

EUROMETAUX REACH PROGRAMME



Meetings scheduled back to back in September 2017 at the MCC

26 September: Authorisation & Restriction Platform

27 September: REACH Forum

For registration please send an email to ehsassistant@eurometaux.be

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Dear REACH Forum member,

It is the first of September and it is untypically good weather in Brussels! More than often, the rain cannot resist welcoming the kids and their new (wet) backpacks at the school entrance, as if it was important to insist on the fact that the summer mood is becoming fragile. The sweet illusion that the summer holidays bring of having more time and less to do, seems to be melting away like the last ice cream cornet... Every year, I am hopelessly optimistic about how much work I will be able to accomplish over the summer period. I have enthusiastic predictions for how much I will finish per day, per week with longer daylight hours and a quieter office. To be honest, this is not only a summer characteristic. I'm among those who bring home piles of paper to read over the weekend and in the evening, as if there would be no other (interfering) activities. I make to-do lists and work plans with what I think are rather reasonable estimates for deadlines. Later, I discover that my estimation was very optimistic and that I should have been 'dead' three times at least. Again, I know I'm only one of the representatives of a population who would be better advised to use an alternative wording for 'deadline', as often suggested by our zinc colleague: mojito-celebration-date, reach-the-goal-line, or even to-do-target-day (the acronyms could easily fit in a REACH glossary). We would -at least unconsciously- already be healthier.

I read this morning that to make appropriate predictions of the amount of time a project would require, you should make your best estimate, then double that, and finally increase your unit of measurement. This means that if your estimate is one hour, then you make it two hours, and finally two days. Is that a way to address « planning fallacy », which frankly can be quite troublesome? It seems that the main reason for our optimism about the time required to finish tasks is the information we use to make the judgment. We typically focus on the future and think about our plans: how much work there is, the various parts of the job, when we have time to work, and how important the issue is. We seldom think about future problems and even less frequently about past experiences. We remember that our last "strategic paper drafting" was disrupted by a 1001 other demands or 'things to address urgently'. But we immediately add that those demands were one-time incidents and will not happen again. And this is correct: these demands are unlikely to occur again, but very wrong as other one-time demands are bound to occur and we omit to take these into account when making a new planning. We all know we have already been mistaken in the past and that we have carried things home that we did not even look at, and still my backpack is heavy for a Friday evening. We seem doomed to repeat our mistakes, without learning from previous failures.

Well tant pis...so be it! The two conkers Ailsa left on my desk are shiny and the promise of an intense and shiny autumn. So up for the sweet autumn ambience!



Violaine Verougstraete, EHS director Eurometaux

ECHA REACH Activities: hot topics

Restriction

5 Cobalt Salts: a call for evidence launched by ECHA to define scope of the Risk Management Measure

In the latest move of the long "saga" on the 5 cobalt salts on the REACH Candidate List, ECHA has indicated on the Register of Intentions (RoI) that they will develop a restriction case in 2018 to manage exposure at the workplace. In order to scope the restriction, they launched a three-month call for evidence with a deadline on 28 September 2017 whereby stakeholders can provide relevant information that would help ECHA in defining the scope. Given any restriction needs to be based on a proven risk, there is emphasis on exposure information of manufacturing and user processes. The Cobalt sector has launched a survey to make users aware of this opportunity, while facilitating the collection of relevant new data and information, and is launching initiatives to pre-empt the information needed for the restriction (like SEA information and promoting an OEL for cobalt), projects supported by Eurometaux (more information: Wouter Ghyoot, Carol Pettit and Hugo Waeterschoot).

Authorisation

Stakeholders discuss on Application for Authorisation for Endocrine Disruptors

On 22nd August in Brussels ECHA organised a workshop on applications for authorisation for environmental endocrine disruptors (EDs) to stimulate a comprehensive exchange of views amongst stakeholders. The European Commission and

ECHA gave an overview of the issues around granting authorisation for EDs. German representatives from UBA illustrated the conclusions of the JRC report "Thresholds for Endocrine Disrupters and Related Uncertainties Report" prepared in 2013 by the Endocrine Disrupters Expert Advisory Group. The debate focused on the possibility to derive thresholds or dose-response relationships for two specific substances (nonylphenol and nonylphenol Polyethoxylate) and on whether it is more appropriate to apply for authorisation following the "adequate control" or "socio-economic" route. Discussions also took place in the afternoon in different working groups dealing respectively with i) 'adequate control' route, ii) information required for the 'socio-economic route', iii) environmental exposure/release data and iv) next steps for applying for authorisation. ECHA underlined that RAC/SEAC will evaluate as appropriate applications based on either "adequate control" or "non-threshold" considerations and that, based on past experience, the "route" of application does not affect the likelihood that RAC/SEAC will recommend an application. It was concluded that uncertainties associated to EDs clearly exist and, as such, minimisation of emissions must be considered regardless the adequate control or SEA route. It is also important to justify that the operative conditions and risk reduction measures are appropriate and effective in limiting the risk. In case RAC does not agree with an applicant's conclusions in relation to adequate control, the authorisation might still be granted based on socio-economic arguments. This was considered to be the first workshop on the subject; other workshops, also organised by industry, might follow. The slides of the various presentations, as well as the conclusions of the workshop will be circulated by ECHA in the near future; meanwhile, notes of the workshop can be requested from Eurometaux (more information: Lorenzo Zullo).

Others

Forum celebrates its 10 years open session, call for presentations

The 2017 Forum's Open session for ECHA's Accredited Stakeholders Organisations (ASOs) will take place during the week of 6-11 November 2017 (date to be confirmed) in Helsinki, back-to-back with the Forum-28 plenary meeting. The Forum will be celebrating its tenth anniversary. Therefore, the open session will have an extended agenda item on enforcement activities in the Member States as well as a review of the Forum's activities throughout the last 10 years. Industry can submit proposals for topics to be brought to the Forum's attention by 13 September. Please contact the secretariat if you have some proposals you would like to see submitted (more information: Guy Thiran, Hugo Waeterschoot, Lorenzo Zullo and Violaine Verougstraete).

EUROMETAUX REACH Activities: hot topics/issues

Resource mapping to respond to REACH / ECHA challenges

Candidate listing proposed for CMR impurities in Co₃O₄: a potential dangerous precedence

The Netherlands progressed with a proposal to submit an Annex XV dossier for NiO impurities in Co₃O₄, aiming to control NiO exposure at the workplace by reducing impurity levels to below the classification limits. Industry, guided by the Cobalt and Nickel sectors, contest the relevance of such Risk Management Measures given the potential for risk, if existing, can be much better and more efficiently handled through a Ni OEL in line with other recent Ni RMOa conclusions. Eurometaux underlines this concern adding its precedent setting-value for impurities management. Moreover, this may especially affect the recycling sector because many recycling streams contain metal oxides, a move that would counter act the Circular Economy. Eurometaux met with ECHA recently to discuss the issue, thereby confirming they are also concerned about this Dutch initiative. However, ECHA cannot stop nor influence Member State proposals to launch an Annex XV activity. The Co and Ni sectors, together with Eurometaux, will consider what further policy actions can be undertaken to prevent that such a Candidate Listing would hamper the metals sector while not contributing to a better chemicals management level... on the contrary (more information: Brigitte Amoruso, Kai-Sebastian Melzer and Hugo Waeterschoot).

SpERCS: Workshop on quality Criteria on 20 October 2017

The cross-industry activities on the development of specific Environmental Release Categories (SpERCs) are proceeding under the chairmanship of Eurometaux. During the workshop scheduled for the 20th of October, several industry associations including ESIG/ESVOC, CEPE, EFCC/FEICA, Fertilisers Europe and Eurometaux, will present the outcome of their work. The workshop will also focus on the definition of quality criteria that will be used as a base for the quality check, which is expected to be completed in 2018-2019. A draft version of the quality criteria, to be circulated in preparation to the workshop, has been prepared by Eurometaux. The quality check is also linked to the 2017-2020 ENES work programme which includes the setup of a third party mechanism to ensure that published SpERCs are complete and correspond to good practice as defined between industry, ECHA and Member States in 2016 (more information: Frederik Verdonck and Lorenzo Zullo).

Metal-specific REACH application tools and concepts

Environmental classification: rapid removal and Pb and ENV classification

The evaluation of Rapid Removal from the water column can be used as a surrogate for rapid degradation in the environmental hazard classification of metals. This approach would ensure a level playing field with the organic sector, where the concept of degradation has been accepted since the start of the GHS/CLP. However, despite attempts in the past by Eurometaux and ECHA, the concept has drawn scepticism from Member States, who disregard the scientific evidence assembled from field data and rapid removal calculations using the Unit World Model (UWM). In complement of the UWM, an extension of the Transformation Dissolution protocol was developed, that directly measures rapid removal of metals in standard conditions. Eurometaux and Emily Garman (representing ETAP) met with ECHA on 22 August to progress with the concept for the metals sector. IND noted the support from several countries (including France and the UK) to move forward on this outstanding issue. ECHA confirmed their renewed interest and indicated a timeline for IND to address this issue under the Metals Sectorial Strategy. As a first step, they requested the delivery of a data package summarising the modified TDp protocol and supporting data by the end of 2017 or early 2018 to consider relaunching the scientific discussions. ECHA further informed the metals sector that they received the Environmental classification proposal on Pb metal submitted by Denmark. Surprisingly and contrary to other metals, the proposal makes no distinction between the massive and powder form, indicating that massive forms can potentially generate powders when "handled". The Public Consultation on this was launched end of August (more information: Emily Garman and Hugo Waeterschoot).

Metals Sectorial Approach

Steering Committee Call: preparing the discussions that will take place at the REACH Forum

The objective of the call, held on 28 August, was to discuss documents prepared by the secretariat and aimed at supporting the discussions with the REACH Forum at its next meeting (27 September). More specifically: a draft general action plan, a revised template to perform an evaluation of the baseline situation of the metal files, a first proposal for a charter and some 'business-like' messages that could help mobilise the required resources. The Steering Committee members who could participate provided us with very helpful input. The objective is to circulate finalised draft documents around the 20th of September to the REACH Forum members for their input and feedback. Other topics that were discussed during the call are the interaction with other inorganic sectors (what is the role of Eurometaux and the consortia in mobilising other non-REACH Forum covered consortia?) and the role of the Member States. One observation that was expressed was that the sectorial approach should preferably be a collaborative exercise between ECHA and industry, aimed at improving REACH files and that Member States should only participate at a later stage. While it was agreed that defining the modalities would be important, it was also acknowledged that making the decision of having Member States involved or not is not only in industry's hands. ECHA for example has actually several reasons to try to get Member States on board or at least to keep them regularly informed: transparency, but also efficiency (avoiding that Member States go their own way in launching incentives/actions for data-gap filling) and practicality (as Member States are the enforcement authorities). It was also mentioned that from a registrants' perspective, having a champion at Member States level, who would be informed and supportive of the work done under the approach may help as well. It was also stressed that if we want to ensure some capacity-building on metal specificities, it is easier to have Member States involved in the technical discussions (on the metal issues) from the start. In the meantime, ECHA is also reflecting on some kind of baseline assessment of the metals files and which format to give it in order to facilitate further exchanges. Outcomes will be further discussed on 27 September (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot, Lorenzo Zullo and Violaine Verougstraete).

COMMUNICATION

OECD

OECD SEA workshop 30 August-1 September: *first meeting of the platform-a high level discussion*

The combined OECD-ECHA SEA project last year in Helsinki recommended the creation of an expert exchange platform on SEA for chemicals management purposes and the setup of a specific programme considering Willingness To Pay (WTP) data for endpoints other than CMR. The meetings in Ottawa enabled progress on both these actions, with a first meeting of the platform on the theme of SEA experience on key substance restrictions. Eurometaux chaired the session on Hg concluding that SEAs will have to be expanded with external costs due to the recent entry into force of the Minamata Convention and that the focus should be on proven health endpoints like neurotoxicity. A plea was also made for the recognition of the role of "diffuse sources" to determine the most relevant outstanding sources. The last day was devoted to the project on WTP for chronic endpoints other than CMR for which such evidence exist. This is a common technique that can prevent break-even approaches and therefore is most relevant for industry. However, the progress made was limited due to lacking resources and focussed on what endpoints to select (sensitisation, chronic lung diseases, ...) and project management (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

ICMM-ETAP

ETAP meetings: *four topics of direct relevance for REACH and CLP*

ETAP met back-to-back with ICMM-CMWG bringing together a core group of environmental scientists advising industry on key environmental science challenges. Eurometaux was attending this meeting as an observer. This year's meeting focus was on five projects, the first four of direct relevance to REACH and CLP activities: 1. How to best develop a physico-chemical water parameters database for use in the bioavailability correction model for the EU, 2. Effect-based tools for addressing environmental quality standards for metals, an issue relevant for the WFD in the EU, 3. Nanoparticle exposure and transformation, with specific reference to environmental classification, 4. ECHA's Read-Across Framework and 5. Implications for Metals Abiotic Depletion Potential: Considerations for determining practical Characterisation Factors. EPMF added the issue of QiCARs, a tool to read-across from data-rich to data-poor metal elements, and this issue was picked up under several of the projects. Several interesting suggestions were made by the experts especially on the "effect-based tools". In addition, the experts brought to our attention interesting new publications, some of which could become "new emerging issues". The main outcomes of the ETAP meeting will be presented at the upcoming Eurometaux Science session (October) (more information: Ilse Schoeters and Hugo Waeterschoot).

Exchange session with ECHA: *ETAP reported progress on combined environmental toxicity and Rapid Removal*

On 23 August, Eurometaux brokered an exchange meeting in Helsinki between the ETAP panel and key persons of ECHA involved in metals science (Bram Versonnen and Anne-Mari Karjalainen) and the design of the metals sectorial approach (Jos Mossink). Ilse Schoeters chaired the reporting session which started with an excellent overview of ETAP's main deliveries that are of relevance for ECHA, followed by more detailed reporting on recent progress and findings on combined environmental toxicity for metals and the Rapid Removal assessment of metals. On the latter, the ETAP panel members explained the development and progress made with an extended TDp protocol including a partitioning and resuspension phase allowing to assess rapid removal in a standardised relevant way, as happens for organics. On the combined toxicity, emphasis was on the development of a tiered assessment scheme for metals assessing the different mechanisms of action (common or independent) and recent research outcomes on the toxicity assessment of metal combinations. ECHA did not directly reply on the content of the reporting, but appreciated the contributions and underlined the proactivity and scientific credibility of the metals sector's contributions and their direct relevance for the metals sectorial approach (more information: Chris Schlekot, Eric van Genderen, Ilse Schoeters and Hugo Waeterschoot).

ICMM-CMWG meeting: *a combination of international strategic chemicals management aspects and technical concerns*

The chemicals management working group of ICMM, composed of commodities, consortia, companies and Eurometaux met in Helsinki, back-to-back with ETAP. The meeting reviewed ongoing chemicals management activities at international level with specific attention for strategic aspects including for example the proposal to create a co-funded position at ICMM for international chemicals management, preparing for the upcoming SAICM debate on Chemicals management > 2020, trends in Asian chemicals management system introductions, how to progress with tools Rapid Removal and bioelution (need for international support) and how to achieve more relevant human characterisation factors for LCI. BIAC invited the metal and mining sectors to identify a new (European) co-chair for the BIAC Chemicals Group as Benjamin Davies left ICMM for Anglo-American. Eurometaux suggested Kai-Sebastian Melzer to take this position, which was wholeheartedly supported by all

attendees. In addition the CMWG meeting raised some more technical issues like transport related IMO aspects or on orphan deleterious elements and mining waste (more information: Ilse Schoeters and Hugo Waeterschoot).

SETAC

SETAC 2018: *abstract on the science base for Substitution*

ECHA, Eurometaux and Professor Joël Ticker (Massachusetts University) forwarded an abstract for the SETAC 2018 conference, requesting a special session on the science behind substitution. ECHA and North American legislators are all moving forward in their chemicals management systems, progressing towards risk management often with an emphasis on substitution of the most hazardous chemicals. While most regulators focus on “drop in solutions”, in the eyes of industry, substitution requires a solid scientific basis to prevent regrettable substitutions, technical feasibility issues, or hampering other EU policies such as the Circular Economy. The session would aim at presenting existing cases of substitution assessing the scientific basis of the decision and if feasible assessing their effectiveness (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

CALENDAR

- **12-15 September:** SEAC-36 + MSC-55 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- **18-22 September:** RAC-42– ECHA (Helsinki)
- **26 September:** A&R Platform meeting – MCC (Brussels)
- **27 September:** REACH Forum – MCC (Brussels)
- **28 September:** Co CLH TF Meeting (Brussels)
- **28-29 September:** ECHA Management Board – ECHA (Helsinki)
- **9-10 October:** ECHA workshop on Substitution
- **12-13 October:** ECHA Substance Evaluation workshop
- **18 October :** ECHA’s Accredited Stakeholder Workshop (Brussels)
- **23-27 October:** MSC-56 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- **Week of 6-11 November:** Exact date to be confirmed: 2017 Forum’s Open session for ECHA’s Accredited Stakeholders Organisations
- **21 November:** Nanos Taskforce meeting (tbc) (Brussels)
- **22 November:** Evaluation Platform meeting (Brussels)
- **23 November:** A&R Platform meeting
- **27 November – 1 December:** RAC-43 + SEAC-37 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- **4-8 December:** RAC-43– ECHA (Helsinki)
- **11-16 December:** MSC-57 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- **14-15 December:** ECHA Management Board – ECHA (Helsinki)
- **20 December:** REACH Forum (Brussels)

NB: Please note that some RAC/MS/SEAC dates are tentative and can be subject to change and that there have been recent changes in some of the dates, with the second weeks of SEAC meetings being cancelled in September & December

ACRONYMS

ASO: Accredited Stakeholders Organisations	MSC: Member States Committee (ECHA)
BIAC: Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD	OECD: Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development
CII: Cross Industry Initiative	OEL: Occupational Exposure Limit
CLP: Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation	RAC: Risk Assessment Committee
CMR: Carcinogens, Mutagens or toxic to Reproduction	QiCAR: Quantitative Ion Character Activity Relationships
CMWG: Chemicals Management Working Group	RMM: Risk Management Measures

ED: Endocrine Disruptor	RMOa: Risk Management Option analysis
ECVAM: European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Testing Methods	RoI: Register of Intentions
ENES: Exchange Network on Exposure Scenarios	SAICM: Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
ENV: Environmental	SEA: Socio-Economic Assessment/Analysis
ETAP: Environmental Toxicology Advisory Panel	SEAC: Socio-Economic Analysis Committee (ECHA)
GHS: Globally Harmonized System	TDp: Transformation Dissolution protocol
IMO: International Maritime Organisation	UBA: Federal Environment Agency (Germany)
JRC: Joint Research Centre	WFD: Water Framework Directive
LCI: Life Cycle Inventory	WTP: Willingness To Pay

REACH on the BEACH

A last one...because sun is still welcomed in September!!

Please indicate if the following statements are false-true- half true

- 95% of the Belgian trains were on time in August
.....
- A new journal has been created No Effect Paper Journal (NEP)
.....
- The traffic jam in Brussels (1 September) on the first school day was remarkably limited
.....
- Frank (Van Assche) has fully completed the REACH on the BEACH sections
.....
- NAPUE₄₈ (Finnish gin) is excellent
.....