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"There are only 3 chemical symbols which spell full words.  
The words are "Be", "No" and "I".  
Multiple chemical symbols can be mixed together to spell over  
100 words, though, like Ac Ce S S I Bi Li Ti Es and YOU."

*Sybrina Durant*

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## EUROPEAN METALS CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT NEWS

### Table of Contents

EU COMMISSION .....	3
EU AGENCIES .....	3
EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA) .....	3
ECHA COMMITTEES .....	3
ECHA OTHERS .....	4
EUROPEAN METALS CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT .....	5
RISK MANAGEMENT .....	5
CLASSIFICATION .....	5
INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS .....	6
WATER .....	7
SOIL .....	7
TOOLS .....	7
OUTREACH .....	8
OECD .....	8
OTHERS .....	8
COMMUNICATION .....	9
GENERAL INFORMATION & ACRONYMS .....	9
CALENDAR .....	9

### Investigation at ECHA: The REACH Affair - Episode 4

Previous episodes: A document assumed to contain the latest REACH revision proposal has disappeared from an ECHA meeting room where it was left for analysis by Dr Sharon Mc Osh and her colleagues. After having collected some clues in the meeting room itself, our investigator successfully entered the locked Voima room and found a list of participants who attended a meeting on the REACH thematic the day before the theft (KvdJ, MO, MW, PdS, RS, SMO, TS, and X). She decides to question them. Leaving the Voima room, she meets Rob Straciatella lost in CO2 footprint calculations and Pierre du Sable, training with a 'RMOA' boxing ball. When asking the latter where to find the MSC chair (KvdJ), he hands the investigator a labyrinth. By finding her way out and combining the letters, she knows that she must go back to the ECHA offices (toimistot), on the other side of the footbridge.

It did not take me long before locating Klara van de Jong. Her long, fair hair makes her easily recognisable, and she turned to me, smiling, when I knocked on the door of the open office she was sitting in with another person. I had time to wonder whether it was indeed her I had a glimpse of in the Voima room, before realising that her interlocutor was another person on my list: Triina Soren. "Please join us" said Klara very nicely, "we would love to hear your views on what we are currently discussing". Triina added a welcoming gesture, offering me to take the chair next to hers. I have known Triina for some time, having met her in different settings. A passionate lady, fighting for the protection of the environment, flagging concerns about dangers she considers insufficiently regulated: immunotoxicity, neurotoxicity, and toxicity for the metabolism. Klara explained: "We are discussing how to preserve the MSC in these changing times". I uttered: "is there any possibility that its role would be adapted by some legislative changes?" Triina nodded, while adding: "this would be so regrettable, as this is the forum in which we can best express our views and get unanimous decisions". I turned to Klara: "I have heard from some stakeholders that it may be opportune to reconsider the balance between open and closed sessions, would you agree?" She gave me a very warm smile and replied: "many thanks for making your point so clearly, we will consider your input. This discussion is now finalised, let's move on to the next item on the agenda". I could hardly do anything else than stand up and take my leave politely.

Back in the corridor, I was wondering which direction to take, when another committee chair spotted me. "You are looking puzzled" stated the woman standing in front of me. Her badge indicated SEAC chair. I replied: "you must be Mirena Orlandi?". She confirmed. I whispered: "Are you also concerned by what could come out of the REACH Revision? I hope you do not mind this direct question, but I only seem to meet persons who have some interest in keeping the status quo for the 19 years (!)-old text." She grinned: "Oh yes, I heard about it, but personally, my priority is to find resources for my committee. Do you, by any chance, know of any experts interested in joining SEAC? We have plenty of new tasks in front of us, as stipulated by the Basic Regulation and other legislative revisions". "How would you describe the profile of the perfect candidate?" I asked. She gave me a pencil and the following table: "find the 7 characteristics displayed horizontally, vertically or diagonally".

SEAC

U	L	D	H	Z	D	E	G	W	C	Y	T	Y	T
C	I	O	J	N	N	S	X	M	L	M	S	Z	E
J	E	A	H	K	E	E	N	A	J	L	N	W	C
Z	E	F	A	F	U	X	U	V	Z	C	D	I	H
Q	L	L	V	O	T	P	M	A	F	V	C	N	N
E	T	F	J	M	R	E	X	I	O	M	O	D	I
H	C	S	Z	S	A	R	P	L	S	K	M	E	C
M	M	O	K	B	L	T	B	A	R	Z	M	P	A
O	Q	J	N	A	U	I	H	B	X	R	I	E	L
H	S	O	Q	O	Q	S	K	L	M	I	T	N	G
B	D	T	V	B	M	E	Y	E	D	L	T	D	B
I	L	D	N	E	X	I	Q	I	K	D	E	E	T
N	P	Z	F	Z	S	H	S	V	L	D	D	N	X
A	A	P	B	S	O	I	E	T	S	V	M	T	R

Dr Sharon McOsh surprised me when I had found only 4 of the characteristics\*. She frowned. "Do you really believe that pondering about the workability of the committees is a priority for this REACH Revision? And did you find the document?" "I am actually getting a better picture of the situation" I answered. "Don't waste your time here" she said and she took out of her pocket a flacon of correcting fluid to hide the words I had already noted\*. "Luckily, I continuously transport correcting fluid with me. Do you think the white colour comes from titanium dioxide?"

\*: I am interested in the results

Violaine Verougstraete

## EU COMMISSION

### CARACAL

Documents are still being submitted in the follow-up of the 56<sup>th</sup> CARACAL meeting. Their analysis will be circulated to the CARACAL Taskforce. The next session of CARACAL will be devoted to CLP only and be virtual (18 March). The currently available agenda indicates that it will be mainly devoted to the 25<sup>th</sup> ATP (Adaptation to Technical Progress) and UN GHS related updates, but also to the “transfer ATP”, i.e. substances identified as endocrine-disruptors or persistent pollutants under REACH (as Substances of Very High Concern), BPR and PPPR will be “transferred” to Annex VI of CLP, in line with Article 37 of the CLP. Concerns regarding the *automatic* transfer have been expressed by stakeholders as this procedure does not provide the possibility for an updated scientific assessment. Wendy Wellens will attend the CLP session on behalf of European Metals, and the Taskforce will have access to the notes (more information: Wendy Wellens and [verbrugghe@european-metals.eu](mailto:verbrugghe@european-metals.eu)).

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## EU AGENCIES

### EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA)

#### ECHA COMMITTEES

##### **RAC-76 Restriction Working Group: focus on chromates**

The Working Group devoted its two days of discussion to two restriction proposals, on chromates and octocrylene respectively. On chromates, the Dossier Submitter (ECHA) presented an overview of the comments received during the consultation (June-December 2025) and also announced it would update the associated Background Document, considering the comments made by RAC and SEAC during the previous meetings, the outcomes of the Public Consultation and the forum advice. The presentation by the Rapporteurs triggered very interesting debates, from the scope (and, in particular, the uses not in scope of the restriction), to the definition of intermediates and the handling of uncertainties when assessing exposure/emissions/operational conditions. While the representativeness of the data cannot be fully assessed by RAC, the Working Group agreed that the available estimates reflect the variety of workplaces and are conservative. The risks of alternatives could not be evaluated, hence the assessment of alternatives to chromates is based on hazards. For decorative plating, the dependency of the Cr(III) alternative on borates was noted, an aspect that has been raised by industry and consultants in the past. RAC also stressed the need to have more data on Cr(III) (reproductive toxicity and ED). Contrary to what was proposed in the original Annex XV, i.e., different limit values for the different Use Categories, the Working Group recommended having a unique harmonised value of 0.1 µg Cr(VI) /m<sup>3</sup> for the workplace, accompanied by an obligation for minimisation of worker exposure. RAC considers that this low value will push for substitution and that it is achievable, as demonstrated in some Applications for Authorisation. It also stressed the importance to target a harmonisation with the ongoing discussions on the chromates Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL) in the Carcinogens, Mutagens or Reprotoxic substances Directive (CMRD) context.

For the general population, the Working Group concluded that the restriction is also the most appropriate EU-wide measure, exploring different options and emission limit values, but also some alternative options for which the assessment is not fully finalised yet. The limit values proposed in all options explored to date are considered technically implementable independently of the tonnage used and test methods are available to verify compliance with the proposed limit values. One important note is that the risk reduction capacity is based on the stated compliance of the call for evidence respondents. Interventions from industry highlighted the difficulties to comply with the strictest values, also from a practicability perspective.

The opinion is expected to be adopted by RAC at the June plenary meeting, but before that it will be discussed by SEAC the week of 9 March. The learning lessons were presented to the Risk Management Taskforce on 26 February (more information: [verougstraete@european-metals.eu](mailto:verougstraete@european-metals.eu)).

##### **MSC-93: one-day meeting**

The meeting started with the Executive Director announcing the restructuring of the Agency that will be effective on 2 March. One of the reasons for the changes in the structure is the need to adapt it to future demands, coming among others from new tasks (e.g., One Substance One Assessment (OSOA) data platform, Toys). MSC subsequently discussed the learnings from the written procedure for Substance Evaluation cases, as well as

MSC's draft opinion on ECHA's draft update of the Community Rolling Action Plan (CoRAP) for 2026-2028. The examination of the justification documents for eight new entries concluded that there is sufficient ground for concern to consider they might constitute a risk to human health and/or the environment. The year of evaluation was postponed for three substances, which were already included in CoRAP 2025-2027, mainly to wait for new information that is requested under dossier evaluation. The justification for withdrawing one substance is sufficient. MSC adopted the draft opinion and the CoRAP table will be published on 25 March. No Substance of Very High Concern (SVHC) identification was discussed but MSC concluded in closed session that an ad hoc working group would be set up on SVHC Equivalent Level of Concern (ELoC) cases (focusing on what would be ELoC rather than on specific substances). As usual, a useful update on appeals and court cases of relevance to MSC was provided. MSC also discussed -in closed session- the revision of ECHA's advice on dose level selection for reproductive toxicity studies. The revision is based on feedback received from industry, Contract Research Organisations (CROs) and policy advisers and the aim is to provide clearer guidance for specific scenarios. MSC members were asked to volunteer their contribution to the drafting of the updated advice, which should become available by end of summer. The learning lessons of the MSC meeting will be presented to the Registration Compliance Taskforce on 19 March (more information: [verougstraete@european-metals.eu](mailto:verougstraete@european-metals.eu)).

## ECHA OTHERS

### **Strengthening collaboration: ... and other February engagements with ECHA**

During February, several ad hoc meetings were organised between industry representatives and ECHA teams to address specific technical topics.

**IUCLID:** Whilst awaiting the new IUCLID release scheduled for April, a problem was identified in the generation of co-registrant dossiers, whereby Lead Registrant data from Sections 4 to 7 was incorrectly transferred into co-registrant files. European Metals and Concawe shared the concern and met with ECHA experts to illustrate the issue, typically linked to the use of inherited templates. ECHA has since identified the source of the error and is working on a practical solution to solve it.

**ECHA Audit:** At the beginning of the year, ECHA launched an internal audit of its *Registration process* to assess whether governance, risk management and internal control systems are operating effectively and efficiently, and whether key control objectives are being met. Federica Iaccino was interviewed on behalf of the NFM association and was able to highlight examples of positive collaboration, outline administrative burdens, explain current challenges and those expected, whilst offering suggestions for further improvement.

**ECHA CHEM dissemination:** The ECHA CHEM team initiated a series of stakeholder discussions to gather feedback on IUCLID-related (registration) information presented on the ECHA CHEM dissemination website. European Metals, together with CEFIC and Concawe, provided an overview of the functionalities industry expects from the dissemination platform and proposed areas for enhancement. The exchange is meant to continue through the industry association meetings along the year and at the upcoming yearly **ECHA industry meetings that have just been scheduled for 15 and 16 of June (save the dates!)**.

Finally, within the **OECD IUCLID Expert Group** (Activity 1 and 3), ongoing work is assessing potential IUCLID developments aimed at facilitating the use of study data across different regulatory frameworks and jurisdictions. Current discussions focus on three main areas: i) enabling the reporting of experimental studies with varying levels of confidentiality (to address the more stringent requirements on confidentiality reporting under PPP, compared to BPR and especially REACH), ii) improving the mixture composition reporting function, and iii) exploring the harmonisation of confidential fields across regulatory regimes. Pragmatic proposals have been discussed across OECD members and will be further developed and tested in the coming months, to determine the feasibility of implementation in IUCLID. Important to note is that none of the potential improvements under discussion would constitute mandatory changes under the current European regulatory frameworks but rather improve the translation from one to another working context.

These topics will also be presented at the Registration Compliance Taskforce meeting that will be held back-to-back to the CM Spring week, on 19 March (more information: [iaccino@european-metals.eu](mailto:iaccino@european-metals.eu)).

# EUROPEAN METALS CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

## **Chemicals Management Steering Committee: first 2026 meeting**

The meeting started with an overview of the changes due to Eurometaux becoming European Metals: an updated structure for the CM Department, and the development of a chemicals management section on the new [EM website](#). Under the agenda item Green Deal & Zero Pollution Ambition, the secretariat presented the outcomes of the ZPAP 8<sup>th</sup> Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform, where the mid-term review of the ZP Action Plan was presented by Commission. Of interest to us: the ENV Omnibus, the unsure status of the REACH Revision, the revision of the Water Framework Directive, soil and PFAS.

The secretariat then presented the status of the REACH Revision, its possible timing and the possible (non-) alignment between the industry stakeholders. This was followed by a status on the ENV Omnibus (final version published in December 2025) and the draft Position Paper prepared by European Metals. Once it is finalised, meetings with MEPs will be set up.

A short overview was provided on the Critical Chemicals Alliance (CCA), its aims and working groups. European Metals will monitor and inform members with anything of interest.

The sector has also submitted some comments to the Call for Evidence on the Better Regulation, and the meeting was the opportunity to highlight issues that deserve further consideration. Finally, a recap and status update on the Safe & Sustainable by Design (SSbD) was given. The revised Commission recommendation is expected soon, and DG RTD have been invited to present during the CM Spring Week.

The meeting ended with the updates on: i) the outcomes of the ECaBaM Workshop and the conclusions of the two breakout groups; ii) the OECD Draft 2027-2030 Environment, Health and Safety Programme (more info [here](#)); iii) following a first successful workshop, a second OEL Workshop is planned in Brussels (MCC) on 23 June; and iv) an update on the Metals Academy for which registrations are nearly complete (still a couple of places available) and for which organisation is running smoothly. The meeting closed with the announcement that European Metals will participate in the Helsinki Chemicals Forum at which we will have a booth. The draft minutes of the meeting will be circulated this week (more information: [verougstraete@european-metals.eu](mailto:verougstraete@european-metals.eu) and [lee@european-metals.eu](mailto:lee@european-metals.eu)).

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

### **Risk Management Taskforce: first meeting of the year**

The Risk Management Taskforce met on 26 February to review progress across key regulatory files, namely the evolving chromates restriction, OECD work on substitution, and ongoing PFAS advocacy. Members received a detailed update on the Cr(VI) restriction, where RAC is moving towards very ambitious occupational and environmental limit values. The Taskforce also explored the OECD SAAT Toolbox as a growing resource for substitution and alternatives assessment, with potential opportunities for stakeholders' input. On PFAS, recent advocacy efforts including letters to DG GROW and DG ENV have opened the door for further exchanges, while new studies from the European Parliament and the Commission continue to shape the policy landscape by highlighting both the economic importance of PFAS and the societal costs of pollution. It was agreed to wait until the SEAC draft opinion is launched before taking further steps (i.e., developing possible suggestions to make the restriction more palatable and reconnect with Commission). The audience was also introduced to Claros, a company that has developed a novel, UV-based technology to destroy PFAS in wastewater. More details on the process and limitations of the technology will be shared with the Taskforce. Claros pointed out that PFAS remediation technologies have taken big leaps forward in recent years. The draft minutes of the Taskforce meeting will be circulated soon (more information: France Capon, Klaus Kamps, [verougstraete@european-metals.eu](mailto:verougstraete@european-metals.eu), [verbrughe@european-metals.eu](mailto:verbrughe@european-metals.eu) and [cook@european-metals.eu](mailto:cook@european-metals.eu)).

## **CLASSIFICATION**

### **Particles Platform Steering Committee: updates and next steps**

European Metals participated in the meeting of the Particles Platform (PP) Steering Committee on 5 February. The Particles Platform, led by Cefic, discusses and shares scientific and regulatory developments at European and international level on the issues related to the inhalation of materials in the form of particles which exhibit no or very low inherent toxicity. The Steering Committee discussed the recent developments on the talc and SiO<sub>2</sub> classifications, the TiO<sub>2</sub> substance evaluation but also the RMOA/restriction prepared by Germany on fibres (and the related issue of biopersistence). The PP also discussed the follow-up on the January CARACAL discussions: industry made a presentation highlighting the outcomes of the 2 October workshop and asked for the

establishment of an ECHA Expert Group with ECHA, the Commission, Member States, academia, industry and other stakeholders to address the scientific and regulatory challenges related to particles.

Finally, the scoping study carried out by ECHA on the PSLTs was mentioned. It seems that RAC may be consulted on the outcomes by end of 2026. What would be important at industry level would be to check whether there is any industry alignment possible on effect level, data to be considered, point of departure, etc. To note: Sabrina Migliorini (PP secretary) kindly agreed to come over to the Science Forum mid-March to present the key activities of the platform (more information: [verougstraete@european-metals.eu](mailto:verougstraete@european-metals.eu)).

### **Li regulatory actions: ILiA set meeting with UK HSE and DBT**

An interesting discussion took place with the UK HSE and the UK Department for Business and Trade on 26 February. The UK still needs to decide on its classification (Article 37 procedure). This was the opportunity to catch up on possible (additional) data the UK may use to consider a different classification from the 24<sup>th</sup> ATP, but also to stress the consequences of the classification for the UK Critical Minerals Strategy objectives. The Li classification Taskforce will receive a detailed update during the next call scheduled for 23 March. Also, France has now submitted its conclusion on the ANSES RMOA: it can be found [here](#). It highlights the importance to (also) further work on the ED assessment (thyroid), the relationship between identified effects in the literature (autism spectrum disorders, adverse effects on male and female reproductive parameters, growth and metabolism parameters and hypertension) and lithium exposure at environmental concentrations as well as on aquatic toxicity (more information: Roland Chavasse, Francesco Gattiglio, Ruth Danzeisen, Joeri Leenaers and [verougstraete@european-metals.eu](mailto:verougstraete@european-metals.eu)).

## **INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS**

### **21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the IED Article 13 Forum**

European Metals Secretariat will attend the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the IED Article 13 Forum (**2-3 March 2026**). The draft agenda and supporting documents are already available on [CIRCABC](#). Main objectives of the meeting will be to obtain the Forum's opinion on:

1. Draft revised BREF Guidance;
2. BREF work programme for 2028-2029, as well as the strategy to review the "Chemicals" BREFs; and
3. Draft Commission's Implementing Decision on a compliance assessment method (IED Article 15a).

In particular, European Metals Secretariat is coordinating on horizontal issues with other Industry Associations through the Industrial Emissions Alliance in view of the Forum Meeting in particular for the draft of the BREF Guidance.

Concerning the BREF work programme for 2028-2029, the Commission proposes to launch the revision of the Non-Ferrous Metals (NFM) BREF in 2029.

In view of the revision of the NFM BREF, a **meeting is foreseen in the coming months (date TBC)** to analyse the main findings of the internal NFM Survey which was carried out in 2025. This internal survey aimed to gather information on the status of the implementation of the NFM BAT Conclusions within European Metals' membership. The objective was to internally assess the "distance to target" of the updated permit requirements of NFM installations and lay down the basis for the strategy for the future NFM BREF revision (more information: [Andrea Pellini](#) or [Eleonora Tosi](#)).

### **Ceramic Manufacturing Industry (CER) BREF**

For the first time, the final meeting of a BREF, under the revised IED legal framework, took place in hybrid format between 2 and 6 February 2026. The TWG finalised the technical discussions on the draft BAT conclusions for the ceramic manufacturing industry with a high degree of consensus.

EU-BRITE is working on the BREF document considering the comments submitted and the decisions taken at the final meeting. The updated version of several BREF chapters together with the draft split view assessment will be circulated among the TWG members early March via BATIS.

The final draft of the CER BREF will be sent to the Article 13 Forum mid-April 2026 (tentative) (more information: [Andrea Pellini](#) or [Eleonora Tosi](#)).

### **Mining (extraction) of ores (MIN) BREF**

European Metals is following the process of the MIN BREF. During the online workshop on Questionnaire finalisation (December 2025) and the online exchange on Process Chemicals (February 2026), the results and wrap up of the work (i.e., to identify process chemicals to be included as Key Environmental Issues (KEIs)) carried out by

the subgroup on chemicals were presented to reach broad consensus and propose a way forward on chemicals prior to the data collection phase, aligning with the conclusions reached during the KoM. However, consensus on this matter was not reached and EU-BRITE decided to collect information on the complete shortlist of chemicals (consisting of 80 substances) and to decide after the data collection whether some of the process chemicals should be considered as KEIs. Euromines along with other industry associations (Eurofer, Cefic, FuelsEurope and European Metals) disagreed with the way forward. In this regard, a joint statement was published on BATIS (more information: [Andrea Pellini](#) or [Eleonora Tosi](#)).

## WATER

### Council of the EU vote

The [current revision](#) of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), based on the EU Commission's 2022 proposal, was officially voted on by the Council of the EU on 17 February 2026. The EU Parliament will now officially adopt the text of the trilogue agreement (the tentative date of the plenary vote is 25 March). Publication in the EU Official Journal should follow shortly thereafter.

### Call for evidence on the targeted review of the WFD

Last Friday, the EU Commission officially announced [a call for evidence](#) for the targeted review of the Water Framework Directive (feedback is not yet open). According to the announcement in the REsource EU action plan, the scope appears to be limited to access to critical raw materials. It misses the announcement made in the ENVI Omnibus, which broadens the scope to address permitting bottlenecks in general. We can expect this call for evidence to close around the end of March or beginning of April. Our feedback is already being prepared in line with the joint statement we drafted with Eurofer and FuelsEurope. We have also secured a few meetings with the EU Commission over the next few weeks to discuss the joint statement.

### Next Working Group (WG) Chemicals meeting

The next WG Chemicals meeting will be held on 16 and 17 March. The agenda has been shared and will cover several important items, including updates on the current review and upcoming targeted review of the WFD, planning for ECHA's work (including the Surface Watch List), antimicrobial resistance (AMR) indicators, effect-based methods (EBMs), and the review of the technical guidance on EQS derivation. EM will attend the meeting in person and report back to the group. A preparatory meeting will also be held with the members ahead of the WG Chemicals meeting.

### European Ocean Days

We were invited as EM to participate in the first Water Resilience Research and Innovation (R&I) Strategy stakeholder consultation event. This event will take place on 4 March as part of the [European Ocean Days](#) and is said to be a high-level event with the attendance of European Commissioner Jessika Roswall. It is the first event designed to inform the public and stakeholders about the upcoming Water Resilience R&I Strategy. During the event, stakeholders will have the opportunity to share their views and relevant information (more information: [vandemerckt@european-metals.eu](mailto:vandemerckt@european-metals.eu)).

## SOIL

### Update

The first EU Commission Soil Expert Group meeting of the year is happening this Thursday, 5 March. Stay tuned for the next edition of CM News! Also, please note that the Joint Research Center (JRC) will give a presentation on the new soil monitoring law, the indicative list, and the implications for the sector at our upcoming Chemicals Management Week on the 18th. Don't miss it! (more information: [vandemerckt@european-metals.eu](mailto:vandemerckt@european-metals.eu)).

## TOOLS

### MeClas Steering Committee: technical call

The MeClas Steering Committee had agreed during its annual autumn call to have a technical meeting to discuss more in-depth the two following topics: the inclusion of the transport tool designed last summer (following the Pb CLH process) in MeClas and the Tier 2 refinements for the environmental classification (e.g., in case a material includes non-hazardous constituents). Very useful input was provided by the participants, stressing the balance between pragmatism and information to the user, automation and expert judgment.

The MeClas team will now work on the practical implementation of the agreements. The draft minutes were circulated on 23 February (more information: Frederik Verdonck, Dagobert Heijerick, Aurine Verkest, Karel Vlaeminck and [verougstraete@european-metals.eu](mailto:verougstraete@european-metals.eu)).

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## OUTREACH

### OECD

#### **OECD Chemicals Committee Advances Non-Animal Testing, Sustainability and Budget Reform**

The OECD Chemicals and Biotechnology Committee (CBC) met in Paris from 3 to 5 February 2026, to review progress on chemicals management, sustainability, and regulatory innovation.

A central focus of the meeting was the transition toward New Approach Methods (NAMs), including computational tools such as QSAR and non-animal testing strategies. Delegates emphasised the need to modernise risk assessment frameworks while ensuring regulatory reliability and international harmonisation. The members also reviewed advancements in hazard and exposure assessment, including work on PFAS, nanomaterials and endocrine disruptors. Discussions highlighted the importance of aligning scientific innovation with practical risk management needs at international level. The Committee also addressed intellectual property challenges and data sharing issues at international level. Continuous work will be requested on this issue, as involvement of the relevant authorities.

A proposal for a joint ministerial meeting in December 2026 between the CBC and the Environment Policy Committee (EPOC) received strong support, seen as an opportunity to strengthen policy coherence between chemicals management and broader environmental priorities.

Budgetary pressures featured prominently throughout the meeting with the disengagement of certain key countries (like the US). Several countries expressed concern over funding gaps and the viability of the Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Programme. Several discussions occurred on prioritisation, cost-cutting measures, and potential restructuring of subsidiary bodies.

The meeting concluded with discussions on governance streamlining, stakeholder participation, and strategic planning for the 2027–2030 Programme of Work and Budget, amid calls to safeguard both scientific ambition and financial viability. The work at OECD remains paramount for the metals industry, being the only place where scientific, and technical issues can still be discussed. The next meeting will be organised end of October 2026 (more information: France Capon, [cook@european-metals.eu](mailto:cook@european-metals.eu) and [verougstraete@european-metals.eu](mailto:verougstraete@european-metals.eu)).

### OTHERS

#### **GROW Workshop: production & use of Advanced Materials**

This purpose of this event was to introduce to stakeholders the findings from an ongoing study being performed for DG GROW in five industry sectors – construction, energy, mobility, electronics, and medical devices. The objectives are to: assess the current state of the advanced materials (AdMat) industry in EU compared to other regions; identify the leading technologies and innovations being developed; assess production capacity in EU; estimate economic impact and green transition potential; analyse the capacity of industrial sectors to use AdMat; and assess the main challenges and barriers in increasing both supply and demand.

In addition to presentations from the study authors, there were several presentations from industry on how AdMat are seen and what are the main benefits of their development. In this respect, alignment between the Commission and industry is not complete and the Commission seems rather out of touch with industry innovation drivers, priorities and needs. In their introduction, the Commission referenced substitution of critical raw materials (CRMs) with new AdMat more than once, but this is not an objective for industry where the goal is instead to secure supply and increase recycling to reduce dependence on imports. Furthermore, the Commission speaks about maintaining EU leadership in the AdMat space, but the study results show that other non-EU countries are already considered ahead of EU.

Implementation of Safe and Sustainable by design AdMat did not receive attention from any actors.

From the point of view of metals and metal compounds, the study shows that innovation activity on alloys is lower than other classes of material but there are high levels of activity in other sectors important for metals e.g., energy materials including batteries.

One ongoing issue at this stage is the definition of “advanced materials” which is still rather unclear – in other words, what is considered “advanced” versus “traditional” materials. This needs further clarification as it will be important e.g., for securing access to innovation funding moving forward, the scope of future regulation. If the goal

of the definition is to innovate, then many stakeholders will have advanced materials. If the goal is to regulate, the opposite will be true (more information: [cook@european-metals.eu](mailto:cook@european-metals.eu)).

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## COMMUNICATION

### New Associate Member: IWCC

We would like to announce that we have a new associate member of European Metals [IWCC](#). The Chemicals Management Team had the great pleasure of welcoming Miette Dechelle in our offices to give her some in-depth information about our work and welcoming her for her first Steering Committee meeting.

### REACH Metals Gateway: further update

Over the summer, we updated the [REACH Metals Gateway](#) content-wise. In January, we updated to reflect the change in name of the association. And over the past weeks, we are updating the Consortia factsheets, to reflect their annual changes. Any questions about the RMG and or updates to be made can be communicated to Ailsa ([lee@european-metals.eu](mailto:lee@european-metals.eu)).

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## 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).

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## CALENDAR

**Please find below a list of the meetings already planned for first semester 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](#)

- 02-06/03: RAC-76 Plenary
- 02-06/03: SEAC-70
- 04/03: European Ocean Days
- 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 \(RF - SF\)](#)
- 18/03: CARACAL (CLP)
- [19/03: Registration Compliance Taskforce](#)
- 20/03: IE Alliance Plenary (COGEN)
- 19-20/03: SSbD Workshop
- 15-16/04: Helsinki Chemicals Forum

- 23/04: Drinking Water Expert Group
  - 27-29/04: RAC-77 CLH WG
  - 30/04: MEED Sponsors meeting
  - 04-07/05: [Metals Academy 5](#)
  - 05-06/05: RAC-77 DWD WG
  - 05-06/05: INCITE PFAS Workshop
  - 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: [Water Taskforce](#)
  - 09/06: RAC-77 (II optional - remote)
  - 15-16/06: ECHA-Industry days
  - 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](#)
  - 23/06: [OEL Workshop II](#)
  - 29/06-01/07: RAC-78 CLH WG
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