



Chairman: *Guy Ethier* (Umicore)  
Co-Chairman: *Mark Raffray* (Johnson Matthey)

3 December 2014, 10:30 - 16:30 CET  
Metals Conference Centre - Rooms Copper & Aluminium  
Rue du Duc 100, B-1150 Brussels, Belgium

## Minutes

### 1. Welcome and introduction

- 1.1. **Reminder on confidentiality and Competition Law.** Participants were reminded on their obligation to comply with confidentiality and Competition Law.
- 1.2. **Tour de table, apologies and quorum.** The list of participants is available in Annex 1. The minimum quorum was reached and the meeting was hence quorated and the decisions taken valid.
- 1.3. **Approval of the Agenda.** The agenda (Annex 2) was approved. Item 2 was presented before items 1.2 to 1.5. The slides presented during the meeting are available in Annex 3. A list of acronyms was made available to the participants.
- 1.4. **Status of actions agreed at the last Plenary Meeting in Bern on 12 June 2014.** All actions were finalised, addressed during the meeting, or on-going, except action 3 (include high level project plan in bi-monthly circulation), action 8 (include place holder for Ag research work in 2016 budget) and action 15 (authorisation of hydrazine) which are postponed. The General Assembly was reminded that new Mgt Cttee representatives should be nominated for the (Co-) Chairmanship of PMC for 2016-2018 mandate (AP1, to AP12).
- 1.5. **Approval of the minutes of the last Plenary meeting in Bern on 12 June 2014.** The minutes were approved.

### 2. PMC Membership news

The PMC officers, David Boyd as interim Trustee, and the Management Committee were thanked for their hard work since the departure of the former Secretary-General Ms Caroline Braibant. The Chairman announced the arrival of the new Secretary-General of the EPMF, Ms France Capon, as from 2 January 2015. Due to her experience as REACH Manager at the Nickel Institute and experience in advocacy in the industry, she will be in a real position to understand the needs of the Consortium. Ms France Capon was warmly welcomed.

### 3. Update on PMC Registration Projects

#### 3.1. **Projects phase overview**

As a reminder, an overview of the different project phases was presented (cf. slide 9 of Annex 3). These phases are also used in our accounting system.

#### 3.2. **Ag project**

*Ag project financials:* An overspent of the 2014 budget was highlighted mainly caused by increased costs for the literature search due to an unexpected high number of relevant publications. A revised budget of 241.415 euros was presented for 2015, which is an increase of 129.065 euros over the June assumptions. This increase is mainly caused by an assumed continuing high number of new publications and the inclusion of costs for already committed experimental studies (which were not included in the June assumptions). Additional expenses in 2015 are possible depending on the Evaluation results but these expenses are not taken into account yet.

*Ag Literature searches:* Due to the projected high cost of the literature search for 2015 (> 80.000 euros), the Secretariat was asked to investigate options to limit the costs (e.g. share



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costs with industrial or other partners that have similar needs, request competitive quotes from other consultants, recover costs through LoAs, assess option of bringing this work in-house, i.e. could the EPMF Secretariat conduct the searches and reviews, and would that be cost effective?). The General Assembly was reminded that the Ag research field is very active at the moment.

**Action:** PMC members to share information/experience on literature searches with the PMC Secretariat. PMC Secretariat, led by Secretary-General, to review Ag literature search strategy in January 2015. (AP13-14)

**Ag Evaluation:** RIVM kindly offered to share the draft evaluation they will send to ECHA. We expect feedback from them during January 2015. Potential additional studies and costs were flagged (cf. slide 17 in Annex 3) based on a variety of realistic and worst case scenarios. Actual study commitments will be dependent on the results of the Evaluation and the final decision by ECHA, and on any counter-arguments from PMC.

**Ag Biocides:** KEMI proposed a CLH for silver zinc zeolite (used in biocides) of Carc. Cat 2 and Repro Cat 1B. Since all effects were attributed to the Ag ion, PMC should avoid a domino effect on their Ag dossiers. The CLH is expected to be published on the registry of intentions end December, and PMC (EBRC) is currently drafting comments to submit during the subsequent 45-day commenting period. PMC is coordinating its comments with the Silver Task Force.

**Action:** PMC Secretariat to organise comments from PMC consultants and coordinate comments with the Silver Task Force. (AP15)

**Action:** PMC Secretariat to check RIVM's position on KEMI's proposal and the possible consequences re additional study requests. (AP16)

**Ag Dossier updates:** The Ag dossiers are currently being updated to be in line with the Ag metal dossier (including new soil data, and adapting dossiers to latest ECHA requirements). The updated Disilver oxide and Silver nitrate dossiers were submitted in November. Dossier updates for the other Ag compounds are currently being processed.

### 3.3. Au project

An increase of the 2014 estimated expenses (+97.000 euros) was highlighted during the meeting and is mainly attributed to the testing programme: studies postponed from 2013, studies not previously budgeted and actual testing proposals giving costs more realistic than estimated. A revised stable 2015 budget of 56.650 euros was presented. The assembly was warned that an update of the estimated expenses at the end of 2014 and of the 2015 budget will be sent to the Gold Working Group and Management Committee in the next weeks: the 2014 estimated expenses of phases I (literature search), II (ITS update) and IV (CSR) should be moved to the 2015 budget.

**Action:** The secretariat was asked to analyse the feasibility to end up the registration of Au and Au compounds earlier than currently scheduled (mid-2016) to shift as soon as possible PMC efforts on more complex projects such as PGM registrations. (AP17) The secretariat will review and validate the timing of phases IV and V with the different consultants involved.

### 3.4. PM CN- project

An increase of the 2014 estimated expenses (+147.000 euros) was highlighted during the meeting and is mainly attributed to the testing programme (Phase III) and the CSR Generation (Phase IV): i.e. studies postponed from 2013 (Ph. III); studies not previously budgeted especially the initiation of a separate testing programme with Potassium Dicyanoargentate as consequence of a recent WG decision that read-across from Potassium Dicyanoaurate was not fully justified; actual testing proposals giving updated costs ; and detailed proposals received for the generation of exposure scenarios and chemical safety report which were higher than originally estimated (Ph. IV). The presented expenses are considering a "light" testing programme with



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Potassium Dicyanoargentate. However it may have to be extended to a “full” programme to meet REACH requirements which could require an additional 70.000 euros in 2014 and 180 000 euros in 2015; the PM Cyanides Working Group will decide in the next weeks if a full programme will be initiated. Still considering a “light” testing programme, a new 2015 budget of 193.900 euros was presented, an increase of 132.550 euros compare to June assumptions, increase due to similar reasons as the increase of the 2014 expenses.

*Classification:* A TSCA (8e) Substantial Risk Notification was made for Potassium Dicyanoaurate and will be updated with the latest results confirming the classification of the substance as skin sensitiser. The CLP update will be done by the Lead Registrant. Another interesting result is the negative dermal acute tests on Potassium Dicyanoaurate and Silver Cyanide which should initiate a declassification of the substances **Post-meeting note:** the substances not having a harmonised classification yet, declassification per se is not required, only a CLP update in REACH-IT of the intended classification to be submitted with the registration dossier.

The members were reminded that their commitment on this project is really needed to make it progress in a steady manner and achieve registration earlier than currently scheduled.

**Action:** The secretariat was asked to analyse the feasibility to end up the registration of PM Cyanides earlier than currently scheduled (about mid-2016) to allow for the anticipated PMC efforts on more complex projects such as PGM registrations. **(AP18)** The secretariat will review and validate the timing of phases IV and V with the different consultants involved.

### 3.5. PGM project

*PGM project financials:* At the end of 2014 an overspend of almost 570.000 euros is expected, mainly caused by a study phasing cost calculation error in the original budget. A revised budget of 1.168.010 euros was presented for 2015, which is an increase of 179.110 euros over the June assumptions. This increase is mainly caused by the inclusion of study monitoring costs (which were not included in the June assumptions), a calculation error in the previous budget, and the fact that numbers are now based on consultant’s proposals instead of on assumptions.

*PGM Substance identity/scope:*

- The PGM sameness expert group unanimously concluded that Diammonium hexachlororuthenate (CAS 18746-63-9) is in fact Tetraammonium decachloro-mu-oxodiruthenate (CAS 85392-65-0).  
**Action:** Registrants of Diammonium hexachlororuthenate to send an updated substance and tonnage band declaration to the PMC secretariat **(AP19)**
- For Karstedt concentrate, a Memorandum of Understanding is under discussion with the Reconcile Consortium (who will provide the Lead Registrant for the substance).
- For several PGM substances, PMC Members have indicated tonnage band changes.  
**Action:** PMC Members to send updated substance and tonnage band declaration in case of tonnage band changes **(AP20)**  
**Action:** PMC Secretariat to update the scope of the PGM project following official confirmation of tonnage band changes **(AP21)**

*PGM Testing programme:* The testing programme is ongoing and proceeding as planned, and monthly updates are provided to the PGM WG and the TAP. There were no new TSCA 8(e) notifications.

*PGM Hazard assessment:* PNECs and DNELs will be derived once final data from the testing programme are available and by Q1 2016 at the latest.



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*PGM Exposure assessment:* Work was paused in Q1-2 2014 due to the high workload for the Refinables project. The data collection and emission monitoring programme are currently ongoing and Exposure Scenarios will be finalised once robust PNECs/DNELs are available.

*PGM Registration dossiers & timing:* Registration dossiers should be ready in 2016-2017 if the momentum is kept. Members were reminded that their timely input is needed. One PGM substance may be in a higher tonnage band and may thus require immediate registration; the secretariat is waiting for confirmation from the relevant member.

**Action:** PMC Secretariat to follow-up with the identified company regarding the higher tonnage band of one PGM substance (**AP22**)

**Post-meeting note:** The identified company indicated they would send an updated substance and tonnage band declaration in January 2015.

### 3.6. Re project

The estimated expenses at the end of 2014 are lower than budgeted, due to the lower cost of the literature search. Proposed 2015 budget for Rhenium is 9.450 euros. The use of the available reserves allows a payment holiday in 2015. Five of the six Re substances in scope have been successfully REACH registered, well before the 2018 registration deadline. The remaining dossier (dirhenium heptasulphide) is currently on hold and is not a priority for the relevant company. Spontaneous updates of all dossiers were done in 2014 to improve substance identity and to update the Use section. Except for some MSDS work (**AP23**), and light dossier maintenance work, no further work is anticipated to be required for the Re project.

### 3.7. Refinables project

*Refinables financials:* The estimated expenses at the end of 2014 are lower than budgeted, i.e. not all reserves were used to upgrade the Refinables dossiers. The 2015 proposed budget of 365.824 euros is almost unchanged compared to the June prediction, although the assumptions have changed: the updated budget includes (testing and consultant) costs for potential splitting of dossiers following ongoing Substance Identity (SID) improvement, further dossier updates, generation of MSDSs and ECHA advocacy. The originally budgeted 255.000 euros for validation testing was reduced to 66.000 euros, to be used together with the remaining reserves in case validation testing turns out to be needed in 2015. There was some debate on whether we should take the amount for validation testing out of the Refinables budget. The secretariat stressed that this amount is only a placeholder, as it is currently unclear if and when validation testing will be needed, and how much this will cost (this will only be done once requested by ECHA and once the WG has approved a proposal for validation testing). However, while our approach for the Refinables assessment appeared acceptable to ECHA, ECHA did indicate at the meetings with Eurométaux earlier this year that we need to reflect on the validation of our approach. Hence we should not underestimate the impact of potential validation testing and we should ensure we have funds available for this.

*Refinables 2014 Work programme:* For 11 Refinables, upgrades were done from REACH Article 17/18 (SCC intermediate) dossiers to Article 10 (full substance) dossiers as ECHA requested non-SCC compliant companies to upgrade their dossiers by April 2014.

*Refinables 2015 Work programme:* We will first focus on SID refinement before doing further dossier updates. It was noted by some Members that the 2015 budget for the Refinables is quite high compared to what other consortia have budgeted for their inorganic UVCB dossiers. However, unlike these consortia, we have received clear signals from ECHA that further justification of our SID approach and splitting for some Refinables will be needed, and this will require additional testing. Furthermore, the PMC Chairman highlighted that there is a predicted budget risk for the Refinables as ECHA might require validation work to be done. The Secretariat was requested not to ask ECHA's opinion on the SID approach and/or on splitting.



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#### 4. Authorisation

##### 4.1. Overview of Authorisation/Restriction/RMOA status for substances of interest to PM sector

The Refractory Ceramic Fibers' (RCF) PMC Authorisation activity is on hold. There is no recent information that these substances may come back soon on a next recommendation list for Authorisation. However they remain SVHCs and are at risk to be targeted in the future.

The public consultations for the lead and boron compounds recommended on the 6<sup>th</sup> prioritization list were open for comment until 01 December. PMC Members were invited to respond on an individual basis, the Secretariat acting as intermediate between Members and the associations in charge of responding, ILA for lead compounds and EBA for boron ones. Authorities will now decide which substances on the 6<sup>th</sup> prioritization list will be added to Annex XIV i.e. submitted to the Authorisation procedure.

##### 4.2. Hydrazine

Authorities withdrew Hydrazine from the 6<sup>th</sup> final recommendation list because it was the substance on this list with the lowest score (excepting grouping parity situations). Therefore, Hydrazine is now the SVHC with the highest score which has not been prioritized for Authorisation yet and the risk remains that Hydrazine tops the next draft recommendation list in 2015. Furthermore, Germany recommended a tougher OEL by 2018 and it seems that EU may align with it. For these reasons, regulatory defense remains a priority for this substance and the Hydrazine Task Force has initiated a collective workplace exposure assessment.

#### 5. PMC Finances

##### 5.1. PMC past and current accounts overview

*Total expenses 2007-2014:* Since 2007, the PMC has spent about 12 million euros in total (cf. slide 59 in Annex 3). Even though this amount appears high, the Assembly was reminded that the cost-sharing is ultimately saving individual companies money. Along the process the PMC has built up reserves and in 2014 it was decided to use part of these reserves to limit the company invoices and to take a payment holiday for the Ag, Re, and Refinables projects.

*2014 Budget/Expenses:* An overview of the 2014 operating budget versus the expenses was made available to the members (cf. slide 60 on Annex 3). The total 2014 expenses are expected to be higher than the agreed budget for the Ag, Au, PM CN- and PGM projects and lower for the Re, Refinables and Hydrazine projects, as discussed under above projects.

*Cumulative reserves:* For the PGM project, there were enough reserves available to counterbalance the 2014 overspent, but the cumulative reserves have been overrun for the Ag, Au and PM CN- projects in 2014 (cf. slide 61 in Annex 3). The total reserves at the end of 2014 will decrease from 4 million euros to approximately 1 million euros.

*Minimum required reserves:* PMC needs to secure minimum reserves to be kept in-house in order to properly liquidate or terminate the organisation if needed (i.e. to pay the salaries of the officers in case of a liquidation - calculation prepared in collaboration with the social secretariat (UCM)), and as contingency for the individual projects (7,5 % of the total project expenses for the Ag, PM CN-, PGM and Refinables projects and 5 % of the total project expenses for the Au, Re and Hydrazine projects). An overview of these minimum required reserves can be found in slide 62, Annex 3.

Taking into account the reserves overrun for the Ag, Au and PM CN- projects and the minimum reserves to be kept in-house, additional amounts will need to be invoiced in 2015 for the Generic costs and for the Ag, Au and PM CN- projects. It is proposed to use 400.000 euros of the PGM reserves and to use 9.450 euros of the Re reserves (i.e. payment holiday for the Re project).



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Due to a calculation error of the 2014 Ag retroactive payment presented in June (available Ag reserves not considered + 2014 additional spent overestimated), the retroactive Ag invoice will be smaller than previously indicated (slide 61 of Annex 3).

## 5.2. 2015 Budget and invoices

The 2015 revised budget was approved and is available in slide 64 of Annex 3 (with a total of 2.903.178 euros). An effort was made to keep the revised budget as close as possible to what was presented in June 2015.

In addition to the 2015 project budgets, the indicative amounts to be invoiced per project in 2015 depend on:

- the use of a fraction of the available reserves (for PGM, Re),
- the need for additional invoicing to build the minimum reserves (for Generic costs, Ag, Au, PM CN-),
- the need for an additional 2014 retroactive payment (for Ag, Au, PM CN-).

Attention was raised in discussion on the disproportionate depletion of the PGM reserves in order to reduce the 2015 invoices (400.000 euros) and the attendant risk regarding financing of future work. This means that the PGM reserves will be lowered from more than 2 million euros at the end of 2013 to about 570.000 euros. This is still more than the minimum reserves to be kept in-house for the PGM project (243.000 euros) but the risk of unforeseen costs for the PGM project is thought to be quite high considering the number of PGM substances to be registered and the high study costs. Therefore, the minimum reserve for PGM of 7,5 % of the total costs is considered to be low and should be carefully evaluated moving forward.

Action: The Assembly recommended the Secretariat that the costs should be more detailed and that the Working Groups should be more involved in the budgeting process. (AP24)

Action: For future presentation of the budget, the Secretariat was asked to compare the budget with the previous 2 years' budgets (AP25)

Action: Present a rolling budget for 2016-2018 at the next Assembly meeting (AP26)

Action: The Secretariat was asked to keep the costs for nano-Ag separate in the Ag project for the next Assembly meeting (AP27)

The exact amounts to be invoiced will be confirmed in March 2015 upon closure of the 2014 accounts and confirmation of the 2014 reserves. Invoices will be sent in March 2015 (AP28)

## 6. AOB, next meetings and closing remarks

No other business was proposed.

The next meetings will take place in/on:

- o Milan, Italy, 4 Jun 2015: invitations will be sent in Feb/Mar 2015 (AP29)
- o Brussels, Belgium, 2 Dec 2015

### Annexes

- 1 - List of participants
- 2 - Agenda
- 3 - Slides presented during the meeting
- 4 - 2015 Budget approved by the Assembly

**Table 1.** Actions carried out from 12 June 2014 PMC Plenary meeting

	What?	Who?	When?
1.	Nominate Mgmt Cttee representatives to take on board (Co-)Chairmanship of PMC for 2016-2018 mandate	Mgmt Cttee	Q2 2015



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	What?	Who?	When?
2.	Prepare tentative project plans for Ag, Refinables and Authorisation projects of PMC	R. Nicolay with relevant managers	Jun 2015
3.	Include high-level project plan (in .pdf) of each project in bi-monthly updates circulations	A. Rondepierre	On-going
4.	Produce ID Cards for all PMC substances and intermediates in the order of registration, using Members' input and expertise	K. Arijs	On-going
5.	Compare effects datasets and anticipate/collaborate on a response to the possible release of a CLH proposal from KEMI with Ag Biocides TF	K. Rothenbacher + K. Arijs	Q1 2015
6.	Include place-holder for research work in 2016 budget, as discussed and agreed with the Ag WG and Mgmt Cttee	New S-G	Q1 2015
7.	Confirm scope of Au registration dossier: nano in or out? (Consult WGC if needed)	R. Nicolay	Q1 2015
8.	Document decision-making re genotoxicity testing of TCA	R. Nicolay	Q1 2015
9.	Confirm scope of PGM registration dossiers: nanos in or out? (Consult IPA if needed)	K. Rothenbacher/ K. Arijs	On-going
10.	Update Mgmt Cttee on SID/Sameness discussions around diammonium hexachlororuthenate, progress of Ru testing programme, and overall impact on registration submission window for Ru and Ru compounds	K. Rothenbacher/ K. Arijs	On-going
11.	Settle proper Memorandum of Understanding with Reconcile, in order to set legal framework to allow technical cooperation and dossier preparation	K. Rothenbacher/ K. Arijs + A. Palmers	Q1 2015
12.	Update LoA e-shop with 2014 LoA prices for Refinables	A. Rondepierre	Jan 2015

**Table 2.** Actions agreed at 3 Dec 2014 PMC Assembly meeting

	What?	Who?	When?
13.	Share information/experience on literature searches with the PMC Secretariat	PMC Members	Jan 2015
14.	Review Ag literature search strategy	PMC Secretariat, led by S-G	Jan 2015
15.	Organise comments from PMC consultants and coordinate comments with the Silver Task Force	PMC Secretariat	Jan 2015
16.	Check RIVM's position on KEMI's proposal and the possible consequences re additional study requests	K. Rothenbacher/ K. Arijs	Q1 2015
17.	Analyse the feasibility to end up the registration of Au and Au compounds earlier than currently scheduled (mid-2016) to shift as soon as possible PMC efforts on more complex projects such as PGM registrations	R. Nicolay	Jun 2015
18.	Analyse the feasibility to end up the registration of PM Cyanides earlier than currently scheduled (about mid-2016) to shift as soon as possible PMC efforts on more complex projects such as PGM registrations	R. Nicolay	Jun 2015
19.	Send an updated substance and tonnage band declaration to the PMC secretariat	Registrants of Diammonium hexachlororuthenate	Q1 2015
20.	Send updated substance and tonnage band declaration in case of tonnage band changes	PMC Members	ASAP
21.	Update scope of PGM project following official confirmation of tonnage band changes	PMC Secretariat	Q1 2015



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	<b>What?</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>When?</b>
22.	Follow-up with identified company regarding the higher tonnage band of one PGM substance	K. Rothenbacher/ K. Arijs	ASAP
23.	Finalise MSDS for Re substances	K. Arijs	Jun 2015
24.	Costs should be more detailed and Working Groups should be more involved in the budgeting process	PMC Secretariat	Jun 2015
25.	For future presentation of the budget, compare the budget with the previous 2 years' budgets	New S-G with Office Manager	Jun 2015
26.	Present a rolling budget for 2016-2018	New S-G with relevant managers	Jun 2015
27.	Keep the costs for nano-Ag separate in the Ag project	K. Rothenbacher/ K. Arijs + New S-G	Jun 2015
28.	Prepare and send out 2015 invoices	A_Rondepierre + New S-G	Mar 2015
29.	Prepare and send out invitations and provisional programme for June Plenary meeting in Milan	A_Rondepierre + New S-G	Mar 2015