



N° 172 – April 2026



"Metal represents clarity, precision, and the ability
to discern what is essential."

Dondi Dahlin

EUROPEAN METALS CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT NEWS

Table of Contents

EU COMMISSION	3
EU AGENCIES	4
EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA)	4
ECHA COMMITTEES	4
ECHA OTHERS	4
EUROPEAN METALS CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT	5
ZERO POLLUTION AMBITION	5
INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS	5
WATER	6
TOOLS	7
MEED	7
THE SUSTAINABILITY CORNER	8
OUTREACH	8
OTHERS	8
COMMUNICATION	10
CALENDAR	10
GENERAL INFORMATION & ACRONYMS	11

Investigation at ECHA: The REACH Affair - Episode 6

Previous episodes: our investigator, requested by ECHA's Executive Director Dr Sharon McOsh to retrieve the document outlining the latest REACH revision proposal after it disappeared from the meeting room where it was left for further analysis, has now met close to all participants who attended a meeting on REACH the day before the theft. They have provided her with some direct and indirect clues. She reported these in a weight-of-evidence matrix, trying to draw some causal associations.

I had a look at the table and realised that, although I did not include a score for the reliability of the collected data - which could question the robustness of my conclusions-, the apparent result was that all the participants had a reason to wish that the Commission's proposal would vanish. Operational, ideological, or simply "you know what you have but don't know what you will get" ones...

Clue	SMO	RS	PdS	KvdJ	TS	MW	MO	X
White-grey hair in meeting room	-	X	X	-	X	X	-	?
Trace of correction fluid on one of the tables	X	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Grey pencil on the floor, chewed at its end	?	X	?	?	?	?	?	?
Glimpse of fair hair in the Voima room	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	?
Calculation of environmental footprint	Probably not	X	?	?	?	?	?	?
RMOA reflex boxing ball	Probably not	Probably not	X	?	?	?	?	?
Discussion on MSC's fate	?	-	?	X	X	?	-	?
New endpoints	?	?	X	X	X	X	-	?
Workability of ECHA Committees	-	X	?	X	?	?	X	?
Concern of TiO2 in correction fluid	X	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Further strengthening REACH	?	?	X	?	Probably yes	X	?	?
Use AOBs to push for unprepared decisions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Others: interested in competitiveness and simplification promised by Ursula VdL	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

Something was not right: were they all guilty?

As I needed to take a bit of fresh air, I strolled back to ECHA's entrance, checking I was still wearing the badge that would allow me to return. And that made me realise I had overlooked something! I had taken for granted that all the participants in the REACH meeting (i.e., and who formed the group of suspects) would be physically present in ECHA. But could it be that it was a hybrid meeting? The list of participants I had found in the Voima room did not stipulate the meeting modalities! And the mysterious 'X' on the signatures' list could reflect an online participant unable to sign the sheet of paper left on the RAC chair's seat? The note that complained how 'X' was handling the "AOB feature of a meeting" had made me suppose that he was an industry person, but I had no proof of motivation, only assumptions. Had I been too worst-case?

I asked the guard at the entrance for the list of badges delivered the day before. And indeed, there was no trace of any badge(s) having been delivered to an external person, beyond the ones of TS and MW, pointing to an online participation.

My only option to make progress was to go back to Dr McOsh and get more information about this REACH meeting. Ideally to discover the identity of 'X' but also to get more insights about the contents.

When I exposed the state of my dossier to her, she rolled her eyes and mumbled that she could restructure my organisation to increase its efficiency. But then she looked at me and said she would give me access to the Teams recording of the meeting, provided I signed both a code of conduct and confidentiality agreement.

I did so hastily, not realising it would not allow me to entirely share the details of my findings with you all.

'Why Teams?' I asked her. 'ECHA is usually on Webex, right?' She nodded. 'Oh well, it was to have a transcript and facilitate the drafting of the minutes'. She invited me to sit in front of her computer, opened the Teams link and accessed the details. 'Please have a look'.

I verified the transcript and became pale when I read what really happened. 'Dr McOsh' I uttered, my job ends here. But I believe it is urgent to have an internal policy regarding AI and what you allow it to do'.

Violaine Verougstraete

PS the confidentiality agreement prevents me to communicate you the solution readily. But I did not sign anything regarding the use of a coded message 😊

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EU COMMISSION

Meeting with Commissioner Roswall: REACH in a difficult policy context

On 1 April, European Metals met with Commissioner Jessica Roswall to discuss REACH and the Environmental Omnibus. European Metals was accompanied by representatives of Umicore, Aurubis and the European Precious Metals Federation. We stressed that 20 years after its adoption, Europe needs a comprehensive revision of REACH, not a quick fix ‘for modernisation or simplification purposes’. The vast experience the sector has with the risk management processes has confirmed that improvements of the legal text are crucial to improve their efficiency and predictability. We explained why we believe that, limiting the exercise to the revision of the REACH annexes by comitology, would result in adding burden and significant costs for our industry without addressing the broader structural issues that affect how the framework operates in practice. Building on existing examples but also on EU’s sustainability objectives (circularity, resilience, climate action and chemicals management), we made a plea to work further on coherence by doing an early assessment of the impacts of regulatory actions on these objectives and how to best articulate them in a RMOA-like reflexion. We stressed that the REACH legal text should also be revised to improve the supply chain communication, to ensure that the appropriate data is available for risk management. Commissioner Roswall, to whom we handed over the updated ‘spaghetti slide’, acknowledged the importance of finding the smartest solutions to meet the protection goals but also recalled the complex political context we are navigating in.

On the Environmental Omnibus, the Commission carefully listened to Industry’s plea and encouraged Industry to further discuss with the Council and the European Parliament to support Commission’s proposal (more information: [James Watson](#) and [Violaine Verougstraete](#)).

REACH Revision: revision limited to comitology-only

Over recent months, uncertainty has continued to surround both the content and timing of a possible revision of the REACH Regulation, with no clarity from the Commission on the scope or direction of any proposal. This uncertainty has now been partly resolved following an announcement made by Commissioner Roswall at the extraordinary ENVI committee meeting in April 2026, confirming that reopening the REACH legal text is not envisaged at this stage, with simplification and modernisation to be pursued instead through comitology and stronger enforcement.

While this decision provides a degree of predictability, we consider it a missed opportunity to address well-known structural shortcomings in the REACH framework, which cannot be resolved through annex-based changes alone. In the current context, the European Metals REACH 2.0 Advocacy Project Group will therefore focus its efforts on closely monitoring comitology initiatives and on engaging constructively on technical and governance aspects that can improve proportionality, prioritisation and predictability in practice. A call with the PG is planned on the 18th of May (more information: [Sophia Verbrughe](#)).

EU AGENCIES

EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA)

ECHA COMMITTEES

RAC-77: CLH Working Group ED human health

The Working Group discussed its first Endocrine Disruptor (ED) case, i.e., resorcinol. Resorcinol is used in the formulation of mixtures with a variety of uses but it has also been used as medicinal ingredient in dermatology since the 19th century.

The discussions started from the Dossier Submitter's proposal for the mode of action and reviewed the toxicokinetics of resorcinol but also the available human data (mostly from the medical field). The background for this CLH process is interesting: in 2020, France submitted a Substance of Very High Concern (SVHC) dossier for resorcinol following Article 57 (f) Equivalent Level of Concern (EloC) for ED properties for human health. This was discussed in the Member States Committee in June 2020, and the MSC opinion stated that the majority of MSC members supported the identification as SVHC Article 57 (f). Some members abstained from sharing their views or indicated it to be a borderline case. In December 2022, the REACH Committee discussed a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the identification as resorcinol as SVHC Art 57 (f) and the outcome was that Commission indicated that due to the specificities of this file, confirmation of the ED criteria under the new hazard class in CLP should take place prior to the identification as SVHC. This led to the current CLH dossier prepared by France.

The discussions on the case were delayed so as to allow RAC to benefit from the ED trainings organised by ECHA. Besides the 'ED challenge' itself, this case is also worth following as a new template was developed for the new hazard classes that brings in adversity, activity and plausibility; and close legal support is provided by ECHA. This case triggered a lot of comments in the Public Consultation, reflecting the interests of several industry sectors and authorities.

The mode of action proposed by France is adapted from the Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP) 42, which identifies as molecular initiating event an inhibition of thyroid peroxidase (TPO), resulting in the decrease of synthesis of thyroid hormone, decreased thyroxine and/or triiodothyronine levels, which create an increased level of thyroid stimulating hormone leading to thyroid hyperplasia/hypertrophy and clinical symptoms. One of the key questions to be addressed in this context is whether the oral or dermal absorption of resorcinol can generate systemic levels high enough to inhibit the TPO. This will be further discussed in plenary at RAC -77 (first week of June) (more information: [Violaine Verougstraete](#)).

ECHA OTHERS

ECHA Industry Associations: call on Friday 17th of April 2026

ECHA presented the regular updated statistics on REACH submissions: the total submission volumes are about 40% lower than the previous year, mainly as result of the decrease of CLP notifications which were unusually high last year. The ECHA CHEM team has informed the group that they will continue with setting up 'focus team meetings' to gather stakeholders' feedback on different topics involved in the website development: in particular, the next meeting will be launched to discuss Application Programming Interface (API) services (note: a questionnaire has been already shared with the Registration Compliance TF).

ECHA also reported on the campaign launched to check on the joint registrations' orphans of the lead registrant (LR) role and clarified that the LR role can be maintained even when ceasing manufacturing (when the LR will need to re-activate the registration for submitting updates). Overall, ECHA encouraged joint registrants being reached during their campaign to contact ECHA openly by submitting helpdesk tickets and explaining cases and timelines to ensure efficient dialogue and reducing the involvement of national enforcement authorities.

As follow up of the published [ECHA's annual follow-up compliance statistics 2025](#), ECHA shed their insights: the persistent pattern reports that many dossiers are only brought into compliance after national enforcement authorities become involved (27 %). However, the yearly statistics cannot be read as simple annual snapshots, since they reflect long processes that could easily run over several years: ca. 30% of cases tend to require enforcement involvement before they are resolved, and the time these cases spend under enforcement is increasing (such as delays linked to Contract Research Organisation (CROs) planning or inadequate re-submissions).

ECHA encouraged companies to provide explanatory updates in the dossier when delays occur, as this helps distinguish genuine cases from non-due diligence ones (more information: [Federica Iaccino](#))

IT Updates: IUCLID & REACH IT

IUCLID: The new IUCLID 6.10 and REACH IT versions were released live on Monday 27 April 2026. A webinar will follow on 12 May: <https://echa.europa.eu/fr/-/iuclid6-major-release-v10-april-2026>.

Furthermore, the ECHA IUCLID team is planning to run a series of **user experience interviews** with IUCLID users and asked for industry support: IUCLID users willing to dedicate time in providing practical feedback and participate in an ad hoc interview that ECHA will plan to ensure the best for future IUCLID improvements can indicate their support to ECHA by signing up at: [Participation in IUCLID UX interview – Fill in form](#).

REACH IT: the new REACH-IT version will contain usual adaptations to the new IUCLID version and the functionality to the microplastics reports. ECHA's business colleagues will update the supporting material for microplastics, to include how to update the SPM (synthetic micro plastics) reports, while working on some bug fixes and further minor improvements.

For the next development items, ECHA will start the adaptations of REACH-IT to the SME ex-ante verifications that will go live on 5 February 2027 and, in follow-up, the company size will make an SME status application in the Industry Portal, where the approved status will be considered for dossier submission and invoice in REACH IT (more information: [Federica Iaccino](#)).

EUROPEAN METALS CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

ZERO POLLUTION AMBITION

Call to participate in the revamped Zero Pollution Platform: EM submitted its candidature

The Zero Pollution Action Plan (ZPAP) adopted by the Commission in 2021 stressed the importance of engaging with stakeholders on its implementation and, in follow-up, the Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform was set up by DG ENV. Eurometals/European Metals participated in the high-level meetings. The mid-term review of the ZPAP highlighted the continued importance of the Platform in this work whilst recognising the need to update and further develop its functioning and membership. DG ENV has decided to update the terms of reference of the Platform, with particular focus on the contribution that the Zero Pollution ambition can make to the green and digital transformation. The tasks of the platform will be to assist the Commission by contributing in the identification and ways of addressing social, economic and cultural barriers to the transition towards Zero Pollution; developing a regular exchange of views, experiences and good practices between relevant stakeholders, and between stakeholders; assist in the promotion of Zero Pollution solutions and best practices in the context of key enablers such as implementation, investments and integration, innovation, digitalisation and skills, as well as the international cooperation. European Metals submitted its application to have a seat at the table and be able to monitor the developments (more information: [Violaine Verougstraete](#)).

INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS

Industrial Emissions Taskforce: next meeting

Next Industrial Emissions Taskforce meeting will take place on Thursday 21st of May 2026 from 9:30 to 13:00. During last IED Article 13 Forum, Commission presented the proposal for the Work Programme for the Exchange of the Information (BREF work programme) 2028-2029, including the review of the Non-Ferrous Metals Industries (NFM) BREF in 2029. The EU's non-ferrous metals industry is an energy-intensive sector with a significant contribution to overall emissions into air and water. A review can reflect an improvement in the environmental performance of the sector and support the permitting of new emerging techniques.

Hence, the meeting will focus on the discussion of the results of the internal NFM survey and how to organise the work for the next revision of NFM BREF (more information: [Andrea Pellini](#) or [Eleonora Tosi](#)).

Landfill BREF: draft questionnaire

On Friday 10th of April 2026, EU-BRITE sent the first draft of the questionnaire for the data collection phase of the LAN BREF. Technical Working Group (TWG) members are invited to provide any comments by 13 May 2026.

In this regard, European Metals is internally coordinating with the EM LAN BREF sub-group, and the draft questionnaire has already been presented during an ad-hoc meeting (23 April) within the sub-group.

The internal deadline to provide feedback to the EM Secretariat is Monday 4th of May 2026. Comments will be aggregated and the comprehensive overview will be sent to EU-BRITE by the above deadline (more information: [Andrea Pellini](#) or [Eleonora Tosi](#)).

Surface Treatment of Metals and Plastics (STM) BREF: *second workshop*

Regarding the STM, the second data assessment workshop took place from 24th to 26th of March. The aim of the workshop was to achieve a common understanding among the TWG of the submitted data gathered through the data collection phase. Issues on the most commented sections of the draft STM Best Available Technique (BAT) conclusions were clarified with the aim of unburdening the final TWG meeting. No decisions related to the content and structure of BAT conclusions has been made since these decisions can only be made at the final meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for the week 28/09-2/10/2026 (more information: [Andrea Pellini](#) or [Eleonora Tosi](#)).

ENV Omnibus: *advocacy underway*

Following the finalisation of the European Metals position paper on the ENV Omnibus, advocacy activities are now underway. First meetings with MEPs have started, with the objective of presenting our proposed amendments and discussing their relevance in the context of the ongoing legislative process.

In this context, on 21 April Andrea Pellini met with Martin Wiezik (Renew Europe), who showed strong interest in the amendments proposed by European Metals and in the underlying rationale presented in our position paper. Further details on the outreach activities and feedback will be shared in due course through dedicated communications to the Industrial Emissions Taskforce and the Water Taskforce (more information: [Andrea Pellini](#)).

WATER

EU tightening its water rules for PFAS

On 20 April 2026, Directive (EU) 2026/805 was published in the Official Journal, amending the Water Framework Directive, the Groundwater Directive and the Environmental Quality Standards Directive.

For PFAS, the directive broadens the EU Water Framework beyond PFAS alone and strengthens the treatment of PFAS in both groundwater and surface water. It notes that PFAS have been detected at more than 70% of groundwater measuring points in the EU and that existing national threshold values are exceeded at many locations.

In groundwater, the Directive introduces quality standards for the sum of 20 PFAS and for the sum of the four most problematic PFAS, the latter is set at 0.0044 µg/L. In surface water, it extends the regime to additional PFAS and includes Trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) within a sum of 25 PFAS. The text also highlights TFA because of its toxicity, persistence, prevalence and multiple sources, and signals possible future standards for both TFA and “PFAS Total” in groundwater and surface water.

The Directive enters into force on 10 May 2026 and must be transposed by Member States by 21 December 2027 (more information: [Diana Dobre](#)).

Publication of the Water Framework Directive in the Official Journal

Following its adoption by the co-legislators earlier this year, the revision of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) (EU) 2026/805 and two daughter directives (the Environmental Quality Standard Directive (EQSD) and the Groundwater (GWD) Directive) have now been published in the Official Journal of the European Union [here](#).

The Directives are expected to enter into force on 10 May 2026, and a consolidated version will follow soon.

Member States will have to implement the new legal requirements and transpose the amendments to the three Directives (the Water Framework Directive, the Environmental Quality Standards Directive and the Groundwater Directive) by the 22 December 2027 (more information: [Lara Van de Merckt](#)).

WFD targeted review CfE and special meeting of the SCG

As you know, following the REsourceEU and ENVI omnibus announcements, the EU Commission is preparing specific guidance looking at potential permitting bottlenecks due to the Water Framework Directive (planned for Q1), as well as a targeted review of the WFD to address some of the identified issues (planned for Q2). While the guidance is expected to be published around mid-May, a [call for evidence](#) (CfE) was open for one month (and closed on 14 April) to collect input from various stakeholders for the targeted review. A specific Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) meeting was held on 16 April, consisting of a closed session with the Member States' representatives and an open session in the afternoon. The EU Commission provided initial insights into the results of the CfE, which revealed that around 85 percent of responses were from 'EU citizens' (largely motivated by NGO groups). This was followed by business associations and NGOs, accounting for around 3 percent each. One of the

main arguments from the EC/NGOs was that industry did not provide enough examples to justify reopening the WFD. The possibility of providing examples with some confidentiality was raised, but this was dismissed by the EC and NGOs in the name of transparency, as the examples would be uploaded to CIRCA BC if shared after the CfE. The policy option of not reopening the WFD is under consideration. We invite you to join us in the Water Taskforce for the next steps (more information: [Lara Van de Merckt](#)).

Drinking Water Directive: Expert Group meeting

On 23 April, a meeting of the EU Commission Expert Group on the Drinking Water Directive (EGDW) was held. Of the agenda items, one in particular was of high interest to the sector: an overview of the implementation status of the revised Drinking Water Directive (and Article 11 relating to the new EU conformity system for products in contact with drinking water and the EU positive list). It was explained that up to 12 Member States are facing infringement cases related to non-conformity of their transposition plans for national implementation of the DWD. Most of these issues are minor and should be easily resolved; however, one Member State has not communicated at all and faces more serious consequences. This item sparked a lot of discussion, with several Member States and stakeholders raising concerns about the overall implementation of the recast Drinking Water Directive, the transitional period for products, the possibility of extending the deadline of transition time for starting compositions, the confusion surrounding the EU Commission's requirements, and the difficulties that the EU's positive list process poses for industrial operators. A sub-group of the EGDW prepared a guidance document ([here](#)) to help with the testing of final materials and the conformity assessment of products, which was discussed as a 'living document' that will be amended over time. A brief update was given on the EUPL process: the number of notifications of intention to apply to the EUPLs now stands at 33, which was described as manageable. However, it was pointed out by participants that this figure is an underestimation, as there are no obligations to notify one year before applying (although it is recommended to do so sufficiently in advance), and several operators are still assessing how to apply and when. More information on the EUPL process will be available at next week's RAC DWD meeting (more information: [Lara Van de Merckt](#)).

TOOLS

Bioelution: paper tracing history of the protocol published!

After the development of an international, standardised protocol for the determination of the relative metal release in gastric juice was blocked at OECD and EU level by a couple of EU Member States, UK and Canada; ECVAM and industry continued to work on peer-reviewed publications to further increase the robustness of the protocol posted on [TSAR](#) but also make the best of the work consented over the last decade.

[Oller et al. 2025](#) examined the effect of particle size and surface area on metal releases and identified recommendations for sample selection and testing alloy samples when using the gastric fluid protocol.

A second publication summarising the history and developments of the protocol has just been accepted in *ALTEX* ([doi:10.14573/altex.2512181](#))! Special congrats to our absolute metal release champion Adriana and to our ECVAM colleagues (more information: [Violaine Verougstraete](#))

MEED

MEED: Eco-Relevance/Aquadivers – meeting outcomes

On 1 April 2026, representatives from Nyrstar, Umicore, UGent, ARCHE and European Metals met to review the outcomes of the Eco-Relevance/Aquadivers project, carried out as part of MEED. In brief, the discussion confirmed that, despite increased metal concentrations and combined metal pressure, eDNA metabarcoding showed little to no observable impact on biodiversity. The methodology was considered robust, particularly for water assessments, while further refinement is still needed for sediments and seasonal variability.

As next steps, the results will be presented at the MEED sponsors meeting on 30 April and at the forthcoming SETAC conference (17-21 May in Maastricht) (more information: [Diana Dobre](#)).

MEED: sponsors meeting on 30 April

The MEED sponsors met on 30 April to take stock of the progress made with metal–organic mixtures studies, the Aquadivers project but also on the review of the existing mesocosm studies and the proposed timeline. This was followed by a status update on the MEED publication and SETAC activities and the MEED budget.

Participants were invited to brainstorm also on the MEED implementation and outreach, i.e., how to best communicate and promote the MEED outcomes across different audiences and regulatory contexts (more information: [Diana Dobre](#))

THE SUSTAINABILITY CORNER

Revision of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive

Following the [evaluation](#) of the current WEEE Directive, the European Commission is now working on a revision of the text as part of the upcoming Circular Economy Act. Of note, the evaluation underlined that rates for the collection of e-waste and for the recovery of critical raw materials in the EU remain low and that recycling facilities across Member States have been applying treatment requirements inconsistently.

In this context, as European Metals, we have developed a [number of recommendations](#) to inform the European Commission's work on the revision of the WEEE Directive.

As European Metals, we support the objectives of the WEEE Directive revision to facilitate higher collection rates, more efficient treatment standards, and increased recovery and recycling of valuable materials. To ensure these objectives are achieved, we recommend the following:

- **Harmonised treatment standards** – Diverging and often suboptimal treatment standards across Member States translates into significant legal uncertainty for companies across the metals value-chain and material loss. To prevent this, certification against the existing core CENELEC EN 50625 series standards on collection, logistics, and treatment of e-waste should be made mandatory.
- **WEEE Collection rates** – The revised text must incentivise the expansion and improvement of collection infrastructure across Member States and revise current collection methodologies to ensure an accurate reporting on the amount of end-of-life WEEE reaching the waste stream.
- **Recovery of CRMs and other valuable materials** – Product design rules for electrical and electronic equipment should incorporate considerations on the recovery of valuable materials, such as dismantling and removability requirements. However, overall recycled content criteria for non-ferrous metals should be avoided and only considered for specific segments (e.g., REEs in permanent magnets).
- **Recycling as a value-based industry** – Recycling must be understood as a value-driven activity. Recycling of certain materials over others is prioritised based on their value. The focus on CRMs should not penalise well-established recycling business models.

Next Steps: We have submitted European Metals' position to DG ENV, in view of future advocacy activities on the revision of the WEEE Directive over the next months. The revised proposal is to be published in Q3 2026 (more information: [Laura Fazio Bellacchio](#) and [Enrico Macciotta](#)).

OUTREACH

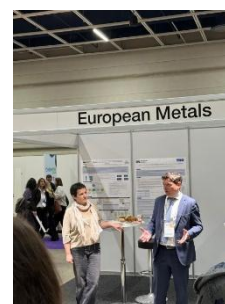
OTHERS

Helsinki Chemicals Forum: *participating in a panel and having a booth with Finnish sweets*

James Watson participated in the first panel of the Helsinki Chemicals Forum on the topic: "Aligning Battery & Recycling Regulations to Maximise the Reuse of Critical Materials". He highlighted among others the need to have a value chain approach to develop the batteries sector in Europe and the need for urgent measures to finance and speed up permitting for projects. He mentioned that whilst the Batteries Regulation is a blueprint for future products regulation with a welcomed value chain approach, we should avoid regulatory actions focusing on hazard only, to address risks where relevant. He stressed the importance of an effective EU Single Market for Waste, by improving the flow of Critical Raw Materials (CRM) waste across the EU, making a plea to reduce the complexity of the regulatory framework.

Ilka Dalwigk (Recharge) also provided great contributions to the panel debate.

To note: European Metals also had an exhibition booth, which allowed to interact with the participants of the Forum on the two posters that were displayed, i.e. on the MEED program (generic aspects) and on the outcomes of the TNO study (more information: [James Watson](#), [Martina Bassan](#), [Violaine Verougstraete](#)).



Enhesa Regulatory Summit: *REACH and RMOA*

EPMF and European Metals were invited to present their thoughts on the REACH revision and the RMOA tool during Enhesa's Regulatory Summit Europe. EPMF presented the key recommendations of the sector regarding information requirements, information gathering for risk management, proportionality, enforceability and risk management and what may come through (or not) via co-decision or comitology, but also the drawbacks of no revision.

The session on the RMOA was an opportunity to exchange views with other panelists, including RIVM, ClientEarth and other industry sectors. The authorities stated, supported by examples, that the RMOA tool is a valuable instrument, and that while it requires clear rules for consistency reasons, it should also allow some flexibility to remain a lean instrument. Transparency, predictability and data collection are crucial aspects to ensure.

The work done by eftec in 2025 (mapping, overarching principles), presented by European Metals & Apeiron, provides some important features to unlock the further potential of the RMOA tool (going beyond REACH). Having an updated RMOA guidance would facilitate its acceptance and increase its use (more information: France Capon, [Sophia Verbrugghe](#) and [Violaine Verougstraete](#)).

Norilsk: plant visit

European Metals had the opportunity to visit [Nornickel Harjavalta](#) on 14 April. Site visits are extremely helpful for the staff to better understand -in practice- the issues that the companies are faced with, ranging from market realities to the explanation *in real* of production processes and risk management measures.

Thanks a lot for the warm welcome and the open discussions with Joni Hautojärvi, Juha Parkkinen, Irina Kachelina, and Monika Kuusela, who even arranged for wonderful weather to accompany the visit (more information: [Violaine Verougstraete](#)).



ECFIA: annual meeting

European Metals participated in the ECFIA Annual Meeting which took place on 15 May. We presented on the state of play of the REACH revision at that point in time and on the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) and its implications for industrial users of packaging. The exchange provided a useful opportunity to discuss cross-sectoral perspectives on regulatory uncertainty and coherence, and to highlight issues of common interest across materials and downstream industries (more information: [Sophia Verbrugghe](#)).

FRDO: REACH meeting

European Metals contributed to the work of the Belgian Federal Council for Sustainable Development (FRDO) in the context of its advice prepared at the request of Minister Crucke on the challenges related to the possible revision of REACH and the transition towards safe and sustainable chemicals. The advice, discussed within the FRDO and to be delivered to the Minister in the coming weeks, reflects the diversity of views that exist across stakeholders, highlighting areas of convergence such as enforcement, predictability and information needs, as well as areas of divergence, including the treatment of mixture effects, polymers and the role of hazard-based approaches. The exercise provided a useful platform to bring an industrial perspective into the Belgian policy debate and to underline the importance of proportionality and coherence in future chemicals policy discussions (more information: [Sophia Verbrugghe](#)).

CEWEP WG Residues meeting: discussion on classification of waste

CEWEP kindly invited European Metals to present in their policy session on 23 April. The presentation and discussion focused primarily on the consequences of the environmental classification of metals on waste, and how to classify complex waste-containing metals like bottom ash. The interface waste/chemicals still requires some further work and interaction, starting at policy level, if we truly want to cover the full lifecycle of our materials. It was agreed to have more regular exchanges between the two associations, also in view of the circularity discussions and uncertainty on the List of Waste (more information: [Violaine Verougstraete](#)).

COMMUNICATION

In Memoriam: Staf Laget



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Staf Laget, who lost his courageous battle on the 16th of April.

Staf was a metallurgist by training and by passion, but also an exceptional weaver. He weaved not only wool, but also the links between people.

Retired from industry, he strongly believed in the importance of transmitting the knowledge of the elders to the younger generation and was thus one of the initiators of our Metals Academy.

He was our wise man, and a great man, and we will do our best to continue to transmit some of his knowledge in this year's edition of the Metals Academy.

He will be sorely missed by the other members of the Organising Committee and all those who know him.

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](#)

- 04-07/05: Metals Academy 5
- 05-06/05: RAC-77 DWD WG
- 05-06/05: INCITE PFAS Workshop
- 07/05: Joint Association Meeting (JAM)
- 07-08/05: RAC-77 AfA WG
- 17-21/05: SETAC Europe 36th Annual Meeting (Maastricht)
- 18/05: REACH 2.0 Advocacy Project Group
- 19/05: Industrial Emissions Alliance Plenary
- 21/05: Industrial Emissions Taskforce
- 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
- 16-17/06: ECHA ED workshop (virtual)
- 17/06: 5th Symposium on Materials and Products in Contact with Drinking Water (Registration closed)
- 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

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).
