EUROMETAUX
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF METALS

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EUROMETAUX REACH PROGRAMME

Dear REACH Forum member,

Spring days in Brussels -the real ones- are associated with frantic cleaning activities. The Brussels air, vibrating with 'brush-brush' sounds, smells a bit like soap and wood treatment oil. Brave women compete on unstable stools to reach inaccessible windows or explore the back part of their cupboards; men who have spent the last months sitting inside in front of a screen attack with impressive vigour hedges and terraces…(the opposite should be seen as well). All efforts focus on forgetting the long winter and the capricious weather experienced these last months, it's time for renewal, energy, and flowers blossoming in spick-and-span backyards.

I was hoping somehow that the spring momentum would stimulate me to take care of my handkerchief-garden, which despite its restricted surface looks like an urban jungle governed by dandelions. Time for gardening-clearing, emptying-dusting-filling! So it may have been my neighbour's fault when he came begging for painkillers, struck by an acute lumbago just after the last meter of hedge had been trimmed or maybe the queues at the plant shop…Whatever! My natural laziness took over: I went to sit in my do-it-yourself jungle with my computer and decided to focus my clean-up activities on the Eurometaux server. Easier I thought.

I however underestimated what you find in such repositories of past work. Each folder or file appeared to be a drawer filled with bits and pieces. And once you open it, you start checking it to be sure you do not throw valuable stuff away. The exploration brought to the surface the names of contacts I haven't seen for ages or have never known, position papers from 1996 that say exactly the same –or better- as the one I painfully finalised a couple of weeks ago, stories of tribulations with authorities or with metal concepts that strangely named working groups once tried to solve. A treasure of knowledge and science one never has the time to consult, a wealth of experience you suddenly lay a hand on. It's like that incredible recipe that vanished some years ago or the surprising spice that pops up in the kitchen cupboard: you promise yourself to test it!

This is what the KnowMe (Knowledge on metals) database actually aims at: making old formulas accessible and avoiding losing ingredients that made it in previous stories. The database is a living, growing library and although it will never stand for each and every one's experience, it will help us to know the background and/or to pass the baton when needed. Federica is working on our collective knowledge; so please have a look:

Violaine Verougstraete, EHS director Eurometaux



You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep spring from coming (Pablo Neruda)

ECHA REACH activities: hot topics

ECHA COMMITTEES

MSC workshop on Evaluation strategy: ***more transparency on the selection criteria and processes for substances for dossier and substance evaluation***

The new Dossier-Substance Evaluation strategy introduced end of 2014 for the period 2015-2017 aims at more transparency, focus and effectiveness of the Evaluation process. The strategy for selection makes full use of the ACROSS tool, an integrated

search tool that identifies substances "that matter" from a "concern" viewpoint. The tool works with algorithms searching for registration files that could be a challenge in respect to the assessment of 8 super endpoints covering - besides classical endpoints like CMR (especially Reproductive Toxicity) or potential PBT - also chronic environmental toxicity and high regional exposure potential. The focus on themes by ACROSS is complemented by an at random selection of dossiers to assess and compliance checks for substances on the CoRAP list for Substance Evaluation. Reason for keeping the at random checks is, as quoted by the ECHA head of Evaluation Unit to "keep the pressure on industry for compliance and updating". Despite the criteria driven selection process, Member States (as well as ECHA) can still add handpicked substances to the list of substances candidate for Dossier Evaluation but they need to provide justification why they would do so. To increase transparency and to allow industry to prepare and anticipate dossier evaluation compliance checks, ECHA has published the list of "substances candidate for compliance checks":
http://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13628/substances_compliance_checks_2015_en.pdf. ECHA selects from this list approximately 200 to 300 substances a year for compliance checks (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

MSC workshop on Evaluation strategy: *recognition for industry's concerns on compliance strategy*
The annual ECHA MSC-Evaluation workshop was themed this year on the implementation aspects of the new Dossier/Substance Evaluation strategy introduced last year. In general, ECHA concludes that close to 50 % of the CCs conducted demonstrate shortcomings or non-compliances. A recent study conducted by BfR (DE) on a number of high volume chemicals registered in 2010 indicate a higher non-compliance level, going up to 80 % with more than 50 % of the dossiers non-compliant for several priority concerns. Germany suggests therefore starting non-compliance procedures for all those cases (that may include a long series of metals). The results of the study were contested by industry and other Member States mainly because of the non-relevance of some of the search criteria. ECHA and many Member States have therefore more sympathy for Eurometaux's suggestion to go for a non-compliance check strategy based on the experience on "soft positively stimulating measures" as done last year on intermediates and petrochemicals. This strategy starts with "campaign letters + technical support programmes" around a given theme by ECHA, helpdesks and industry stakeholders, followed by article 36 letters and subsequently SONCs for those not reacting to the request for updating their registration when relevant. Member States felt that the BfR study allowed for identifying horizontal issues that raised the most concern (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

Compliance Checks for evaluation: *better communication on status and outcome agreed*
While 50 % of dossier evaluation compliance checks lead to decisions for data gap filling or reviewing sections of the CSR, half of them are closed without the registrants even noticing it, as the substance/registration is compliant for the endpoints that it was checked for. Eurometaux proposed that ECHA informs industry of such cases to act as best practices and to motivate and inform industry when they did a good job. NGOs felt that such tool should be based on "the name and shame or name and fame" principle, a proposal that industry disagreed with given it is not the aim of REACH, nor the mandate of ECHA. Member States and ECHA will therefore search for a communication tool suitable for reporting closed and ongoing cases. PACT may provide this given that it reports on the status of "substances" and thereby doesn't declare the names of lead registrants or co-registrants who were checked (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

AUTHORISATION

NeRSAP 4, scheduled for 15-16 June: *preparations ongoing*
The next NeRSAP meeting will take place in Brussels and is this time hosted by Cefic. The network established by Eurometaux-Cefic and ECHA together with the UK and Belgium aims for stimulation knowledge between consultants on novel SEA and AoA techniques of relevance for REACH and CLP, as well as general experience building to promote more focus and quality with AfA submissions. The themes listed for this meeting are most relevant to stimulate your SEA-AoA consultants to attend the meeting and include: a review on recent DALY/QALY work, meta-analysis on costs and benefits of restriction cases, structured format for health impact assessment in REACH restriction dossiers and a SEA approach to assess the potential impact of authorisation on recycling (by Eurometaux) (more information: Michel Vander Straeten and Hugo Waeterschoot).

AfA workshop end of June
Every year, ECHA, Eurometaux and Cefic co-organise a common training for potential Applicants for Authorisations. This year the training session takes place on 29-30 June in Helsinki and provides besides an explanation of the AfA process also suggestions and learning lessons to make your applications more successful. This year's session is certainly recommendable for manufacturers and users of Borates, Pb compounds and Coal Tar Pitch given the high likelihood they will be selected for Authorisation. The seats are provided on a first announced first served basis (more information and inscription: http://echa.europa.eu/view-article/-/journal_content/title/seminar-on-applications-for-authorisati-3 - Hugo Waeterschoot).

ECHA MEETINGS

ENES 8: ***latest developments on tools to improve supply chain communication- next phase of the CSR/ES roadmap***
The 8th meeting of the ECHA-Stakeholder Exchange Network on Exposure Scenarios, which took place in Helsinki on 20-21 May was attended by about 80 persons. A status report was provided on several tools developed over the last years aiming at facilitating the communication between suppliers and downstream users/end-users like use maps, exposure determinants, standard phrases and scaling. An interesting session addressed the topic 'How authorities, manufacturers and downstream users work with the information generated?', namely information available in the Registrations. ECHA explained their screening approach to identify substances of concern (requiring either production of additional information via Evaluation processes or Risk Management). Member States representatives illustrated how information on uses and exposure added in the registration dossier or submitted to authorities could impact on the outcomes of their RMOA and/or prioritisation. Eurometaux and ILA made a presentation on how the absence / presence of information has consequences for decision-making in regulatory risk management. The presentations will soon be made available http://echa.europa.eu/about-us/exchange-network-on-exposure-scenarios. A report will be sent to the Exposure Scenarios Taskforce (more information: Irene Cañas Sierra and Violaine Verougstraete).

ECHA Stakeholder day*: Eurometaux summarizes learning lessons on Authorisation*
The 10th ECHA Stakeholder day took place in Helsinki on 27 May and was attended by close to 300 participants including several metal representatives. As part of the risk management session, Eurometaux provided an overview of key learning lessons from the Authorisation Application process underlining aspects like the need for solid exposure evidence for both application routes https://twitter.com/EU_ECHA. Stakeholder day provided updates by ECHA staff on the planning for the registration 2018 deadline, the new strategy on dossier evaluation and risk management. Participating registrants had the opportunity to discuss specific items in one-to-one sessions with ECHA staff while the whole event provided Eurometaux and other participants with a very good networking opportunity with senior ECHA staff (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

OTHERS

ECHA discussing with stakeholders on project to clarify raw materials status in matrix type materials
Intermediates are excluded from Authorisation requirements, making the correct assessment of the use status of substances on Annex XIV a critical issue. ECHA and Member States noted different interpretations by industry for common uses while industry promotes a more pragmatic approach from member states in line with the REACH legal text. As part of a larger project, Eurometaux, Consortia and ECHA are therefore planning an informal exchange with DUs, manufacturers and ECHA/Commission to raise more recognition for a pragmatic view on the intermediate status for metal compounds in matrix type applications (most difficult use to interpret). This meeting will be organized as bilateral working sessions between sectors and ECHA/Eurometaux and will take place on 2–3 July in Brussels at the Metals Conference Centre (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot and Violaine Verougstraete).

Publication of Endpoint Study Summaries: ***may trigger increased non-compliance with OSOR principle***
Following the announcement of the publication of the Endpoint Study Summaries (ESS) on ECHA's dissemination website by the end of 2015/early 2016, some Members have requested that Eurometaux warn ECHA about the possible downsides of such a publication. We are concerned that the improved dissemination of (contextual) information may facilitate illegal copies and unjustified separate registration practices, and therefore further discourage more joint registrations in the future. Though we welcome a better dissemination of the data, we do not want this improved dissemination to trigger even more non-compliance situations, especially as the 2018 registration deadline approaches, and the less informed SMEs may be actively seeking-out low-cost registration options. Eurometaux has brought this concern to the attention of ECHA, requesting ECHA to couple its enhanced transparency initiatives with action to reinforce compliance with the OSOR (One Substance One Registration) principle (for more information: Caroline Braibant).

Update on C&L Platform pilot project: ***feed-back from Eurometaux members welcome***
The next conference call between ECHA, CEFIC and Eurometaux to share recent developments and progress made on the C&L pilot Project will take place on 29 May 2015. Around twenty inorganic substances and their compounds are in the scope of this pilot project which aims at cleaning the C&L Inventory. Notifiers of classifications for the substances falling within the scope have received a letter from ECHA in their REACH-IT inbox and are invited to organise a first post on the platform using Eurometaux's template. Communication via the platform is expected to allow notifiers to reach an agreement on the applicable classification entry(ies) for each substance. Eurometaux has submitted some preliminary comments on the use of the C&L Platform to ECHA, who is willing to consider any obstacle users may face. Further feed-back from members on the use of the Platform can be shared at the 29 May conference call (more information: Caroline Braibant).

RAAF: ***ECHA's Read-Across Assessment Framework made public***

ECHA has developed a systematic approach to assess read-across cases encountered in its dossier evaluation activities on their quality and reliability. The RAAF provides a framework for a consistent evaluation of the scientific aspects of a proposed read-across case, resulting in an output suitable for regulatory consideration of the read-across case. "The approach reflects both a need to consider toxicological principles underpinning the application of read-across and experience gained from dossier evaluation in the context of the REACH information requirements". The Framework has been discussed with stakeholders during workshops held in 2012 and 2014. The document posted on http://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13628/raaf_en.pdf is currently limited to human health endpoints, and works using 'scenarios' that categorise the different read-across approaches (e.g. scenario 1. read-across based on (bio) transformation to common compound(s)). Each 'scenario' comprises different 'assessment elements', which address different scientific considerations deemed crucial to judge the validity and the reliability of read-across. A read-across case is appraised against each of the respective assessment elements. The appraisal is then used to inform decision-making. The RAAF was primarily designed for use by experts in ECHA to facilitate consistent assessment of read-across encountered during dossier evaluation but now also made available publicly to facilitate improvements in the use of read-across by e.g. registrants developing read-across cases and alternative approaches aimed at fulfilling the requirements of the REACH Regulation (more information: Violaine Verougstraete).

COMMISSION REACH activities: hot topics/issues

CARACAL

CARACAL 18: 23-23 June 2015 – ***Draft Agenda available, both days of direct relevance to inorganics sector***

The first version of the draft agenda for CARACAL 18 was recently published on CIRCABC and includes REACH and CLP items of direct relevance to the inorganics sector. The REACH session includes an update on the REACH review, the results of the public consultation on socio-economic elements related to ECHA's sixth recommendation for prioritisation of substances for Authorisation (so-called 6th Priority List), and experiences with PACT, among others. The CLP session currently foresees discussion on the CLP exemptions for feed additives, an oral debrief on the 27 April bioavailability workshop, lead and the 9th ATP to CLP, REFIT, and the C&L inventory pilot project. Whether the Implementing Act on Data-Sharing and Nanomaterials will be added to a next version of the agenda remains unknown. Eurometaux will represent the REACH Alliance on both meeting days and will organise its participation during a preparatory conference call scheduled on 16 June (more information: Caroline Braibant).

Pb SCL: ***report circulated and set-up of work plans***

In follow-up of the meeting facilitated by Commission on bioavailability in the framework of article 12(b) of the CLP (see April REACH News), Eurometaux has circulated a draft report to both Commission and its members. The report aimed at collecting all suggestions made by the Member States and OECD during the meeting and based on those, propose a list of actions to be addressed before the follow-up meeting. Actions relate to generic issues like scope, boundaries, conservatism, possible enforcement of the proposed classification approach, but also to open technical issues and the protocol. A work plan for the coming months is currently under development and will be communicated very soon. Besides this work that mainly focuses on mixtures where a matrix effect can be observed (with a different bioavailability of e.g. Pb metal compared to a reference substance), further reflection will be required to address other materials, substances containing Pb as impurity coming from recycling, and alloys where a matrix effect is not evident (more information: Steve Binks, Hugo Waeterschoot and Violaine Verougstraete).

Cu compounds environmental classification: ***a way forward to a solution to resolve the scientific dispute***

The environmental classification as defined by RAC on Cu flakes and Cu compounds is disputed by the Cu sector as well as Eurometaux for both methodological and scientific reasons. ECI and the biocides sector using Cu compounds as an active ingredient designed a strategy to reopen the classification discussion aiming for a better result. Especially abandoning the "surrogate approach " (using acute data in lack of chronic data) is aimed for, in the short to medium term, given Cu is data rich; while leaving the potential for further testing needs open. New information resulted from a scheduled registration file update and the intended classification review of an additional Cu material (Cu-granules) by RAC form the strategic basis of the suggested review. Eurometaux helped the Cu sector in formulating this in preparation of a meeting with the Commission who reacted favourable conditional to the convincing nature of the new evidence to fill the data gap defined by RAC and the acceptance by ECHA of an Art 77 procedure (Request from the Executive Director of ECHA to re-evaluate on the basis of new information (more information: Katrien Delbeke, Carol Mackie or Hugo Waeterschoot).

EUROMETAUX REACH activities: hot topics/issues

AUTHORISATION

Authorisation and Restriction Platform meeting: ***prioritisation for authorisation and the development and implementation of a Risk Management Strategy are the core focus of the platform's attention***

Eurometaux provided a detailed update on the status of the 6th and the planning for the 7th priority list for authorisation. While it seems that CTP, some of the Pb compounds and the listed Borates may be selected for authorisation under those two lists, progress was made with defining exemptions based on OSH (for Pb) and the need for simplified/streamlined AfAs for bio-essential applications (Borates). The upcoming challenges, their frequency and impact stimulated the sector to develop a preventive Risk Management Measure strategy. In this respect the platform reviewed and debated an updated and streamlined version of an integrated RMM strategy focused on REACH and CLP balancing the needs with the available restricted resources. Cornerstone in the strategy are: 1) the role of the RMO-tool and assessment to select more appropriate RMMs than authorisation and 2) prevention measures to limit the potential impact of authorisation on recycling. The updated strategy will be presented at a special meeting of the REACH Forum on 8 July. The platform also debated the progress made with the planning for an event to clarify the intermediates status for metal compounds in matrix materials and the Recycling and Authorisation project and in particular the SEA approach proposed by the consultants and selected pilot cases (more information: France Capon, Aggie Kotze, Caroline Braibant and Hugo Waeterschoot).

Cross-industry initiative: ***Aim for better regulation should also apply to REACH and workplace legislation***

To date 46 signatories have co-signed the cross-industry initiative (CII) paper. A number of meetings have taken place with Commissioners as a first part of the outreach campaign, and the feed-back gathered from the interlocutors encountered during these meetings allowed to identify further work areas to prepare the second part of the campaign, which is likely to commence in June. Eight workgroups have been set up to work on specific items, like simplification of OEL process, drive for substitution, and workplace legislation compliance. The deliverables produced by these workgroups will be used together with an animated flowchart to better describe and illustrate the proposal of the CII, inspired from the Commission's SVHC Roadmap. The recent Commission communication on Better regulation (better rules for better results), which foresees *possible action to improve coherence and consistency between Occupational Health and Safety legislation and chemicals legislation (REACH)*, provides the right momentum to continue the outreach (more information: Kai-Sebastian Melzer and Caroline Braibant).

EVALUATION

Evaluation Platform meeting (26 May): ***an update of the REACH Evaluation strategy and learning lessons on Dossier Evaluation and Substance Evaluation provide a structural learning experience***

The major topics debated at the successful platform meeting were the outcome of the MSC workshop on the implementation of the new ECHA evaluation strategy (see above under ECHA meetings) and the Ag substance evaluation (SE). France Capon explained the learning lessons so far with the Ag SE focusing on the nanoform properties. The draft decision on Ag is clearly building on the experience with the SiO2 nano SE but focusing on the environmental endpoints. It sets thereby clear precedence on how such cases may be handled in the future by ECHA as well as defining the future registration information needs for nanos. The platform further debated recent MSC SE and DE learning lessons of relevance for the metals sector in general (like: when to report Equivalent Concern status in SDS triggering supply chain communication) as well as learnings on new test methods and assessment strategies (e.g. what exposure route to test for substances with local effects). The meeting ended with a demonstration of the KnowMe database and a tour de table soliciting the participants' appreciation for the Evaluation Platform activities. The platform suggested changing the timing of the platform meetings to fit in with the ECHA Evaluation developments (more information: Kate Belska, Noömi Lombaert and Hugo Waeterschoot).

EXPOSURE SCENARIOS

Chesar training: ***getting acquainted on 29 May***

During the last Exposure Scenario Taskforce meeting, members requested that a training be organized to get acquainted with the current version of the Chesar tool, which would also facilitate the use of the next version of the tool due to be released in 2016 (Chesar 3). The training aimed at showing the tool's potentialities and explaining how to make best use of it. The training session was structured as a live demonstration of the Chesar 2 given by Maxime Eliat-Eliat (ARCHE) and Daniel Vetter (EBRC). Participants were able to follow the exercise on screen, or run it in parallel on their computer, and went through all the steps proposed by Chesar, such as exporting information from IUCLID and importing it in Chesar, defining the scope of

the exposure assessment, drawing life cycle tree(s), specifying relevant information for environmental and human health assessment, clarifying Chesar outputs and CSR generation, reporting on library of determinants and standard phrases. Finally, an overview of the upcoming Chesar 3 version was given (more information: Maxime Eliat-Eliat, Daniel Vetter and Federica Iaccino).

NANOMATERIALS

Awaited Commission documents not yet available: ***Standstill continues while reactivated Task Force takes form***

Except for a couple of commodity members, nanomaterials have been handled individually as an *ad hoc* topic until 2014. Regulatory attention increased with the announced clarification of information requirements applicable to nanomaterials in the REACH regulation, among others. A number of reports from the Commission (JRC and Impact Assessment Board) were supposed to become available in May to shed light on a possible revised definition, nanomaterial-specific information requirements, and EU inventory of nanomaterials. In the meantime, seven commodity associations, two companies, and four national federations have agreed to join and reactivate the Eurometaux Nanomaterials Task Force (Nano TF), to monitor among others Commission, ECHA, OECD, and national authorities' activities on nanomaterials. The TF agreed to collect and centralise knowledge on the general status and trend of the effect, behaviour, available information and the assessment of nanoforms in the metals sector; a survey is under development and should be circulated in June (more information: Caroline Braibant).

OTHERS

RCSG: ***Exchange on views at meeting hosted by FECC***

FECC (European Association of Chemical Distributors) hosted the most recent REACH Cross Sector Group (RCSG) meeting on Friday 22 May. Eurometaux used this opportunity to gather views on various items which were discussed at CARACAL 17 and/or appear on the Agenda of CARACAL 18. Among these, the proposed Implementing Act on Data-Sharing seems to be the only item where sectors may have dissenting views. In particular, the following paragraph in Article 3 of the draft Act causes divergence: "*Any data-sharing agreement concluded before the entry into force of the present regulation shall be amended in order to indicate the study costs and administrative costs as described above, unless the registrants concerned unanimously agree to the contrary.*" Whereas Eurometaux and some other stakeholders believe that the adjustment of existing data-sharing agreements (such as Letters of Access or Licences to Use) should be left to the discretion of the signing parties, the members of FECC see the need for the Implementing Act to impose this retroactive requirement. Eurometaux will monitor the comments submitted by CARACAL on this topic and act as relevant (more information: Caroline Braibant).

METAL-SPECIFIC TOOLS & COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

SETAC Barcelona: ***participation of Eurometaux in session co-chaired by ECHA and Horizontal Scanning workshop …***

The 25th SETAC Europe Annual Meeting was held in Barcelona from 3-7 May 2015. The metal sector participated actively to a number of SETAC activities, like e.g. co-chairing with ECHA a session on improving approaches for non-standard risk assessments of chemicals, presenting posters and contributing to the round table organized on implementing bioavailability for freshwater aquatic systems. Eurometaux was also asked to co-chair a workshop held in the context of the global Horizon Scanning Research Prioritisation Project, which aims at collecting and prioritising the most important future research questions as recognized by scientists from around the globe working in government, academia and business. The project collected questions ahead of the workshop within the SETAC community and discussed how to structure those in the workshop so as to draw a list of questions that would be representative for the EU scientific community. Outcomes will be published in a SETAC paper (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot and Violaine Verougstraete).

Further outreach of REACH

OECD

Workshop on Substitution and Alternatives Assessment: ***SAA Toolbox compiles hazard assessment and other tools to be used in the assessment of alternatives, but do these consider metal-specificities?***

Eurometaux participated in this 11-12 May 2015 Workshop where the OECD made a live-presentation of its online Substitution and Alternatives Assessment Toolbox (http://www.oecdsaatoolbox.org/). Abt Associates, contracted by the OECD and the US EPA under the OECD *Ad Hoc* Group on Substitution of Harmful Chemicals, has produced this website which centralises a compilation of resources relevant to chemical substitution and alternatives assessments, in order to furthering tools and approaches to support decision making for the substitution of chemicals of concern. The website includes hazard and non-hazard assessment tools, frameworks, case-studies, and regulations, among others. Among the hazard assessment tools, some identify chemical characteristics, others compare alternatives or prioritise substances for assessment; they include: eChem Portal, GreenScreen, and the SIN List. The non-hazard assessment tools include tools to perform cost-benefit analysis, exposure assessments, or life-cycle assessments, among others; and they include: GreenWERCS, ART, ECETOC-TRA, Material IQ, and EMFACT as well as some ECHA Guidance. REACH Authorisation is seen as a significant source of experience and information on the assessment of alternatives and ECHA's role in the Ad Hoc Group on Substitution of Harmful Chemicals may soon grow from the current co-chairmanship to a more leading one. The level and type of involvement of the Metals sector (via EM and/or ICMM) in this Group and other Substitution initiatives requires further discussion (for more information: Caroline Braibant).

OECD Environmental Risk Assessment Guidance on bioavailability: *review by the OECD Taskforce on Hazard Assessment*
ARCHE, Eurometaux and ICMM have submitted a draft guidance on the incorporation of bioavailability concepts for assessing the chemical ecological risk and/or environmental quality standard setting of metals and inorganic metal compounds. This guidance provides an overview on the bioavailability concepts, practical considerations for implementation, practical guidance in selecting reliable and relevant ecotoxicity data for the purpose of bioavailability assessment and case studies. It is based on the updated MERAG fact sheets, which were presented and reviewed at a workshop held in London in November 2014. The OECD secretariat provided helpful suggestions and support to tailor the content of the MERAG fact sheets into an OECD draft format. To be published, the guidance will first have to be reviewed by the OECD countries participating in the Taskforce on Hazard Assessment (TFHA). A presentation on the main elements of the guidance will be done at the next TFHA meeting mid-June (more information: Marnix Vangheluwe, Ben Davies, Hugo Waeterschoot and Violaine Verougstraete).

Calendar

- **1-5 June**: RAC 33 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- **8-12 June**: MSC 42 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- **8-12 June**: SEAC 27 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- **15-16 June**: 8th Meeting of the Task Force on Hazard Assessment – OECD (Paris)
- **17- 18 June:** 7th Meeting of the Task Force on Exposure Assessment – OECD (Paris)
- **24 June**: ECHA Webinar: REACH 2018: Know your portfolio & start preparing now (11:00 – 11:50 **Helsinki time**)
- **29-30 June**: AfA Workshop – ECHA (Helsinki)
- **2-3 July**: Project on clarifying raw materials status in matrix type materials - MCC (Brussels)
- **8 July**: RMM REACH Forum Meeting - MCC (Brussels)
- **3 September**: Authorisation & Restriction Platform – MCC (Brussels)
- **7-11 September**: RAC 34 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- **7-11 September**: SEAC 28 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- **14-18 September**: MSC 43 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- **23 September**: REACH Forum – MCC (Brussels)
- **7-8 October:** ECHA/EFSA Topical Scientific Workshop on Soil Risk Assessment – ECHA (Helsinki)
- **26-30 October**: MSC 44 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- **23-27 November**: RAC 35a – ECHA (Helsinki)
- **30 November – 4 December**: RAC 35b – ECHA (Helsinki)
- **30 November – 4 December**: SEAC 29 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- **7-11 December**: MSC 45 – ECHA (Helsinki)
- **15 December**: Evaluation Platform – MCC (Brussels)
- **16 December**: Authorisation & Restriction Platform – MCC (Brussels)
- **17 December**: REACH Forum – MCC (Brussels)

Acronyms

ACROSS: ECHA combined screening tool	NeRSAP: Network of REACH Socio-Economic and Assessment of Alternative Practitioners
AfA: Application for Authorisation	OECD: Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development
AoA: Assessment of Alternatives	OEL: Occupational Exposure Limit
ATP: Adaptation to Technical Progress	OSH: Occupational Safety Health
CARACAL: Competent Authorities for REACH & CLP	OSOR: One Substance, One Regulation
CC: Compliance Check	PACT: Public Activities Coordination Tool
CII: Cross-Industry Initiative	QALY: HALY that measures health gain
C&L: Classification & Labelling	RAC: ECHA Risk Assessment Committee
CLP: Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation	RAAF: Read-Across Assessment Framework
CoRAP: Community Action Rolling Plan	REFIT: European Commission's Regulatory Fitness and Performance programme
CSR: Chemical Safety Report	RMO/RMOA: Risk Management Options/Analysis
CTP: Coal Tar Pitch	RSCG: REACH Cross Sector Group
DALY: HALY that measures health loss	SAA: Substitution and Alternatives Assessment
DE: Dossier Evaluation	SE: Substance Evaluation
DU: Downstream User	SEA: Socio-Economic Assessment
ENES: Exchange Network on Exposure Scenarios	SIN (list): Substitute It Now (list)
ES: Exposure Scenario	SME: Small or Medium Enterprise
ESS: Endpoint Study Summaries	SONC: Statement of Non-Compliance
HALY: Health adjusted life Years	SVHC: Substance of Very High Concern
MSC: ECHA Member States Committee	