



## EUROMETAUX REACH PROGRAMME

Dear REACH Forum member,

We hope you all have been able to benefit from an –even short – break from the REACH pressure around Easter. The holidays explain this somewhat lighter version of the Newsletter.

The agenda for the two months to come is however filled with meetings, challenging discussions and advocacy activities, all aiming at achieving palatable outcomes and methodologies on 'hot topics' like authorization, UVCB assessment, testing proposals, classification and read-across. A perfect time to keep our common sense, cooperation skills and sense of humour 'well-trained'! And even better timing in welcoming Inneke Claes on board of the Eurometaux REACH team!

Violaine Verougstraete, EHS director Eurometaux  
proud of the now completed REACH team



## ECHA REACH activities: hot topics

### ECHA COMMITTEES –MSC DOMINATED THE SCENE IN APRIL, RAC IN THE WINGS

#### MSC 13, 24-27 April Helsinki:

During the spring MSC meeting several **horizontal Dossier Evaluation topics** were discussed including the waiving potential for the 2<sup>nd</sup> species in development toxicity testing, the selection of the route of administration for higher Tier testing and the status of the development of the Read-Across Assessment Framework (RAAF). The generic principles of RAAF were explained, comments were gathered and ECHA will organize a technical in-depth discussion on the Read-Across Assessment Framework on October 4<sup>th</sup> (special MSC workshop).

ECHA also presented its **new MSC working rules** to deal effectively with the increase in workload of the Committee. As a result of this, STOs will now get insight in the TPE and CC issues upfront the discussion at MSC. The introductions at MSC will however be deleted. Eurometaux and other STOs requested insight in the TP's and CC's outcome (see previous REACH news), as those were previously handled under written procedure –excluding STOs- and could consequently not be assessed on their relevance for the metals Consortia.

A **TPE for an inorganic UVCB intermediate material** (steel dust) was reviewed by ECHA and MSC agreed to accept the redraw of the TPE in favour of read across!

MSC also agreed on a written approval around the **SVHC draft list**. Only Boron oxide will be further discussed in MSC and the Committee agreed to revise (broaden) the entries for the Refractory Ceramic Fibers for the next list.

Significant attention was dedicated to the proposal from ECHA for the **4<sup>th</sup> Annex XIV Recommendation**. Extensive argumentation was provided to take 11 substances forward at this stage, excluding several metal compounds. Due to the confidential nature of the list at this stage, Consortia who are involved have been briefed through direct mailing.

Most important was the positive reaction of ECHA to review the scoring and prioritization approach for Annex XIV listing over the summer to ensure more focus on risk management needs. STOs were invited to forward proposals before the summer. Eurometaux underlined the need for an early and in-depth assessment of RMO options to avoid unnecessary SVHC and prioritization listing.

#### **RAC meeting, 24-27 April:**

The April meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will take place on June 12-15. The main topic of relevance for the metal sector will be the discussion on the reproductive toxicity of Gallium Arsenide and the revised CLH process. On April 20, we got the confirmation that ECHA's Executive Director has modified the current mandate for the RAC assessment of Gallium Arsenide. The new mandate asks RAC to also consider the new information that Eurometaux/the GaAs industry submitted last December (2011). This information has however to be submitted in a specific format before May 21 (including detailed study summaries and justifications).

#### **ECHA MEETINGS – PLANNING FOR A WORKSHOP ON SEDIMENT METALS RISK ASSESSMENT**

On request of ETAP and the Nickel Institute, Eurometaux explored with ECHA the potential to hold a Sediment testing and Risk Assessment workshop for metals to improve the guidance in anticipation of dossier and substance evaluation. A way forward in respect to planning and aims was agreed with ECHA.

#### **AUTHORISATION – SEVERAL METAL COMPOUNDS INVOLVED BUT LIMITED N° PRIORITISED**

Due to the confidential nature, Eurometaux provided specific and direct briefing to all Consortia potentially involved in the next prioritization round for Annex XIV substances. Suggestions for tactical input to MSC were discussed to ensure the best input into the discussions.

#### **DIRECTORS CONTACT GROUP: 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE DCG BETWEEN COMMISSION, ECHA AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS ON MEETING THE 2<sup>ND</sup> REACH REGISTRATION DEADLINE**

The meeting on April 26 discussed a number of items, both relevant for registration in 2013 and for the dossiers submitted in 2010. In particular, ECHA reported on actions foreseen to improve the quality of the dossiers. Those include activities on ECHA's side like improving IT tools and formats and targeted compliance checks. ECHA expects industry associations to encourage companies to maintain the update process of their dossiers and to remind them that submission of a dossier is not the end of registrants' obligations. A report on the ENES activities was presented as well as some news on the "Classification and Labelling inventory": ECHA has launched a feasibility study on the type of forum/tool to be used and/or customized to allow industry to 'clean up' the inventory. This study shall end in June and outcomes will be discussed with the SHERPA group of the DCG.

## **EUROMETAUX REACH activities: hot topics/issues**

#### **COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES:**

**REACH and its application for industry: Bratislava 16-17 April:** Eurometaux and Cefic were invited to present at this conference, organized by the Slovak government to stimulate compliance in the region as well as to discuss experiences with various governments (Czech republic, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria,...). The Eurometaux messages on Authorization and Restriction learning lessons passed well and raised the interest of governments, COM and ECHA. Quite different from such briefing session in Western European countries, metal DU sectors and related industries were very well represented (automotive, steel, catalyst manufacturing, electronic ...). The overall tone of the reaction and discussion was often quite "aggressive" especially related to aspects of Consortia leadership and letters of Access (LoA). Many companies in this region seem frustrated about the unreasonably high costs for LoAs and the dominance of Western companies in Consortia management.

**Meeting with Executive Director and Director REACH of CEFIC:** On April 6, Guy Thiran and Violaine Verougstraete informally met with Hubert Mandery, Erwin Annys and Leo Appelman (REACH Centrum) to discuss how to reinforce cooperation and exchange of experience/knowledge in the regulatory field, more specifically on REACH and CLP. Eurometaux proposed to launch a pro-active debate with the different actors on the strategic, long term vision for industry on authorization. Involvement in OECD and capacity building in SEA were discussed as well and cooperation modalities were proposed for the latter topics.

Several sections of the Eurometaux **REACH Metals Gateway** were updated. Work in progress.

## EUROMETAUX TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES RELATED TO REACH/CLP IMPLEMENTATION :

A number of technical actions related to REACH/CLP were agreed on at the GEHS back-to-back meeting (for further detail see meeting minutes):

- Recirculate the training package on how to update your chronic environmental classification to be in line with the 2<sup>nd</sup> ATP
- Pay particular attention to the terminology used on alloys/intermetallic compounds/complex materials in ECHA documents
- Prepare a number of short notes on: compliance DNELs vs. OELs, justification of DNELs, UWM and calculation of classification of mixtures/complex materials, combined exposures...
- Insist towards the possibility for the Downstream User to use measured data for scaling of Exposure scenarios
- Provide comments on the revised OECD guidance on read-across and grouping to ensure consistency with what has been done in metals REACH dossiers and what is ongoing as work on UVCBs

**Important:** The template for the multi-metallic database on (eco-)toxicity reference values, critical for the assessment of metal sector UVCBs, ES for mixtures, eSDS, is now ready to be populated and will be circulated to consortia. Aim is to have this multi-metallic database completed and posted on the REACH Metals Gateway in July 2012, with restricted access to members only. Please note that you can send the complete template yourself or send the relevant documents to Eurometaux for filling in the database.

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## Further outreach of REACH

### CLP : UPDATED ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDANCE ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ATP

ECHA has published the updated CLP Environmental Classification guidance on its website:

<http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/guidance-documents/guidance-on-clp>

The guidance section on metals (see annex 4) was written by Eurometaux together with J. Falk (KEMI). The explanatory examples on metals as developed by Eurometaux/commodities as well as the generic reference to the need for correction for rapid degradation are maintained. The more specific guidance on the latter has been deleted until agreement could be reached by an advisory expert panel for ECHA.

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## Calendar

- **3 May** : Meeting with OECD secretariat on metals voluntary program under CoCAM (Brussels)
- **21 May**: UVCB assessment and substance identification *exploratory* discussion with ECHA
- **21-22 May**: ENES Workshop-Helsinki
- **23 May**: 7<sup>th</sup> Stakeholders' Day-Helsinki
- **5-8 June**: MSC 24 - Helsinki
- **4-5 June**: Workshop on Substance Evaluation (CoRAP)– ECHA Conference Centre
- **11-15 June**: RAC & SEAC Helsinki
- **19 June**: next Eurometaux REACH Forum Meeting
- **20-21 June Forum Europe** : 2<sup>nd</sup> annual European Sustainable Management Conference Brussels
- **25-29 June**: ECHA Forum – Helsinki
- **5-6 September** European Chemicals Policy-REACH - Barcelona
- **25-27 September**: Eurometaux B2B Autumn Meetings (tbc) (Brussels)
- **2 October**: Eurometaux REACH Forum meeting
- **4 October**: ECHA-MSD discussion on Testing Proposal issues (Helsinki)
- **19 December**: Eurometaux REACH Forum Meeting

# Acronyms

- **CC:** Compliance Checks conducted by ECHA on the Registration dossiers and discussed by MSC
- **CLH:** Harmonised Classification & Labelling
- **DNEL:** Derived no-effect level
- **ES:** Exposure Scenario
- **eSDS:** Extended Safety Data Sheet
- **ETAP:** Eco Toxicological Advisory Panel
- **MSC:** Member States Committee
- **OEL:** Occupational Exposure Level / Limit
- **RAAF:** Read-Across Assessment Framework
- **RMO:** Risk Management Options
- **STO:** recognized Stakeholder Observers, for industry represented by Cefic, Ectoc and Eurometaux
- **SVHC:** Substances of Very High Concern
- **TP:** Testing Proposals as submitted by the Registrants and discussed at MSC
- **UVCB:** Unknown or Variable Composition, Complex Reaction Products and Biological Materials
- **UVM:** Unit World Model