

EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT NEWS



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Please join us in January:

- 22: IED Taskforce
- 24: Transition Pathway Taskforce
- 30: iUVCB Platform

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Dear All,

Let me wish you, from stormy and wet Normandy, a wonderful 2024, filled with joy and more serenity, where the possible events will find you well-equipped with strength, humour and enough caring around you to facilitate 'resilience' (as in 'ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change').

In Normandy, as in multiple places, the changes in climate, the repeated destruction by wind and water have become part of all conversations. There is the river in the neighbourhood about which the ancients say that if it leaves its bed 7 times during the same year, there will be enough water for the that year's cultures. 'Check' for 2023!

But the inhabitants concerns are broader than those observed by the ancients. They are fed by what the omnipresent television distils in their homes but also by what they observe. And what is now starting to be noticeable, in the ongoing discussions, are other traditional elements that have been erased over the last decade: the benefits of having hedges and diversifying the cultures, the preservation of chunks of forests, the importance of maintaining biodiversity and giving it some space.

This comes with all the questions on how to ensure a balance between what is necessary & vital to resist the different ongoing crises and what is desirable in the long(er)-term. Should they change their current ways of doing things? They realise that changes to invest in the longer-term will require significant efforts, even mean going back on some earlier choices. If they do so, will they be able to continue functioning in the short-term? Will these long-term efforts be rewarded? Should and can they believe in the political statements and promises, conveyed from the COP28, the 2024 EU elections campaign, the French Strategic Plans, from the scientists? Is it not enough anymore to plant young trees here and there to avoid the damage for the next generation(s)? In other words, is sustainability, which they see as 'not compromising the ability of their descendants to meet their own needs', compatible with shorter-term resilience? And is the latter not the first they need to address to be able to discuss sustainability at a later stage?

They finally agree that -as they overlap- these should go hand in hand, both in terms of needs and timings. And that the way forward should entail both. The question remains 'how': how to adapt without compromising the present and future and without being left behind?

Where will the replies come from?

A pause... And then, as in the end we are in the Calvados and it is New Year, the tone of the debate suddenly changes to bring a note of airiness: in the meantime, says one with a laugh, one can diversify its daily activities by launching a "local Normandy cow cuddling" initiative (source of inspiration [here](#)) or aim for a reward at the next seagull screeching (world) championship in Dunkerque. We are registered for the latter in 2025: do you want to join the team?



Violaine Verougstraete

COMMISSION

CARACAL

During the 50th CARACAL meeting that took place in November the Commission held a short discussion on the harmonised classifications of silver and copper. The Commission is now drafting the 22nd ATP on the basis of the input received and will hold an ad hoc CARACAL in January or February 2024 to present the proposal and adopt it afterwards. Eurometaux has not received an invitation for this session yet.

The next CARACAL meeting is scheduled to take place on 20–21 March 2024 (24–25 January as well if there is need for an additional one). Other meeting dates provisionally include 03–04 July 2024 and 20–21 November 2024 (more information: Ainhoa Gonzáles Pérez).

Workshop on phasing out animal testing for chemical safety assessments: *perspectives, hurdles and learnings*

Commission has committed, in its Communication on the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) "Save cruelty-free cosmetics – Commit to a Europe without animal testing" (25.7.2023, COM(2023)5041) to develop a roadmap towards ultimately phasing out animal testing for chemical safety assessments. The roadmap to be published Q1 2025, will outline milestones and specific actions that would be pre-requisites for a transition towards an animal-free chemical legislation. On 11-12 December, DG GROW supported by DG ENV organised a workshop "as an opportunity for all stakeholders interested in the process to get involved". Objectives were to exchange ideas, build further on the discussions held at the 2023 ECHA NAM (New Approach Methodologies) workshop, establish closer links with activities that can feed into the roadmap (PARC & ASPIS), have exploratory discussions on how milestones could be defined for environment and human health and critically reflect on the current process of bringing new approaches into regulatory frameworks and changes required (what, how, who?).

In the afternoon of the second day, the Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals (PARC) held a workshop on their project to draft guiding principles that should contribute to developing an approach to establish Next-Generation Risk Assessment (N-GRA) as the first line of risk assessment in all major EU chemical legislation.

The presentations provided the perspectives of different actors (e.g., agencies like ECHA, EFSA, EMA, NGOs, industry) on the phasing in of NAMs and phasing out of animal testing vs. the risk assessment needs, the challenges to address but also the learnings and experience collected over the last years. Elements other than the technical barriers, such as the social aspects, were addressed as well. Two sessions addressed more concretely how to replace animal testing for the concerns of systemic health effects and long-term aquatic toxicity? A session addressed the validation needs and the evolution of OECD Test Guideline 34. The sessions were followed by panel discussions and the possibility of Q&As but could only address a limited number of questions.

The detailed notes were circulated to the Human Health and Environment Taskforce on 4 January (more information: Violaine Verougstraete).

EU AGENCIES

EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA)

ECHA COMMITTEES

SEAC-61: the trilogue on a new upstream application demonstrates the need for a change in REACH

On 11 December, ECHA held a Trilogue on a large upstream application for the use of CrVI in the aviation sector, inviting Eurometaux to attend as observer. This trilogue was very unusual in that it did not focus on the review of the relevance of alternatives to CrVI presented by third parties, but rather aimed at providing RAC and SEAC Rapporteurs with an opportunity to ask for clarifications on the specificities of this upstream application, which is the first one following the CTAC court case.

The RAC Rapporteurs posed some questions on the representativity of the presented monitoring data and operational conditions and requested to complement the monitoring data with modelled data for "completeness", which is a motivation questioned by industry. SEAC Rapporteurs asked for more

granularity on the uses and the progress made or not with alternatives, asking why the Review Period was not more differentiated in this respect. Industry explained that substitution, in particular in this sector, is much more than finding a “feasible technical alternative”. It also includes the safety checks, certification and technical standards. This discussion demonstrated the shortcomings of the present REACH Application for Authorisation (AfA) requirements and a need for a change but also set precedence on many aspects and learnings for future AfAs and restrictions (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

MSC-84: ECHA proceeding with 12th priority list and published the draft CoRAP

MSC-84 was mainly dominated by new “Substance of Very High Concern (SVHC) substance identifications” based on the PBT and Endocrine Disruptor (ED) endpoints.

In addition, MSC discussed the draft 12th priority list for authorisation including, for our sector, a single borate compound. Following the increased attention for PBT and ED chemicals, metals with a CMR classification were not selected for this list. New this year is that for the first time, ECHA considered the impact of restrictions, including those announced as ‘under preparation but still to be developed’. This was not yet the case last year for Pb metal. What was less appreciated by industry, was the explicit reference in the list to “*substances previously recommended but not recommended yet by Commission for inclusion in Annex XIV*”. Industry stressed that this is a Commission responsibility and that several substances were risk managed via other processes. The Public Consultation on the 12th list is expected to start after the next MSC meeting in Q1.

MSC also reached preliminary agreement on the CoRAP 2024-2026 list that identifies substances that will undergo substance evaluation during this period as well as the main concerns that will be investigated. Carbon black has been on the CoRAP list for several years and is once again postponed. Important for our sector are the pending Substance Evaluation outcomes like on the ZnOx nanoforms, the discussions on TiO₂ and the CrIII hazard properties. Eurometaux requested that the ECHA secretariat clarify when those precedent-setting outcomes can be expected.

Other aspects like the MSC manual of decisions (key reference for capacity-building) and the *in vivo* mutagenicity testing strategy were debated and clarified. Outcomes will be shared with the Registration Compliance Taskforce once available (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

Management Board (MB)-72: adoption of ECHA’s strategic view for the period 2024-2027

Eurometaux provided selective input on the ECHA’s strategic views proposals, in general requesting more transparency on processes, avoiding lengthy timings of reviews of testing proposals (TPEs), compliance check (CCH) and substance evaluation (SE) outcomes. Eurometaux also asked for a broader and more balanced view on risk control and to pay attention to other EU objectives related to the Green Deal like circularity and strategic autonomy. Including these objectives in a KPI system would be a good way forward to ensure proper attention. ECHA included some, rather small references, to these comments in their strategy document but promised to consider them when reviewing the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in 2024. The Management Board also reviewed the risk register and identified as highest risk the non-delivery in due time of the opinion on the Universal-PFAS (U-PFAS). Industry had a very different view on this given these delays are also caused by the extensive comments and information ECHA received from industry that will help define appropriate derogations to the generic ban.

Industry noted that ECHA should pay more attention to the possibility of cyber-attacks that would impact ECHA’s databases potentially making confidential business information public or blocking it for a long period. The MB also discussed a proposal to increase the fee of Rapporteurs for large restriction cases (e.g., Pb in ammunition, U-PFAS, ...) to have more candidate Rapporteurs. While industry did not contest the relevance of this proposal, it stated that expanding the knowledge base and experience of Rapporteurs in key areas (e.g., material science for ECHA’s tasks on the Battery and Drinking Water Regulations) is as relevant to ensure good quality ECHA opinions.

Finally, the MB defined the ECHA annual internal audit planning covering the effectiveness of the [Helpnet](#), the quality and reliability of data in ECHA reporting, the Testing Proposal Evaluations (TPE) process under Dossier Evaluation, and ECHA’s environmental management. Industry concurred with the relevancy of the planning but suggested that in the future, the step-by-step assessment of CCH, SE and TPEs should be reviewed in a more holistic way. On their own, these processes work reasonably well but their interaction is lacking in coherence and time alignment, which often results in risk management like classification and labelling being implemented before the outcome of processes like TPE or CCH are available.

At the time of this News, we have not yet seen the final strategic document but will follow up in January, including with Cefic (representing industry in general in the ECHA-Management Board) (more information: Guy Thiran and Hugo Waeterschoot).

ECHA OTHER ACTIVITIES

ECHA Partner Expert Group (PEG) on ED guidance: *not easy*

ECHA hosted the PEG virtual meeting to develop new chapters for the CLP guidance, on Endocrine Disruptors for human health and the environment. The discussions were characterised by different views between industry and Member State experts, and unfortunately limited time for discussion and tight deadlines. Some of the key discussion topics included the classification as ED in the presence of other toxicity, mode of action and biological plausibility, weight of evidence, differentiation of the classification as Categories 1 or 2 related to degrees of available evidence. The metals sector representatives weighed in on all key discussion topics and requested a placeholder for the future development of metal-specific guidance. This request was supported by a 5-minute presentation on the specific properties of metals (including in physiology) and on the Metals ED Assessment framework. Further metal-specific examples had been provided beforehand to ECHA to support the case, but no positive reply could be given during the meeting. The PEG members were invited to provide comments on the ECHA replies in the Response to Comments (R-COM) document by 17 January.

The metals PEG representatives will prepare a submission and use this opportunity to both repeat the key points raised verbally during the meeting and further work on the metals to address the comments raised by ECHA and by the PEG members. ECHA indicated in a further informal exchange with Eurometaux that they will look carefully at the examples to be submitted mid-January and consider how metals and other naturally occurring substances could be assessed in a relevant way.

In terms of timing, ECHA will submit a new revised version of the guidance and final Response to Comments document by 12 February. PEG members will have the opportunity to submit targeted comments on new sections of the revised guidance within two weeks (<25 February). In March, a consultation with CARACAL is foreseen (more information: Stijn Baken, Jelle Mertens, Sylvia Jacobi, Carol Mackie and Emily Richmond).

ECHA PEG on CLH guidance: *waiting for the new CLP and grouping*

Eurometaux provided comments on the draft update for what will become Version 3.0 of the Guidance on the preparation of dossiers for harmonised classification and labelling (CLH). The guidance has been revised to reflect changes in practices and procedures in submitting CLH proposals, also including an update on the practices in the alignment of CLH and Plant Protection Products (PPP)/Biocide Products (BP) processes. While ECHA had stated that updates on the CLP/PPP/BP Regulations and their consequences were reflected in the guidance where relevant, some of the changes like e.g., the empowerment of the Commission in the CLP agreement approved on 5 December (see below) were not included. Hence Eurometaux asked in its comments whether it would not be more efficient to wait for the formal adoption of the text to finalise this update or to already include the changes related to the new CLP text as placeholders? Otherwise, the risk is having an updated guidance that will already be outdated by the time of its publication. Eurometaux also asked to include an encouragement to CLH submitters of group classifications to document and justify their groupings, for sake of transparency, making the link with the references like R6, RAAF, OECD guidance (more information: Violaine Verougstraete).

EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

Chemicals Management Steering Committee: *last meeting of 2023 with new Chair*

The CMSC discussed a broad range of topics for its last meeting of 2023, which was also the first one chaired by Dr Martin Wieske (WVM). Key items that were presented included the changes in the new IED, the status update on the 'Transition Pathways for metals' work, the recently kicked off TNO study and how to address -with efficient advocacy- the interface between REACH/CLP/Raw Materials. The participants debated when and how the sector could best highlight the needs for coherence and the creation of a regulatory framework stimulating industry investments.

The Committee was also reminded about the most essential developments in the context of the Soil and the Batteries Capacity-Building project with ECHA. The outcomes of two important 2023 workshops, related to the derivation of PNEC and ERV values, were finally presented with a proposal for a way forward (see below).

This hybrid meeting was concluded with a short point on the Nitrates Directive and a request from the secretariat to complete the **strategic survey of Eurometaux**, and that encompasses its organisational structure, priorities, added value for the membership, and potential areas for growth in the upcoming policy cycle and beyond. And to end in style, for those who were present in person, the CM assistants had organised a very yummy Christmas lunch. An excellent way to thank all members for their engagement and support in 2023!

The draft minutes were circulated on 2 January (more information: Violaine Verougstraete and Ailsa Lee).

CHEMICALS STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABILITY

CLP revision: provisional agreement

On the 5th of December the Council and the European Parliament reached a provisional agreement on the CLP Revision. The two bodies endorsed the Commission's final proposal, which amends the legislation from 2008.

The provisional agreement, which now needs to be formally adopted by the Parliament (expected in January) and Council (December), includes the following changes to the current CLP: **new powers for the Commission** (in addition to Member States and industry) to accelerate the procedure for identifying hazardous substances and make the necessary CLH proposals, rules regarding the classification of **More than One Constituent Substances (MOCS)** and the use of the available information on the known constituents or the substance itself, a new ban on the use of **'green claims'** for substances or mixtures classified as hazardous. It also enshrines the need for clear scientific reasoning for the **grouping of substances** for harmonised classification and labelling. With regards to **labelling and font sizes**, the Parliament accepted the Council's position of size 2.0 on packages above 50 litres. A longer **transitional period** of 24 months after the entry into force was agreed for the provisions outlined in Annex I, Sections 1.2.1.4 and 1.2.1.5 of the CLP Regulation. A line spacing of 120% was also part of the overall agreement.

Regarding the **MOCS**, paragraph 3.6 states that the proposed classification rules do not apply to substances containing more than one constituent which are extracted from plants or plant parts and which are not chemically modified according to Article 3 (40) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006. The text also states that for certain substances containing more than one constituent that are not covered by paragraph 6, where the Commission receives evidence that the criteria set out in paragraphs 4 or 5 (classification rules) may not be suitable for certain substances containing more than one constituent, the Commission may request the Agency to evaluate the available data.

The Commission is empowered to adopt Delegated Acts in accordance with Article 53a to amend Annex I by creating a new section and by including and modifying, in that section, the derogations from paragraphs 4 or 5 on classification of substances containing more than one constituent.

Once formally adopted, it will enter into force 20 days after its publication in the Official Journal of the EU (more information: Ainhoa Gonzáles Pérez and Violaine Verougstraete).

One Substance One Assessment (OSOA): long awaited acts out

On 7 December, the European Commission published three legislative acts related to the One Substance One Assessment (OSOA) initiative, a key deliverable within the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS):

1. [Proposal](#) for a Directive on the re-attribution of scientific and technical tasks to the European Chemicals Agency: a targeted amending of the RoHS directive, strictly limited to the allocation of scientific and technical tasks to ECHA and closely linked to the Omnibus regulation.
2. [Proposal](#) for a Regulation on the re-attribution of scientific and technical tasks and improving cooperation among Union agencies in the area of chemicals: Omnibus regulation amending Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Medical Devices Regulations, EEA, EFSA and food law and food safety legislation avoiding a full revision within the respective legislations, aiming at lowering the number of bodies, committees, or expert groups involved in scientific assessments.

These first two proposals are intended to ensure clear allocation of responsibilities, high scientific quality and transparency, and good cooperation and coordination among agencies.

3. [Proposal](#) for a Regulation establishing a common data platform on chemicals – the new Regulation creates a 'one-stop-shop' access to data on chemicals collected under EU legislation to strengthen sharing

and reusing chemicals data and information among EU agencies and MS competent authorities. This would include:

- access to all chemicals data submitted as part of EU acts/research (ECHA, EEA, EFSA, OSHA or Commission)
- repository of HH and ENV reference values
- database of study notifications
- information on regulatory processes & obligations under Union chemicals legislation
- environmental sustainability-related data
- occurrence data on chemicals across water, soil, air, etc.
- a framework of indicators & early warning and action system for emerging chemical risks

It should be noted that this creates a one-stop-shop for all this information but does not create any new data requirements.

The three proposals are open for [feedback](#) until the 28 February 2024. The input on the already published proposals tends to help inform the adoption of the European Parliament's and Member States positions with a view to inter-institutional negotiations. The three proposals will now be examined by the European Parliament and the Council under the ordinary legislative procedure.

The basic regulation for ECHA, which was initially part of the OSOA package, has not been published together with these proposals. The Commission has stated in previous occasions that this proposal needed to be published together with the REACH Revision, now postponed to the next Commission's mandate (more information: Ainhoa González Pérez).

CSS: Transition Pathway for the Metals Industry

The second meeting of the sub-group of the High-Level Expert Group on Energy Intensive Industries (EIIs), established by the Commission to facilitate discussion on the pathway amongst a range of stakeholders, took place on 14 December. In the meeting, drafts of four sections of the TP were discussed: the Introduction and three (content) building blocks (BBs) on Skills, the Social Dimension, and Support for Research & Innovation, Techniques & Technological Solutions. These drafts were shared with the Commission well in advance of the meeting, and forwarded to the participants by DG GROW with almost no edits or changes. A fourth building block on Regulation & Public Governance was removed from the meeting agenda by EUROFER so that the points raised (many on chemicals management) will come after the expected difficult discussions on other topics e.g., energy/carbon, trade, Critical Raw Materials (CRMs), circularity, etc. Eurometaux and EUROFER made a request to the Commission to replace this BB on the agenda with an early discussion on implementation of the metals TP (progress with the implementation of the Chemicals/Tourism TPs is rather slow) but this was refused by DG GROW who prefer to cover implementation after all building blocks have been discussed. The BB on Regulation is now moved to the end of the building block sequence and, when written, will therefore cover any relevant regulatory topic that has not been covered previously.

In the sub-group meeting, all stakeholders had the opportunity to give verbal feedback on the drafts, and written feedback can also be submitted as follow up. There was some useful and constructive verbal input and feedback, particularly from IndustriAll (trade union) on a number of different topics. They will follow up with comments in writing. Input also came from DG CLIMA (on funding for R&I), European Environmental Bureau (NGO), European Aluminium, and European Technology Platform on Sustainable Mineral Resources. Contributions from Member States and other Commission services were lacking, and the apparent low level of engagement of MSs and Commission DGs other than GROW is still a concern.

The next meeting of the Eurometaux Taskforce established to support the drafting of the TP for metals will be on 24 January in hybrid format. The drafting of the Transition Pathway continues, in collaboration with EUROFER (more information: Simon Cook).

Safe & Sustainable by Design: 4th workshop

The European Commission held the fourth SSbD workshop on 6 and 7 December. The feedback from this workshop will be used for the first methodological guidance of the framework.

This voluntary framework, published in December 2022, is a holistic R&I approach addressing safety and sustainability of chemicals and materials along the life-cycle, beyond current regulatory compliance and in an iterative way, and consists of four assessment steps covering safety and sustainability assessments. For the first testing phase, the JRC and three companies (BASF, Novozymes and Clariant) applied the framework to existing substances and concluded that all failed to pass the first step (cut-off hazard) in the process due to gaps in data.

During the workshop, participants shared their experience in applying the framework, as well as the opportunities and shortcomings they see stemming from it:

- SSbD is well-intentioned but, as it stands now, it will not be widely used in innovation because it is too resource intensive and rigid. The approach needs to allow trade-offs and make a place for expert judgement.
- The trade-offs between safety and sustainability need to be further investigated. More work is needed on the standardisation of the scoring, as well as criteria across the 4 steps.
- The interaction with existing Best Available Technique (BAT) BREFs needs to be properly considered.
- The term “cut off criteria” for the step 1 needs to be clarified. Moreover, the hazard-based cut off can result in worse overall sustainability e.g., SVHC used to produce (Photovoltaic) PV cells.
- “functionality” (technical performance) should be included in the assessment since impacts of substitutes on technical performance and costs are still mostly missing.
- Need to develop guidelines, e.g., accuracy of data, data acquisition, data estimation tools.
- There needs to be an iterative approach, coupled with screening methods. This is especially relevant for SMEs.

A second testing phase will be launched in 2024 on the basis of the input from this first workshop, and by end 2024, another stakeholder workshop will take place to review the feedback and start a potential revision of the framework potentially in 2025, including the development of more defined criteria (more information: Ainhoa González Pérez and Simon Cook).

ENVIRONMENT

The Eurometaux Environment Taskforce held a workshop on the environmental hazard classification of metals, metal compounds, and complex inorganic materials under CLP and GHS. One of the main drivers for this workshop is the required transparency and alignment in methodologies to derive metal specific Ecotoxicity Reference Value (ERVs) that are used for self-classification of metals, metal compounds but also of complex inorganic materials including UVCBs and alloys. Learnings from recent cases were used to propose tiered assessment strategies based on best science and focussing on standard information.

Contrary to what is stated in some recent RAC opinions on metals, these strategies allow to use the Rapid Transformation concept and pH banding based classifications when good quality evidence is available. There was also ample discussion on the release of powder during normal handling and use of the massive form (to justify different classification entries for massive, powder, and nano forms), on pH banded classification assessments, and on ecotoxicity testing in TDp media to demonstrate the potential lack of combined effects.

As a follow-up the Environment Taskforce will develop in Q1 2024 factsheets on each topical issue, ultimately aiming to i) articulate an industry approach on environmental classification through an update of the MERAG classification guidance, and ii) implement the industry approach through the [MeClas tool](#). (more information: Jelle Mertens, Stijn Baken and Hugo Waeterschoot).

RISK MANAGEMENT

Meeting on 19 December: take stock and plan for 2024

The Taskforce had initially planned to review the relevant management changes in the REACH 2.0 Commission proposal. As the REACH proposal was delayed, the Taskforce focussed instead on other related risk management activities and the planning for 2024. For example, a short overview of the leaked Essential Uses paper was presented, with the important disclaimer that this may not be the final version of the concept. A status report on the U-PFAS restriction discussions in RAC and SEAC was provided, corresponding in essence to a first analysis of the inputs to the recent Public Consultation, also presented

to CARACAL. Other items on the agenda included the important and precedent-setting Trilogue on a large upstream application for a use of CrVI (see SEAC item above), a status report on the MSC recommendation for a 12th list for priority substances for authorisation with a focus on possible learnings (increasing attention for EDs and PBTs instead of CMRs, consideration of volumes falling under restrictions, ...), agreeing on a way forward to update the industry RMOa guidance to ensure attention for critical/strategic autonomy materials when defining the best Risk Management option(s). Dates for four Taskforce meetings in 2024 (see [calendar](#)) including potential main agenda items were presented to conclude the meeting. A short report of the meeting was circulated in follow-up (more information: France Capon, Klaus Kamps, Ainhoa González Pérez and Hugo Waeterschoot).

INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS

Industrial Emissions: *catching up meeting*

On 5 December, Eurometaux held a meeting with its Industrial Emissions Taskforce to deliver an update on the latest developments on the IED, and to discuss and analyse the outcome of the Trilogues (including the press releases by the co-legislators, the information available and the timeline for the next steps). After the meeting, the leaked draft agreement text was obtained and together with a first draft analysis, was shared with the members of the Taskforce.

On 7 December, Eurometaux participated in the Industrial Emissions Alliance Plenary Meeting, sharing the information available so far on the new IED and on the related processes (e.g., BREFs updates, workshops, Article 13 Forum, etc.).

The new IED text will be discussed in-depth during the next update call of the Industrial Emissions Taskforce.

Next Steps (Q1 2024, TBD):

- Formal Adoption by Parliament (EP ENVI Vote, Plenary Vote) and Council (Scheduled for January 2024).
- Legal/Technical refinement/adjustments on the new IED text + Translation of the new IED Text.
- Publication in the Official Journal.
- Transposition: Member States to Transpose Directive within 2 years.
- Implementation: BREF Making Process (new BREFs + BREFs Review)

(more information: Lorenzo Marotti).

Large Volume Inorganic Chemicals (LVIC) BREF

On 4 December, Eurometaux had a LVIC BREF Working Group Meeting to discuss the draft questionnaire, including potential issues and good practice, and also to discuss the draft Internal User Manual prepared to specifically support Eurometaux's Members plant operators.

On 21 December, the EIPPCB circulated the final questionnaire template and other information related to the next phase of the LVIC BREF drawing up process. This was shared with the members of the Eurometaux LVIC Working Group, together with the general User's Manual to help operators go through the questionnaire. Based on that and the input received by the members of the LVIC BREF WG, Eurometaux finalised the Internal User's Manual to provide detailed and targeted guidance to Eurometaux's operators. In turn, Eurometaux members were asked to forward this manual to the site operators in charge of filling in the questionnaire, with the recommendation to keep it confidential. The minutes of the last meeting were also shared.

Next Steps:

- The data collection started at the end of December and the deadline for the submission of completed and quality-checked questionnaires and any associated documents is Friday, 3 May 2024.
- In 2024, the EIPPCB is planning to organise an information and Q&A session during the data collection phase. This is targeted towards Member States, Competent Authorities and operators concerned.
- For the 'bulk information' collection, the deadline is extended until 31 March 2024.
- Also, the report of the site visits held in Belgium will be made available on BATIS early 2024.

(more information: Lighea Speziale, Lorenzo Ceccherini, Eleonora Tosi and Lorenzo Marotti).

WATER

Update: will be given in the next edition of the News

But in the meantime if you require more information please contact Lara Van de Merckt.

AIR QUALITY

Update: nearing agreement

The co-legislators have entered Trilogue negotiations on the Ambient Air Quality Directive (AAQD).

On 7 December, Eurometaux participated in the Industrial Emissions Alliance Plenary Meeting and presented the latest developments on the AAQD file. Discussions with other associations and an exchange of information followed.

On 13 December, a high-level trilogue discussion took place. Diverging views remained between the Parliament and the Council for example on the timelines to achieve air quality standards, and flexibilities for Member States.

On 18 December, the Council Working Group on the Environment had a meeting to receive a debriefing from the Presidency on the outcome of the Trilogues.

Next Steps:

- Next Trilogue scheduled for early January 2024 (TBD).
 - Javi López Fernández (ENVI Rapporteur) aims to find an agreement by mid-February.
 - The next update call of the Air Quality Task Force is scheduled in mid-January (TDB).
- (more information: Lorenzo Marotti)

METALS ENVIRONMENT EXPOSURE DATA PROGRAM (MEED)

MEED: progress reported during the Beltox conference on 7 December

As part of the outreach on MEED, the MEED team accepted the invite of [BELTOX](#) (the Belgian branch of the European Societies of Toxicology) to present the status and learnings from the MEED program so far. ARCHE presented these, emphasising the concept of focusing on the key inorganic substances that contribute the most to the regional risk (I-PCS), the learnings on the metals mixtures interaction from the reappraisal of the literature and the MIF (Mixtures Interaction Factor) concept as an alternative to (or to correct) the Mixtures Allocation Factor (MAF).

The University of Ghent complemented this with 2 posters on recent and ongoing test work to fill the data gaps for the Inorganic Priority Chemicals of concern. The presented material will be posted on the [MEED section of the REACH Metals Gateway](#) (more information: Charlotte Nys, Maria Laura De Donno, Marius Schmitt, Diana Dobre and Hugo Waeterschoot).

OUTREACH

OTHERS

CETS Meeting: an exchange and briefing session with ECHA and the European platers on the future restriction on CrVI

Anticipating the release of a call for evidence by ECHA on a future EU restriction case on the use of CrVI, Eurometaux facilitated an information exchange between the ECHA risk management unit and the European Surface Treatment association (CETS). This event took place in Schiphol on 1 December, during the CETS annual technical meeting. ECHA clarified its intentions for the restriction (to halt authorisation activity), the need to define the scope (all uses or some) and expected time schedule (i.e., ECHA's report by the summer and a draft restriction by the end of 2024). The fruitful session allowed industry to acquire a better understanding of the importance of the upcoming restriction for metal plating with CrVI and all metals in general as well as the need for SEA and Assessment of Alternatives (AoA) evidence including the recognition of information on potential regrettable substitutes.

ECHA launched the call for evidence on 20 December, up for input by mid-February 2024. Different than for authorisation, some intermediate uses of CrVI in the metals sector will be under the scope of a Restriction and not under the Authorisation scheme. The Risk Management Taskforce will ensure a follow-up of this issue (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

KAMILA'S SUSTAINABLE CORNER

Sustainability: agreed text on the Waste Shipments Regulation

The EU institutions have reached the political agreement on the **Waste Shipments Regulation (WSR)**. Here is [the agreed text](#) as published by the Council and **detailed analysis**.

This new Regulation aims to ensure that the EU does not export its waste challenges to third countries and to support a clean and circular economy. **Most provisions** in the new regulation **will start to apply within 2 years** after the WSR enters into force and will include:

- modernised rules for the shipment of waste between Member States, including digital procedures;
- new rules for EU waste exports;
- new measures to better tackle illegal waste shipments.

(more information: Kamila Slupek).

COMMUNICATION

Metals Academy: finalised programme coming soon

It is with much pleasure that we are currently organising the 3rd Metals Academy that will take place from 23-26 April 2024. We are pleased to announce that all those who have already pre-registered and other members will receive the final programme before the end of January; when eager applicants will be asked to confirm their participation.

We are much looking forward to this third edition, which will revert to a “one group” functioning, but with some interesting twists 😊 (more information: Ailsa Lee and Violaine Verougstraete).

And a final touch for the rest of the holiday season to make you laugh: some nonsensical (?) notes - thanks Sue

I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.

I used to think I was indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.

They told me I had type A blood, but it was a Type-O.

I tried to catch some fog. I mist.

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.

I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.

Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.

Velcro – what a rip off!

Cartoonist found dead in home. Details are sketchy.

Venison for dinner? Oh deer!

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.

When chemists die, they barium.

CALENDAR

Please find here below a non-exhaustive list of the meetings that are already planned for 2024.

For meetings at Eurometaux

Most of our meetings will now be held as hybrid meetings, and our members will be informed ahead of the meetings (links to join will be sent ahead of the meetings).

For meetings at ECHA: this information is published on ECHA's [website](#)

- 22/01: IED Taskforce
- 24/01: Transition Pathway Taskforce
- 23-25/01: RAC-68 CLH Working Group
- 24-25/01: CARACAL (If necessary -TBC)
- 30/01: iUVCB Platform
- 05/02: ZPAP Project Group
- 6-8/02: RAC-68 AfA Working Group
- 12-16/02: MSC-85 (TBC)
- 28/02: Risk Management Taskforce
- 29/02: Chemicals Management Steering Committee
- 04/03: RAC-68 REST Working Group
- 11-14/03: RAC-68 Plenary
- 12-15/03: SEAC-62
- 14-15/03: RAC-68 DWD Working Group
- 18-21/03: Chemicals Management Spring Week
- 20-21/03: CARACAL (TBC)
- 21-23/03: ECHA MB-73
- 23-25/04: RAC-69 CLH Working Group
- 23-26/04: Metals Academy 3
- 05-09/05: SETAC 2024
- 07-08/05: RAC-69 AfA Working Group
- 21-22/05 RAC-69 DWD Working Group
- 27-28/05: RAC-69 REST Working Group
- 03-07/06: RAC-69 Plenary
- 03-07/06: SEAC-63
- 10-14/06: SEAC-63
- 10 -14/06: MSC-86 (TBC)
- 18-19/06: ECHA MB-74
- 18/06: Risk Management Taskforce
- 26/06: Chemicals Management Steering Committee
- 01-03/07: RAC-70 CLH Working Group
- 03-04/07: CARACAL (TBC)
- 04-05/07: RAC-70 AfA Working Group
- 04/09: Chemicals Management Steering Committee
- 09-10/09: RAC-70 REST Working Group
- 9-13/09: SEAC-64
- 16-20/09: SEAC-64
- 16-20/09: RAC-70 Plenary
- 24-25/09: RAC-71 DWD Working Group
- 26-27/09: ECHA MB-75
- 30/09-02/10: Chemicals Management Autumn Week
- 08-10/10: RAC-71 AfA Working Group
- 07-11/10: MSC-87 (TBC)

- [15/10: Risk Management Taskforce](#)
- 28-30/10: RAC-71 CLH Working Group
- 06-07/11: RAC-71 REST Working Group
- 20-21/11: CARACAL (TBC)
- 25-29/11: RAC-71 Plenary
- 25-29/11: SEAC-65
- 2-5/12: SEAC-65
- 9-13/12: MSC-88 (TBC)
- 10-11/12: RAC-72 DWD Working Group
- 12-13/12: ECHA MB-76
- [18/12: Risk Management Taskforce](#)
- [19/12: Chemicals Management Steering Committee](#)

GENERAL INFORMATION & ACRONYMS

Follow the logo and check out our Metals Gateway website.



This website is a one stop information source for regulators & risk assessors dealing with metals/metal compounds and is tailored to the specific needs of the metals industry sector.

The 2024 updated list of acronyms is available under the Reach Metals Gateway (RMG)
