



EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT NEWS



MISA Taking-Stock Workshop: 13 February - MCC

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Dear All,

You have most probably already come across this situation: when you come back to a place you have not seen for a number of years and instead of finding the "familiar landscape" composed of trees, space to run or bike through, the scent of grass and nature, there is a parking lot assorted with constructions, and fences cutting through the scenery. Or you see the green surroundings of your home -which were one of the reasons that you bought the place- sold, invaded by cranes and transformed without any possible action to be taken (as a child I went repeatedly on site to mingle with the landmarks but it is not efficient, believe me!). The feelings you experience at that moment are a mix of melancholia and powerlessness comparable to what is now described as solastalgia.

According to Wikipedia, solastalgia is a neologism describing a form of mental or existential distress caused by environmental change. Often proposed in reference to global climate change, it is also associated with more localised events such as volcanic eruptions, drought or even destructive mining techniques. The word was created by the philosopher Glenn Albrecht in 2005, and results from the combination of the words *sōlācium* (Latin, for comfort) and the root *-algia* (Greek, for pain). Albrecht created the concept to evoke something similar to nostalgia but with an imbedded reference to place. He stated that any context where place identity is challenged by pervasive change to the existing order has the potential to deliver solastalgia. New technologies have enabled transitions to occur to social and natural environments at a speed that makes adaptation difficult, if not impossible. While some might respond to such stress with nostalgia and want to return to a past state/place where they felt more comfortable, others will experience solastalgia and express a strong desire to sustain those things that provide them with "solace".

Interestingly, he argued -close to 15 years ago!- that the progress with IT and communications makes the experience of solastalgia possible for people who strongly empathise with the idea that the Earth is their home and that witnessing events that destroy endemic place identity (cultural and biological diversity) anywhere on earth are personally distressing to them.

This idea was further investigated and applied and in 2015 the medical journal *The Lancet* included solastalgia as a contributing concept to the impact of Climate Change on Human Health and well-being.

A concept to consider in our discussions on the Green Deal and the requests society -including you and me- have for a 'home' and a sustainable environment. It is a driver, a concern at multiple scales we should be able to listen to.

But I also want to highlight the companion notion of *adamastophilia*, recalled by a French editor, where "adamastos" refers to what is 'intact' or untamed and englobes the admiration and gratitude we feel for the landscapes that have not yet been damaged, which are intact. Because we also need this other part of the discussion, i.e. the opposite, the luminous, the driver to transform distress into actions. As concluded by the editor, we also need to be overcome by the strong emotion that there is still beauty on Earth and that the fact it is so fragile makes it even more beautiful!

Violaine Verougstraete, Chemicals Management director Eurometaux

- <https://www.philomag.com/les-idees/le-charme-de-lintact-42223>
- Albrecht, Glenn. 'Solastalgia'. A New Concept in Health and Identity [online]. PAN: Philosophy Activism Nature, No. 3, 2005: 41-55.

ECHA REACH & CLP Activities: hot topics

ECHA others

ENES Coordination Group: **webex 31 January**

During its first webinar of 2020, the Coordination Group of the Exchange Network on Exposure Scenarios (ENES) discussed the status of the work planned to address actions identified by the REACH Review (Action 3) either to be tackled within the frame of ENES or by ECHA. The feedback from CARACAL on the last ENES report was discussed as well. The proposed keystones for the further work include use maps, have meaningful safe use advice to service the downstream (end) users' needs, an improved transfer of "safety data" between actors, minimum requirements for exposure scenarios and methods/tools for formulators. The group will meet face-to-face on 12 February and outcomes will be shared with the Eurometaux Registration Taskforce on 19 March (more information: Violaine Verougstraete).

ECHA Webinars on nanomaterials: *registering nanoforms-practical advice*

Since 1 January 2020, companies must have a registration compliant with the updated REACH Annexes, outlining the information requirements to fulfil when manufacturing or importing nanoforms of substances that fall within the scope of REACH. ECHA had organised a first webinar on 12 November on the REACH information requirements and has now published the Q&A (https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/28526626/reach_nano_annexes_qa_en.pdf/b30fede8-0624-69f1-b86e-549c9d9c5f8b). The Q&A was further elaborated and complemented with additional advice to support the registrants. ECHA has also grouped the available guidance and support material in one place on their website. On **24 February 2020**, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) will hold a second webinar on "[Registering nanoforms: practical advice](#)." ECHA invites stakeholders to join the webinar to hear about the registrations received so far, key lessons learned, and best practices. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions on how to prepare registration dossiers for their nanoforms and get practical advice from ECHA's experts for successfully submitting registrations (more information Hugo Waeterschoot, Lorenzo Zullo and Violaine Verougstraete).

COMMISSION Activities: hot topics/issues

CARACAL

CARACAL 33: *EU Commission asked RAC to reassess the environmental classification proposed for lead in massive form*

The 33rd CARACAL meeting was dedicated to CLP. On this occasion, CARACAL, according to the new Delegated Act procedure, acted as expert group providing advice to the Commission on changes in CLP regulation, such as harmonised classifications (Annex VI) and notification to poison centres (Annex VIII). The most important topic for Eurometaux, due to its precedent setting nature, was the environmental classification of lead in metallic form, proposed to be included in the 15th ATP. Contrary to the ECHA guidance and previous metal experience, RAC proposed to classify lead metal with no differentiation between the massive and powder form, hence the same as for lead soluble forms. ILA was able to put on the table new scientific evidence to replace an old non-standard snail study which challenged the toxicity reference used by RAC to define the classification for lead. A concerted programme of advocacy activities by ILA and its members, supported by Eurometaux, resulted in CARACAL challenging the proposed classification. CARACAL agreed with the Commission to exclude lead in massive form from the 15th ATP and added the proposal to return the classification proposal to ECHA asking them to evaluate this new evidence and reconsider a split classification for massive and powder. Following this, the Commission will prepare a mandate for ECHA. Whilst this is a very important and unique milestone towards the recognition of scientific evidence and respect for the metals guidance, the story is not over yet, given we now have to prepare for a new RAC assessment (more information: Steve Binks, Violaine Verougstraete, Hugo Waeterschoot, Lorenzo Zullo).

OTHERS

REACH dossier updates: *Eurometaux raised concerns on the draft implementing regulation*

Eurometaux commented the draft implementing regulation on dossier updates via the 30-day public consultation launched by the European Commission in December. Strong concerns were reiterated in relation to the impossibility for industry to comply with certain dossier updating deadlines in cases such as: when dealing with big consortia or complex substances/dossiers. One of the complexities for metals is that read-across approaches have been widely used to assess the properties of metal compounds. This means that new scientific evidence/data on a specific substance might lead to the update of multiple registration dossiers within a single consortium. In these situations, updating all the dossiers within the deadline set in the draft implementing regulation is not realistic. The public consultation was also an opportunity to underline potential conflicts between the proposed Implementing Regulation and the ongoing MISA programme, where specific scientific/technical aspects are being discussed with ECHA to ensure high quality of metal-related registration dossiers. Such discussions are followed up by updates working plans that are submitted by individual consortia to ECHA. The timing proposed in the Implementing Regulation might therefore conflict with this well established and widely appreciated multi-year sectorial approach. For these reasons, Eurometaux has asked the European Commission to consider the introduction of a specific clause to allow extra time to be permitted in well-justified cases. The draft Implementing Regulation, which is also subject to WTO consultation until the 18th of February, is expected to be discussed and voted in the REACH committee (probably in March). Final adoption, after scrutiny by Parliament and Council, is expected in Q2 2020 (more information: Caroline Braibant, Sandra Carey, Lorenzo Zullo).

Commission unveils 2020 Work Programme:

On 29 January, the Von der Leyen Commission unveiled [its very first annual Work Programme](#), setting the policy priorities for 2020. One of the driving forces behind this Work Programme is, of course, the need to successfully grasp the opportunities of the Green Deal. Of relevance to chemicals management are two major non-legislative texts: the new Circular Economy Action Plan in March and the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability over the summer. But this Commission is also determined to simplify existing legislation by applying its new 'one-in, one-out' approach and ensuring that newly introduced regulatory burdens are offset by relieving people and businesses from other burdens. In this context, the Commission will evaluate a record number of 44 existing pieces of legislation, including legislation on Endocrine Disruptors (EDs), the RoHS Directive, the IED, the Batteries Directive and the end-of-life vehicles (ELV) Directive (more information: Noam El Mrabet).

LEAKED: new Circular Economy Action Plan

As mentioned previously, we expect the publication of a new Circular Economy Action Plan in March. However, a DRAFT of this Action Plan has recently been leaked. Most important is that the Commission defines what "substances of concern" are. These should encompass SVHCs, substances listed in Annex VI of CLP for a classification for chronic effects, and sector-specific substances (to be determined later) posing technical problems for recovery operations or for the performance characteristics of the secondary raw materials. Many other foreseen initiatives aim at promoting "cleaner waste streams", for instance by avoiding the introduction of SVHCs during a product's design phase. Finally, it should be noted that by the end of the year, the Batteries Directive will be transformed into a Regulation and should now include Ecodesign-type requirements such as rules on recycled content, measures to improve the recycling rates of all batteries, and measures to improve the recovery of valuable materials (more information: Noam El Mrabet).

Water Framework Directive Working Group CHEM: 15-17 January

The Commission invited participants for a meeting to decide on the activities of the Working Group Chemicals under the Water Framework Directive in 2020. The most important was the discussion on the WatchList candidates which included copper oxides in the first draft proposal. After receiving not only comments by Eurometaux, but also several opinions from Member States such as Austria or the Czech Republic, the JRC removed copper oxides as potential candidates. Of the same importance was the information of re-starting work on the new Priority Substances list. As previously announced, the Commission now wants to continue this work as the REFIT exercise of the WFD is completed. There it was reminded that, among others, uranium, silver and selenium were listed as candidates. And also, that three other substances, including Nickel, were proposed to be reviewed. Overall the Commission would like to finalise the work by the summer 2020. The Commission acknowledged Member States' comments that this will be a tight timeline but does not want to change it. At the meeting it was concluded that the Commission shall "upload the revised presentation asap and invite Members to nominate experts for the re-establishment of the Sub-Group on Review; and plan a meeting for March or after Easter." Up until now, Eurometaux has not received further details from the Commission (more information: Nathalie Kinga Kowalski).

Meeting on 20 January with DG ENV and DG GROW: on Chemicals Products Waste interface

Eurometaux had the possibility to exchange with the two Commission DGs on several topics including 'substances of concern', 'Zero-Pollution versus Non-Toxic Environment' and further developments on the CPW Interface. This was also a good opportunity for EM to reiterate messages to the targeted and the public consultations on the Interface (e.g. waste as a resource, importance of risk control and minimisation of exposure vs hazard, sector specificities, etc.). With regard to the Zero-Pollution agenda, the discussion confirmed that the topics mentioned in the 7th Environmental Action Plan will remain in the focus and will be outlined in the 8th EAP (expected in March) and the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (planned for this summer). On the latter, we can expect a narrative of what to achieve, with rather high-level objectives to be detailed in actions/impacts assessments in 2021. Commission representatives provided interesting references to further examine further steps in relation to the Clear project (study for the development of an evidence-based approach as support to regulators when assessing how to manage the presence of substances of concern in recycled materials) conducted by RIVM and BIPRO (presented at the last RM Taskforce meeting). We have also learned that the study investigating the information flows on substances contained in waste (under DG GROW) and the study on End-of-Waste and by-product (under DG ENV) will be finalised with a bit of delay but still in the springtime. Overall, it was concluded that the Commission programme has a very high level of ambition, aiming at making substances more circular and allowing to rethink policies and integrate innovative angles (more information: Kamila Slupek and Violaine Verougstraete).

ED Targeted consultation: *input from the sector on metal specificities and cooperation with other industry sectors*

The European Commission is carrying out a Fitness Check on the EU legislation on endocrine disruptors and held an 8-week targeted stakeholders survey, which closed end of January. The sector's input was prepared along two calls of the Environment and Human Health Taskforces, focusing primarily on the metal specificities (e.g. natural occurrence and background, essentiality and differences with organometals) and supporting also, after liaison with Cefic, a number of more generic aspects raised by the other industry sectors (e.g. the need for an additional classification criterion for ED properties, management of EDs under REACH). The final replies to the questionnaire and an accompanying position paper (submitted to

JRC) were circulated to the Taskforces on 31 January. The metal sector has done some work in the past years on EDs, including a review of the available evidence for a number of metals. It will also have to follow the work done by the CARACAL ED subgroups who will identify and define specific information requirements for ED properties. Marnix Vangheluwe and Violaine Verougstraete have both been nominated as 'correspondents' and will ensure the circulation of information etc. The first meeting of these subgroups is scheduled for 7 February. An update will be provided to the Science forum members during the spring Chemicals Management week (more information: Stijn Baken, Lorenzo Zullo and Violaine Verougstraete).

EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT Activities

Resource mapping to respond to Chemicals Management challenges

Green Deal: preparations at EM level

The whole Eurometaux staff sat together for one day to exchange ideas and correctly understand the "Green Deal", so as to identify where to give input, and how to ensure the best cooperation across the different departments. One of the assets of the Commission's programme is its potential to break silos and trigger horizontal and/or holistic approaches. In this context it is important that industry and its associations gain the flexibility and the knowledge that will allow them to anticipate and reply to actions that will cover a broad spectrum and require different types of expertise. Further communications paper will be prepared (more information: Violaine Verougstraete).

Human Health Taskforce conference call: 13 January 2020

The Human Health taskforce held a productive call mid-January to take stock of a number of actions agreed upon end of the summer. On occupational exposure, several actions are ongoing, i.e. drafting of a multi-metallic questionnaire for monitoring of exposure, a reflection about respirable/inhalable conversion factors, participation in an international sampler comparison study and collection of measured dermal exposure/absorption data to check/possibly update the conclusions of the HERAG fact sheet on dermal exposure and absorption. The next MISA workshop, scheduled for 23-24 April in Helsinki, will catalyse its work on some of the deliverables, as one of the main aims of this MISA activity will be to improve the quality/reliability of the (measured and modelled) exposure data in the registration dossiers. The workshop should allow to obtain a clear agreement on what needs to be reported for REACH compliance purposes. Industry should in addition also be able to explain which procedures are followed and assess that they fit with the information requirements' expectations. A small group of volunteers will further discuss the industry input in MISA 4 early March. A status update was provided on bioelution, with focus on the next steps (setup repository, support of the project at OECD level, use of bioelution for grouping and read-across). Here as well, a small subgroup will be set up. This subgroup should include representatives for the materials identified as 'reference materials' for the gastric bioelution test, to apply the results for the classification of alloys (reference metals are the ones having a classification for systemic effects via the oral route). The EM secretariat will prepare an estimate for overall costs for setting up such a repository. An update was also provided on the "T25" issue and the discussions held within the ECHA Expert Group on the methodology to derive specific concentration limits. Finally, it was referred to a recent paper describing a study that aimed to use the ToxTracker reporter cell lines to investigate (geno)toxicity of various metal- or metal oxide nanoparticles (CuO, Co, CoO, CdTe QDs, Mn, Mn₃O₄, V₂O₅, and welding NPs). The authors suggest that these NPs are of particular concern when considering genotoxicity induced by metal- and metal oxide NPs. It was agreed to analyse this paper in depth and decide what to do with the results. Minutes were circulated to the Taskforce in follow-up of the call (more information: Adriana Oller, Ruth Danzeisen, Daniel Vetter and Violaine Verougstraete).

Risk Management Taskforce (RM TF): session to advance the advocacy and communication on risk management policies

The RM Taskforce met on 23 January 2020 for a brainstorming and planning session to advance two of its policy programmes: progressing the concept of Sustainable Substitution and its policy suggestions to improve the efficiency and relevancy of the Risk Management of Chemicals in the EU. Both of these pro-active oriented programmes aim at steering ECHA and Commission's policies on substitution and on restrictions and authorisations towards decision-making tools that warrant better the properties and technical and economic conditions of the metals/inorganic sectors in the EU. The session provided a series of more precise actions to enhance the recognition for both policy papers with dedicated tasks for Eurometaux, Consortia, National Federations and company representatives. The meeting proposed to implement them in the 10 months to come and to let them culminate in a special session organised back-to-back with the Eurometaux General Assembly in October 2020. The actions will now be turned into a roadmap, that will be presented to the Chemicals Management Steering Committee whilst in parallel implementation has already started (more information: France Capon, Klaus Kamps, and Hugo Waeterschoot).

SRM TF meeting: 27 January

Slags were discussed during an extended Sustainable Resources Management Working group meeting on 27 January, bringing together Sustainability and Chemical Management Committee experts. The meeting primarily aimed at mapping the issues to tackle for 'slags' in the context of the Green Deal, related to sustainability, circularity and chemicals management aspects. This mapping will allow to define 'ways forward' and related actions. Key topics to be addressed include impurities management/safe use, creating market trust and clarifying the inconsistency of the status (waste vs. product). A draft roadmap is currently prepared by a subgroup of volunteers and will be circulated for comments to the Sustainability Committee, the Chemicals Management Steering Committee and the CPW Taskforce. Draft minutes will follow asap (more information: Kamila Slupek, Violaine Verougstraete and Hugo Waeterschoot).

Classification

Meeting with Kemi: a crucial step in the recognition of metal specific environmental classification guidance

Boliden, the Finnish and Swedish metal sector and Eurometaux met Kemi on 15 January to review a series of key issues related to the environmental classification of metals. Kemi is a very important player in this respect given it is at the origin of both the GHS and CLP guidance and the Transformation Dissolution protocol. This guidance and recognition allowed to distinguish the environmental hazards of metals between the ion, powders and massives. The Kemi delegation that we met in Stockholm was remarkable, including representatives of the environmental classification unit, the original author of the EU/UN guidance and the CARACAL liaison officer. The meeting took place the day after the CARACAL session (see above) and confirmed Sweden's understanding and support for the conclusion to send the lead metal environmental classification proposal back to RAC so that they reconsider a split between the powder and massive forms. Moreover, Kemi suggested considering some cooperative activity to defend and update the metals guidance at UN level (will be reviewed later this year). Kemi took further note of the sector's views on the Rapid Removal. They stated that while they still have open questions, the data presented were "impressive in demonstrating the lack of availability". They suggested to further explore some elements in line with previous recommendations we obtained during the Rapid Removal workshop with ECHA and RAC in June (more information: Pia Voutilainen and Hugo Waeterschoot).

Metals Sectorial Approach

MISA presentation to the Man-Made Vitreous Fibres Association (MMVF): 15 January 2020

Eurometaux was invited by the MMVF to present the MISA programme, including the background for this cooperative approach with ECHA, the different topics and the timing. The resulting discussion allowed to discuss in-depth the benefits of the programme but also the work required to catch up with the MISA activities currently under finalisation (environmental and human health information requirements). It is up to the association to decide whether they still wish to embark in this MISA programme (more information: Violaine Verougstraete).

UVCB Platform conference call: 17 January 2020 and cost-sharing formulas

The aim was to discuss the setup of the UVCB platform, which aims at harmonising and aligning the iUVCB dossiers with the assessment methodology debated and agreed upon with ECHA on 5 November and facilitate the updates and reporting refinements in a cost/resources efficient way. A draft note describing the mandate, structure/tasks, timing/budget and resources was circulated ahead of the call and used as a starting point for the discussions. During the call, it was reiterated that the update of the 2014 UVCB dossiers will build on existing work carried out over the last years by the consortia/companies. As the update work requires refining several common (across iUVCB and across consortia) aspects, the platform will focus on the multi-metallic work, using the best knowledge, to avoid duplication and save some time considering the tight timeline for updating these dossiers. A joint platform should also help consortia who have no time/possibility to get a clear view on what other consortia are doing on iUVCBs, so as to align their assessments with the proposed methodology. The participants on the call agreed on the mandate of the platform, i.e. that it would represent all the consortia that have signed the MISA agreement and need to update or submit Article 10 dossiers for their inorganic UVCBs and that it would entail three 'working axes' with different responsibilities/contacts: a) an administrative Working Group (AWG) that will define cost-sharing for each consortium participating in the platform according to agreed and transparent clear criteria, define data sharing agreements to facilitate data exchange (these will be impacted by ECHA's feedback on the proposed reporting IUCLID strategy), ensure communication and reflect on the link with the MMD, b) a technical Working Group (TWG) to do the actual update/preparation of technical work and c) a coordination Working Group (CWG) to coordinate the smooth submissions of the updated dossiers-contacts with ECHA. The AWG has been further reflecting on cost-sharing formulas that will be communicated to the participating consortia in the coming days so as to be able to launch this work (more information: Federica Iaccino & Violaine Verougstraete).

MISA: two workshops in sight and deliverables on the MISA blog

MISA has now entered its last year. A taking-stock workshop of the two first MISA activities (information requirements for Human Health and Environment) is foreseen for Thursday 13 February 2020, in the Metals Conference Centre in Brussels. The aim of this workshop is to have a collective exchange and define possible solutions for remaining issues. The agenda of the workshop will be circulated asap and builds on surveys completed by a big part of the MISA's participating consortia. It will address aspects like read-across reporting in practice, use of counterion files, environmental issues but also the difficulties with the TCC. ECHA will provide an update on the work they are doing on evaluating workplans and updates. A second workshop, the MISA 4 workshop on exposure is scheduled to take place in Helsinki, on 23-24 April. The aim of this workshop will be to improve the quality/reliability of the exposure data in the registration dossiers (workplace and environment, local and regional, measured and modelled) so as to have complete/compliant and up-to-date registration dossiers. As for MISA 1 and MISA 2, the workshop will be built around themes and issues that are either metal-specific and/or represent challenges in our dossiers: e.g. discussions on measured data (documentation of the provided dataset, contextual information, representativity), modelled data (clarify/document assumptions made when using modelled data (MEASE, SpERCs, EUSES), the importance of a relevant regional estimate covering diffuse sources and materials flow analysis. A Self-Assessment Tool on Exposure is currently being finalised with the help of EBRC, ARCHE and ECHA and will be circulated next week. It should help the consortia/associations to conduct a self-evaluation of their dossiers and identify possible inconsistencies with the ECHA Guidance documents due to metal/inorganic-specificities. Finally, a number of deliverables have been posted on the MISA blog like the final report of the MISA 3 UVCB workshop + Executive Summary, 10 counterion files with cover note to support the human health read-across, and an industry note on the use of bioelution for read-across and grouping (more information: Violaine Verougstraete)

OUTREACH

International: OECD

OECD and BIAC meetings: *preparing for the Joint Chemicals meeting of the OECD and BIAC*

The OECD Chemicals Joint meeting (JM) responsible for the Chemicals Management agenda of the OECD, is organised every 10 months; this time from 3 to 7 February. The meeting is always preceded by a session of BIAC (the industry representation at the OECD). The JM provides strategic guidance, approves projects and budgets and is therefore of key relevance for industry, including the European metals sector. Kai-Sebastian Melzer, the metals sector co-chair of the BIAC delegation to the Chemicals JM, therefore organised a session to review the recommendations and policy papers in advance of the BIAC preparatory session. Compared to previous years, this time quite a lot attention for the restructuration of the programmes and organisational structure was included. Most important in this respect are the merger of the substitution and risk management activity into one new Taskforce on Risk Management to provide this part of OECD's activity with more leverage and visibility. A second major change relates to the funding structure aiming for a more stable long-term funding of OECD activities, but the acceptance of this one will exclusively depend on the United States' attitude to support it or not. Other projects that were reviewed by the team were, amongst others, the progress and finalities of the OECD BAT programme, the future of the MAD programme and a proposal for a global chemicals' knowledge base. Draft views for the metals sector were defined by Kai and circulated to the Eurometaux and ICMM membership for agreement, to help support the mandate of the metals representation (more information Kai-Sebastian Melzer and Hugo Waeterschoot).

OECD risk management activity: *preparation for the upcoming workshop on Substitution*

The OECD intends to set up in April a workshop to promote substitution of hazardous chemicals under its Chemicals Management programme. While the OECD will not develop technical guidelines on this theme, its policy recommendations have a significant impact on the EU and the upcoming SAICM meeting. Kai-Sebastian Melzer, as co-chair in BIAC and representing the metals sector, called for a discussion to prepare this workshop and to review the present OECD draft guide. The session concluded that "the guide raised both attention for hazard as well as exposure when defining risk management needs and options, although hazard had more weight". Secondly, "neither the guide nor the outline of the workshop raised attention for the balance between risk to be managed, technical and economic feasibility and other environmental policies like the circular economy and climate". The meeting therefore agreed to present the metals concept of Sustainable Substitution and to illustrate this with clear examples. In addition, it was suggested to clarify with the OECD secretariat if the guide was still open for input whereby, we would promote a better balance and propose a more holistic view (more information Kai-Sebastian Melzer and Hugo Waeterschoot).

OECD: release of eChemPortal version 3.0

The OECD is pleased to announce the release of [eChemPortal](#) v3.0 - The Global Portal to Information on Chemical Substances. This new version includes a modernisation of the user interface architecture, a refreshed design, improved navigation and the alignment of eChemPortal to OECD Harmonised Template (OHT) 2018. The user experience is now more fluid, and the user can search for chemical information more efficiently. New features include quick search functionality from the homepage, filtering and sorting on results tables, and a preliminary indication of the number of results expected in a search by chemical properties. The searches have also been harmonised to be more intuitive for the user. Free webinars and training events will be organised upon request to echemportal@oecd.org. Find out more in our introductory video <https://youtu.be/DJz8vO1FQok> (more information: OECD secretariat or Hugo Waeterschoot and Violaine Verougstraete).

COMMUNICATION

Metals Academy: conference call on progress made

The green light for the setup of the Metals Academy was received from EM's Management Committee and therefore a first course is planned to take place this summer provided there is enough interest from the membership to register participants. This course wishes to address newcomers in the industry sector from associations, companies, federations, but also industry members interested in learning more background information on the "metals industry". It would be residential and last 3 days. Speakers are currently being identified and a finalised programme will be circulated in the coming weeks. Five key modules have been defined, addressing the following topics: a) Why metals are used and are essential to society, b) Basics in metallurgy and economy of metals, c) Metals in history, the present and the future, d) Human health and environment aspects and e) Basics of Risk management and advocacy. A "Save the Date 7-9 July" has been sent to members with the request that they forward it to their members and to also notify us asap of any registrations they might have already (more information: Ailsa Lee, Violaine Verougstraete & Frank Van Assche)

Chemical Watch eLearning course on Metals in Toxicology and Ecotoxicology: it is out!

The course, accessible [here: http://bit.ly/2XUGLeG](http://bit.ly/2XUGLeG), aims at raising awareness on the specific properties of metals that may have an impact on their toxicity and the approaches and tools they require to be assessed properly. Thanks to all of you who helped us in making it 'real!' The main target audience will be regulatory authorities in charge of hazard identification, exposure assessment, risk assessment & management, professionals in the field of environmental science, industry specialists covering environmental regulation on metals and anyone else interested in metals toxicology. To overcome the 'fee factor' that may discourage some regulators to follow the 7 modules, Chemical Watch agreed to have a number of free registrations that ICMM and EM could offer to regulators. The potential candidates for such free seats will be further discussed at the CM WG and Chemicals Management Steering Committee meetings end of February to coordinate efforts. EM and ICMM also benefit from a limited number of reduced-fee seats for members (subject to availability). Suggestions/requests for free or reduced-fee seats should be sent to Claudine (claudine.albersammer@icmm.com) and Violaine (verougstraete@eurometaux.be). Finally, Chemical Watch is organising a free webinar on metals and their toxicity on 11 February, with the participation of Professor Erik Smolders (KUL), to reiterate the importance of metals science <https://events.chemicalwatch.com/89477/metals-and-their-toxicity> (more information: Claudine Albersammer, Marnix Vangheluwe, Kai-Sebastian Melzer & Violaine Verougstraete).

CALENDAR

- 3-7 February: MSC-68 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 6 February: EEA – EM meeting – (To be defined)
- 10 February: Water Taskforce – Conference Call
- 12 February: Industrial Emissions Alliance meeting – MCC (Brussels)
- 13 February: MISA Taking-Stock Workshop – MCC (Brussels)
- 20-21 February: WFD – CIS: SCG & Art. 21 – (To be defined)
- 24 February: ECHA – Registering Nanoforms - Webinar
- 3 March: Risk Management TF meeting – MCC (Brussels)

- 9-13 March: SEAC-46 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 9-13 March: RAC-52 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 16-20 March: SEAC-46 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 16-20 March: RAC-52 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 19 March: Registration Taskforce meeting – MCC (Brussels)
- 19-20 March: WFD – CIS: WG Chemicals – (To be defined)
- 24-25 March: WFD – CIS: WG DIS – (To be defined)
- 23-26 March: Chemicals Management Spring Week – MCC (Brussels)
- 26-27 March: MB-57 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 20-24 April: MSC-69 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 22-23 April: WFD – CIS: WG Groundwater – (Zagreb, Croatia)
- 23-24 April: MISA 4 Workshop – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 12 May: Risk Management TF meeting – MCC (Brussels)
- 13-14 May: WFD – CIS: SCG & Art. 21 – (To be defined)
- 19 May: Evaluation Taskforce – MCC (Brussels)
- 1-5 June: SEAC-47 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 2-5 June: RAC-53 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 8-12 June: SEAC-47 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 8-12 June: RAC-53 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 8-12 June: MSC-70 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 12 June: IED Stakeholders Workshop – (To be defined)
- 15-16 June: WFD – CIS: Water & Marine Directors meeting – (Zagreb, Croatia)
- 17 June: Chemicals Management Steering Committee – MCC (Brussels)
- 17-18 June: MB-58 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 7-9 July: Metals Academy Course – The Priorij (Corsendonck)

ACRONYMS

AWG: Administrative Working Group	MISA: Metals and Inorganics Sectorial Approach
ATP: Adaptation to Technical Progress	MMD: Multi-Metallic Database
BAT: Best Available Techniques	MMVF: Man-Made Vitreous Fibres
BIAC: Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD	MS: Member States
CARACAL: Competent Authorities for REACH and CLP	NP: Nanoparticle
CLP: Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation	NTE: Non-Toxic Environment
CWG: Coordination Working Group	OECD: Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development
CMWG: Chemicals Management Working Group	OHT: OECD Harmonised Template
CPW: Chemicals Product Waste	RAC: Risk Assessment Committee
EAP: Environmental Action Programme	REFIT: Regulatory Fitness & Performance Programme (EU)
ED: Endocrine Disruptor	RM: Risk Management
ENES: Exchange Network on Exposure Scenarios	RMM: Risk Management Measures
EUSES: European Union System for the Evaluation of Substances	SAICM: Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
HERAG: Health Risk Assessment Guidance for metals	SpERCS: Specific Environmental Release Category
IUCLID: International Uniform Chemicals Information Database	TCC: Technical Completeness Check
iUVCB: inorganics Unknown or Variable Composition, Complex Reaction Products and Biological Materials	TWG: Technical Working Group
JM: Joint Meeting	UN: United Nations
JRC: Joint Research Centre	UVCB: Unknown or Variable Composition, Complex Reaction Products and Biological Materials
MAD: Mutual Acceptance of Data (OECD)	WFD: Water Framework Directive
MEASE: Occupational Exposure Assessment Tool for REACH	WTO: World Trade Organization