



EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT NEWS



MISA 3 Workshop – UVCBs
 Tuesday 5 November at The Office, Brussels
[For other November meetings: consult calendar](#)

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Dear All,

In this communication era, when it comes to chemicals management, no news is often seen as good news. Authorities' silence sounds like the absence of trouble. REACH IT inactivity is perceived as tranquillity. Quietness, defined here as time off without chemicals management issues, appears to be so tempting that we consciously and instinctively search for it. We are raiders of the no-ECHA-activities ark, albeit discreet ones... Forget about having Harrison Ford's looks or wearing high heels to crush swarming spiders whilst screaming your head off. We are more like those circumspect (and subtle) protagonists who tend to avoid putting their substances in the spotlight and who wander incognito throughout workshops and conferences to gain awareness, but without attracting attention. We walk as if we were on a tightrope, the fragile cord that connects for example a 2010 REACH registration or a water EQS and new or ongoing authorities' actions. Place one foot aside of the cord, trigger the attention of a Member State, raise your tone and you then risk falling in the "exposed zone". This zone that resembles an arena of wild and visible chemicals management activities, where the different legislations show up like full armed gladiators, all different, the whole lot heavy. The fear of being in this zone sometimes prompts us to perform strange acrobatic figures, one hand desperately holding on to the cord, feet in the air; keeping some substances in the shadow while letting some others slip into the light.

We prefer uncertainty to clarity, and sometimes even forget about solidarity while scrutinising the BfR and/or NGOs' publications. Which one of us has never expressed relief when realising his substances have not been targeted or nominated, and not really considering others' trouble?

We are far away from the positive spirit supporting the acquisition of more knowledge on chemicals and the reward for efforts made by all. Not only is all data gathering now considered as a minimum requirement (that should have been fulfilled a long time ago), but in addition your happiness depends on not getting crossed.

Remember how we learnt when we were kids? Was incentive not a key factor? It could take on different forms: the praise coming from the teacher, a story at the end of the day, bonus points, or simply the possibility of discovering something new. Still, there was some kind of return! It helped in dealing with the aridity of some learnings.

Can we not reintroduce in our chemicals management challenges something of that order? An incentive for an achievement, a recognition for the invested efforts and resources, a 'good feeling label' that would enhance and prompt (further) motivation? Is it because we are adults that we do not need constructive signals anymore? Would we not do better for example, if we knew that there would be some feedback to tell us that for the time being and considering the status of knowledge, the job we did on a specific endpoint is -well- done? Clearly, such a signal would have to be thought through and have definite limits but having something palpable, visible that could be communicated...would allow us to move back to the constructive side of the protection of human health and environment. This would mean much more than simply being left alone, outside the focus.

"He who wants to travel far spares his mount."

So maybe it is time to reflect collectively on how this can be done -sooner than later- to ensure our high-level objectives are tackled altogether. To make management ambitions become a shared project.



Violaine Verougstraete, Chemicals Management director Eurometaux

ECHA REACH & CLP Activities: hot topics

ECHA Committees

MSC-66: agreement to launch the CoRAP 2020-2022

MSC launched the evaluation of ECHA's proposal for an update of the Community Rolling Action Plan, which would cover the period 2020-2022. The draft list now includes in total 76 substances: 7 new CoRAP candidates (a very low number), 67 that were already included in the CoRAP and 2 withdrawals. For the second year in a row, several existing substance entries have been delayed, due to ongoing Compliance Checks. This raised critiques from NGOs and some MSCAs who asked for an accelerated combined approach (Compliance Check and Substance Evaluation in parallel). It differs from previous years as the update did not include new metals or metal compounds. The draft CoRAP 2020-2022 list as presented to MSC was

published and new included substances will now be assessed by MSC to check and confirm that the grounds for concerns for selecting them are risk-based and cannot be resolved by a CC. The opinion is expected for February 2020 (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

MSC-66: substance evaluations are progressing too slowly while there is a boost of activities on Compliance Checks

Member States are responsible for conducting the Substance Evaluations for the CoRAP substances. The SEs are however progressing very slowly, as demonstrated by the fact that none were reviewed at this MSC meeting. This means that there will be a high number of SE discussions planned for the end of the year. On the other hand, the new evaluation strategy that was agreed upon at a political level requires ECHA to at least quadruple its activities on Compliance Checks. The ECHA's secretariat explained that they have identified and started the assessment of large batches of "grouped substances". One of these first batches -which contains more than 200 substances in total, in groups of 10-20 substances- is currently progressing well. ECHA is therefore streamlining the review, decision drafting processes and related formats to allow processing those in time. Eurometaux reacted on the comment that industry representation on a substance will -in the future- only be guaranteed if all registrants can combine their comments on the draft decision. This issue will be further explained at the upcoming Evaluation Taskforce meeting (14 November). The high workload on CCs will also result in double week meetings for MSC in 2020 (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

MSC-66: Annex XIV listing includes some novelties and a timeline for the 10th list

MSC adopted its opinion on the 9th list (including series of Pb-compounds) last June, but ECHA published its opinion only recently. This opinion included quite remarkably some exemptions for certain uses like lead stabilisers (use in recycling of PVC containing lead). The timeline for the (long expected) 10th list was clarified: MSC would receive a first draft of the prioritisation results in December alongside the Public Consultation on the new list running from February/March to May/June 2020 with the final adoption scheduled for Easter 2021. This 10th list is of significant potential interest for the metal sector given it may include lead metal, cadmium metal and oxide. (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

ECHA others

ENES-12: tools and looking forward

ECHA together with Cefic, Concawe, DUCC, Eurometaux, Fecc and Member States will organise the 12th meeting of the Exchange Network on Exposure Scenarios (ENES) on 21 November 2019, in Brussels. ENES is a collaborative platform involving industry and authorities, which aims to identify and promote good practices in the communication of information on the safe use of hazardous chemicals up and down the supply chain. ENES-12 aims more specifically at informing companies manufacturing, formulating and using chemicals about approaches and tools that can make supply chain communication more structured and efficient, demonstrate practically how the tools work and the benefits of using them and increase understanding of the practical value of information included in the extended safety data sheet for ensuring safe work places and products. The REACH Review activities, in particular those enhancing the supply chain communication, will be evoked as well. Eurometaux is actively involved in the preparation of the event and will moderate a session 'looking forward to risk management', alternating a presentation by ILA and a panel debate on "supply chain communication from registration to risk management: what is more efficient: "Wait and see" or "be prepared in advance"?. More information on the event can be found here: <https://echa.europa.eu/nl/-/twelfth-meeting-of-the-exchange-network-on-exposure-scenarios-enes12>- (or by contacting Violaine Verougstraete).

COMMISSION REACH & CLP Activities: hot topics/issues

CARACAL

CARACAL 32: getting ready for a broad range of discussions on REACH and CLP

Eurometaux is preparing its participation to the CARACAL₃₂ meeting scheduled for 6 and 7 November. The first day will be dedicated to CLP (see below). The second day, dedicated to REACH, is also full of important items, including the revision of the completeness check, REACH Annexes for nanoforms and several debates related to REACH restrictions. On the latest -a topic on which Eurometaux has already provided input in the past with the support of the Risk Management Taskforce- ECHA and Commission are proposing actions to improve restriction procedures and to identify future restriction cases. As part of the REACH Review, ECHA has also circulated a document on how to strengthen the uncertainty assessment of Annex XV restriction dossiers. A draft annotated agenda was prepared by Eurometaux and will be finalised during the preparatory call scheduled on 4 November (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot, Violaine Verougstraete and Lorenzo Zullo).

CLP session: lead environmental classification and Rapid Removal scheduled for debate

The upcoming CLP discussion at CARCAL (6 November) includes 2 issues of high interest for the metals sector. The first relates to the lead environmental classification, which is part of the 15th ATP proposal. An updated assessment of the lead environmental hazard data was prepared by ILA and Eurometaux, that now includes the new snail data that have been generated. It also discusses how the application of the split entries for the physical form (massive, powder) and of a pH-banded assessment would impact the classification of lead. Some Member States have already expressed support for these aspects during and after the last CARACAL meeting. The new industry submission builds further on this aspect, referring to the new data and available guidance. Discussions are taking place with key MSCAs to find a way forward at the next CARACAL meeting; RAC could then be asked to reconsider the file. The second topic of concern for the sector is the reporting by ECHA on the outcome of the Rapid Removal workshop (11 June), one of the MISA track 2 projects. The ECHA report concludes that Member State experts could not agree with the Extended Transformation Dissolution protocol. This test had been proposed by industry to resolve a long outstanding issue that puts the metals sector in a non-level-playing field vs. the organics. Member States may be keen to 'close' this dossier, which would block the metals sector in further progressing and applying the concept. Eurometaux therefore prepared a position paper, recognising the struggle but proposing to allow industry to implement the best science/knowledge on that issue in the registration dossiers, on a case by case basis (more information: Stijn Baken, Jelle Mertens and Hugo Waeterschoot)

EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT Activities

Resource mapping to respond to Chemicals Management challenges

Eurometaux General Assembly: 17 October

The Eurometaux General Assembly/Executive Committee was held after the annual Conference, which this year was organised around the theme « The global raw materials race: Ensuring Europe can supply its climate transition ». The debates at the Conference highlighted several challenges that the sector will need to reflect upon, including the need to take a broader perspective that will require horizontal cooperation between Eurometaux's committees and working more closely with users of metals to achieve a consistent approach through the value chains. In addition to the traditional 'membership and budget' related aspects, the General Assembly got an update on the joint non-ferrous metals industry campaign towards the new Parliament and new Commission and on the work programme for 2020. The Chemicals Management department presented a status update on the functioning of the department after the merge of the EHS and REACH groups, the 2019 achievements and its priorities for 2020 (more information: Guy Thiran and Violaine Verougstraete).

Metal-specific REACH application tools and concepts

MeClas: conference call of the Steering Committee on 10 October

The aim of the call was to update the Steering Committee members on the 2019 MeClas achievements and finances and to agree on priorities for next year. Among the achievements, it should be noted a number of functionalities have been added to the tool or further improved to facilitate e.g. data input. Key for the credibility of the MeClas classification outputs is the maintenance of the (self-)classification database running in the background. The MeClas team remains in close contact with the metals consortia/commodities to ensure the latest information is included. It has been agreed to develop short tutorials that could be visualised on YouTube for example: the first one -in the making- explains the UN GHS classification of inorganic complex materials and how MeClas can help. It will be followed by videos explaining how to input (regular) compositions into MeClas, how to input Ores and Concentrates' compositions and how to calculate output in MeClas and interpret "in-between calculation results"? In addition to the tutorials, the Steering Committee agreed that the must-do priority for 2020 is to find a way forward on how to best and transparently ensure a bioaccessibility correction for UVCBs (more information: Frederik Verdonck, Dagobert Heijerick, Hugo Waeterschoot and Violaine Verougstraete).

Metals Sectorial Approach

MISA workshop on iUVCB assessment: 5 November, The Office - Brussels

The month of October was dedicated to preparing the upcoming MISA workshop on iUVCB assessment that will take place on 5 November 2019 at The Office in Brussels. Several conference calls were organised between Eurometaux and ECHA experts to discuss aspects of the risk assessment methodology and the difficulties with IUCLID reporting. A number of agreements were reached during these exchanges on how to implement the methodological aspects to ensure good understanding of the iUVCBs dossiers. On the other hand, the hazard reporting strategy currently developed in the iUVCB IUCLID dossiers (i.e. assessment entities approach, as based on the summary effects data of the assessment entities) requires

the involvement of several units in ECHA, as this impacts regulators' assessment on data requirements and data evaluation. Eurometaux and ECHA agreed to continue discussing the reporting strategy in IUCLID to identify a pragmatic way forward after the workshop and to use the workshop to exclusively focus on the risk assessment strategy (more information: Federica Iaccino).

Classification

Cobalt CLH taskforce: Conference Call 14 October

The taskforce was informed that the 14th ATP -which includes the cobalt metal and titanium dioxide entries- has been submitted by the EU Commission to the European Parliament and the Council for a 2-month scrutiny period, starting on 5 October. If no objections are raised, the delegated act will enter into force and a publication of the ATP in the Official Journal can be expected in January (with entry into force in July 2021). The pertinence to launch further advocacy activities at the level of the Parliament and the Council was discussed and a pros/cons analysis of a mobilisation specifically targeting the cobalt metal entry was circulated in follow-up. The taskforce was also updated on the latest activities of the Expert Group that is reviewing the existing CLP guidance to derive the potency (and thus specific concentration limits) and the possibilities to carry out an oral carcinogenicity study (to address the all routes issue). Draft minutes were circulated to the taskforce on 23 October (more information: Adam Mc Carthy, Ruth Danzeisen, Hugo Waeterschoot, Lorenzo Zullo and Violaine Verougstraete).

Water

WFD WG Chemicals Meeting: 22-24 October in Brussels

Being the first meeting after the summer break and a long period of silence from the Clean Water Unit, the WG Chemicals gave some understanding as to what to expect in the coming months. Most important was the update of the new Implementing Metals Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) Guidance document – because of Helen Clayton's long sickness leave the final editorial reviews took longer than expected. The Strategic Coordination Group can expect to receive the final draft for the upcoming meeting that will be held on the 13th November. A short update on the current status of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) REFIT explained that the draft staff working document has been shared with the scrutiny board, however after a revision was requested, the document hasn't yet been approached as the board is missing new members, who need to be assigned by the new Commission – thus as long as the new Commission is not officially confirmed, the scrutiny board cannot continue to work. Hence, it is expected that the final staff working document won't be published before February 2020. As long as the REFIT exercise is not finalised concerning the review of the Priority Substances. However, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) presented a proposal for the update of the Watch List, including two Copper oxides. Eurometaux commented, keeping in mind that the dissolved Copper is the relevant form in aquatic environment and that Copper is widely monitored, hence, proposing this substance for the Watch List is rather surprising. The Commission decided to collect written comments on the proposal. Besides, the EEA presented their work on the emissions inventory including diffuse ones. Eurometaux used this opportunity to strengthen their relationship and enhance stronger exchange on emissions data with the EEA (more information: Nathalie Kinga Kowalski).

Industrial Emissions

IED Article 13 Forum Meeting: 14 October

An unexpectedly short Forum meeting took place mid-October. The major agenda point on creating a Forum opinion on the Surface Treatment Using Organic Solvents (STS) Best available technology Reference document (BREF) review took much less time than foreseen. For Eurometaux the updates on the Work Programme and Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) Evaluation were key points of the agenda. The Bureau is planning to reactivate the Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Surface Treatment of Metals and Plastics (STM) or the Large Volume Inorganic Chemicals (LVIC) BREFs end of 2020 – the reactivation of the leftover BREF will follow in early spring 2021.

The IED Evaluation is in its full run – having focused groups organised, who are analysing the results of the consultations. About 312 contributions were received on the open public consultation and (more than expected) 340 answers to the targeted one. The second stakeholder workshop in mid-December will focus on early results and analysis. Eurometaux used the occasion to question the organisation and transparency of the focused groups. The Commission answered that the results of the focused groups will be reflected in the final evaluation report that will be published with the staff working document. Active exchange with other industries, especially those involved in the focused groups is ongoing (more information: Nathalie Kinga Kowalski).

OECD WG PRTR Meeting: 16-17 October in Paris

Eurometaux also participated in the yearly OECD Working Group (WG) Pollutants Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) meeting last month. Mostly from the US, but also Japan, Canada and Switzerland, proposed projects with as global goal to align the different PRTR systems and find a common understanding of what a PRTR system shall deliver to its users. As part of this new programme for evaluating data, Qliksense, was introduced by the U.S. – a programme which promises better analysis of high numbered data inserts. Furthermore, alongside the presentations done e.g. by Colombia and the U.S. a clear wish to link the PRTR data with evaluation of the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) became clear. Moreover, the EEA presented several projects where they invest in the improvement of the E-PRTR registry (new so-called EU Registry on Industrial Sites) and e.g. identification of diffuse sources. The latter being an important issue also for the U.S. who are starting to update the release estimation techniques for so-called non-point sources. All in all, the WG PRTR is developing a broader scope of activities than when it was created, taking stock of successes and challenges in implementing the PRTR Protocol and PRTR systems to date (more information: Nathalie Kinga Kowalski).

FURTHER OUTREACH OF REACH

OTHER

Shanghai Chemicals Forum: 24-25 October: Eurometaux heading the panel debate on data exchange and availability

The Helsinki Chemicals Management Forum organised for the first time an outreach session in Shanghai focussing on the fast-developing number of chemical management systems in Asia. Eurometaux was invited to chair the panel on Data Quality and Data Exchange whereby the OECD, ECHA, the Scientific Community (SETAC), the Importers/Exporters (ORO) and the Asian industries shared their views. The panel made a strong plea to make maximal use of REACH effects data for regional systems respecting fair exchange rules. The OECD Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) system was broadly recognised as a quality and relevance reference facilitating exchange that helps to prevent unnecessary test-work. The scientific community asked for the possibility to gain direct access to the full data sets on a series of substances to stimulate a generic review of chemicals properties (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

COMMUNICATION

Certificate in toxicology: 21-25 October

Since this year, the Faculty of Public Health at the Catholic University of Louvain (UCLouvain) and the Belgian Society of Toxicology and Ecotoxicology (BelTox) are jointly organising a new Training in "Toxicology". It is organised in modules that professionals who wish to supplement their education in the scientific or biomedical field can select (e.g. on principles of toxicology, *in vitro* toxicology etc.). Eurometaux co-coordinated the organisation of the 5-day "regulatory toxicology" module of the training. The students were exposed to presentations and exercises, a World Café and panel debates, addressing technical topics like hazard dose-response and exposure assessment but also more societal questions (Zero-Pollution, Precautionary Principle...) and reflections on impact assessment.

Several of our commodities toxicologists/experts/consultants were actively involved in the teaching, managing this on top of their full agenda and we would like to thank them for their contagious enthusiasm and impressive teaching skills. Also, an ECHA, Member State and a Commission representative participated in the module, allowing regulatory toxicology to emerge from it even more tempting than ever! (more information: <https://uclouvain.be/fr/etudier/iufc/toxicology.html> or Violaine Verougstraete).

HBM4EU: 3rd Stakeholders Forum meeting

HBM4EU (Human Biomonitoring for Europe) is a 5-year EU-funded project launched in 2016 whose aim is to coordinate and advance human biomonitoring in Europe and support policy making and thereby provide better evidence of the actual exposure of citizens to chemicals. The project includes the development of standardised methodologies and the establishment of a network of laboratories to increase Europe's capacity to generate biomonitoring data. As part of the effort to enhance engagement with NGOs, trade unions and industry, the project consortium invited Eurometaux to attend the 3rd Stakeholders Forum Meeting organised on 10 October in Berlin. The meeting was an opportunity to receive an update on how the work, involving 28 countries, is proceeding. Between 2016 and 2018, 18 substance groups were prioritised, and the consortium is expected to release several factsheets by the end of the year, covering, among other substances, cadmium, mercury, lead, arsenic. During the meeting, the various stakeholders were asked to present their views on biomonitoring.

Eurometaux welcomed the work on “biomonitoring” implementation, data and research, and expressed interest in targeting “less obvious metals” than Cd or Pb, in particular when it comes to environmental/consumer exposure. Eurometaux, like the other stakeholders, will consider the possibility to provide input on the 3rd prioritisation round. Stakeholders can nominate substances by providing background information and rationale of the proposal. The selection process is expected to start in 2020 and will be completed in 2021 (more information: Violaine Verougstraete and Lorenzo Zullo).

CALENDAR

- 4-6 November: 14th European Water Association Conference (Brussels)
- 5 November: MISA UVCB Workshop (The Office; Brussels)
- 5 November: Enforcement Forum under ECHA (Helsinki)
- 6-7 November: CARACAL-32 (Brussels) & WFD WG DIS (Brussels)
- 13 November: WFD CIS Strategic Coordination Group (Brussels)
- 14 November: Workshop on Exemptions under WFD (Brussels)
- 14 November: Nano registration Workshop & Evaluation Taskforce Meeting –MCC (Brussels)
- 18 November: Water taskforce meeting - MCC (Brussels)
- 21 November: ENES 12 - Brussels
- 27 November: Industrial Emissions Taskforce Meeting - MCC (Brussels)
- 25-29 November: RAC-51 (A) – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 25-29 November: SEAC-45 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 26-27 November: WFD Water & Marine Directors Meeting (Helsinki)
- 2-6 December: RAC-51 (B) – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 9-13 December: MSC-67 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 16-18 December: OECD Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials (WPMN) Interim Meetings (Brussels)
- 17 December: Chemicals Management Steering Committee – MCC (Brussels)
- 17 December: IED Evaluation 2nd Stakeholder Workshop (Brussels)
- 16-17 December: MB-56 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 18 December: Risk Management Taskforce – MCC (Brussels)

ACRONYMS

ATP: Adaptation to Technical Progress	MAD: Mutual Acceptance of Data
BREF: Best available technology Reference document	MSC: Member States Committee (ECHA)
CC: Compliance Check	MSCA: Member States Committee
CARACAL: Competent Authorities for REACH and CLP	NGO: Non-Governmental Organisation
CLH: Harmonised Classification and Labelling process	OECD: Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development
CLP: Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation	PRTR: Pollutants Release and Transfer Register
CoRAP: Community Action Rolling Plan	RAC: Risk Assessment Committee
EAA: European Environment Agency	REFIT: Regulatory Fitness & Performance Programme (EU)
E-PRTR: European Pollutants Release and Transfer Register	RR: Rapid Removal
ENES: Exchange Network on Exposure Scenarios	SDG: Sustainable Development Goals
EQS: Environmental Quality Standards	SE: Substance Evaluation
GHS: Globally Harmonized System	SETAC: Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry
IED: Industrial Emissions Directive	SPERC: Specific Environmental Release Category
IUCLID: International Uniform Chemicals Information Database	STM (BREF): Surface Treatment of Metals and Plastics BREF
iUVCB: inorganic Unknown or Variable Composition, Complex Reaction Products and Biological Materials	STS (BREF): Surface Treatment Using Organic Solvents BREF
JRC: Joint Research Centre	TWG: Technical Working Group
LVIC: Large Volume Inorganic Chemicals	UN: United Nations
MAD: Mutual Acceptance of Data	UVCB: Unknown or Variable Composition, Complex Reaction Products and Biological Materials
MeClas: Metals Classification Tool	WFD: Water Framework Directive
MISA: Metals and Inorganics Sectorial Approach	WG: Working Group

