industry meeting in Helsinki, which is provisionally planned for 15–16 June 2026 (more information: Federica Iaccino).

\*\*\*\*\*

## EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA)

### **EEA: *successful meeting in Copenhagen***

On 19 January, a delegation from ARCHE Consulting, European Metals and TNO organised a workshop at the offices of the European Environment Agency (EEA) to present and discuss the MEED (Metal Environmental Exposure Data) project and the TNO study on Metals in the twin transition: Regional Emissions in the EU metal-technology pathways. The hybrid workshop was exclusively set up for EEA staff and European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) staff who will be responsible for the technical work of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The meeting went very well, and in-depth discussions took place.

The emphasis was placed on the methods and approaches used in both projects, and the EEA staff expressed interest in how some of the outcomes could be applied to their future work, including those related to mixture assessments within the CIS (Common Implementation Strategy of the WFD) work programme.

We were invited to keep the lines of communication open for future updates and peer-reviewed publications connected to the MEED projects. Some of the EEA staff will also be present at the upcoming SETAC Europe (Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry) conference in Maastricht (May 2026), where further discussions on updates could take place.

One of the main takeaways from the meeting is that we are invited to translate all this good work into communication-ready materials for non-experts to understand the outcomes of the projects, as this will be key for the next steps (more information: Lara Van de Merckt).

# EUROPEAN METALS CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

## ZERO POLLUTION AMBITION

### **ENV Omnibus: detailed assessment carried out**

During January, the EM Secretariat carried out a detailed assessment of the Environmental Omnibus published by the European Commission on 10 December 2025, identifying the key points of interest for the European Metals membership.

Four pieces of legislation were affected, each receiving targeted amendments.

- 1) the Battery Regulation includes a revised definition of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs) and clarifies their links with related legislation such as REACH and CLP.
- 2) the proposed amendment to the Waste Shipment Regulation foresees the removal of the SCIP database.
- 3) the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) is the file with the largest number of changes, notably on the information required in the Environmental Management System (EMS) and the revision of Articles 14, 27 and 82.
- 4) in the Water Framework Directive, the establishment of an Environmental Single Point of Contact (SPOC) is among the amendments to watch, given its potential future interactions with other pieces of legislation.

**Next step:** European Metals will collect comments from members and prepare a position paper to share with the relevant MEPs as part of ongoing advocacy. For further information, please contact Andrea Pellini (IED and Battery Regulation), Lara Van de Merckt (Water Framework Directive), or Laura Fazio Bellacchio (Waste Framework Directive).

## BATTERIES

### **ECaBaM 4: successful fourth workshop**

On 27–28 January, the fourth edition of the ‘Exchange & Capacity-Building Group on Battery Materials’ (ECaBaM) brought together experts from ECHA, the European Commission and industry in Brussels to advance the discussion on the identification and, where relevant, the management of Substances of Concern throughout the battery lifecycle.

Through two interactive breakout sessions, participants explored data needs and effective strategies to collect robust information on emissions, exposure, socio-economic considerations, and barriers to circularity, including obstacles to recycling. By fostering direct cooperation and knowledge-building, this project aims to support regulators in their work on batteries whilst reflecting the innovation and complexity of the battery sector. With the new Batteries Regulation and the need to identify appropriate measures to control risks, this initiative plays a crucial role in bridging knowledge gaps and ensuring regulatory decisions are based on accurate, relevant and sound data.

At the end of the first day, stakeholders also had the opportunity to hold bilateral meetings with ECHA, allowing them to raise specific questions in a dedicated setting. The workshop concluded with a site visit to Umicore in Hoboken, where ECHA had the opportunity to see an innovative battery-recycling facility.

The final workshop report will be published shortly, providing a consolidated overview of the discussions and next steps (more information or specific questions: Andrea Pellini).

## ENVIRONMENT

### **Environment Taskforce: first meeting of the year**

On 20 January, we held our first Environment TF meeting of the year. The meeting was well attended and began with a presentation by the Cobalt Institute on the work currently being carried out under the ETAP umbrella regarding endocrine disruptors (EDs). More specifically, the presentation covered the manuscript being prepared on ED testing for metals, which addresses both *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays. A call was made for experience in testing metals for ED. This was followed by a tour de table and a presentation by Albemarle, which took a closer look at the lithium case and the applicability of the current ED definition and classification to this alkaline metal.

The meeting then moved on to a presentation by ARCHE on updates to the MERAG (Metals Environmental Risk Assessment Guidance) factsheets and the upcoming consultation period. ARCHE then gave a thorough presentation on the quantification of conservatism using the example of the copper PNEC (predicted no-effect concentration) derivation. This analysis showed that a sufficient degree of conservatism already exists in the PNEC derivation for each identified source of variability (e.g., inter-species variability), and that there is no need to add assessment factors on top of this. The audience considered the applicability to EQS derivation and how to communicate such results to EU regulators.

The meeting then examined the upcoming technical challenges identified in the new Soil Monitoring Law, discussing how the ENV TF could tackle them. A brief update was provided on workshop that was recently held on the MEED project and the TNO study for EEA staff. The meeting concluded with two AOBs: the first regarding the upcoming response to the MAF (mixture assessment factor) from Backhaus et al., commissioned by the ETAP sponsors; and the second relating to updates made by ARCHE to the SpERCs (development of specific emission release categories for metals) (more information: Lara Van de Merckt).

## CLASSIFICATION

### **Li classification: several activities**

Several advocacy activities focusing on the classification proposed by the EU for 3 Li salts and its consequences on Li-related industrial activities (including the development of an EU Li battery value chain) took place in January, including a call with Commissioner Roswall's cabinet, exchanges with representatives from non-EU countries interested in the Li market and exchanges with the UK Minister for Industry. On 28 January, CARACAL was consulted for the last time on the 3 lithium salts entries into the 24<sup>th</sup> Adaptation to Technical Progress (ATP). Despite comments submitted by Argentina and Australia to the WTO highlighting the uncertainties of the data and the possible consequences of divergent regulatory standards/trade barriers, and industry's intervention stressing again the limitations of the dataset used to support a 1A classification for repro, there was no support from EU Member States to change Commission's proposal to follow RAC's (revised) opinion.

Next steps are the scrutiny of the ATP by Council and the EP, before its publication in the Official Journal. The Li Taskforce will soon be updated more in detail on all these outcomes as well as on the status of the projects anticipating the risk management measures that will follow the entry into force of the classification (more information: Francesco Gattiglio, Roland Chavasse, Sophia Verbrugge and Violaine Veroustraete).

## RISK MANAGEMENT

### **PFAS: high-level letters**

One of the agreed actions during the December Risk Management Taskforce meeting was to draft a high-level letter expressing the metals sector's generic concerns over the direction the Universal-PFAS restriction is taking and the flaws that will render it hard to implement. The draft was circulated to the Taskforce for comments and will now be sent to DG GROW and DG ENV. It complements a letter prepared by Recharge, asking the Commission to provide clarity on the eight sectors that were included in the restriction dossier at the end of the summer but did not undergo a full sector specific evaluation by RAC and SEAC. The outcomes of these letters will be further discussed at the next Risk Management Taskforce meeting on 26 February (more information: Simon Cook and Violaine Veroustraete).

## INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS

### **Industrial Emissions Taskforce: meeting in January**

The Taskforce met on Thursday 22 January 2026 and discussed several topics, 2 of them being briefly reported below. More details will be provided in the minutes of the meeting, to be circulated soon.

#### **1. BREF Guidance**

On 19 December 2025, DG ENV circulated among the IED Art. 13 Forum Members and Observers the [updated version](#) of the Guidance. DG ENV will seek the opinion of the Art. 13 Forum about the draft Guidance during the next Forum Meeting for its finalisation. Some of the relevant modified sections were presented during the meeting and in follow-up the Secretariat circulated an Excel file with comments for review and feedback by **Monday 9 February**. The secretariat will participate in the *ad-hoc* meeting of the Industrial Emissions Alliance (17 February) to discuss industry's positions on the updated draft with a view to prepare for the IED Art. 13 Forum Meeting.

#### **2. Strategy for the review of Chemicals BREFs**

The secretariat had shared a summary of the proposal for a chemical BREFs review strategy, explaining the context, content and the rationale of this new proposed strategy. The Commission's proposals include a new BREF package, a common structure for chemical BREFs (to maintain the complementarity between generic and specific approaches of the current BREF package) and a review of the sequence and TWG's mandate.

The Art. 13 Forum's opinion about this strategy will be sought during the next Forum meeting. In the meantime, if you have comments, please submit them to [Andrea Pellini](#) or [Eleonora Tosi](#).

### **IED Article 13 Forum: 21<sup>st</sup> meeting on 2-3 March**

European Metals' Secretariat will attend the March meeting of the IED Article 13 Forum. The draft agenda has been already shared by DG ENV, the two-day meeting will cover the following issues:

- a) Revision of the BREF Guidance
- b) Strategy for the review of Chemicals' BREFs
- c) Work Programme for the exchange of information under the IED
- d) Revision of the IED reporting decision (Commission Implementing Decision 2018/1135)
- e) Draft Commission Implementing Decision on a compliance assessment method (IED Article 15a)
- f) Draft Commission Implementing Decision on INCITE arrangements
- g) INCITE's Annual Report: State of play
- h) Information on recommendations for permitting first-of-a-kind processes
- i) Overview of ongoing and future projects by DG ENV

The EM Secretariat will also coordinate with other Industry Associations through the Industrial Emissions Alliance.

### **Landfill BREF: status update**

On Friday 16 January 2026, the report of the Kick-off Meeting was made publicly available on the [EU-BRITE website](#). In addition, EU-BRITE invited TWG members to submit any contributions for the drafting of D1. To ensure efficient coordination, intermediate deadlines have been established for contributing with information for specific parts of D1 as follows:

1. General information about the landfill sector by 27 February 2026
2. Applied processes and techniques by 29 May 2026
3. Techniques to consider in the determination of BAT and ET by 31 July 2026

**Next step:** European Metals Secretariat will finalise the candidate list of well-performing landfills and publish it on BATIS by **Friday 6 February**. This is crucial for the process, as the well performing landfills can be taken into account during data collection and therefore their specificity can be recognised in the LAN BREF. If you wish to include your landfills in the data collection phase please contact [Andrea Pellini](#) or [Eleonora Tosi](#).

### **Industrial Emissions Alliance: *Omnibus revisited at the next meeting***

On 13 January, COGEN Europe hosted the plenary meeting of the Industrial Emissions Alliance, bringing together stakeholders to discuss the recently published Environmental Omnibus (see related article). During the session, members exchanged first reactions on the proposed amendments and highlighted the need for additional time to assess their potential impacts across sectors. As a result, it was agreed that the Omnibus will be revisited at the next plenary meeting, which will take place on 20 March, allowing associations to conduct a more thorough evaluation and prepare coordinated feedback.

## **HUMAN HEALTH**

### **Meeting in BAuA: steering committee of dermal exposure database**

Over the last years, BAuA, TNO and EBRC/Eurometaux have joined forces to create an online database structure (DermExpoDB) to collate and exchange occupational dermal data, to make such data sustainably available for research and development purposes. The collated dermal exposure data will enable, amongst others, to evaluate and/or (further) develop dermal exposure models, to gain a better understanding of specific exposure situations and to identify research needs in terms of for instance sampling methodology and dermal exposure mechanisms. The database software is operated and sustained by BAuA.

The Steering Committee of this tool met in Dortmund on 20 January to discuss the work done up to now (in particular the website), how to promote the tool (e.g., via publications and communications in conferences), processes for data entries and data requests, and potential future developments (more information: Violaine Verougstraete).

### **Particles Platform: Working Group meeting on OELs and Steering Committee meeting**

European Metals participated in two calls set up by the Particles Platform. One aimed at preparing the presentation to be delivered at CARACAL on the results of the workshop held on 2 October, recommending among others to set up an ECHA Expert Group to discuss PSLT issues. The other call brought together the Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL) subgroup of the platform, which was set up over summer in the context of the ECHA call for evidence (CfE) on an OEL for Poorly Soluble Low Toxicity (PSLTs). The Platform did not submit comments to the Call for Evidence (CfE) due to diverging opinions and priority was given to the workshop on 2 October 2025; but now, it was agreed to recommend that the follow up of the ECHA PSLT OEL scoping project should be part ECHA Expert Group's role.

The Particles Platform will have its plenary meeting to discuss the outcomes of the CARACAL discussions (more information: Violaine Verougstraete).

---

## OUTREACH

### OECD

#### **OECD IUCLID Expert Group: Activity 1/3 on IUCLID improvements (28.01.2026)**

The Activity launched within the OECD IUCLID Expert Group aims at improving the use of IUCLID. In particular, last year the group investigated on how to efficiently handle attachments. During the January session, a few options were discussed to support the correct attachment rendition when creating a dossier or when exporting data for a specific working context, with the main driver remaining the reuse of a single dataset across multiple regulatory domains, without cloning datasets or unintentionally including unnecessary or sensitive attachments. Attachment fields are currently not limited to study reports, and IUCLID presently has no mechanism to 'understand' an attachment based on content; labels and naming conventions are inconsistent across the ca. 1.070 attachment fields and ca. 200 working contexts. Three options were screened: two options linked to the manual attachment selection during dossier creation/export and one using tagging attachments (or attachment fields) by working context in the dataset.

The group agreed on the need to add granularity in IUCLID to see where attachments are stored and control which ones are included when sharing datasets (as for consortia or joint submissions exercises) or when submitting to different jurisdictions. Currently the possibilities are 'all attachments' or 'none', which is insufficient to face the needs.

Additionally, the question was raised on whether to extend IUCLID's existing flagging mechanisms (for regulatory programs/working contexts) to help attachments management.

Overall, a clear preference was expressed for manual attachment selection during dossier creation/export (option 1 and 2), including flagging mechanisms to attachments (potentially more flexible and more aligned with multi-jurisdiction templates use).

ECHA will now assess feasibility and resources needed to implement the preferred changes in dossier creation and dataset exports as well as interim improvements if needed. The next steps will be discussed at the next meeting (more information: Federica Iaccino).

### OTHERS

#### **Critical Chemicals Alliance: General Assembly**

The first General Assembly of the Critical Chemicals Alliance (CCA) took place on 13 January at the Brightlands Chemelot Campus in Geleen, a symbolic location as it is an old coal plant which has been transformed into a breeding ground for innovation and sustainable chemistry.

The meeting opened with remarks from Stéphane Séjourné (EVP European Commission), stating that "the chemicals industry is the mother of all industries". Mr Séjourné pledged to defend the needs identified by the alliance in parliament and urged the audience to take advantage of this opportunity and use the alliance.

Next Sophie Hermans (Minister of Climate NL) underlined the need for policy that safeguards industrial resilience alongside environmental ambition. She identified 3 key pillars for a healthy chemical industry: i) deep industrial transformation, ii) innovation at scale and iii) cooperation across borders.

Marco Mensink (Cefic) wrapped up the opening remarks by reminding everyone of the urgency at hand. On 27 January Cefic will publish their report on closures of chemical sites and it will not deliver good news. The CCA aims to make a change by July, therefore it's crucial that this is a "workshop, not a "talkshop".

The Commission presented the aims and structure of the Alliance. Established to implement the Chemicals Industry Action Plan, the alliance aims to preserve and strengthen the competitiveness of chemical production in Europe, while supporting the sector's modernisation. To this aim, 4 working groups have been established on Critical molecules and sites, Trade, Modernisation & Investments and Lead markets.

As producers of critical materials used by the chemicals industry and as downstream users of key chemicals needed for refining, processing and recycling, the non-ferrous metals industry is an important stakeholder in this Alliance. However, as our interests may not always be aligned with the bulk of the chemicals industry, it will be important to engage actively and ensure that the chemicals underpinning

non-ferrous metals production, refining and recycling are considered in this work (more information: Sophia Verbrugge).

#### **ICMM: catching up with Danielle Morrison**

Danielle Morrison joined ICMM in January 2026 as a manager to lead the Materials Stewardship Facility (MSF), replacing Claudine Albesammer. She will monitor global developments and oversee collaborative research to inform engagement on emerging international policy and regulatory developments related to materials stewardship. She will among others attend the UN GHS and OECD/BIAC meetings and work on Lifecycle Assessment (LCA) projects. A call was held on 28 January to identify how to best synergise the actions between ICMM and European Metals. A first opportunity will be the OECD Chemicals and Biotechnology Committee meeting that will be held the first week of February (more information: France Capon and Violaine Veroustraete).

---

## KAMILA'S SUSTAINABLE CORNER

#### **WEEE Directive revision: latest discussions**

The European Commission is preparing for the revision of the Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) Directive and presented some ideas at the WEEE Expert Group meeting. European Metals participated and contributed with a written input on the following issues:

- 1) **WEEE collection methodology** – From the metals sector's perspective, improvement of the Put On the Market (POM) methodology must be connected to a better reflection on the real product lifetimes, consumption patterns and market dynamics.
- 2) **Measures addressing not separately collected WEEE** – Boosting the collection from the so called EU urban mines and creating more citizen-oriented collection systems is key. Citizens need to be aware of how to e.g., properly dispose of small WEEE such as smartphones, laptops and tablets that are hoarded at home and are thus preventing the recovery and recycling of metals.

**Recovery of CRMs from WEEE** – Our sector is in favour of maximising CRM recovery to meet the objectives of the EU circular economy and to contribute towards the recycling benchmark set in the Critical Raw Materials Act. As a follow up, European Metals secretariat will prepare a position paper to present our views on the WEEE Directive revision (more information: Kamila Slupek).

---

## COMMUNICATION

#### **Thank you: Kamila**

The whole CM Team would like to thank our dear colleague Kamila, for her interesting contributions to our CM News over the last years. They have been insightful & inspiring and proven to be a most effective link between our two departments.

We wish Kamila well, and are looking forward, from next month, to hearing from Laura Fazio Bellacchio who has taken over the post of Sustainability Manager and will thus also take over this role.

---

## 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).

---

## CALENDAR

Please find below a list of the meetings already planned for 2026 (ECHA, Commission & European Metals).

**For meetings at European Metals:** 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](#)

- 10-11/02: MSC-93
- 19/02: MeClas Steering Committee Technical Meeting
- 23-24/02: RAC-76 REST WG
- 25/02: Chemicals Management Steering Committee
- 26/02: Risk Management Taskforce
- 02-06/03: RAC-76 Plenary
- 02-06/03: SEAC-70
- 09-13/03: SEAC-70
- 11-12/03: RAC-76 DWD WG
- 10/03: RAC-76 (II optional - remote)
- 16-18/03: Chemicals Management Spring Week (RF - SF)
- 19/03: Registration Compliance Taskforce
- 20/03: IE Alliance Plenary (COGEN)
- 15-16/04: Helsinki Chemicals Forum
- 27-29/04: RAC-77 CLH WG
- 04-07/05: Metals Academy 5
- 05-06/05: RAC-77 DWD WG
- 07-08/05: RAC-77 AfA WG
- 26-27/05: RAC-77 REST WG
- 01-05/06: RAC-77 Plenary
- 01-05/06: SEAC-71
- 08-12/06: SEAC-71
- 08-12/06: MSC-94 – TENT
- 09/06: RAC-77 (II optional - remote)
- 17/06: 5<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Materials and Products in Contact with Drinking Water
- 18/06 (AM): Risk Management Taskforce
- 18/06 (PM): Chemicals Management Steering Committee
- 29/06-01/07: RAC-78 CLH WG
- 02-03/07: RAC-78 AfA WG
- 01-02/09: RAC-78 REST WG
- 07-11/09: RAC-78 Plenary
- 07-11/09: SEAC-72
- 14-18/09: SEAC-72
- 15/09: RAC-78 (II optional - remote)
- 16/09: Chemicals Management Steering Committee
- 17-18/09: RAC-78 DWD WG
- 21-23/09: Chemicals Management Autumn Week (SF - RF)
- 05-07/10: RAC-79 AfA WG
- 05-09/10: MSC-95 – TENT
- 08/10: Risk Management Taskforce
- 26-28/10: RAC-79 CLH WG
- 09-10/11: RAC-79 DWD WG
- 16-17/11: RAC-79 REST WG

- 30/11-04/12: RAC-79 Plenary
- 30/11-04/12: SEAC-73
- 07-11/12: SEAC-73
- 08/12: RAC-79 (II optional - remote)
- 07-11/12: MSC-96 – TENT
- **16/12(PM): Risk Management Taskforce**
- **17/12 (AM): Chemicals Management Steering Committee**

---