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**“The hardest metal yields to sufficient heat.  
Even so must the hardest heart melt before sufficiency of  
the heat of non-violence. And there is no limit to the  
capacity of non-violence to generate heat.”**

***Mahatma Ghandi***

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## **EUROPEAN METALS CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT NEWS**

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Dear All,

*In this unstable world, considering the impacts of all the changes we have initiated over the last decades—ecological, social, numerical- it is more than opportune to think, at all levels, about a shift in the models we tend to apply. Olivier Hamant<sup>1</sup> uses an analogy with ‘The Truman Show’ to describe our current ‘real’: a gigantic planetary studio in which our socio-economic and cultural systems focus on total control and domestication, but where the authoritarian discourse appears to generate a diffuse feeling of insecurity and shrinking space. It is time, like Truman, to find a hidden door in the blue-sky décor to escape the fabrication and think about the “change”.*

*One element he insists on is leaving the absolute cult of performance to explore the one of robustness. Performance is defined as the sum of efficacy (achieve its objective) and efficiency (with the least means possible). Robustness is the maintenance of the stability (short-term) and of the viability (long-term) of the system despite fluctuations, generating security.*

*Both are articulated: excess of performance leads to over-optimisations that will reduce the viability (robustness) in case of turbulences. Why? Performance, as well as control (the performant form of security), requires significant resources. “Freewheeling” optimisation is viable when resources are abundant and the situation is stable. Performance should even be strived for as it will provide a competitive advantage, whatever the context. But when resources become limited, when there are ruptures and fluctuations, then robustness should be privileged over performance, to keep some margin of manoeuvre. Because performance that is excessively stretched will result in maladaptation. Think about the fever that is performant to fight pathogens but if it lasts opens the door to exhaustion and health risks.*

*The compromise between both performance and robustness is well thought through in our engineering/technical activities but may deserve some further thinking when it comes to our human undertakings and functioning. We may still be working with a model set up when resources were more abundant, referring to KPIs, efficiency, efficacy, productivity. But today, the crises and the reactive approaches we had to take, the inevitable fatigue leaves us hypersensitive to fluctuations (short-term) and relatively deaf to the signals of maladaptation at longer term.*

*A critical moment says Hamant, but in the sense of critical point in physics, which corresponds to a large degree of freedom (whilst pure reactivity seems only to lead to an impasse).*

*The game seems open to escape, if we can use our discernment, actively choose to develop not only our “reactive” intelligence but also its part that searches for ‘serenity’ and more margins of manoeuvre.*

*This is the field where prevention, increasing cooperation and participation of all can help to improve the robustness of the system. This is the space where one can inverse the top-down model: starting from (abundant) resources favouring the economy of the most performant, with the remainder for society and finally the environment to move towards a more symbiotic one, where altered resources, environmental/social/human health, society and economy are in continuous interaction to find collective replies.*

*Building on our vulnerabilities to increase viability and security...like this “kintsugi” cup shows ...*



Violaine Verougstraete

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<sup>1</sup> Olivier Hamant, *Chroniques d'un monde qui craque*, Odile Jacob, 2026. ISBN : 978-2-4150-1496-4

## EU COMMISSION & COUNCIL

### Commission Roadmap for phasing out animal testing: *Workshop on 1-3 June*

On 1 June, the European Commission published its [Communication](#) on phasing out animal testing, accompanied by a dedicated [Staff Working Document](#). The document explains that the transition from traditional animal testing methods to non-animal approaches is a key regulatory objective, whilst maintaining a level of protection equivalent to that provided by currently established methods. The recommendations are structured across 15 legislative domains, recognising the diversity of risk assessment procedures, sectors and allowing for tailored implementation within each legislative framework. The roadmap sets out short-, medium- and long-term actions, with the long-term ambition of phasing out animal testing, including testing on invertebrates and early life-stage vertebrates. Given the complexity of endpoint assessment and the different regulatory requirements across sectors, this transition will also require a broader shift in risk assessment towards Next-Generation Risk Assessment (NGRA), supported by strong collaboration within and beyond European regulators and sectors (more information: [Federica Iaccino](#)).

### Environment Council 25 June: *news on REACH?*

The core legal text of REACH may not be revised after all, but Member States certainly have no shortage of ideas for its “non-revision”. At the 25 June Environment Council, ministers largely supported targeted measures to modernise the existing framework, with new information requirements for endocrine disruptors, digital Safety Data Sheets (eSDS), and stronger enforcement emerging as the most widely shared priorities. Calls were also made to address chemical mixture effects, accelerate the transition away from animal testing, clarify obligations for nanomaterials, advance safe-and-sustainable-by-design chemicals, and maintain momentum on PFAS restrictions. At the same time, several Member States voiced regret over the abandonment of a broader REACH revision and urged the commission for a more comprehensive review of the file as soon as the context allows (more information: [Sophia Verbrugghe](#)).

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## EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA)

### ECHA COMMITTEES

#### RAC-77: *A dense plenary meeting*

Among the key highlights of the RAC meeting (2-5 June), one can only notice the finalisation of the opinion on the chromates restriction, where RAC’s ambition to protect health and environment and strive to substitute resulted in very challenging proposals. RAC reviewed all the sections of its opinion (hazard, emissions and exposure, risk characterisation, justification that action is required on a union-wide basis, risk of alternatives, other regulatory risk management options, effectiveness, practicality, including enforceability, monitorability and uncertainties) and concluded that although, in principle, a restriction under REACH is the most appropriate Union-wide measure to address the identified risks, the proposal as formulated by the Dossier Submitter, is not the most appropriate EU-wide measure in terms of effectiveness in reducing the risk, practicality and monitorability. And hence, to support the decision maker in the drafting of a more appropriate restriction entry, RAC proposed conditions and recommendations to improve its effectiveness in reducing the identified risks, practicality and monitorability.

RAC also received a refresher on its Conflict-of-Interest policy that has been further strengthened. It stipulates that RAC & SEAC members may not receive instructions from Member States (REACH Art. 85.7) and that a current employment in a chemical company or interest group, a current membership of governance body or permanent scientific advisory body of chemical company or interest group, current consultancy or advisory work for chemical companies or interest group would require a declaration but also lead to multiple exclusions from decision-making (on an opinion). The rules are less severe for Working Groups as voting usually happens in plenary. RAC discussed once more glyphosate, as the Commission mandated ECHA and EFSA to evaluate a study published in 2025 reporting results from the Ramazzini Institute Global Glyphosate Study, which investigated the potential carcinogenicity of glyphosate and glyphosate-based herbicides in a long-term study in rats at acceptable daily intake levels. RAC had concluded in 2022, based on the available scientific evidence at that time, that a classification for carcinogenicity was not warranted. The RAC Rapporteurs presented a preliminary assessment of strengths and weaknesses of the study, and a conclusion should be drawn at the September meeting.

Still on classification, RAC had discussions on two new CLP endpoints: trifluoroacetic acid (TFA), sodium trifluoroacetate and other inorganic salts of trifluoroacetic acid are proposed as PMT/vPvM and RAC agreed on

classifying resorcinol as ED Human Health. The learnings from the latter will be presented during the autumn CM Week.

Finally, RAC received an update on the Drinking Water Directive implementation and the new tasks under the Water Framework Directive (more information: [Violaine Verougstraete](#)).

#### **SEAC-71: chromates authorisation and restriction**

The flow of Authorisation for Application (AfA) cases for chromates continues but is expected to stop in Q1 2027 due to the forthcoming restriction.

There was a fourth and final discussion on the SEAC draft opinion on the proposed restriction of certain Cr(VI) substances. SEAC cannot conclude on whether a restriction is the most appropriate risk management measure overall, due to flaws in the dossier which does not allow for a combination of different RMMs, but also due to uncertainties. SEAC considers RO1 (least stringent option) to be “proportionate”, RO2 to be “likely proportionate”, and RO3 (most stringent option) to be “likely not proportionate” (at least in the short term). A suitable length for the transition period cannot be decided due to lack of data - SEAC sees arguments for a TP longer than 18 months. Industry intervened several times in the discussion to make various points on alternatives and substitution (lengthy process); closure and supply chain costs (likely underestimated); issues of practicality; proportionality (challenging conclusions on RO2 and RO3); suitable length of the transition period (must be >18 months); and uncertainties.

Final editing of the draft opinions has since been done, and the SEAC Public Consultation has now started and runs for 60 days until 17 August as detailed [here](#). Industry highlighted the conflict between the PC and the summer period for companies, which may hamper receipt of all useful information given the type and detail required by SEAC. This concern was dismissed by ECHA. It is important that all relevant stakeholders participate and submit any new information because uncertainties are still significant e.g., length of the transition period, closure rates of companies using chromates, closure / supply chain / investment costs.

A webinar was run by ECHA on 30 June to help stakeholders prepare responses. SEAC is particularly looking for input on: feasibility of achieving proposed limits; costs of complying with worker exposure or emission limits; practical implementation and monitoring challenges; capacity of the supply chain providing technical RMM improvements; transition period needs and realistic timelines. The webinar materials and Q&A list can be found [here](#) (more information: [Simon Cook](#)).

#### **SEAC-71: U-PFAS restriction, update**

On the universal PFAS restriction, SEAC had an update on the information received in the Public Consultation that closed on 25 May. Just over 3.500 responses were received, with around 40% concerning the “general aspects” survey and 60% the sector specific surveys. All sectors of use were represented with electronics and semiconductors providing by far the highest number of responses. Nearly all of the approximately 200 use categories received at least 1 response.

Next steps are the analysis of information received during the consultation, and confirmation or modification of SEAC’s conclusions based on the evidence received. U-PFAS will not be on the agenda of SEAC-72 in September and will be discussed and adopted in SEAC-73 planned for November 2026 (brought forward from December to give SEAC time to finish its work before year end) (more information: [Simon Cook](#)).

#### **SEAC-71: Impact of ECHA’s new tasks**

SEAC members recently completed a competence survey including the new tasks now within the mandate of ECHA (toys safety, RoHS, POPs, water protection directives). This clearly shows a significant lack of domain-specific knowledge and experience for the new tasks. Topics such as Analysis of Alternatives (AoA) and Socio-Economic Analysis (SEA) are better covered with smaller gaps, but SEAC generally lacks context on how AoA and SEA are to be applied in the new work areas. ECHA intends to address the knowledge gaps by: i) training and competence building plans for SEAC members but also ECHA staff themselves; ii) establishing a pool of experts to provide targeted support to SEAC (and RAC) (more information: [Simon Cook](#)).

#### **MSC-94: ZnS and change of MSC chair**

MSC met in Helsinki from 9-11 June, discussing as usual aspects related to dossier evaluation, testing proposals, substance evaluation, recommendation for priority substances to be included in Annex XIV, in a mix of open and closed sessions. Of interest to the sector was the dossier evaluation of Zinc Sulphide, for which a proposal for amendment (PfA) had been submitted by The Netherlands to include the developmental neurotoxicity (DNT) cohorts in the design of the requested Extended One-Generation Reproductive Toxicity Study (EOGRTS) requested at REACH Annex X level. The PfA was justified by the structural analogy with zinc chloride and the presence of a

study in the zinc chloride dossier raising concern for developmental neurotoxicity. Industry had identified several deficiencies in the reporting and methodology of that study considering it unreliable. Industry had highlighted two reliable, repeated-dose (90-day) oral toxicity studies with another analogue substance that found no adverse effects indicating neurotoxicity in male and female rats and one-generation studies in mouse and rats that showed no effects. During the meeting the industry experts were allowed to reiterate their reasoning and raise the issue of proportionality (also considering the exposure pattern) but MSC concluded unanimously that the evidence raised in the PfAs is sufficient to indicate that the substance may have neurotoxic effects, supporting the inclusion of the DNT cohorts in the EOGRT study design.

Other relevant aspects during the meeting included an update on the activities from the ad hoc MSC Substance of Very High Concern (SVHC) Working Group on Equivalent Level of Concern (ELoC), the updates on appeals and court cases of relevance to MSC, a short update by Commission on the status of the proposal for ECHA Basic Regulation and the roadmap towards phasing out animal testing for chemical safety assessments. To note as well is that MSC approved the finalised dose level setting advice for reproductive toxicity studies drafted by ECHA in cooperation with MSC. The latter was published in follow-up. The learnings of this MSC meeting will be further discussed with the Registration Compliance Taskforce at its next meeting.

This was the last meeting of the current MSC chair, Katinka van der Jagt, who will take over Commission tasks in Brussels. The October and December MSC meeting should allow stakeholders to meet the new MSC chair (more information: [Violaine Verougstraete](#)).

## ECHA OTHERS

### ECHA Management Board: 82<sup>nd</sup> meeting

European Metals participated in the industry call set up to prepare ECHA's Management Board meeting, with Cefic, Detergents Europe and SMEUnited. During these preparatory calls, key industry sectors review the documents made available by ECHA. Of interest for this meeting was the announced Strategy Review Workshop, but also other issues like the establishment of a pool of experts to support RAC and SEAC members and ECHA's Executive Director report. Industry was represented by Alexis van Maercke, Director General of Detergents Europe, who raised the comments/questions identified during the call (more information: [Violaine Verougstraete](#)).

### ECHA Industry Meetings at ECHA: on 15-16 June 2026

During the yearly meetings at ECHA, industry associations and ECHA discussed several topics linked to Registrations, Compliance and Evaluation. Main points of attention are summarised hereafter:

The **Chesar Platform** went live in IUCLID Cloud at the beginning of June, with a desktop version planned but not yet dated. Key limitations remain, notably the inability to run complex assessments using Assessment Entities. Industry raised concerns and requested full functionality before Chesar 3 maintenance ends, while ECHA indicated that only the new Platform can be maintained after the IUCLID update planned for spring 2027. EM will engage with the other industry associations to push for timely solutions.

Following Regulation (EU) 2025/2455, ECHA has been designated as operator of the **Common Data Platform on Chemicals**. ECHA presented the planned notification workflow for commissioned regulatory studies under REACH, CLP, biocides and the Drinking Water Directive. The initial focus is on collecting information on commissioned tests by industries and laboratories (not universities), while several practical aspects still require clarification with the Commission.

ECHA reported on the **Industry Portal**, developed to bring dossier and notification submission tools into a single IT platform, which is already used for Drinking Water Directive notifications. Although REACH-IT was expected to migrate into the Portal, the delay of the REACH revision means REACH-IT will remain in use for more years. This creates an opportunity for industry to suggest practical improvements, including better communication functionalities, improved co-registrant management and measures to prevent free-rider issues in joint submissions. These will be gathered and shared with ECHA after summer.

On the dissemination website, ECHA is continuing regular stakeholder meetings to explore improvements to the **ECHA CHEM**.

Following the February meeting on REACH dissemination, the next meeting on 8 September 2026 will focus on API (application programming interface) functionalities and how users select, visualise and extract data and to gather industry input on which data and how searches are typically run. The full minutes will be distributed upon ECHA's approval (more information: [Federica Iaccino](#)).

### **ECHA ED Workshop: ED or not ED? Is this still a question?**

A two-day Webex event was set up by ECHA to conclude its series of capacity-building workshops on the Endocrine Disruptors (ED) assessment under CLP. Three workshops have already taken place for the authorities and RAC, this was the first one where stakeholders were invited. 700 participants had registered, also including authorities as the invitation also went e.g., to MSC and RAC. Consultants from WCA and RSA made presentations summarising the learnings from the previous events, followed by EFSA that gave an overview on their ED assessment. The major part of the workshop related to presentations by industry and NGOs. ECHA started the workshop by stating that these presentations do not necessarily reflect the guidance, the CLP Regulation or ECHA's views; but as they got the slides one month in advance, they were able to make a presentation at the end of Day 1 that listed some clarifications "that may be tackled".

The metals sector had two slots to raise the metal specificities, one as European Metals (generic presentation), and one as ICA (based on the Cu learnings). The ECHA presentation concluded though that ED modulation – which we highlighted as key element- is nowhere defined in the CLP legal text and that as the definition of ED is mechanistic agnostic, any mechanism leading to ED related adverse effects is an ED. Naturally occurring substances, essential substances, metals should not be considered differently from other substances but higher Specific Concentration Limit (SCL) may be set or bioavailability can be considered.

But also, in general, several statements made along the workshop were worrying, related to pattern of effects, reversibility, trends, weight of evidence, differentiation between categories and require giving it a closer look. A session on ED will be held during the next CM week, to also identify where our practical guidance and approaches need to be adapted to defend our assessments (more information: Tara Miller, Kevin Brix and [Violaine Verougstraete](#)).

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## **EUROPEAN METALS CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT**

### **Chemicals Management Steering Committee: very helpful discussions**

The second Steering Committee meeting started with an update from James Watson about the outcomes from the May Board meeting, and insights on the discussions to be expected at the 1 July General Assembly. A learning is that, when approaching potential new members, the name of the department 'Chemicals Management' may not reflect enough the work also done on Environment and Health for example. The updated spaghetti slide was then opened for last comments and participants suggested to add to it an explanatory note, to ensure its best use. Under the Green Deal & Zero Pollution Ambition agenda item, the secretariat presented the state of play of the Environmental Omnibus and the ongoing & future advocacy. Mik Gilles (IZA), as co-chair of the IED Taskforce highlighted the importance to ensure enough preparation, coordination and hence...resources in the coming years for the review of the Non-Ferrous Metals BREF and the essential monitoring of other BREFs.

The abandonment of the revision of the main REACH legal was then commented with the message that we need to prepare and anticipate what could still come via the Comitology procedure.

This was followed by an oral update on the successful Drinking Water Symposium (more below in [Water](#)) and the MEED communication plan (more below in [MEED](#)). And finally, the relaunch/growth of the initial PEF Taskforce to become a PEF-LCA (Lifecycle Assessment) Taskforce was explained to the participants (with a first call on 9 July) (more information under [Sustainability](#)).

All these updates had as objective to support the discussion on "looking forward for 2026-2027", to start preparing the 2027 resources needs. Some horizontal challenges were also identified, as they would require internal or external capacity-building. Series of very useful suggestions were made by the participants, invited to further comment until 10 August.

The meeting concluded with a presentation on the outcomes of the Metals Academy survey (more below in [communication](#)). The draft minutes were circulated on 29 June (more information: [Violaine Verougstraete](#) and [Ailsa Lee](#)).

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

### **Risk Management: Taskforce meeting**

Hugo Waeterschoot kicked off the meeting by providing an update and what he learnt about the INCENTIVIZE project, presented at SETAC Europe in May. The project, investigating a 'Cap-and-Trade systems for hazardous chemicals and driven by the University of Aachen, Ökopol, UBA, RIVM and Wageningen University, KEMI, Copenhagen and Helsinki University, refers in fact to an economic format to speed up substitution. The

presentation triggered a lively debate (or was it Hugo 😊 ?) and it was agreed that the secretariat would attend a webinar planned in September to assess where this project goes.

There will be no revision of the REACH text going into risk management (main body of the text) and hence the group discussed what it would mean, e.g., for substitution (with input from Apeiron), communication into the supply chain and the RMOA tool. Restrictions on substances, articles, and products will appear in the coming years, through different legislations (beyond REACH) and the sector needs to be prepared, e.g., by having an inventory of inorganics to be in the spotlight and building capacity on SEA.

The participants were then subsequently updated on the latest RAC and SEAC developments on PFAS and chromates, including on the advocacy actions.

The meeting concluded too rapidly with an information regarding the next meeting of the OECD Working Party on Risk Management end of September, back-to-back with a workshop on 1-2 October on Sustainability Attributes Beyond Safety for Chemical Selection and Substitution - Focus on Carbon Footprint and Water. The draft minutes were circulated on 26 June (more information: France Capon, Klaus Kamps, Simon Cook, Sophia Verbrugghe and [Violaine Verougstraete](#)).

## HUMAN HEALTH

### Workshop “Trends in (Metals) OELV setting in the EU”: *Part II*

On 23 June 2026, European Metals, WVMetalle and ICA co-organised a Part II workshop on “Trends in (Metals) Occupational Exposure Limit Values (OELV) setting in the EU”. For this event, the focus was on the socio-economic and exposure elements in OEL setting.

The participants started by discussing:

- how socio-economic and exposure information is reflected in the EU OELV derivation
- the principles of the studies performed along the process, from a consultant’s perspective
- the experience gained by some metals in socio-economic assessment in this context
- the OELV compliance cost tool developed by the Nickel Institute and EBRC

The second part of the day highlighted the complexity of exposure assessment, including key principles to make the best out of monitoring data. The speakers including RPA, eftec, experts from the metal sector made it a very lively event. A follow-up event (Part III) on the political process and the practical implementation of OELs will be organised in Q4 2026 and a digest of the takeaways of the two first events is under preparation (more information: Yamini Gopalapillai, Martin Wieske and [Violaine Verougstraete](#)).



## INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS

### Industrial Emissions Taskforce: *online meeting*

On 26 June 2026, the third meeting of the IE Taskforce was held online.

Items of the meeting:

- Update on INCITE and sectoral BREFs that are under revision highlighting the novelties which come from IED 2.0.
- Workplan for the future NFM BREF revision. This work will be managed through the IE TF and the establishment of a new NFM sub-group.
- Overview of the ongoing work on the revision of the Iron and Steel BREF (presentation made by Eurofer) to understand the importance of the preliminary work and the exchanges with other stakeholders (e.g., EU-BRITE, ECHA, EEA etc.).

### **Next steps:**

- The Secretariat will share a detail plan outlining next milestones (foreseen for 2026/2027) for the revision of the NFM BREF.
- Minutes of the meeting will be shared with the IE TF by mid-July.

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

### **IED Art. 13 Forum**

On 29 June 2026, the IED Art. 13 Forum was held in hybrid format. The topics discussed during the meeting were the last items for discussion of the CER BREF, the issue of process chemicals in the BREF process and the next steps on the BREF guidance and the future Committee meeting.

In particular, about the chemicals, both industrial associations and Member States highlighted concerns regarding the current treatment of chemicals in the BREFs and pointed out that there is not sufficient guidance regarding this topic in the BREF guidance. The Commission will reflect on the comments made. However, given the tight timeline and the fact that the BREF guidance is close to publication, it is unlikely that these comments will be incorporated into the current version.

The Commission confirmed that an IED Committee meeting is scheduled for 13 July to vote on the BREF guidance.

**Next step:** A Committee meeting is foreseen in the autumn to vote on the Article 15a implementing act, and Ceramics BAT Conclusions. It is not expected that the INCITE Implementing Decision will be put to a vote during that meeting (more information: [Andrea Pellini](#) and [Eleonora Tosi](#)).

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

The data collection ended on 15 June. Member States representatives are submitting the quality-checked questionnaires on BATIS. Pending issue to be discussed with the TWG members: PROCESS CHEMICALS and the criteria that should be taken into consideration to decide which chemicals shall be considered as Key Environmental Issues. In this regard, Industry Associations (Cefic, Eurofer, Euromines, European Metals and FuelsEurope) published a joint statement on BATIS (19 June 2026) to ensure that their view on this critical issue is well reflected.

**Next step:** First data assessment workshop in autumn 2026 (more information: [Andrea Pellini](#) and [Eleonora Tosi](#)).

### **Production of Batteries in Giga-Factories (PBG) BREF**

The Sevilla process has officially started in June 2026 with the Kick-off-Meeting (KoM) for the production of the batteries in Giga-Factories (PBG). The Technical Working Group (TWG) members led by EU-BRITE agreed on the following main conclusions:

- Technology-neutral scope to consider future technological developments. PBG BREF will cover manufacturing of lithium-based, sodium-based, lead-acid, NiMH and alkaline batteries;
- Interfaces with other BREFs and Directives;
- Key Environmental Issues (KEIs) and candidate KEIs for emissions to air and water.

The data collection phase will start in Autumn 2026 with the drafting of the questionnaire template. In the coming weeks the Kick-off-Meeting Report will be made available on the EU-BRITE website.

**Next step:** The Secretariat will share a short summary of the KoM within the IE TF (more information: [Andrea Pellini](#) and [Eleonora Tosi](#)).

## **WATER**

### **5th Symposium on Materials and Products in Contact with Drinking Water: a success**

On 17 June 2026, the 5th Symposium was held at the Sofitel Hotel Brussels, bringing together key European stakeholders to address the new EU conformity framework. Organised in collaboration with the European Drinking Water (EDW) group, EurEau and European Metals, the event provided a valuable platform for navigating the complexities of implementing the Drinking Water Directive (DWD).

The morning began with a plenary session that set out the regulatory context. Keynote addresses from the European Commission and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) provided an overview of the broader framework and the specific roles governing current implementations. These were complemented by insights into the future responsibilities of Notified Bodies (NBDW), as well as a crucial overview of the current challenges and open issues facing the industry — from those working on EU positive lists and starting compositions/substances, to product and on-site product conformity.

The event then moved into breakout sessions designed to facilitate in-depth analysis, practical case studies and interactive dialogue. Participants split into three tailored tracks: Track A focused on starting compositions and European Positive Lists (EURLs), chaired by European Metals; Track B explored general product conformity, chaired by EDW; and Track C addressed distinct challenges for water suppliers, chaired by EurEau.

The concluding part of the symposium comprised panel discussions that progressed from the framework and highlighted issues to possible solutions. Representatives of Member States from countries such as Germany, Poland, Sweden and Italy presented and discussed their national implementation, transitional rules and the challenges faced. A subsequent forward-looking panel brought together industry leaders, representatives from the European Commission and the NBDW, to discuss how to systematically resolve the logistical and economic barriers raised by manufacturers in the sector. The buzzword of the day was 'pragmatism', but more work is needed to lay out practical solutions and how to implement them.

Overall, the event was a success. We wanted to say a big thank you to all the participants, speakers and organisers. Respondents to the satisfaction survey rated their experience as good or excellent, a feeling shared by the speakers. The logistics and the overall relevance of the technical content were highly praised, and participants expressed strong satisfaction with the venue, the choice of speakers and the cross-industry networking opportunities. Looking ahead, the majority of attendees surveyed stated that they would definitely return for future editions, so stay tuned (more information: [Lara Van de Merckt](#) and [Diana Dobre](#)).

### **Water: Taskforce meeting**

On 9 June 2026, EM hosted its Water Taskforce meeting. The meeting began with an overview of the announced Water Framework Directive (WFD) targeted review and the guidance on permitting. The latter was presented to the EM members by the European Commission. We then discussed the sector strategy regarding the targeted review and the guidance and decided to provide feedback on both. Following an analysis of the recently adopted Water Framework Directive and its implications, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) presented its new mandate and plans to manage watch lists, prioritisation, and the derivation of Environmental Quality Standards (EQSs). The taskforce then discussed its technical advocacy plan for this new prioritisation 2.0, including supporting the review of the technical guidance on EQS derivation and addressing potential challenges such as additional assessment factors for data-rich metals and mixture toxicity.

Finally, to prepare for the EU Water Resilience Strategy and its ten percent reduction target for industrial water consumption, we examined practical cases of issues arising from water consumption for industrial sites, and the upcoming launch of a data collection initiative over the summer, which will support the future NFM BREF's data requirements (more information: [Lara Van de Merckt](#)).

## **TOOLS**

### **Environmental Classification: presentation of the generic tools developed**

European Metals was kindly invited by the WVM to present the tools and approaches that have been developed to support the implementation of the environmental classification of metals and its consequences on other legislations, including transport. This was the opportunity to prepare a re-cap of the work done over the last years, from the update of the MERAG fact sheet (close to being finalised), the Classification Mapping tool, the guidance note written collectively last year discussing CLP, waste, transport and Seveso classification of complex inorganic materials following the entry into force of the Pb metal classification ...and MeClas of course!

Thanks for this useful invitation! (more information: [Violaine Verougstraete](#)).

## **MEED**

### **MEED communication materials for sponsors: now in preparation**

The MEED team is currently working on a communication slide deck and six short project descriptions (fact sheets) to support sponsors in presenting MEED clearly and consistently to their own members and stakeholders.

The idea is to provide sponsors with ready-to-use material that captures the main objectives and outcomes of each MEED workstream in a clear and accessible way.

The MEED team will continue developing these materials asap for review and approval by the sponsors (more information: [Diana Dobre](#) and [Violaine Verougstraete](#)).

## THE SUSTAINABILITY CORNER

### PEF-LCA Discussion Platform

As part of the revamped PEF & LCA Taskforce, European Metals is launching a discussion platform dedicated to wider Lifecycle Assessment (LCA) developments. The objective is to provide a member-driven space to exchange on developments related to LCA and to facilitate information flow between European-level discussions and international initiatives.

The platform is intended as a forum for sharing experiences, challenges and insights, without duplicating existing work within commodity associations or other organisations. Members of both the SUS-COM and CMSC with an interest in LCA and related developments are invited to join the platform and receive future meeting invitations.

To express your interest, please sign up via this [form](#) (more information: [Sophia Verbrugghe & Laura Fazio Bellacchio](#)).

### Targeted update of European Metals' policy paper on the Circular Economy Act

As part of its advocacy efforts on circular economy, European Metals has updated its policy paper on the upcoming Circular Economy Act (CEA). The new version of the document retains all the key asks from the former paper and integrates some new specific asks in line with European Metals' [policy paper on the revision of the Waste from Electrical and Electronics Equipment \(WEEE\) Directive](#).

European Metals' recommendations are calling for a Circular Economy Act that supports the whole non-ferrous metals value chain: from securing access to secondary raw materials, through circular and sustainable product design, to creating a well-functioning EU single market for waste. In this context, we have put forward the following proposals:

- **Raw Materials Access** – The CEA should acknowledge that successful EU green and digital transitions depend on a reliable supply of raw materials from both primary and secondary sources and that a product's lifetime is one of the decisive factors determining when materials become available for recycling.
- **EU Single Market for Waste** – To support a true EU single market for waste, the CEA should harmonise EU waste legislation and classification while streamlining shipments of metal-rich waste across the EU by, e.g., maintaining the green-listed regime for e-waste beyond 01/01/2027, extending green listing to all CRM-containing waste shipped to EU pre-consented facilities, promoting the automatic recognition of pre-consented facility status EU-wide, and streamlining the implementation of existing End-of-Waste (EoW) criteria.
- **Product design** – Product design rules should reflect full lifecycle thinking and integrate recyclability and sustainability considerations. Moreover, minimum recycled content requirements for non-ferrous metals should be avoided, except for REE in permanent magnets.
- **Industrial symbiosis** – The CEA must promote industrial symbiosis by encouraging sector integration and rewarding synergies that advance a circular, climate-neutral economy and reduce waste.
- **Coherence of EU Legislation** – Finally, the text must ensure the coherence and mutual reinforcement across raw materials, chemicals, climate, product, and waste legislation.

#### Next Steps:

- The updated paper will serve as the basis for European Metals' preliminary advocacy activities before the proposal is published and will be circulated to selected MEPs.
- The proposal for the CEA is currently expected in Q3 2026, although the latest intelligence suggests the publication might be delayed to Q4 2026 or even Q1 2027.

(more information: [Enrico Macciotta](#) and [Laura Fazio Bellacchio](#)).

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## OUTREACH

### OECD

#### In Paris: event on biodiversity

The OECD workshop, 'Biodiversity from a Chemicals Perspective: Tools for Reducing Negative Environmental Impacts', took place from 24 to 26 June. Yes, it was the week when temperatures reached 41°C in Paris, EM staff are nothing if not dedicated!

The event emphasised the urgent requirement to integrate chemical pollution data more effectively into global environmental frameworks. While climate change and habitat destruction are widely recognised as drivers of

ecosystem degradation, discussions underscored that chemical contamination is also a threat to biodiversity loss. Chemical risk assessment must evolve beyond standard single-species testing models to protect broader ecological networks comprehensively. A significant part of the technical dialogue focused on developing and validating New Approach Methodologies (NAMs), bioinformatics and predictive machine learning models. Experts explored how genetic sequencing and computational frameworks could be leveraged to extrapolate toxicological effects across distantly related or data-poor species, reducing reliance on animal testing. Additionally, the potential of emerging ecological tools such as environmental DNA (eDNA) and environmental RNA (eRNA) to monitor real-time physiological stress and capture community-level shifts in contaminated aquatic environments was highlighted. Industry perspectives showcased advanced data analytics solutions for risk-based prioritisation, as well as the implementation of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodologies to measure and reduce the agricultural biodiversity footprint of commercial products.

The discussions emphasised that environmental protection goals must transition from counting species richness alone to capturing ecosystem functional trait diversity. Several case studies were presented, including one from Korea, demonstrating how shifting from aggressive soil remediation to exposure-based management can have positive, unanticipated effects on biodiversity, such as the restoration of wetlands and migratory bird habitats. Panels debated the complexities of assessing chemical mixtures and safety assessment factors, considering whether these are sufficient to protect biodiversity.

They also discussed the socioeconomic variables required to fully quantify the costs of biodiversity loss.

The initial days of the workshop concluded with a consensus that protecting biodiversity demands closer collaboration between ecotoxicologists and ecologists, as well as the rapid, practical implementation of precision-based chemical management strategies. However, it was also acknowledged that chemical contamination is only one pillar of threats to biodiversity.

Presentations from all sessions can be found on the [event website](#).

As a follow up of the workshop, the OECD is currently gathering information on existing tools used to evaluate the effects of man-made chemicals on a wide range of environmental species, taxa, habitats, and communities, with the aim of strengthening biodiversity protection. They would welcome contribution to this effort through their [survey on available tools to evaluate the effects of chemicals](#) (more information: [Lara Van de Merckt](#)).

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## COMMUNICATION

### **Metals Academy: looking forward**

The Organising Committee met on 15 June to discuss the future of the Metals Academy, which has become over the years a key event for the sector, but would deserve some further promotion to ensure its sustainability.

A flyer was prepared and distributed to the General Assembly to encourage members and members of members to attend the next editions: [Violaine Verougstraete](#) and [Ailsa Lee](#)).

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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 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).

- 02-03/07: RAC-78 AfA WG
  - 06/07: Human Health Taskforce (online only)
  - 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](#)
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## Summer Quiz

### 1. Which metal is the best heat conductor?

- a) Lead
- b) Aluminium
- c) Silver
- d) Copper

### 2. Which metal has the highest melting point?

- a) Nickel
- b) Tungsten
- c) Tantalum
- d) Rhenium

### 3. What material cools down the fastest?

- a) Air
- b) Water
- c) Metal
- d) Sand

### 4. What is the largest block of elements in the Mendeleev table?

- a) The Carbon group
- b) The Transition metals
- c) The Alkali metals
- d) Noble Gases

### 5. Which alloy wires help us make toast?

- a) Nickel
- b) Lead
- c) Silver
- d) Aluminium

### 6. Which metal physically crumbles under 13.2°C?

- a) Molybdenum
- b) Cobalt
- c) Rhenium
- d) Tin

### 7. How many tonnes of raw gold would you need to find the equivalent to 1 tonne of personal computer e-waste gold?

- a) 17 tonnes
- b) 1 tonne
- c) 5 tonnes
- d) 10 tonnes

### 8. Out of an estimated total of 700 million tonnes since aluminium was first produced (1888), how much is still in productive use?

- a) About 25%
- b) About 50%
- c) About 75%
- d) About 100%

### Word Search Puzzle

This puzzle has a hidden message in it.

First find all the words in the list.

Words can go in any direction and share letters as well as cross over each other.

Once you have found all the words, copy the unused letters starting in the top left corner into the blanks to reveal the hidden message.

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

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_!

ANDREA

DECARBONISATION

EFFICIENCY

EVIDENCE

INCITE

LIMIT

RANGE

SUBSTANCES

WATER

TASKFORCE

BATIS

DIFFUSE

EMISSIONS

EXPERTISE

JRC

PERMIT

SEEDS

TASKFORCE

TWG

WATER

CHEMICALS

ECHA

ENVIRONMENT

HYDRO

KEI

PROCESS

SEVILLA

#### Answers – Summer Quiz

- 1. a) Silver (429 W/m·K) – 2. b) Tungsten (3.422°C) – 3. c) Metal – 4. b) The Transition Metals (38) – 5. a) Nickel (+ Chromium) – 6. d) Tin (called the Tin pest/plague) – 7. a) 17 tonnes – 8. c) 75% (Alu being thus the “star of circularity”)

Answer – Word Puzzle: Let's prepare the NFM BREF!