



EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT NEWS



Meetings in March
Registration Taskforce: 19 March
Chemicals Management week: 23-26 March

Believe it or not

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Dear All,

This is a real story. This is about a theatre play, but what it reveals could occur in many other contexts.

In 1946, Jean-Paul Sartre wrote 'La Putain respectueuse' (the respectful Prostitute), sketching the tale of a woman, a prostitute, caught up in a train 'incident' during a racially tense period in the US. Although it appears that the train attack was instigated by a white man, the blame is laid on a black man by prejudiced law enforcers, leading to a 'racial lynching motivated by a trumped-up race charge'. The play was performed in 1948 and raised significant controversies: critics were shocked by its topic of lynching, its anti-American sentiments and the sexual content. Sartre used the play to depict the complexity of racism, including prolonged effects of institutional racism for ordinary people, but also class conflicts and the struggle to climb the social ladder. The play depicts how the woman is persuaded to sign a false statement that condemns the black man, and how she gives in as she aspires to be respected by the upstream society.

A well-known Belgian author recently wrote an 'update' of the play, building further on Sartre's tale, placing it in our current context by using our societal references, and naming it 'La Putain irrespectueuse'. Although the language of the updated version is quite different from the one characterising Sartre's text (74 years later, one won't refer lightly to 'negros'!), the questions raised originally about prejudices, the means used to save a system at the expense of a person, the 'demonization of difference' are still very present.

The performance of the now 'double play' -Sartre's followed by J.M. Piemme's versions, created some surprising controversies in Brussels. Several papers questioned the legitimacy of the 'disrespectful' version, as the latter had not been written by a black author. The statement behind this was that only the black community was entitled to have the right to reply to a play that highlighted the racism towards their difference. The social media played their usual amplifying effect, finally pushing the author to compose a response, from which I just want to share some extracts. The title is about communitarianism and theatre: "Everyone in their own homes! Only Asians will be able to produce plays that speak of Asians. Ditto for blacks or for anyone of any origin whatsoever. Authors will comply with the injunction: to write only about their own communities for their own community. Media will ensure that only critics of the same colour as the artists are sent to the theatre. And only women can speak about women and men on the subject of men. When it comes to directing Shakespeare or Racine, non-white male or female directors should logically abstain. For animals wishing to write about animals, considering the physical difficulties they have in handling a pen or a keyboard, human support will be tolerated. But any text relating to butchery will be written by a butcher. And to play a butcher, you will need a butcher and for a king, a king. If a corpse is to appear on stage, the easiest way will be to have production come to an agreement with the morgue..."

The case may seem a bit extreme, but it isn't. It is not just an artistic caprice. In these times of communication and flourishing opinions on crucial societal topics, which stretch from competitiveness (survival) of EU's industry to Zero-Pollution and the urgency of taking climate measures, with so much uncertainty running in the background, one could be tempted to 'simplify' the debates for the 'sake of efficiency'. By selecting its 'stakeholders' and critics, by choosing to have "informed discussions with only knowledgeable people".

Working with the 'educated community' may be easier to manage but it will directly affect the quality of decisions taken and limit their implementation, because these "choices" will unavoidably be confined to the territorial limits of the "community" that was consulted in the first place.

Therefore, it remains essential that when we "design" communication and positions, we leave room to bring in a whole variety of perspectives, a diversity of ideas and an environment where people feel confident to expose them, to question others, to sometimes defy them and use their 'right to reply'. Only then will our messages make sense and be heard.

Violaine Verougstraete, Chemicals Management director Eurometaux

ECHA REACH & CLP Activities: hot topics

MSC

MSC-68: no news about the 10th Authorisation priority list, just a series of recommendations, but timing clarified

Contrary to what was expected, ECHA did not provide MSC with a publicly available proposal for a 10th priority list for Authorisation. However, they set forward the criteria for selecting the substances for the list and MSC members had the opportunity to react in writing in advance of the meeting. The focus will mainly be on Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic Chemicals (PBT) and Endocrine Disruptors (ED) substances as well as on grouping with previously selected substances. Based on this it seems less and less likely that metals (Pb metal, Cd metal and some compounds) would be selected by ECHA for the 10th list. Member States were clearer in their responses, with some asking for Pb metal to be included, whilst others promoting the opposite. But no MSC member seems to have recommended that Cd and Cd compounds be selected. Conclusively: the remaining borate compound on the candidate list will be included in ECHA's proposal, for Cd it seems unlikely and on Pb it will depend mainly to what extent ECHA resists or follows some MSs' recommendations. We will know early March when ECHA will release the draft list that will immediately trigger a Public Consultation (PC). The latter is a surprise given the PC was rather expected for September-November and not for 90 days from early March on. ILA and ICdA and IZA are therefore on high alert and preparedness in case either Pb or Cd compounds would be selected so they can react swiftly. In such case Eurometaux would set up a communication campaign to promote input into the PC (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

ECHA others

ENES: meeting on 12 February of the Coordination Group

In November 2019, ECHA presented to CARACAL a first high level draft proposal for a "REACH Review Action 3 Development Plan for a coherent supply chain system on safe use advice". In addition to possible building blocks of such a system, ECHA's draft provided an overview of the work already done by ENES, and the list of tools that exist are accessible. CARACAL expressed support for ECHA's proposal to have a (more) coherent system that will further build on e.g. downstream sector use maps (seen as one of the major tools), meaningful safe use advice in safety data sheets and minimum requirements for exposure scenarios. Member States suggested to use ENES as a platform to further work this out but also made a strong call to involve the OSH community and consider digitalisation. The meeting of 12 February aimed to gain the ENES Coordination Group's backing for ECHA's proposal, as a basis for a "future ENES Work Plan" and to discuss and elaborate draft "work packages" for the key building blocks plus the resource needs from ENES. The group also tried to identify possible gaps in the system's design and its implementation, and how to possibly tackle those. The discussions in the group were quite relevant for the sector and main outcomes will be further discussed at the Registration Taskforce meeting on 19 March. To note: the proposal to have a substance "safety data set" that could be passed through the whole supply chain to ensure safe use for the whole substance lifecycle and the "normalisation of registrants' assessments". The Coordination Group had a webinar in follow-up to identify what to present as 'plan' at the next CARACAL meeting on 28 February. Lorenzo Zullo was invited to make a presentation on the Blockchain approach developed by My Chemical Monitoring (Chemchain – see below) and that could be used to improve supply chain communication (more information: Lorenzo Zullo and Violaine Verougstraete).

Note: Blockchain to support supply chain communication: increasing attention on the subject from industry and authorities

Phase 1 of the EU funded project Chemchain was completed in February with the submission to the EU Commission of a report containing the outcome of the feasibility study. During the past months, besides developing the first prototype, the Chemchain team focused on defining a series of possible pilots currently under discussion with the chemical industry. The intention is to test the capability of Blockchain to create a single communication channel to allow information to flow along the entire supply chain (not just bilaterally between two companies), without disclosing the structure of the supply chain itself which is considered to be confidential as it contains supplier-client relationship which is sensitive information from a commercial point of view. Information flow would be possible in two directions: chemical manufacturers can push information towards downstream users, consumers, recyclers (e.g. hazard/safety information, "controlled" full material disclosure, etc...) while gaining unprecedented insights on their supply chains. This latest aspect is also currently under consideration for the metals sector, where a better understanding of uses and applications could facilitate metal producers' ability to protect their markets in relation to upcoming regulatory activities. One of the key benefits of Blockchain is that, since it does not require a third-party trustee, it can be more easily accepted at a global level. This would not be possible with a centralised system, like we can observe for example with the IMDS system (a tool developed by the automotive industry to collect information on chemicals) which China refused to adopt. The Chemchain project is very ambitious and visionary. It is raising a lot of interest across industry and institutions. Due to its potentiality to support circular economy, OECD organised a dedicated event in Paris to present the project (for more information or involvement in the project/pilots: Lorenzo Zullo)

COMMISSION Activities: hot topics/issues

CARACAL

CARACAL: kick-off meeting of the Subgroups on "Endocrine Disruptors" and "REACH Information requirements"

The activities of the CARACAL subgroups on "Endocrine disruptors" and on "REACH information Requirements" kicked off with a joint meeting on the 7th of February. The aim of the two subgroups is to clarify certain information requirements in the REACH Annexes and to introduce new ones needed to assess endocrine disrupting properties. This discussion is also covering the possibility to introduce hazardous classifications, at EU and/or UN GHS level, for endocrine disrupting properties. Participants to the subgroups have been given the possibility to comment several documents which will be used for steering future discussions. Eurometaux is finalising its contribution with the support of three different taskforces (Human Health Taskforce, Environment Taskforce, Registration Taskforce) to ensure a comprehensive assessment of the CARACAL activities (more information, Violaine Verougstraete, Marnix Vangheluwe and Lorenzo Zullo).

OTHERS

Water Framework Directive (WFD): steering committee group meeting

On 20 February, the European Commission invited the Member States and water stakeholders to the Steering Committee Group (SCG) meeting under the WFD. The meeting was rather short, with main discussions on the Watch List proposed by the Working Group Chemicals and a first discussion following the WFD REFIT staff working document's publication. Regarding the Watch List, the EC shared beforehand two documents: an updated technical report and a list of candidates for the 3rd Watch List. This list excluded CuO. Recently, the EC added three different options for monitoring – two are proposing to exclude Cr and free cyanides to consider these and other industrial and household chemicals in the 4th Watch List. The Commission was planning to receive last comments by end of February and finalise the process at the upcoming Working Group Chemicals to send for vote by the Art 21. Committee in May. However, many Member States highlighted their dissatisfaction with the drafting process used for the 3rd Watch List: in the final proposal some new substances appeared that hadn't yet been evaluated much by the Working Group Chemicals before the SCG meeting and it was impossible to follow up on the reasoning behind the JRC's decision on choosing the candidates. Finally, no decision was taken by the SCG. After a presentation by the Commission on the WFD REFIT outcome, they opened the floor for comments. After several questions about the Commission's plans, it was explained that currently the Commission has not taken any decision on the follow-up of the WFD after the REFIT, whether a revision is needed or not, and they are currently collecting the reactions of stakeholders to take decisions on the way forward. Eurometaux used the opportunity to ask about the development of the Commission's internal work on the understanding and implementation of the Weser Ruling (as announced at WG Chemicals meeting mid-April 2019). As the answer was not very detailed, this will be further followed up (more information: Nathalie Kinga Kowalski).

Political agreement to progress with covering for combined exposure: technical discussions will start soon

Whilst this was already on the table 10 years ago, it still came as a surprise that Commission and the Member States had decided to include an assessment for combined exposure effects in the REACH dossiers. We assume this decision was taken in the closed session of CARACAL. The aim is to cover for the health or environmental effects of unintentional combined exposure. Previous discussions during the REACH guidance development indicated a Mixture Assessment Factor (MAF) of 10 for human health and 5 for the environment. At that stage this proposal was blocked by suggesting to first focus on the assessment and registration of high, medium and low volume chemicals. Now the registration phase is over it seems that authorities have picked this up again. As regular STO in this respect we received an invitation for a first of 2 workshops organized by RIVM and Kemi to launch the discussion on the combined exposure effect assessment; the first one will already take place in the Netherlands on 5 March. On the last working day of February, we received a briefing document that proposed a tiered approach starting from the default application of a MAF, however, without putting values on it. This could then subsequently be refined in a tiered way. Eurometaux will check with ARCHE (involved in the discussions 10 years ago) and the ENV-Taskforce chairs what points to raise and define based on this a programme to anticipate the guidance development (more information: Violaine Verougstraete and Hugo Waeterschoot).

Green Deal Activities

European Parliament: working on a resolution

No time to lose for Members of the European Parliament (MEPs)! While the European Commission is busy drafting its Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (due next summer), MEPs started to work on a non-binding text outlining their expectations of the Strategy. A first draft, analysed by Eurometaux, will be discussed on 18-19 March in the Environment

Committee (ENVI). A vote in ENVI is expected in May, before sending the draft to the June plenary session for final endorsement – just in time for the publication of the Strategy by the Commission.

The draft resolution was discussed by the Chemicals Management Steering Committee (see below).

Expectations from the Parliament are high, therefore Eurometaux has started to reach out to key MEPs to secure their support, specifically on three key issues:

1. Substitution is not a feasible and/or sustainable option for all hazardous chemicals;
2. Exposure control should be the number one priority for achieving Europe's sustainable chemicals goals for metals; and
3. Voluntary initiatives, such as MISA, should be further encouraged by the EU

Outcomes of the discussions with the key MEPs will be communicated in the next News-stay tuned (more information: Noam El Mrabet).

EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT Activities

Resource mapping to respond to Chemicals Management challenges

Chemicals Management Steering Committee: *Green Deal, Sustainable Chemicals and 'business as usual?'*

The Steering Committee met on 27 February to discuss a series of topics, all more or less closely related to the Green Deal and the upcoming chemicals strategy for sustainability. Building on the successful outreach to the EP in Strasbourg in January, and starting from the known Green Deal timelines, the expected Circular Economy action plan, the Zero-Pollution agenda and a draft motion resolution prepared by some MEPs, the Steering Committee members were invited to identify key battles in which to inject resources, topics to be supported/monitored and to pinpoint some subjects that could be 'deprioritised' or postponed. Whilst the Committee recognises that the Commission's Green Deal programmes offer interesting opportunities to work in a more holistic and integrated way, the challenge will reside in ensuring enough exchanges and expertise on all issues to be addressed, across Eurometaux committees, both at the level of the secretariats and the groups. These 'cross-fertilisation exercises' will have to take place on top of the 'usual activities', some of which were also evoked during the meeting. Namely, the ECHA Waste database, the possible next steps of a 'slags project', the recent risk management developments (10th priority list under REACH-RoHS), the submission of a project to the REACH Enforcement Forum and the work on diffuse sources. The Committee also decided to move forward with the Metals Academy project. Minutes will be circulated asap (more information: Violaine Verougstraete).

Slags Roadmap: *webinar 24/02*

It was agreed during the extended Sustainable Resources Management Working Group meeting (27 January), bringing together chemicals management and sustainability experts to draft a roadmap on how the sector could possibly tackle "final slags" in the context of the Green Deal, related to circularity and chemicals management (including the mapping of the Chemicals Universe). The roadmap is envisaged as an internal document based on the points of principle to defend and a first draft was discussed with a core group of companies during a call held on 24 February. The discussions were very informative, allowing to formulate the overall objective 'Ensure an EU-wide and level-playing market for final slags by ensuring its societal benefits compared to primary products' and to agree on the following working areas, i.e. societal benefits (recognise contribution of slags to circular economy and climate) and level-playing field (safe use demonstration, recognition in EU product standards, market uptake, focus on construction materials). Its scope should focus on the EU situation and note national measures, better tackled by the companies and their national federations. The question of resources was discussed as well: the execution of the roadmap will require considerable human resources and the capacity of the EM secretariat is already a bit stretched. The interested companies are therefore discussing on how to best proceed and the proposed way forward will be discussed with the Eurometaux Executive Committee in April (more information: Kamila Slupek, Hugo Waeterschoot and Violaine Verougstraete).

Preparing for prioritisation for Authorisation: *Eurometaux provided support to ICdA and IZA sector briefings*

IZA and ICdA organised information sessions for its manufactures and users on how to be prepared for the potential upcoming listing of Pb metal and/or Cd metal and Cd (Hydr)oxide on the 10th priority list for Authorisation. The consequences of this ECHA listing and how to best respond to the upcoming Public Consultation were discussed in detail to ensure the sector and its DUs would be well prepared. Eurometaux provided support by indicating the timing of the process, learning experiences from previous rounds and potential policy options. Even if these metals weren't listed on the 10th list it ensures that the sector is well aware and prepared for future listing (more information: Christian Canoo, Christine Spirlet and Hugo Waeterschoot).

Water

Metals' EQS implementation and bioavailability tools: *work session in Luxembourg.*

End of February we were invited to visit the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development Ministry of Luxembourg. Long-time planned meeting which finally was set beginning of the year. This being part of the Eurometaux's activity to Member State outreach on the use of the Biomet Tool, as already done e.g. in Italy or Spain. Luxembourg being a rather small country, we met with three majorly involved experts of the ministry. We focused on the practical issues using the available monitoring data of Luxembourg's water bodies in Biomet. We were able to answer several questions and help to spot errors. Before ending the work session, we agreed to stay in touch and further support once some adjustments by the experts on their data have been done (more information: Nathalie Kinga Kowalski).

Metal specific tools

Bioelution: *EURL ECVAM experts' opinion available*

The EURL ECVAM group of experts in charge of evaluating the protocol of the gastric bioelution test has now finalized its work and has issued an opinion on the scientific validity of the bioelution method to assess the relative in vitro bioaccessibility of metals and metalloids in inorganic metal compounds and metal(metalloid) containing materials using a simulated gastric fluid. The group has assessed biological relevance of the method, the relevance of the measurement of the relative bioaccessible concentration, the robustness of the protocol and the reproducibility of the measurement. The conclusion is that the experts recommend that the bioelution method progresses to test guideline development at OECD level to achieve international harmonization. This may seem an 'administrative step' but is actually quite an achievement for the sector and all the efforts made by the labs over the last years! In parallel with the finalization of this opinion, EURL ECVAM has also prepared a set of detailed replies to the comments and questions raised by countries at OECD level, and that had expressed to be in favour or against of a project aiming at developing such a guideline. The decision to proceed with the project will take place at the meeting of the OECD WNT group mid-April. Having a positive ESAC opinion is a key asset in this long-term marathon. Another argument will be the setup of the physical repository that will store and ship reference and proficiency samples. A long way has already been done... let's hope now that all the work and the data can overrule the unfavorable votes (more information: Adriana Oller, Kate Heim and Violaine Verougstraete).

SpERCs: *finalisation of the quality criteria and start of the review phase*

The cross-industry Specific Environmental Release Categories (SpERCs) Taskforce, chaired by Eurometaux, has officially finalised and released the SpERCs quality criteria, to facilitate the review of the quality of the SPERCs developed by the various industry sectors. The review is expected to be conducted by industry, as well as by authorities that are interested in ensuring that the SPERCs are sufficiently robust to be used for conducting environmental risk assessments. ECHA informed the SpERCs Taskforce about the upcoming activities planned by a group of Member States, i.e. the Nordic Group. They had already announced that they would launch a project dedicated to the SPERCs review; the financing has now been settled and the kick-off of the project can be expected soon. The SpERCs taskforce should be put in contact with the project lead, with the intention to organise a phone call to ensure proper coordination between authorities and industry review activities. Eurometaux will discuss how to proceed with the internal review of its own SpERCs during the next Registration Taskforce meeting scheduled on the 19th of March (more information: Frederik Verdonck, Lorenzo Zullo).

Chemical Watch webinar: *stressing the importance of metals science*

On 11 February, Chemical Watch organized a one-hour free webinar on metals and their toxicity, aimed at promoting the e-Learning course on metals (eco)toxicology but more broadly the importance to continue to invest in metals science. Metals are used in almost every aspect of modern life and innovation is continually developing more useful metal-containing materials for wider and more specialised applications. However, with the increasing amounts of metals in circulation, it is crucial to be aware of and be able to manage potentially hazardous properties these materials might contain and ensure that they are evaluated appropriately in order to protect people and the environment. After a short introduction by Eurometaux, Professor Erik Smolders from the KUL explained the significance of the dose (exposure) and why metal specificities like essentiality and bioavailability shall be considered in risk assessment. He also highlighted the importance to further encourage (best) data generation and communication of knowledge, evoking as forthcoming challenges aspects like the finite resources, the presence of metals as nanoparticles or the environmental issues with small doses of metals like Cd, Pb, Hg and As. He also mentioned some areas where further exchanges are needed between scientists and regulators, like the European Fertilizer Regulation and recycling of organic waste, that is often limited by the non-degradable toxic trace metals. The recording can be seen here: <https://events.chemicalwatch.com/89477/metals-and-their-toxicity> and information on the e-Learning course is available here: <https://events.chemicalwatch.com/73622/metals-and-inorganic-metal-compounds-in-toxicology-and-ecotoxicology> (more information: Violaine Verougstraete).

Metals Sectorial Approach

MISA: Taking-Stock Workshop on 13 February in Brussels

The taking-stock workshop, co-organised by Eurometaux and ECHA on 13 February aimed at evaluating the progress made with the updates on MISA 1 and MISA 2 activities (human health and environmental information requirements) and to identify and collectively address remaining issues or uncertainties. Jos Mossink (ECHA) presented the analysis of the workplans and updates they have seen to date and also explained how MISA substances 'fit' in the mapping of the chemicals universe. A Survey Monkey circulated to the MISA consortia/associations allowed Eurometaux to have an overview of the work done since summer and to summarise the main outstanding issues and points of concern. I2a launched the human health discussions by presenting the approach they used for grouping and read-across, referring both to the RAAF and weight-of-evidence templates. EPMF presented the work they did on the hexachloroplatinum group for the environmental endpoints. Both cases helped the other consortia to better understand how to build and motivate the read-across but also allowed to exchange on more concrete questions and possible ways forward with regard to reporting the justifications, the use of the counterion files and the boundaries of the use of bioelution. Further work with ECHA is needed to achieve a clear agreement on where to best report the read-across justification to ensure it is understood but also detected by the automated screening and sufficiently integrated to make sense if the REACH data are used for other purposes and dissemination. The last session of the day, devoted to the Technical Completeness Check (TCC), triggered intense discussions. It was agreed to collect the cases/issues with the TCC and to evaluate the need to have a metal-specific solution for some of the rejection triggers. The importance of fair data-sharing and the need to have a forum to discuss with authorities possible mechanisms to preserve the generation and maintenance of the data was stressed as well. Minutes of the workshop are currently being reviewed by ECHA but will be circulated asap (more information: Federica Iaccino, Violaine Verougstraete and Hugo Waeterschoot).

Launch of the iUVCB Platform screening activity

Under MISA, 44 iUVCB substances have been listed as Article 10 dossiers and about 10 iUVCB substances need to be further re-assessed as result of a split of existing registrations. Following the iUVCB MISA workshop (05.11.2019), all these iUVCB dossiers will need to be adequately refined and updated. As already presented, the iUVCB Platform is set up to ensure a minimum harmonisation of the dossiers (i.e. ensure that all the iUVCB dossiers joining the Platform are updated consistently). As the quality of the dossiers can differ depending on which part of it is assessed, each and every substance being listed in the Platform activity will undergo an initial screening to identify and evaluate available and missing information, in light of the latest MISA developments. The substances screening will start by mid-March and will provide, as outcome, a list of screened criteria with indications on further refinement needed under substance identity and classification, hazard assessment, exposure assessment and man via the environment. An overall 'quality factor' will be assigned to each dossier and communicated to its consortium, so as to evaluate and estimate the work needed to bring the dossier up to date (more information: Federica Iaccino).

OUTREACH

European: Business Europe

Environmental Working Group: meeting at Business Europe

Last week Business Europe invited Eurometaux to their Environment Working Group Meeting. The meeting mainly allowed for exchange on the recent developments under the new Green Deal, as the Zero-Pollution ambition, chemicals strategy for sustainability and circular economy action plan. Focus was on the latter – but also the need to be better informed on the upcoming new 8th EAP. As part of the discussions the new policy assistant to the Director Quality of Life Joachim D'Eugenio was invited. The discussion was made under Chatham House Rule. It gave a good understanding on the dynamics of the Commission between the different levels of hierarchy and priorities for the Green Deal. Further the group decided to continue the work under the sub-taskforce on water policy as long as the Commission hasn't decided whether to open or not the Directive for revision (more information: Nathalie Kinga Kowalski).

International: OECD

BIAC meeting: 3 February to prepare the OECD Joint meeting

While the OECD Joint Meeting remains very relevant and important to industry, we note a declining attendance rate of industry for both the BIAC preparatory session as well as the OECD meeting itself. The BIAC session was very effective in finding common ground on the issues tabled at the OECD Joint Meeting, preparing interventions and questions for Bob Diedrich the head of the OECD's ENV programme. In particular, BIAC agreed to provide support for the simplification of the

structure and funding of the OECD chemical programmes, and the BAT activity as a guidance for countries that does not have their own BAT programmes. There was no common position on the creation of a new Working Group on Risk Management (combining the Risk Management TF and Substitution TF); some BIAc members would prefer the OECD to focus on hazard assessment, while others, including Eurometaux see a benefit in exchange about best practices and lessons learnt in risk management. BIAc members however agreed that the present work on PFOAs and a Plastic strategy should not fit in this group. The meeting ended the sectors exchanging their view on the OECD Expert Workshop on the misalignment of Chemicals and Waste Management policy (more information: Kai-Sebastian Melzer and Hugo Waeterschoot).

OECD Joint Meeting

The OECD Work Programme 2021 to 2024 was discussed. There is a broader trend to integrate the work of the Joint Meeting with other OECD activities (e.g. Waste Management; hence the workshop on Chemicals and Waste Management that preceded the Joint Meeting). Furthermore, the OECD is enhancing its work on risk management aspects and seeks to play a greater role in international capacity-building under SAICM. In the area of hazard assessment, it is struggling with the need to broaden Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) to cover Integrated Approaches to Testing and Assessment, Defined Approaches and Computational Methods. An OECD proposal to change its legal instruments to allow MAD to harmonise data interpretation failed as it was considered too early. The OECD has taken up the EU concept of PMT substances (persistent, mobile and toxic substances), but it fell short of recognising the EU concept of vPvM in its documents. The EU is expected to work towards inclusion of vPvM in the OECD's work too. Another topic that the EU raised at the OECD (dose selection in chronic toxicity studies) was explored by the OECD. After webinars with other jurisdictions, there was no agreement to the EU's policy request to work on this in the OECD. For the time being the status quo is maintained (more information: Kai-Sebastian Melzer).

OECD: Working Party on Resource Product & Waste: the 'interface' problem gets invited at OECD-level

On 3 February, Eurometaux attended an OECD Workshop on the "Misalignment of Chemicals and Waste Management Policy", or what is known in Brussels as the 'interface' problem. While most speakers focussed on plastics, we were pleased to see that the representative of the European Commission – who came to give an update on the ongoing work at EU-level – was very much aware of the challenges faced by the metals industry (metals in slags, impurities in scrap...). This is mostly thanks to the joint effort of the Sustainability and Chemicals Management departments of Eurometaux, who met with the lead policy officer of the European Commission a few weeks earlier (more information: Noam El Mrabet).

COMMUNICATION

New Chemicals Management Department Assistant: Gaëlle Daubechies started on 17 February 2020

Gaëlle will support the Chemicals Management Directors and Managers, together with Ailsa. She has a degree in Secretarial work and Tourism and an extensive experience in hosting and administration. Before joining our team, she worked as in a real estate company and as secretary of operations for Veolia, taking care of European institutional clients. Gaëlle is Belgian and speaks French and English, as well as a bit of Dutch and Spanish. She is eager to learn all our Industry has to offer and has a wonderful smile. We look forward to introducing you all to her in the near future.

CALENDAR

Information concerning meetings.

For meetings at the MCC

For the moment no measures have been taken to cancel our next meetings, but due to travel restrictions imposed on certain member companies/associations, it will be possible to join meetings by Skype (or remotely).

Any further decisions and/or cancellations will of course be communicated in due time.

Also, due to works ongoing at the MCC, some meetings might take place at other locations in Brussels, but you will be kept updated accordingly.

For meetings at ECHA

ECHA will keep the situation under review and will provide any further information as appropriate.

This information is published on ECHA's [website](#).

Further information on the COVID-19 situation can be found on the [ECDC website](#).

- 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)
- 17 March: WFD – CIS: WG Chemicals – (Brussels)
- 19 March: Registration Taskforce meeting – TBD (Brussels)
- 24-25 March: WFD – CIS: WG DIS – (To be defined)
- 25 March: Water Policy in EU – MEP Tiemo Wölken Event (Brussels)
- 23-26 March: Chemicals Management Spring Week – TBD (Brussels)
- 26-27 March: MB-57 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 20-24 April: MSC-69 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 22-23 April: WFD – CIS: WG Groundwater – (Zagreb, Croatia)
- 22-23 April: EEA diffuse emissions project stakeholder workshop (Delft)
- 23-24 April: MISA 4 Workshop – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 27-28 April: Stakeholder Workshop Case Studies HAZBREF project (Stockholm)
- 12 May: Risk Management TF meeting – TBD (Brussels)
- 13-14 May: WFD – CIS: SCG & Art. 21 – (To be defined)
- 19 May: Evaluation Taskforce – TBD (Brussels)
- 1-5 June: SEAC-47 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 2-5 June: RAC-53 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- 3 June: IED Stakeholder Workshop (Brussels, tbc)
- 5-6 June: Final Stakeholder Meeting HAZBREF project (Dessau)
- 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

BAT: Best Available Techniques	MISA: Metals and Inorganics Sectorial Approach
BIAC: Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD	MS: Member States
CARACAL: Competent Authorities for REACH and CLP	MSC: Member State Committee
CPW: Chemicals Product Waste	OECD: Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development
DU: Downstream User	PBT: Persistent, Bio-accumulative and Toxic Chemicals
EAP: Environmental Action Programme	PC: Public Consultation
ED: Endocrine Disruptor	PFOA: Perfluorooctanoic acid
ENES: Exchange Network on Exposure Scenarios	PMT: Persistent, Mobile and Toxic
ENV: Environment	RAAF: Read-Across Assessment Framework
ENVI: Environment Committee	REFIT: Regulatory Fitness & Performance Programme (EU)
EQS: Environmental Quality Standards	RM: Risk Management
EUURL: European Union Reference Laboratory for Alternatives to Animal Testing	SAICM: Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
EUSES ECVAM: European Union System for the Evaluation of Substances	SpERCS: Specific Environmental Release Category
GD: Green Deal	STO: Stakeholder
GHS: Global Harmonised System of classification and labelling of chemicals	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	vPvM: very Persistent very mobile
MAD: Mutual Acceptance of Data	WFD: Water Framework Directive

MAF:	WG: Working Group
MEP: Member of Parliament	WNT: Working Group of the National Coordinators of the Test Guidelines Programme