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"Life is like metal – you forge your own path."

Antares

EUROPEAN METALS CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT NEWS

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Dear All,

The current regulatory landscape demands a quick processing of significant amounts of information but also quite some agility, both in thought and action. Understanding, anticipating, reacting, advocating require today thinking flexibly and being able to pivot under changing circumstances.

Paradoxically, we now see -more often- thought patterns popping up in debates, that prevent some from seeing alternative possibilities even when there is a general agreement that the evolving conditions require new approaches. This concerns all types of audiences, and my hypothesis is that the accentuation of this occurrence is related to the overall high pressure and the overloaded agendas.

Sticking to usual, time-tested strategies and/or bringing in personal assumptions fed by routine can help us to respond quickly, but clearly such pathways, if overused, may generate default modes of thinking and result in resistance to adaptation.

“Cognitive rigidity” refers to the tendency to think about the world in a narrow and fixed way, with little tolerance for uncertainty or change. It is a psychological trait to which we all succumb in varying degrees. Signs that reveal their presence in a debate include, for example, the immediate rejection of any dissonant information without examining it, the personalisation of disagreement with a blurring of emotional and intellectual boundaries, and finally, the prescriptive and 'moral' nature of the used reasonings. I am certain you have all been confronted with this, at least once.

Neuroscientists like L. Zmigrod, explain that our era glorifies repetition and conformity. Social media, and the entire culture of personal development—which prescribes ideal routines, habits to follow, and standardised lifestyles—provides reassurance but also reduces our tolerance for uncertainty. Algorithms accentuate this phenomenon and rigidify our mental well-being. Also, it is fair to stress that our society largely valorises ‘strong personalities, who do not change their minds’.*

The idea here is not to blame ourselves but to remain aware about these mechanisms, overruling them to be able to reposition ourselves on the scale of cognitive agility/rigidity. We can “break free”! Classical tricks include approaching problems as “hypotheses to be tested rather than as challenges to be conquered”, seeking out dissenting voices to foster our creativity, trying continuously to distinguish between what one believes and how one believes it, mindfulness, identifying the habits that render us more confident but also less curious ... and practice daily small, controlled micro-disruptions!

I admit I love the latter recommendation and observe it diligently. I justify this by saying that life would be boring otherwise, but deep inside, I know this is vital to prevent my mind from lazily settling into a comfort(able) zone.

Did you know that the idea of the comfort zone goes back to an experiment in psychology dating from the early XXth century which hinted at the fact that to maximise performance, we need a state of relative anxiety—a space where our stress levels are slightly higher than normal.

Slightly!

*I have a wonderful team, composed of a mix of caring personalities not hesitating to perform the required feats to deliver the service expected from (and committed by) the association. They also comprehend me quite well and know that this busy time of the year inevitably (or weirdly? **) triggers my reflection on how the team can further grow, what could be next steps for all of them, including regarding our (intellectual) agility. They realise that this may translate into odd (or far-fetched) proposals intended to micro-disrupt (in a controlled way 😊) or explore the (reasonable 😊) stretch zone. Proposals they will either smile at, shoot at or bring back on track over summer! This busy time of the year is also the moment to acknowledge the powerful antidote you are for cognitive inflexibility!*

*Thanks****

Violaine Verougstraete

*** *: Leor Zmigrod, Le Cerveau Idéologique, Flammarion*

*** *: an effect of the Helsinki daylight?*

****: see you for a team building day..in... to do...*

EU AGENCIES

EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA)

ECHA COMMITTEES

RAC-77: DWD Working Group

The 11th meeting of the Committee for Risk Assessment Drinking Water Directive Working Group (RAC DWD WG) was held in person from 5 to 6 May 2026. The discussions focused on optimising the group's future efficiency by introducing an "A-listing" fast-track process for straightforward cases. ECHA announced several updates to the ECHA guidance documents, which were shared for review, and presented the updated list of notifications of intentions to apply to the EU positive lists. The group received hands-on training in navigating IUCLID dossiers and previewed a new, macro-free checklist and template selection tool designed to streamline future opinions.

The meeting then focused on presenting the RAC draft opinion mock dossier for metallic composition 1, which sparked debates over surface roughness testing standards, laboratory accreditation rules, and the strict analytical detection limits required to identify relevant constituents and impurities, such as lead. The group was also presented with a second mock dossier for a metallic composition.

The session concluded with the adoption of the working group reports and a timeline for submitting written comments on the guidance updates and the RAC draft opinion (more information: [Lara Van de Merckt](#)).

ECHA OTHERS

Informal call with ECHA on the copper OEL: clarifying and streamlining during the call for evidence

ECHA has been tasked by the European Commission to evaluate exposure to copper and its inorganic compounds and to assess the option of an airborne Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL), other limit values (STEL/ BLV/ BGV) and notations. To support the preparation of the scientific report that will be discussed by RAC, ECHA has launched a Call for Evidence (CfE) (deadline 1 July 2026) that aims to collect new and existing scientific information on uses, exposure, health effects, toxicology, epidemiology and modes of action. European Metals has asked whether an informal exchange could take place with the ECHA OEL team before the deadline, to present the work the copper industry has been doing for more than a decade on the OEL and to clarify what to submit in the CfE. Such informal calls have also been organised previously for other metals and have demonstrated to be helpful. During the call, on 21 May, after ECHA explained the OEL process and its involvement, the copper experts shared information on uses and exposure (including speciation) and provided an overview of the health effects/endpoint of concerns, highlighting the supporting data. ECHA will now work on the draft scientific report that should go for a 60-day Public Consultation in Q4. Notes of the call have been prepared and shared with ECHA (more information: Yamini Gopalapillai, Wendy Wellens, Craig Poland and [Violaine Verougstraete](#)).

ECHA Stakeholder Workshop on Endocrine Disruptors for Human Health and the Environment: preparations

ECHA is organising an online workshop on the new hazard classes for Endocrine Disruptors (ED) on 16 and 17 June. It will include presentations by EFSA, by wca & RSA as contractors who will present the key outcomes of the three previous capacity-building workshops held by ECHA on this topic for authorities and by the ECHA CLP guidance update team who will present the Weight of Evidence (WoE) approach in ED assessment, including types of information required for classifying substances under the different ED categories.

Several industry sectors have been invited to share their views on various aspects of ED assessment under the new CLP hazard classes.

As the industry presentations had to be sent one month in advance, the first two weeks of May have been devoted to preparing a generic metals presentation on the key metal characteristics that influence the ED assessment for CLP and the applicability of the current ECHA guidance as well as on grouping approaches. Kevin Brix (EcoTox LLC) and Violaine Verougstraete (European Metals) will present. Please note that ICA also has a slot on 'Novel research studies and a robust WoE assessment for establishing mode of action and facilitating appropriate classification'. A report of the workshop will be shared with the Environment and Human Health Taskforces (more information: [Violaine Verougstraete](#)).

ECHA Industry associations: call and meeting in May

On Friday 22 May, EM attended the regular ECHA-industry meeting. During this meeting, ECHA did not share the usual Registration statistics overview, because their internal data analysis system has switched from a monthly to a quarterly reporting, forcing them to investigate alternatives to continue providing registration trend information.

From July onwards, ECHA will disseminate the names of the companies that have submitted CLP notifications. If notifiers wish to keep the company name confidential, they will need to make a request before 30th of June 2026. Currently, bulk confidentiality claims are not possible, but ECHA understands the impact this is having and is working on possible adjustments on timing and implementation feasibility.

The future transition from the Public Activities Coordination Tool (PACT) tool to the ECHA CHEM was also discussed, including concerns about reduced visibility of regulatory activities and difficulties for industry in screening substances across processes. The updated IUCLID version 6.10 released on 27 April has received mainly positive feedback, particularly regarding improved Chemical Safety Report (CSR) formatting and system usability. ECHA is now working on the development of OHT (OECD Harmonised Template) for ED assessment summaries, targeting consultation and implementation by April 2027.

Cefic presented updates on study notification obligations under the One Substance, One Assessment (OSOA) framework and the future Common Data Platform and introduced some of industry concerns on the broad scope of the legislation, and the related implementation challenges.

ECHA updated the group on the ongoing campaign targeting the Joint Submitters (JSs) lacking a valid Lead Registrant (LR) and reported that about 35% of companies have addressed the lead registrant updates, urging those facing difficulties to contact the Helpdesk proactively (more information: [Federica Iaccino](#)).

EUROPEAN METALS CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

REACH

REACH 2.0 Advocacy Project Group: *REACH Revision*

During the 18 May Project Group meeting, members exchanged views on the implications of a revision limited to comitology, noting that while we now have clarity that the legal text will not be revised, uncertainties remain regarding the process, the scope of possible annex updates, and the extent to which substantive changes could still be introduced through technical measures. In this context, discussions on risk management, information requirements on low-volume substances, endocrine disruptors and the mixture assessment factor (MAF) are likely to continue, and these ideas can still be introduced through technical adaptations or other initiatives.

To respond effectively, the Group agreed to gather intelligence on the Commission's next steps, including through direct contacts and ahead of the July CARACAL meeting, while closely monitoring the positions of Member States and other stakeholders. In parallel, work will focus on further refining positions on priority topics, exploring possible improvements via annexes and guidance, and assessing where targeted engagement including with ECHA can most effectively support simplification, proportionality and predictability in practice (more information: [Sophia Verbrugghe](#)).

INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS

Industrial Emissions Taskforce: *meeting*

On Thursday 21 May, the Taskforce meeting was held in hybrid format. Representatives from INCITE attended the meeting and delivered a presentation explaining the role of INCITE and announcing the publication of the first technical report on innovative techniques, it will focus on Iron and Steel and Production of Cement, Lime and Magnesium Oxide (CLM) sectors. The sectoral workshop for the NFM BREF is expected to take place in 2027 (TBC). The second part of the meeting was focused on the preparation of NFM BREF revisions. A presentation was delivered by the Secretariat to show the result of the survey on the NFM BREF requirement implementation and to start preparing the early frontloading work in view of the revision. This work will be managed through the Taskforce.

Next steps:

- The Secretariat will share a timeline outlining the next milestones leading to the start of the revision;
- The Secretariat will share a template to collect information regarding the split views and the recommendation for future work presented in the NFM BREF;
- The Secretariat will improve the survey based on the feedback received during the meeting.

(more information, please contact [Andrea Pellini](#) or [Eleonora Tosi](#)).

BREFs update

Landfills BREF

On 10 April, the first draft questionnaire (Qr1) of the LAN BREF was published on the BEST platform. The commenting period remained open until 29 May. The European Metals Secretariat circulated an Excel file within the EM LAN BREF subgroup to collect feedback, which was uploaded on the BEST platform on 29 May.

Next step: 31 July 2026 – Deadline for submitting feedback on the chapter “Techniques to Consider in the Determination of BAT and ET”, using the template available on BATIS.

(more information, please contact [Andrea Pellini](#) or [Eleonora Tosi](#)).

Production of Batteries in Giga-factories (PBG) BREF

On 8 May 2026, the Background Paper for the PBG BREF was published. The kick-off meeting will take place in Seville from 15 to 17 June and will be held in hybrid format. European Metals Secretariat will follow the meeting remotely.

Next step: The Secretariat will provide the minutes of the Kick-off meeting in due time.

(more information: [Andrea Pellini](#) and [Eleonora Tosi](#)).

ENV Omnibus: advocacy

Advocacy efforts by European Metals have continued over the past weeks. Additional meetings with policymakers have taken place, further presenting and discussing our proposed amendments. In particular, exchanges were held with the Accredited Parliament Assistant (APA) of MEP Peter Liese (EPP), Karin Kämmerling, as well as with MEP Radan Kanev (EPP), all of whom showed interest in different aspects of the file.

European Metals will continue its outreach activities in the coming weeks to ensure that the sector’s priorities are duly reflected in the ongoing legislative discussions (more information: [Andrea Pellini](#)).

WATER

Strategic Coordination Group: *multi-faceted meeting*

On 21 May 2026, the Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) for the Common Implementation Strategy held a meeting to address key regulatory updates, implementation strategies, and streamlining initiatives across EU water policy. At the beginning of the meeting, it was emphasised that the targeted review of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) would not be discussed, as it had already been addressed on 16 April. The EU Commission also announced that the guidance on permitting bottlenecks would be adopted and published the next day.

The EU Commission presented the status of the Environment Omnibus Package, which aims to boost competitiveness and generate substantial administrative savings through regulatory simplification and accelerated environmental assessment procedures. During the discussion on simplifications, the Member States expressed significant concerns about potential changes in the upcoming grid package proposal that would grant more exemptions, and about how sectorial approaches might impact protections under the WFD.

The group also discussed the transposition and implementation of the recast WFD, mapping out upcoming implementing and delegated acts, as well as new tasks for the working groups. These groups face resource constraints, especially from the EU Commission, requiring them to prioritise deliverables.

Additionally, updates and clarifications were provided on preparations for the fourth River Basin Management Plans reporting cycle, notably the transition of river basin-specific pollutants from ecological to chemical status, as well as progress on the Water Resilience Strategy, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive revision, and ongoing bilateral structured water dialogues with Member States (more information: [Lara Van de Merckt](#)).

Water: update

The revised Water Framework Directive (([EU](#)) 2026/805) entered into force on 11 May 2026. Member States have until 22 December 2027 to transpose it into national law.

On Friday 22nd of May, the [Guidance to strengthen Europe's resilience by clarifying the application of EU water laws](#) was published (more information: [Lara Van de Merckt](#)).

SOIL

EUSO/EEA Technical Workshop: *on setting OTVs/STVs for metals in soils*

On 20 May 2026, the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the Joint Research Centre's EU Soil Observatory (EUSO) hosted a technical workshop focused on the scientific knowledge required to implement the EU Soil Monitoring Law (SML). The morning session was dedicated to metal soil contamination and setting sustainable

target values (STVs) and operational trigger values (OTVs). It began with a presentation on the policy context and methodological approach by DG ENV, followed by an overview of the scientific basis for threshold options by the JRC and EEA.

In addition to a presentation on [the Soil Threshold Calculator](#) by ARCHE/EM, the case study dedicated item featured valuable insights and reflections from the perspective of managing contaminated sites (from the Common Forum), as well as national experiences from experts representing Germany, Austria, and Italy. The afternoon session shifted the focus to soil erosion and was not followed by EM. The insights and tools collected during these sessions will inform the European Commission's forthcoming guidance on implementing the monitoring framework. This guidance must be finalised by June 2027 (more information: Koen Oorts and [Lara Van de Merckt](#)).

BATTERIES

WSP Batteries: validation phase

Following the conclusions of the ECaBaM 4 workshop held in March and the sharing of the short lists of potential Substances of Concern (SoCs) and Substances Hampering Recycling (SHRs), ECHA and its consultant WSP have moved to the next step of the process with the launch of a data validation phase.

WSP had contacted selected stakeholders across the value chain, including some ECaBaM participants, to request feedback on the data underpinning the identification and assessment of SoCs and SHRs. Stakeholders were asked to review the draft data and validate whether it reflected their knowledge and experience of the market. The validation exercise was structured around five main sections:

1. Concentrations and technical uses of identified substances of concern
2. Substances hampering recycling
3. Identification of alternatives
4. Market overview of substances of concern
5. Emissions estimates

A call was held on 8 May. While some of the underlying data were considered robust, WSP acknowledged from the start that significant uncertainties remained in other areas, and stakeholder input was seen as essential to refine the analysis before finalisation of the report. The limitations in the collected data were also highlighted by the validation group.

Stakeholders were invited to provide further input by 25 May, after which WSP will proceed with consolidating the input received and finalising the report to be submitted to ECHA.

In parallel, European Metals has prepared comments of a general nature, focusing in particular on horizontal aspects of the report and the overall data collection and validation approach, including methodological considerations. These comments will complement any substance-specific input provided by members (more information: [Andrea Pellini](#)).

TOOLS

iUVCB Platform: meeting 20 May 2026

In May, the Platform gathered to exchange and address some specific topics.

The Endocrine Disruptor (ED) assessment reporting in IUCLID dossiers was discussed, agreeing that there is no need to harmonise the rationales for 'non-ED conclusions', with each consortium choosing the most relevant statement, while the MeClas team will request ED conclusions from data owners in June, to include the first ED updates in summer in the MeClas database.

ARCHE, EBRC, and European Metals have shared a draft paper detailing the iUVCB risk assessment strategy and reporting developed under the EU REACH framework, which should be submitted soon for publication. Concawe and ETAP are also advancing UVCB-related papers, with EM following the developments to ensure the iUVCB assessment is referenced and avoid possible inconsistencies.

Discussions are planned with ECHA, who has asked EM to organise a training for new ECHA experts to illustrate iUVCB assessment and reporting. The available iUVCB training materials will be re-shared with the REACH Consortia soon and supplemented with a checklist to support applicability to other iUVCBs.

The Platform further explored the use of generic exposure assessments based on existing site-specific data. A tiered maintenance approach for iUVCB dossiers was also agreed, combining annual horizontal tools updates prepared by the Platform, with substance-specific IUCLID updates consortia will work on.

Finally, EM reported on ongoing exchanges with ECHA, DG GROW, and DG ENV to avoid iUVCBs from being automatically assigned to metals groupings, inheriting their harmonised classification, and to ensure recognition

of the applied CLP mixture rules aligned with More than one Constituent (MoC) requirements (more information: [Federica Iaccino](#) and [Violaine Verougstraete](#)).

MEED

MEED: attending SETAC for the 5th time

MEED marked its fifth consecutive year of presenting abstracts at SETAC 2026 during this year's annual meeting in Maastricht, the Netherlands (17–21 May). Several MEED posters were showcased, including work on the ecotoxicity of environmentally realistic metal-organic mixtures in freshwater algae (*Raphidocelis subcapitata*), as well as highlighting the finalisation of key MEED results and conclusions.

All posters and presentations from this year's session will be made available shortly on the Reach Metals Gateway: [MEED \(Metals Environment Exposure Data\) program - REACH Metals Gateway](#)

MEED Sponsors are also invited to contribute to the development of an outreach and communication strategy aimed at engaging external stakeholders and increasing the visibility of MEED activities. Those interested in participating are encouraged to contact [Diana Dobre](#).

THE SUSTAINABILITY CORNER

EU Critical Raw Materials Centre

Introduction

As announced in the RESourceEU Action Plan and the 2026 Commission Work Programme, the European Commission will present, in Q4 2026, a legislative proposal to establish an EU Critical Raw Materials Centre.

The initiative aims to strengthen Europe's resilience and improve coordination across the critical raw materials value chain. In this context, the European Commission has launched a Call for Evidence and a Public Consultation to gather stakeholder feedback until 29 July 2026.

More Details

The initiative seeks to address four main challenges:

1. Unfavourable risk-reward profile of CRM projects in Europe and partner countries - How can sufficient funding be mobilised to compete with countries such as Japan, the United States, and China, who can react quickly through feedstock sourcing and equity investments?
2. Insufficient market power of European CRM buyers - Building on the demand aggregation and matchmaking platform, the Commission will assess whether the current legislative framework is sufficient to rebalance the market power of European CRM buyers and address global market inefficiencies.
3. Limited capacity to manage supply disruptions - Stockpiling can play an essential role in minimising the adverse impact of supply disruptions and reducing vulnerability to geopolitical pressure. However, it must be pragmatically designed to take into account the specificities of each material.
4. Limited access to strategic market intelligence for the EU and Member State governments

Next Steps

At European Metals, we will prepare our response to the Call for Evidence and the Public Consultation, while continuing to engage closely with policymakers to ensure this key initiative delivers concrete support for our industry (more information: [Laura Fazio Bellacchio](#)).

LCA Discussion Platform: launch as a flexible forum

Following strong interest from members, an LCA Discussion Platform will be launched as a flexible forum dedicated to exchanging on broader lifecycle assessment developments beyond the scope of the PEF Taskforce (under the Sustainability Committee). The platform is intended to bridge discussions between international and European activities, providing a space for members to share updates, raise challenges and stay connected on topics that fall outside more formal workstreams. It will operate as a member-driven forum, with up to three meetings being organised per year based on input to ensure relevance and added value. Members of the Chemicals Management Committee are warmly invited to participate in these discussions. (more information: [Sophia Verbrugghe](#) and [Laura Fazio Bellacchio](#)).

OUTREACH

OTHERS

INCITE PFAS Workshop: organised by JRC and well-attended

European Metals participated online in the INCITE PFAS workshop held this month at the JRC in Seville, which gathered over 460 stakeholders from across industry, research, authorities and NGOs. The workshop showcased emerging technologies for the removal of PFAS from water, as well as solutions to prevent PFAS contamination in aqueous systems. Most of the technologies presented were at an early stage of development (from TRL 4) and were therefore considered primarily as informative inputs rather than ready-to-deploy solutions.

The event provided a valuable overview of ongoing innovation and highlighted both the challenges and opportunities linked to PFAS management (more information: [Andrea Pellini](#)).

SETAC: 36th edition in Maastricht

The SETAC Europe conference was held in beautiful Maastricht this year. It was an opportunity to connect with a vibrant mix of policymakers, members, key stakeholders, and researchers from the ecotoxicology community. It was an occasion to showcase the MEED project's outcome and MEED key studies and outcomes were presented throughout the week. The thematic sessions and posters at SETAC varied widely, but the significant use and promotion of eDNA approaches in multiple studies tracking the impact of chemicals on biodiversity was worth noting.

It was also an opportunity to attend the Metal Interest Group, where we presented updates to the Water Framework Directive and connected with the metal community. A few other sessions caught our attention, such as the one on potential "cap-and-trade" market incentives for hazardous chemicals. Once again, it was great in all ways, from early morning to late evening. Looking forward to the next one! (more information: [Lara Van de Merckt](#)).

EUMBC Conference: what did we learn on bioelution?

European Metals was invited by EUPC to participate in their plastics masterbatch and compounder group General Assembly. They are considering a project looking at the encapsulation of plastic additives in the plastics matrix and were keen to hear more about the outcomes of the 'bioelution' project regarding alloys compliance, about the limits and boundaries of the metal release approach, and how the discussions with the EU Member States went. European Metals prepared a presentation recapping the technical and policy processes but focusing on the main learnings. The content of this presentation mirrors an important part of the recent publication by Oller et al. 2026 available [here](#) (more information: [Violaine Verougstraete](#)).

BAMI: annual Conference on metals as a strategic resource for resilience and industrial leadership

European Metals was invited to attend the annual conference of the Bulgarian Association of the Metallurgical Industry (BAMI) around the theme: Metals as a strategic resource for independence and industrial leadership of the EU-Bulgaria's contribution to sustainable growth. The very well organised conference was the opportunity to hear from MEPs *Tsvetelina Penkova (EP)*, Radan Kanev and Ilhan Kyuchyuk talking about energy and industry, competitiveness and industrial Acceleration and Omnibuses but also to meet representatives from the Bulgarian industry and the Trade Unions discussing Bulgaria's industrial growth. A big thanks to BAMI for this opportunity. (more information: [James Watson](#) and [Violaine Verougstraete](#)).

Invitation to participate in a meeting of VITO's Scientific Advisory Council

The Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO) has a well-established "Scientific Advisory Council" (SAC) that advises its Board of Directors about future research strategies. The SAC consists of 4 permanent core members, and the core team is reinforced by international topical experts on specific topics. European Metals was invited to participate in the SAC meeting devoted to VITO's activities in the field of Health, with a focus on Health Systems. More specifically, very interesting projects were presented around respiratory health like human-relevant new approach methodologies (NAMs), AI-driven human digital twins for preventive and personalised medicine and VITO's Personalised Exposure & Health (PEH) Data Platform. The latter had been presented by Stijn Baken (VITO) during the Spring Science Forum. Experts were invited to make recommendations on the projects after identifying strengths / opportunities, weaknesses / gaps / blind spots and critical assumptions or risks. A very interesting multi-disciplinary exercise, mixing backgrounds and horizons but targeting the same objective: better health services in an increasingly complex, ageing, geopolitically instable world with a focus on prevention (more information: [Violaine Verougstraete](#)).

COMMUNICATION

Metals Academy 5: a great success

Beginning of May, we held our 5th edition of the Metals Academy; which once again proved to be a success; thanks to the 30 participants' enthusiasm & curiosity and the quality of all the speakers who generously shared their knowledge, with a programme which covered a variety of topics.

We kicked off with the Organising Committee giving Staf Laget's presentation "Introduction to Metals", a much-needed staple of the Metals Academy. This was followed by "Basics in Metallurgy" by Joris Kenis (Aurubis) and an "Introduction to the Transition Pathway for Metals" by our Simon Cook.

The 2nd day, we focused on "The Metals Age" and "Metals as enablers" and discussed sustainable and responsible management goals; followed by 2 "Reserve & Resource Management" sessions animated first by Eric Pirard (Liège University), and then by Markus A. Reuter (EvalHalcor); the former focused on our resources, the latter on recycling.

Day 3 was about what can the metals sector do when it comes to decarbonisation/defossilisation with practical cases presented by Wim Van der Stricht from a metals producer company (Arcelor Mittal), Dirk Vandenberghe from a metals recycling company (Aurubis) & Ottomar Brussee from a metals mining company (Boliden); followed by "Emerging technologies" "The Power of Understanding - defossilisation vs. decarbonization" animated by Jan Mertens (Engie).

We also invited (Robert J. Weibel (Cenad) as keynote speaker to give a (passionate) talk on "Business meets Diplomacy"

On both these days, participants – in smaller groups – followed 2 out of the 3 proposed Modules, on the key elements of chemicals management, marketing & communication.

On the 4th and last day, we addressed "The Metals Age, also tomorrow" addressing society's ethical expectations and having at hand the appropriate skills and participants developed a business case.

All this, with the evening activities & games, the networking possibilities, and the warm hospitality of the ChâteauForm La Ramée, made this 5th Academy really interesting & very nice.

A satisfaction survey was sent out to the participants and the Organising Committee will hold a follow-up meeting in June (more information: [LinkedIn](#), [Ailsa Lee](#) and [Violaine Verougstraete](#)).



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).

- 01-05/06: RAC-77 Plenary
- **09-11/06:** 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 \(Reg. closed\)](#)
- **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
- 02-03/07: RAC-78 AfA WG
- 07-11/09: RAC-78 Plenary
- 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
- **17-20/11:** SEAC-73
- **24-25/11:** SEAC-73
- 30/11-04/12: RAC-79 Plenary
- 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](#)

Solution: Investigation at ECHA: The REACH Affair

THE AI C O N C L U D E D T H A T T H E D I V E R G E N T
P O S I T I O N S C O U L D N O T B E S O L V E D A N D
H E N C E T A S K E D A L L T H E P A R T I C I P A N T S T O
M A K E T H E P R O P O S A L D I S A P P E A R B Y
E A T I N G T H E D O C U M E N T