



EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT NEWS



Authorisation & Restriction Platform & REACH Forum meetings back to back on 20 & 21 March

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Dear REACH Forum member,

One of Eurometaux's staff most common tasks is the drafting of minutes and reports. Nothing unusual here: this is the past, present and future of associations whose services to their members include a secretariat function. Nothing to really complain about either: describing the meeting a posteriori often allows to better understand what was at stake, capture the relevance and better grasp the direction the actions are taking. Well, this is at least what I keep repeating to myself whilst sitting for long days in a cold ECHA meeting room (heating problem) in even colder Finland. I'm hunting for precedent-settings! I'm trying to catch the (icy) flavour of the discussions to anticipate the next problems! Glory, glory minutes! (Music: Cold metal, Iggy Pop, 1988)

And then suddenly my brain gets stuck (frozen?) in the middle of the sentence I'm writing that is supposed to report a RAC member's intervention. Which word should I type now?

Let me explain.

One cannot always write minutes in bullet points:

- Industry did not do its job, or
- Material considered clean

Sometimes you would like to know a bit more about the comment, either the context or at least a reference to 'who' is behind it (e.g. industry, ECHA, RAC member etc.). Yes, of course: the 'who' impacts on the follow-up! So there you go:

- Ms B? That industry did not do its job.

But then, what to include instead of the '?'

You could use the neutral word 'said' and repeat it continuously along the pages of report. But Ms B may have been a (young) authority who was upset by industry's lack of cooperation and ended up stressing this rather vehemently during the meeting. In such a case, would not 'stress', 'underlined', 'emphasised', 'alleged' be more adequate? She could also have been a more experienced (wiser?) regulator, even a bit disillusioned and then 'stated' 'raised' or even 'explained' would be fine as they seem to imply some reality-check. But what if it is an industry person, for example, who is the author of the bullet 'material considered clean'? How to reflect the possible nuances included in that: from an objective assessment based on data to the sprinkle of hope and recognition?

Not being a native speaker, I'm spending some time in the Thesaurus but even then, the responses may not help in solving the riddle.

Take the word "acknowledge":

- Accept or admit the existence or truth of
- Recognize the importance or quality of
- Express gratitude for or appreciation of.
- Accept the validity or legitimacy of
- Show that one has noticed or recognized (someone) by making a gesture or greeting
- Confirm (receipt of something)

And this is the Oxford dictionary, not considering by any means the Brenglish (bad regulatory English) most of us use. "Admitting the truth", "confirming receipt" typically also include a cultural dimension or habits your parents gave to you (or not) with your growing-up package.

Right: I have now missed 5 interventions whilst writing this.

Proposals to improve my future minute-taking: a) from now on, minutes should only be drafted by native speakers (message to my UK colleagues 😊), b) I replace the '?' by a word that can have a thousand colours, nuances and moods ... what about: "cookie" for example?

- Ms B cookie that industry did not do its job
- Mr D cookie that material is considered clean

...

Put the heating on! (Music: Stone cold crazy, Queen 1974).

Violaine Verougstraete, EHS director Eurometaux

ECHA REACH & CLP Activities: hot topics

ECHA Committees

RAC-44/1: workload on CLH, restrictions and AfAs

The first week of RAC-44 started with a presentation of the work plan for 2018 and the announcement that more than 50 CLH dossiers should be processed this year, in addition to restrictions and authorisations. An additional week of meetings has been scheduled in October as 'contingency'. This means however that RAC will strive for a maximum of efficiency on the CLH

aspects. The public consultation on the restriction on cobalt compounds (scope still to be defined) has been announced for September (tbc). Starting with restrictions, RAC discussed a first draft opinion on the restriction -submitted by Commission - on substances used in tattoo inks and permanent make-up. More specifically, the scope, hazard evaluation and approaches to risk assess the more than 4000 substances concerned were presented. RAC agreed on a number of aspects, like for example the use of a qualitative assessment of all substances with CLH as CMR 1A, 1B and 2 (except those classified only for inhalation) or an exposure 'default' as starting point for a quantitative assessment, which should facilitate the further drafting of the opinion on this complex restriction. RAC agreed on its opinion for the restriction of lead and lead compounds in shot in or over wetlands. Interesting issues in the debate were the definition of "use" and whether it also covers 'possession' (RAC agreed to define it as possession while hunting/sport shooting'), the balance to find between risk reduction potential and enforceability (in particular when it comes to the definition of a buffer zone around wetlands) and how to recommend labelling of cartridges. RAC's opinion of should also leave some flexibility to Member States in implementing the restriction (i.e. they may impose more stringent measures), to allow taking into account the existing restrictions in most Member States. In addition, RAC discussed further some AfAs on chromates (more information: Violaine Verougstraete).

MSC-58: some 1000 opinions published, lots of Substance Evaluations

MSC started with the recognition that it provided some 1000 formal opinions/decisions since starting its activities. A long list of Substance Evaluations (SE) was debated during MSC-58, focussed on the assessment of potential PBT concerns. While metals are exempted from the classical PBT assessment scheme, some decisions were relevant for the sector, including those for UVCBs, and the fact that Water Accommodated Fraction testing cannot be used given the differential leaching. MSC decided also on a PBT testing programme for a substance (Benzenamine) despite an ongoing COLLA approach, justified by the concerns requiring non-standard test investigations and thereby outside the scope of the COLLA. One Dossier Evaluation (DE) raised particular attention (Trichlorocarban) concluding to close the DE and turning it into a SE because the expected toxicity properties required a non-standard approach for the neuro- and immunotox endpoints. ECHA further reported on the outcome of the annual stakeholder (STO) survey suggesting areas for improvements but also appreciation for the new reporting to STOs on DEs and SEs approved by written procedures. ECHA promised to check how Public Consultations (PCs) could be improved because of Eurometaux's comment on the "*decreasing belief in the value of the PCs for SVHC identification and prioritisation given comments do not seem to be well considered*". The classical BoA and Court case review focussed on an overview of 2017. Eurometaux was informed that ECHA is preparing a legal opinion on the acrylamide court case for the June CARACAL meeting. This case is important for the metals sector given it will define when an intermediate USE will not be exempted from authorisation. Member States raised concerns on the MSC's high workload for 2019 that is caused by the Testing Proposal requests for the low tonnage substances (including many inorganics), while in parallel the first follow-up PNND and EOGRTS tests will require a review. The Chair concluded that this workload would require 6 MSC meetings in 2019, (for one week but potentially lasting two weeks in June and December). MSC-59 is scheduled for the last week of April and includes a first view on potential substances for the 9th Authorisation prioritisation list (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

MSC-58: CoRAP 2018-2020 adopted, including important last-minute changes for the metal sector and no release date yet for the draft decisions on 2017 Substance Evaluation dossiers

The CoRAP update 2018-2020 was approved by MSC on 8 February and it is expected to be published on 20 March. The version adopted by MSC included two important last-minute changes compared to the version that was published on the ECHA website for information some months ago: 1) the review year for Chrome III (Cr₂O₃) was postponed to 2019, which provides industry with the opportunity to anticipate the Substance Evaluation and 2) two new Antimony containing substances were added to the existing list (of three). Germany made this proposal to align the CoRAP list with the substances included in the COLLA approach. Eurometaux questioned the relevance and received the reply that the COLLA is voluntary and a legal follow-up like with an SE was therefore justified. As a point of principle, Eurometaux asked how SbCl₃ could be included given lacking a risk-based concern since only used in a single closed application. This triggered some debate but MSC supported the inclusion based on "a grouping approach". On the substances listed for 2017 (e.g. ZnO) ECHA could not yet confirm the release date for the draft decisions (including Zinc oxide). It is expected that this will occur around end of April early May. New is that all registrants, including those with lower volumes, will receive the Draft Decision and will be requested to respond within one month in a coordinated way requiring consortia to anticipate the release date of the Draft Decisions and schedule their meetings to review them in time (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

NeRSAP-7: outcome studies on metal recycling and authorisation, material flow mapping for Ni and first phase slag SEA study reported to NeRSAP

NeRSAP-7 was hosted by the EU OSHA agency in Bilbao and reasonably well attended by SEA and AoA experts from Member States, Consultants and industry. The metals sector was quite active at the event presenting the outcome of the A&R platform project on the potential impact of Authorisation on recycling (by Mike Holland, EMRC), the relevance of the Nickel value chains using Materials Flow Analysis to define the potential extent of Authorisation's impact due to stigmatisation (by Mark Mistry, NI) and the outcome of the first phase of the Final Slags SEA impact assessment due to expected CLP changes for

Cobalt metal (Hugo Waeterschoot). During the session, comments remained limited due to the overloaded agenda, however NeRSAP attendees provided some interesting suggestions during the breaks. Amongst others, NeRSAP 7 debated an ECHA proposal on how SEA assessments for substances with Endocrine Disruptor properties could be assessed for REACH purposes and a somewhat contested proposal by Richard Dubourg on how to estimate the welfare implications of policy-induced impacts on producer surpluses due to shut-down or relocation outside the EU. NeRSAP was further updated on 1) the establishment of an ECHA Risk Exposure Taskforce including RAC and SEAC members to develop a framework relevant for Restrictions and Authorisations for improved ways of dealing with HH and ENV impacts including benefit analysis and 2) the work done by ANSES on a model to estimate the concentrations and flows of recycled materials with hazardous additives. The latter raised the interest of the metals sector. The next meeting of NeRSAP will be hosted by the metals sector and be held in November in Belgium. An update on the main outcomes of NeRSAP-7 will be provided at the next A&R platform (more information: France Capon, Mark Mistry and Hugo Waeterschoot).

Data-Sharing

Dossier/substance evaluation: *information communicated by ECHA*

ECHA has asked industry's opinion about the possibility of harmonising ECHA's communication plan on both evaluation processes (substances' and dossiers' evaluation), by sending the draft and final decisions to all the registrants within the Joint Submission and not only to the Lead Registrant. Cefic kindly contacted Eurometaux and Concaawe to ask whether consortia could support this approach. The request was circulated to the Eurometaux Data-Sharing Taskforce and responses up to now are in support of this change in communication, as it may constitute an encouragement to all members of the Joint Submission to remain active. When meeting ECHA in March 2017, Eurometaux had raised this as a possibility to facilitate maintenance of the data sets and avoid free-riding. It is hoped that the aligned responses of industry will incite ECHA to implement this harmonised communication asap (more information: Caroline Braibant, France Capon and Violaine Verougstraete).

Others

EUSES: *preparation for a workshop in June*

ECHA has decided to organise a 2-day workshop with external stakeholders (regulators and industry) to discuss the process and the scope of the update of the EUSES tool. Based on the outcome of this workshop, an IT feasibility study could be launched to get a more reliable estimation of the costs associated to IT development over the next years. Also the process for the effective update of EUSES could be set up. The specific objectives of the workshop were discussed during a face-to-face meeting in Helsinki and include: agreement among stakeholders from the REACH and biocides areas on the update needs; prioritisation of these update needs and discussion of a proposal for the update process. The latter proposal will also address the role of the dedicated stakeholder consultation group, managed by ECHA, which should agree on the requirements (including prioritising), provide input when relevant to the IT developers and test the tool. The workshop will take place in Brussels, 4-5 June 2018. Eurometaux is participating in the organising committee and putting several metal-relevant EUSES updates on the table. A background document is currently being prepared outlining the different update topics. The metal relevant ones will be shared within Eurometaux in March for consultation. A short overview will also be presented at the next RA&CL Taskforce meeting (more information: Frederik Verdonck)

COMMISSION REACH & CLP Activities: hot topics/issues

CARACAL

CARACAL-26: *upcoming meetings 07 & 08 March*

Eurometaux has started to compile all documents posted in view of the forthcoming CARACAL meeting and is preparing an annotated agenda to be shared with the REACH Alliance and the REACH Forum. A preparatory conference call will take place on Friday 2nd March 2018 from 12:00 to 13:00 and members are invited to raise their issues (more information: Lorenzo Zullo).

EUROMETAUX REACH & CLP Activities: hot topics/issues

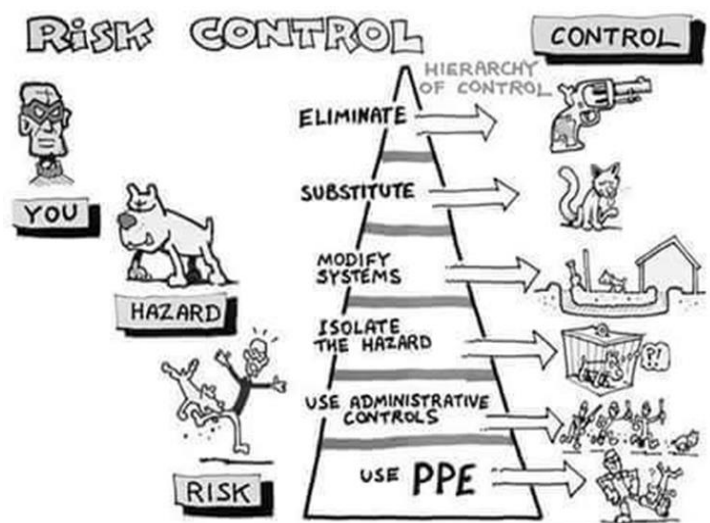
Resource mapping to respond to REACH / ECHA challenges

MEASE 2: *new version released - to try out absolutely*

EBRC has now uploaded the release-version of MEASE 2 on their website. The MEASE modelling tool allows you to estimate occupational inhalation and dermal exposure to metals and inorganic substances, in the absence of measured data. MEASE is referred to as a modelling tool in the ECHA Guidance R.14 on occupational exposure assessment. Like the other tools mentioned in this guidance (ECETOC-TRA, Stoffenmanager, RiskofDerm, EMKG-Expo-Tools), MEASE 1 has been evaluated in the ETEAM project sponsored by the BAuA that aimed to compare and contrast the different models in terms of their determinants, scope of application, functionality and user-friendliness. The new version of the tool integrates a lot of the learnings drawn from the ETEAM project. MEASE 2 can be downloaded after registration from: <https://www.ebrc.de/tools/downloads.php>. EBRC would be pleased to set up a webinar to explain how to make the best use of the new functions/improvements built in MEASE 2 if there is interest for such a webinar. Please allow us to congratulate the whole MEASE 2 development team for this wonderful achievement!! (more information: Daniel Vetter and Violaine Verougstraete).

NTE Brainstorming: *collecting views*

Two actions were carried out in follow-up of the discussions held in 2017 with the EHS & REACH Steering, REACH Forum and Sustainability Committees on the Non-Toxic Environment topic, both aiming at defining some common and agreed key messages to provide to Commission before they issue their draft on the NTE. First, a questionnaire was sent out to members asking them to provide their views on the 8 objectives/concerns/areas highlighted by e.g. the study on the NTE: reduce hazardousness, supply chain management, chemicals in articles, end of life and waste management, workplace, vulnerable populations, environment and general population exposed via the environment. Participants were asked to explain what the industry is currently doing, and where it should take further action. The results of the surveys were presented and discussed during a half-day lively brainstorming on 6 February. The inputs provided



during the brainstorming will now be used to develop a proactive narrative and engagement programme on the Non-Toxic Environment. The next discussion on the topic -and our proposal of a risk controlled environment- will take place on 12 March (EHS & REACH Steering Committee), with the participation of Mr Urban Boije af Gennäs from DG ENV (more information: Chris Heron, Laura Fazio Bellachio and Violaine Verougstraete).

Pb metal Authorisation taskforce: *please join if you are impacted by the possible Candidate Listing of lead metal*

Sweden has made a proposal for Candidate Listing of lead metal, making it a potential first step towards SVHC identification and potential Authorisation. Sweden believes the Candidate Listing would help to give a more complete picture of lead uses in Europe and ensure that all existing uses of lead are substituted, where technically and economically feasible. ILA and Eurometaux have therefore re-launched the activities of the Pb SCL taskforce, which was very active in the lead metal classification process 2 years ago. Lead metal's main uses are in batteries, rolled and extruded products, ammunition, cable sheathing and these are directly in the focus of the Pb REACH Consortium. There are however some key other sectors/uses that may be affected by the Candidate Listing like e.g. alloys producers and where lead metal is used as processing agent for recovery of precious metals. The objectives of the taskforce (chaired by ILA and facilitated by Eurometaux) are therefore to activate users not represented by the Pb REACH Consortium, to share information on the Candidate Listing process and to allow better co-ordination with advocacy activities and input into the public consultation. A first conference call was organised on 15 February and the taskforce agreed on some follow-up actions like complementing the current list of registered uses with the uses they are interested in and development of an advocacy package in view of the Public Consultation that may take place in March (more information: Steve Binks, Lisa Allen, Hugo Waeterschoot and Violaine Verougstraete).

Co CLH Taskforce: *update/calls*

In follow-up of the meeting with RIVM end of January, the CI/CoRC submitted some additional calculations/information meant to allow RIVM to estimate whether some additional efforts would be justified to refine the derivation of the SCL of 0.01%.

Although no direct feedback from RIVM was received, the calculations/information revealed that the issue of the SCL is not cobalt-specific but a methodological one, primarily related to the methodology proposed in the CLP guidance to derive SCLs and the 'reference points' it uses to define high, medium and low potency. This kind of methodological issue is related to the CLP Guidance and as such fall out of RIVM's remit. This 'technical avenue' being closed, the taskforce agreed to continue documenting the impacts/disruptions the classification of cobalt metal and the SCL will have, like the disruption of the whole value chain and recycling, the impacts on downstream legislations and 'stigmatisation'. It was agreed to contact Member States Competent Authorities before the CARACAL meeting of 7-8 March where Commission will present the list of classifications proposed by RAC in 2017. This is indeed the opportunity for stakeholders to raise questions/concerns on the proposed classifications, before Commission starts working on the entry in the ATP. A briefing note outlining the different arguments to raise with Member States was circulated for comments by the Taskforce and discussed during a call on 26 February. A set of slides has also been prepared and is available on request. Several calls/meetings with MSCAs are planned for this week and early March. The feedback of these meetings will be used to prepare Eurometaux's intervention at the CARACAL meeting (more information: Brigitte Amoruso, Ruth Danzeisen, Hugo Waeterschoot, Lorenzo Zullo and Violaine Verougstraete).

Metal-specific REACH application tools and concepts

Bioelution: *submission to ECVAM*

The files requested by ECVAM for the full submission of the bioelution test protocol (gastric fluid) were finally submitted on 16 February. The more than 60 documents that were sent in included completed templates/formats, responses to the questions raised by the PARERE group, reports on additional tests carried out after discussion with ECVAM over the last months, the SOP and key studies. ECVAM will now go through the package and proceed to the validation of the protocol. While the timing for this is not known, we would like to stress that the submission as such is already an important achievement as it has allowed a very efficient cooperation with key labs and actors on bioelution whom we would like to thank here. The Commission has been informed about the submission (more information: Adriana Oller and Violaine Verougstraete).

SEA impact tool for final slags: *pilot case defined on impact of the new Cobalt metal classification proposal ready and second phase launched*

A SEA pilot impact study has been performed on a metal recycling plant to identify the impact for that company and, more broadly, for society of the suggested Co-metal classification with an SCL of 0,01%. The case concluded that an SCL of 0,01% would result in the classification of their by-products as Carc.1B, making them unsuitable for their main (safe) use as a filler substance in building/construction material. Depending on the different classification scenarios, they might end up being substituted by gravel, thus leading to prohibitive costs for the company and society. This impact could be prevented from occurring with a classification cut-off of 0,1%, which corresponds to the generic cut-off for carcinogens. The study also allowed to define what the impact drivers are, in order to establish a simple but relevant SEA assessment model. Phase 2 of the project will be launched early March, with the development of a web-based SEA assessment tool. All manufacturers of metal slags will be able to assess the impact, considering their particular situation. For this purpose, Eurometaux has prepared a data collection sheet so that companies could gather relevant information to feed the SEA assessment model, whilst it is being developed (more information: Michel Vander Straeten or Hugo Waeterschoot).

Rapid Removal: *ETAP-Commodity-Eurometaux work session on 2 February, to progress with the Rapid Removal concept under CLP and GHS*

In February, technical experts from several metals research organisations and consortia participated in a combined session of Eurometaux and ETAP, including ETAP Panel Member Professor Ronny Blust from the University of Antwerp, to evaluate the progress of the scientific foundations of the Rapid Removal (RR) concept for metals. Since the Member States rejected the Unit World Model for hazard classification (given their belief that it relies too heavily on risk assessment), ETAP and the Commodities have developed a laboratory test-based alternative. This alternative is based on an extension of the Transformation Dissolution protocol (TDp) with two additional steps to assess (1) the removal of dissolved metal from the water column and (2) the potential for resuspension of metals into the water column. A conclusion of Rapid Removal from the water column would be reached if 70 % of the dissolved fraction is removed within 28 days and bound in a form that is irreversible under relevant conditions. The TDp extension (parts 1 and 2) forms the basis of the assessment with additional data supporting a weight-of-evidence. It was developed by CANMET MMSL and additional research conducted at the University of Michigan and Mutch Associates provided data to define the test conditions and model the test results. Initial data and experience demonstrate the protocol can distinguish between metals that are and are not rapidly removed from the water column. ETAP Panel Member Professor Allen Burton (University of Michigan) compiled an extensive summary on the science related to metal intrinsic properties, kinetics, and potential for binding and removal from the water column. All this material was reviewed during the work session and will be complemented by a summary and suggestions for ECHA to consider reopening the discussion on this important criterion needed for the assessment of the chronic environmental classification

under the MISA programme. ECHA expects this file by early April, allowing the metals sector to consider the outcome of the Cu granules classification case (more information: Emily Garman, Stijn Baken, Hugo Waeterschoot).

Classification mapping tool: *consultant appointed to complete the work*

The first prototype of the classification mapping tool developed by the Eurometaux Classification Mapping Taskforce has been handed over to an external consultant which has been appointed to: i) assess the overall structure of the tool, ii) verify and integrate the information contained in it and iii) elaborate a proposal to extend its scope. A kick-off web-conference was organised on the 12th of February. Cobalt and silver will be used as pilot cases to fine tune the tool, allowing to fully test its robustness and usefulness on two real cases. The work is expected to be completed by the end of April 2018. The tool will be of great help to assess the overall legislative impacts of substance hazardous reclassification (more information: Lorenzo Zullo).

SPERCs: *dialogue with ECHA and Member States in preparation to the upcoming review*

On 19 February, the cross industry SPERCs Taskforce organised a web-conference with ECHA and Member States to discuss the draft quality criteria developed to support the internal and external review of the SPERCs expected to be conducted respectively in 2018 and 2019/2020, according to the 2018-2020 ENES work-programme. Comments from ECHA/Member States were collected. A revised version of the Quality Criteria is expected to be drafted by the taskforce in March. It will be then re-submitted to ECHA/Member States for a last round of comments before finalisation (more information: Frederik Verdonck and Lorenzo Zullo).

Metals Sectorial Approach

Follow-up 24 January workshop: *documents sent to the Steering Committee*

In follow-up of the workshop held end of January with ECHA, several documents have been sent to the Steering Committee of the sectorial approach for their approval before the distribution to the REACH Forum and discussion at the next Forum meeting (21 March). These documents included a revised rolling action plan, a revised text for the charter and a proposal for sharing some of the information collected in the Baseline Reports with ECHA. Several exchanges took place in the Steering Committee, aiming at finding a good balance between concrete actions, achieving a certain straightforwardness of the modalities, clear engagement of all actors and some flexibility. The workshop's participants also received a detailed report of the workshop and an Executive Summary. The latter if approved by the participants will be used for wider communication (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot, Lorenzo Zullo and Violaine Verougstraete).

FURTHER OUTREACH OF REACH

OECD

BIAC Meeting: *preparation Joint Meeting with OECD – 05/02*

BIAC holds its Chemicals Management meeting always the day before the joint meeting as they did this time on 5 February. For the metals and mining sector this meeting was attended by Kai-Sebastian Melzer (Nickel Institute), Claudine Albersammer (ICMM) and Hugo Waeterschoot (Eurometaux). The metals sector proposed Kai-Sebastian Melzer as candidate for the vice-chair position for the metals sector, a proposal welcomed by BIAC reminding the sector of the need that the candidate be supported by a national BIAC organisation and approved by the BIAC management. As a champion on specific issues, Eurometaux submitted in preparation of the session updates on the progress with the PRTR council recommendation and issues debated for metals at the Hazard and Exposure taskforces of the OECD. These contributions and those from the other experts on the other OECD Joint Chemicals session agenda can be reviewed from the BIAC briefing note and meeting minutes (on request). Aspects that raised interest and positioning of BIAC included: the results of a survey on a Global Chemicals knowledge database, an OECD secretariat thought starter on possible work to address issues with intellectual property rights related to chemicals safety data, a suggestion on how to monitor the effectiveness of chemicals management system in preparation of SAICM, the follow-up of the work on socio-economic analysis for the risk management of chemicals (Ottawa workshop) and the revised Decision-Recommendation of the Council Act on the Co-operative Investigation on Risk Reduction of Chemicals. BIAC was also informed about an OECD Member States workshop on the issue of plastics mainly focussing on the issue of microplastics rather than its impurities as is more the case in the EU (more information from Kai-Sebastian Melzer and Hugo Waeterschoot).

OECD WPMN 18 Meeting: Paris 14-16/02

Eurometaux participated in the 18th Meeting of the OECD Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials, which took place in Paris. Chaired by Australian representative Roshini Jayewardene the working party approved all of the 8 new projects proposed, including the Test Guidelines and Guidance Documents resulting from the EU's so-called Malta project. During a seminar on non-animal testing it became clear that bridging between scientific results and political action is a major problem. Though recognized by most of the member states no solutions were able to be shared or provided. The meeting was also an opportunity to meet up with the BIAC group working on nanos and to exchange about the structure of the future work together. Following this exchange, the group is planning to organize itself more efficiently to ensure the best possible use of expert knowledge that is available (more information: Nathalie Kinga Kowalski).

OTHER

European Risk Forum Event with the Bulgarian Presidency: 'Scientific Integrity, Public Policy, and Better Regulation'

On 20 February, the European Risk Forum (ERF) in collaboration with the EU's Bulgarian Presidency held a high-level event on 'Scientific Integrity, Public Policy, and Better Regulation'. The ERF is the only Brussels-based think tank that focuses on the impact of public policy on the assessment and management of risk and promotes the development and adoption of modern policies and institutional structures that can help guarantee high quality risk assessment and management decisions across a wide range of sectors. On 20 February, EU Institutions, academics and stakeholders gathered to openly debate about the challenges to be met in order to ensure that regulatory decisions are always based on the best available science as a natural complement to the EU Better Regulation Strategy. Improving safety and stimulating innovation, as well as guaranteeing transparency and scientific integrity were between the main arguments debated. A wide variety of eminent speakers, including world-leading scientists, leaders of scientific academies, senior business managers, MEPs, and senior officials from the EU institutions gave interesting speeches, openly reporting difficulties in finding the correct balance between best science available and uncertainty, in ensuring high level exchanges between researchers and policy makers, in identifying risks and efficient measures to minimise them, repeatedly stressing the importance of the innovation principle the EU is boosting (e.g. on circular economy) and integrity in the scientific communication. Vytenis Andriukaitis, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, European Commission closed the meeting with some strong comments on the fact that there are relevant and important strategies that have been put in place in the EU to strive for best available science related policies, but that we still face many difficulties with their practical implementation, which points out that in practice the system is not working. Thus, this should push all actors involved to engage in higher transparency and regular exchanges (e.g. via Commission's high level groups exchanges with academia and industry, EU projects, public consultations ,..) to find the best ways to implement EU policies' laws and rules both ensuring science based decisions and stimulating innovation (more information: Federica Iaccino).

CALENDAR

Here below is an extensive list of all the foreseen meetings for 2018, at ECHA/Helsinki and the REACH Forum meetings at the MCC/Brussels. Please note that all the RAC/MSC & SEAC meeting dates are tentative.

- 7-8 March: CARACAL 26 (Brussels)
- 6-9 March: RAC-44 (B) – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 12-16 March: SEAC-38 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 20 March: Authorisation & Restriction Platform – MCC (Brussels)
- 21 March: REACH Forum – MCC (Brussels)
- 22-23 March: Management Board-49 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 23-27 April: MSC-59 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 8 May: Evaluation Platform – MCC (Brussels)
- 9 May: Nanos Taskforce – MCC (Brussels)
- 4-8 June: RAC-45 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 4-5 June: EUSES Workshop – (Brussels)
- 11-15 June: MSC-60 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 11-15 June: SEAC-39 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 20-21 June: Management Board-50 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 26 June: Authorisation & Restriction Platform – MCC (Brussels)

- 27 June: REACH Forum – MCC (Brussels)

ACRONYMS

A&R: Authorisation & Restriction	HH: Human Health
AfA: Application for Authorisation	MEASE: Occupational Exposure Assessment Tool for REACH
ANSES: French agency for food, environmental and occupational health safety	MSC: Member States Committee (ECHA)
AoA: Assessment of Alternatives	MSCA: Member States Competent Authorities
ATP: Adaptation to Technical Progress	NeRSAP: Network of REACH Socio-Economic and Assessment of Alternative Practitioners
BAuA: Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (Germany)	NTE: Non-Toxic Environment
BIAC: Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD	OECD: Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development
BoA: Board of Appeal	PARERE: Preliminary Assessment of Regulatory Relevance
CANMET: Canada Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology	PC: Public Consultation
CARACAL: Competent Authorities for REACH and CLP	PNDT: Pre Natal Development Test
CL: Classification	PRTR: Pollutants release and Transfer Register
CLH: Harmonised Classification and Labelling process	RA: Risk Assessment
CLP: Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation	RAC: Risk Assessment Committee
CMR: Carcinogens, Mutagens or toxic to Reproduction	RIVM: National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (The Netherlands)
COLLA: Collaborative Approach	RR: Rapid Removal
CoRAP: Community Action Rolling Plan	SAICM: Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
DE: Dossier Evaluation	SCL: Specific Concentration Limit
ECETOC: European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals	SE: Substance Evaluation
ECVAM: European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Testing Methods	SEA: Socio-Economic Assessment/Analysis
ENES: Exchange Network on Exposure Scenarios	SEAC: Socio-Economic Analysis Committee (ECHA)
ENV: Environmental	SOP: Standard Operating Procedure
EOGRTS: Extended One-Generation Reproductive Toxicity Study	SPERC: Specific Environmental Release Category
ERF: European Risk Forum	STO: Stakeholder Observer
ETEAM: Evaluation of the Tier 1 Exposure Assessment Models	SVHC: Substance of very High Concern
EU-OSHA: European Agency for Safety and Health at Work	UVCB: Unknown or Variable Composition, Complex Reaction Products and Biological Materials
EUSES: European Union System for the Evaluation of Substances	WPMN: Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials (OECD)