



# EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT NEWS



Please join us in June:

- 18: Risk Management Taskforce
- 26: LVIC Working group (online only)
- 27: Chemicals Management Steering Committee

## Contents

COMMISSION.....	3
CARACAL .....	3
EU AGENCIES.....	3
EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA) .....	3
ECHA COMMITTEES .....	3
ECHA OTHER ACTIVITIES.....	3
BATTERIES.....	4
EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT.....	4
CHEMICALS STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABILITY.....	4
RISK MANAGEMENT.....	5
INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS.....	5
WATER .....	6
SOIL .....	7
METALS ENVIRONMENT EXPOSURE DATA PROGRAM (MEED) .....	8
TOOLS.....	9
OUTREACH .....	10
OTHERS .....	10
KAMILA’S SUSTAINABLE CORNER.....	11
CALENDAR.....	11
GENERAL INFORMATION & ACRONYMS.....	12

*Dear All,*

*It has now been weeks that the weather is dreary, with the Brussels' Spring remaining a promise ('Parole, parole').*

*Hence one morning you go for it you jump into your screen saver that once more (one time too many!) displays a perfect quiet blue sea, a light-azure sky with only a trace of a lazy cloud going by.*

*And you immediately start to feel it: you are now on a terrace, in front of the water, with the sun -and the pavement- warming up your toes.*

*You are watching the horizon and the motorboats that swerve on the water, leaving behind traces of white foam.*

*Sunglasses appear on your nose, someone -out of sight- gives you a coffee,..*

*It's magic: you feel like George! "What else?"*

*This could be reality.*

*This could be a place where you could imagine hanging around, to start changing the world...rather than from the office lost in the grey (especially high up on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor)?*

*...*

*So many motorboats though!*

*With the second sip of your coffee, you start wondering how it is to live just below the repetitive waves? Do fishes jump through the turbulences like we go for a roller coaster? With apprehension, fear and pleasure? Do they learn to avoid coming up to the surface, to prevent being snared and contaminated by the boats' emissions? Do they adapt their rhythm to the intense traffic over day, only coming out at night to celebrate the -relative- calm that returns on a moonlit sea?*

*This coffee raises strange thoughts. Or maybe they are the result of your reading yesterday evening of Colin Janssen (and Jan Mees)'s book on the unknown sea ("De onbekende zee", Academia Press 2024).*

*You then notice that something else is starting to annoy you: a background noise made by the motorbikes, cars **and** their claxons travelling along the coast.*

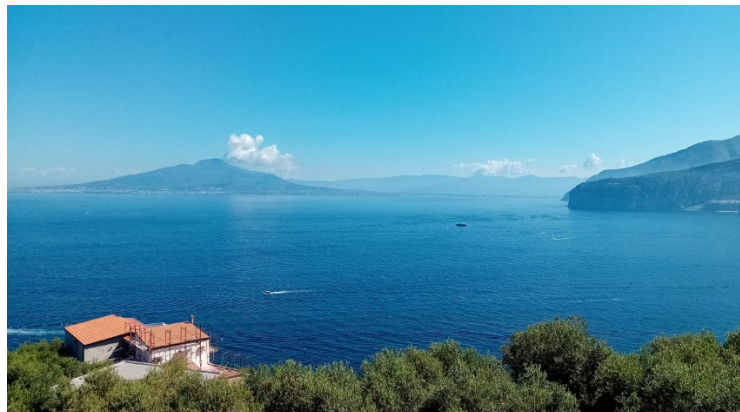
*Yes, for sure, there is a slight chance that George is on a Vespa, not so far away, planning to pass by the terrace where you are sitting. But you sincerely hope he is driving electric. Because both the scent of fuel and the sound of motors impinge on the idyllic landscape. Which you would not have imagined from the other side of the screen!*

*A third sip of coffee and you wonder why there are not more solar panels and wind turbines over here, considering the abundance of sun and nice breezes?*

*Well, it is more than time to finish that espresso! Your brain has efficiently brought you back to your chair. Without doubt a nice parenthesis, a coloured breath in the clouds and the 16 degrees outside...*

*But between you and me, aren't we all at our desks, the best Georges there can be... as 'metals, what else?'*

*Violaine Verougstraete*



# COMMISSION

## CARACAL

The next CARACAL will take place on 1-2 July 2024. A CARACAL Taskforce meeting will be organised closer to the date as soon as the draft agenda and documents are available (more information: Ainhoa González Pérez).

---

## EU AGENCIES

### EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA)

#### ECHA COMMITTEES

##### *SEAC-63: preparing for the restriction on U-PFAS for the metal plating and manufacturing of metal products*

The “metals plating sector” and the “manufacturing of metals” are the two “sectors” where the uses of PFAS will be reviewed at the upcoming SEAC meeting in June. The Background Report prepared by the Dossier Submitters (5 countries) and the draft opinion by the Rapporteurs highlight the extensive use of different PFAS compounds in the manufacturing of e.g. Al, Cu, Ni and Zn as well as in the plating of Cr and Ni.

PFAS have different functions including acting as wetting agent, mist suppressant, promoting the smoothening of the metals layer, and as solvents for metal cleaning and corrosion protection.

The SEAC Rapporteurs’ draft report seems to support some temporary derogations, mainly in hard metal plating sectors, to recommend a normal substitution period of 18 months for decorative plating techniques, while there seems to be more uncertainty on the availability of feasible and available alternatives (and hence substitution potential) in the Ni, Al, Cu and Sn production sectors. It is still unclear what direction SEAC will take regarding substitution and/or its conclusions on metal manufacturing. Eurometaux was given the permission to invite a technical supporting expert, whose identification was not an easy task given that knowledge on PFAS functionalities in the metal processes seems limited in our sector. This makes it difficult to estimate if and how large the impact would be if these products cannot be used in manufacturing. On the other hand, an expert for the plating sector was identified. The communicable outcomes of the SEAC session will be explained to the Risk Management Taskforce on 18 June, to draw learning lessons for upcoming Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) sectors like the battery, aviation and electronics sectors (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

#### ECHA OTHER ACTIVITIES

##### *ECHA DWD IT User group: web meeting 24.05.2024 on IUCLID developments*

On 24 May, ECHA organised a web meeting to explain the IUCLID developments designed to meet the Drinking Water Directive (DWD) information requirements. ECHA has highlighted the business processes that will be implemented to facilitate the notification and approval of new entities in the EU Positive List (EUPL) through the existing IUCLID tool, which allows data transfer from other regulatory frameworks (such as REACH). The submission steps will be fully automated, with no manual intervention from ECHA staff. After a successful submission, the economic operator will receive a code necessary for any further submissions or dossier updates, ensuring that no spontaneous updates of submitted information are allowed. ECHA emphasised the importance for economic operators to list all relevant intended uses, as only these will be considered for approval. However, risk assessments do not require testing for all uses if it can be justified that the selected migration test in the dossier covers the worst-case scenario. Once a substance is on the EUPL, it can be used by any operator.

ECHA also provided examples on how IUCLID dossiers are prepared, addressing confidentiality and data migration from existing dossiers. The next meeting will be held on 14 June and will focus on developing a test case to address specific questions and concerns. The DWD Taskforce has been contacted so as to be prepared for the next meeting by developing an alloy example in IUCLID (more information: Federica Iaccino and Lara Van de Merckt).

## BATTERIES

### **Exchange & Capacity-building Group on Battery Materials project (ECaBaM): *final report of the workshop***

The final version of the ECaBaM workshop report is now available in a dedicated section of the [REACH Metals Gateway](#)

Eurometaux is now planning the next steps, including a second workshop that will take place on 28 and 29 October 2024 in Helsinki at ECHA's premises. This second workshop will potentially focus on the outcome of the data-gathering survey, prioritisation, or OEM-related issues. The agenda and the form to express interest are under preparation and will be shared in the coming weeks.

We invite those interested to complete a questionnaire prepared by Ramboll, related to batteries types and compositions. It is open until 21 June 2024 and available on the following link: [https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/batteries\\_survey](https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/batteries_survey) (more information: Ainhoa González Pérez).

---

## EUROMETAUX CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

### CHEMICALS STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABILITY

#### **Transition Pathway Taskforce: 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting**

The Eurometaux Taskforce established to support the drafting of the TP for metals had its third meeting on 21 May with a new chair (Howard Winbow, International Zinc Association). This hybrid meeting covered updates since January, a discussion on work needed to complete the drafting, learnings from the drafting process, a good debate on future communication and outreach, and agreement on next steps. The main outcomes were:

- An update of the last Commission sub-group meeting in April and an overview of the written feedback received from stakeholders (and where feedback is still lacking – Member States).
- Progress on implementation of the TP chemicals and what learnings can usefully be applied for metals.
- An overview of the content of the two building blocks still to be completed, and a discussion on how to handle additional content requested by the Commission (implementation plan, key performance indicators - KPIs).
- A debate on how to transition the work of the TF from drafting to communication and outreach, and how to align with Eurometaux's Communications strategy moving into the second half of 2024.

The next (final?) 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, is likely to be held in late June. This will focus on the two building blocks still to be completed, and content to be developed on implementation and suitable KPIs (principles and not details).

The drafting of the transition pathway is nearing completion, in collaboration with Eurofer (more information: Simon Cook).

#### **TNO study: *on potential impact of future emissions of metals due to Green Deal inspired growth***

A key question in the Transition Pathway - as well as a concern from regulators, national authorities and the public - is if the large, expected increase in metals volume used for sectors like batteries and others due to the Green Deal, would not impact the quality of European waters in a negative way. Therefore, Eurometaux engaged in a project to conduct best estimates on how significant and relevant future emissions of indicator metals (Cu, Zn, Ni, RE, Li, Ga,...) could be for 6 key supply sectors of the Green Deal (electricity networks, EVs including batteries, wind power, solar PV, electronics), considering increased production and recycling capacity and new mines in the EU by 2030.

TNO is executing this study by collating and mapping announced new and volume-increasing projects, defining reasonable emission factors, and applying the expected additional releases to the main different water basins in the EU. The project has evolved almost as far as this and will, in its last phase, try to express the expected potential releases by critical supply chain (e.g., wind power). A draft report is expected by the summer and a published brochure on the outcome in early autumn.

Together, the TNO study and the main conclusions of the MEED project will demonstrate that for most metals, such increases in emissions will be minimal compared to classical sources such as agriculture, impurities released from fuels by the consumption of energy, etc. (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot and Simon Cook).

## RISK MANAGEMENT

### *ECHA: extending the call for evidence on Cr6 use to design the scope of a future EU restriction*

ECHA informed Eurometaux about the Commission's request to expand the scope of a future restriction on plating using CrVI.

Learning from the Cobalt salts restriction experience, ECHA is now mandated to consider the inclusion of all CrVI compounds (and not only 2 as in the previous call) as well as all uses (instead of mainly focussing on decorative plating). The overall final objective of this exercise would be to reduce the need for, or even replace the authorisation risk management measure of the CrVI compounds, by a more targeted restriction that focusses on the real risks (for workers and environment). Eurometaux welcomed this extended mandate given it supports replacing the binding authorisation requirement focussing on substitution with a more risk-oriented restriction approach, considering that measures like an Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL), some workplace operational conditions, and environmental quality standards are the basis for proper risk control of CrVI.

The present authorisation process is indeed cumbersome, resource intensive and often leads to regrettable substitution at a high price, hence not helping workers and society in general.

The first call for evidence organised by ECHA was a step forward but was not extensive enough in its scope and hence would not provide an efficient alternative for the authorisation scheme for all uses. Eurometaux further welcomed the attention to avoid regrettable substitution risk, or even not taking into consideration other materials with hazard and risk properties as replacement substances or technologies.

ECHA will run a specific webinar on 6 June on this [Events - ECHA \(europa.eu\)](#); an event that kick-starts the Public Consultation period.

Ahead of this ECHA webinar, Eurometaux has already informed the concerned sectors about this call for evidence, its importance and how it could help the sector in the future. Finally, Eurometaux noted that using risk-based restrictions is a much better risk management strategy for metals in general, than the authorisation scheme (more information: Hugo Waeterschoot).

## INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS

### *Industrial Emissions: update*

On 23 May, Following the 19<sup>th</sup> IED Article 13 Forum meeting (29-30 April), the Commission provided more details regarding the new BREF work programme (see table below):

BREF name	Acronym	Tentative start (year)	Comments
Extraction including on-site treatment of metal ores (Activity 3.6)	MIN BREF	2024	New BREF
Landfills (Activity 5.4)	LAN BREF	2024	New BREF
Production of batteries in gigafactories (Activity 2.7)	PBG BREF	2025	New BREF
Iron and Steel Production	I&S BREF	2026	Review of the 2012 edition

The activation of the respective Technical Working Groups (TWGs) is currently ongoing. The Article 13 Forum Members will be asked to express their interest by participating in the TWGs and taking part in the preliminary frontloading exercise.

On 26 May, Eurometaux participated in the Industrial Emissions Alliance plenary meeting to discuss the new BREF working programme presented by the Commission at the last Article 13 Forum meeting, exchange information on the ongoing BREFs and align feedback on the novel elements of the new IED, including the INCITE and its launch event and the new BREF Guidance (in the making).

## **LVIC BREF: update**

The data collection phase has ended and around 50 questionnaires related to sulphuric acid plants were uploaded on BATIS. The EIPPC Bureau plans to have the first data assessment workshop in Autumn 2024. The EIPPC Bureau extended the possibility to submit contributions on the descriptive part of the draft of the new Large Volume Inorganic Chemicals (LVIC) BREF until the end of May.

On 30 May, Eurometaux uploaded a document on BATIS concerning the sulphuric acid production from NFM activities following input from members.

The German Environment Agency (UBA) published a document on BATIS where they propose the application of BAYQIK/CORE process as new candidate Best Available Technique (BAT) for optimising feed-gas concentrations in metallurgical plants. Eurometaux's secretariat prepared a draft paper based on EM members feedback to complement the information provided by UBA (including e.g., potential cross-media effects, applicability restrictions, etc.).

**Next Steps:** The next Eurometaux LVIC Working group meeting will be held online on 26 June 2024 from 11:00 to 12:30. To address data collection, analysis of questionnaires, descriptive parts, papers already circulated and our position on the BAYQIK/CORE process.

## **INCITE - Launch Event in Seville**

The launch of the new EU Innovation Centre for Industrial Transformation and Emissions (INCITE) will take place in Seville, Spain on 21 June 2024. INCITE is a key element of the revised Industrial Emissions Directive aiming at promoting innovation. INCITE aims to add a forward-looking mechanism to the 'Sevilla Process' by identifying and evaluating the most promising innovative techniques able to decarbonise the EU industry, increase resource efficiency, while maintaining competitiveness, increasing circularity and ensuring the greening of its operations.

[More information can be found here.](#)

Participating in the event in person is still possible, as well as online since the event will be fully web-streamed. To do so, register at: [Register to the launch event of INCITE!](#)  
(more information: Lighea Speziale, Lorenzo Ceccherini, Lorenzo Marotti and Violaine Verougstraete).

## **WATER**

### **1) Change of Water Taskforce Co-chair:**

You may have heard that Marco Vallini has recently left the Nickel Institute. We would like to thank Marco for his continuous help and incredible support over the past years. His kindness, the clarity of his explanations, his motivation made it a pleasure to work with him! With Marco's departure, we are losing a co-chair of our vital Water Taskforce. Salvatore Ricci (International Copper Association Europe) has kindly agreed to take on the role and co-chair with Chris Cooper. Many thanks Salvatore!

### **2) Working Group(WG) Chemicals: *meeting***

The last meeting of the WG Chemicals was held online on 16 May, the meeting focused mainly on the 5<sup>th</sup> Watch List (WL).

There was a long discussion on the case of lithium (for inclusion in the WL), raised by the Netherlands (NL) and followed up by several Member States. Lithium is not part of the current 5<sup>th</sup> WL proposal, as it was considered but set aside by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) due to lack of confidence in the data and the Predicted No Effect Concentration (PNEC) in the REACH dossier. The Commission has asked Member States to send all the information/data they have on lithium/and other substances as soon as possible as the Preliminary List was due to be presented to the Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) on Thursday 23/05. The WL will then be subject to internal consultation and adopted during the Article 21 Committee meeting at the end of June.

The next WG Chemicals should be a full in-person meeting on either 9-10 or 11 October 2024.

### **3) New timing of the Water Framework review for the EU Council**

From the various meetings we have attended this month (from Green Week to the WG Chemicals and the SCG meeting), it seems that the work of the BE Presidency/EU Council regarding their position on the Commission's (EC) proposal to amend the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) and the Groundwater Directive (GWD) has accelerated considerably.

While the General Approach was not expected before the next Presidency, there have been additional meetings during the month of May, with a final WPE meeting scheduled for 31 May. The BE Presidency is confident that it will be able to present a General Approach by the end of its term (end of June).

In summary:

- Working Party on the Environment (WPE) meetings on 22 & 31 May;
- Coreper discussion on 12 June;
- and 26 June, final text to be adopted.

#### 4) EU Green Week

The European Commission's Green Week took place last week (29-30 May). The theme of this Green Week was water, and more specifically water resilience.

The EC also used the event to launch its [WaterWise](#) communication campaign.

The overall message that was to be taken away from this event is that although the Water Framework Directive (WFD) is in place, there is still a strong need for better implementation at EU level.

As far as water quality is concerned, while it is well handled under the WFD, there are still issues that need to be addressed, such as the need for a larger number of substances/a more rapid review of the Watch List (to avoid the situation as with PFAS), and the issues related to costs to the citizen/urban wastewater treatment. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is now being introduced for pharmaceuticals/cosmetics in the recast of the Urban Waste Water Directive, but there is a push to look at how EPR could be introduced at the surface water level (WFD).

The hit of the moment is related to water quantity in general, the value of water and governance (in the follow-up to the EESC's Blue Deal initiative).

The next Commission is likely to work on water quantity, water use, water reuse and how to integrate water in a more circular way towards a "water smart society". In addition, work will continue on the implementation of the WFD.

There were also (informal) indications that the Commission is looking at the water resilience initiative in a more systemic way, bringing together the other DGs.

The outcome of the Green Week will be further discussed at the next meeting of the Water TF.

#### 5) Next Water Taskforce meeting:

Friendly reminder to the members of the Water Taskforce: the next meeting is scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> of June! (more information: Lara Van de Merckt).

## SOIL

Update:

### 1) European Parliament

The European Parliament voted its [opinion](#) (also attached) on the European Commission's [proposal](#) for a new soil monitoring law in plenary on 10 April (full voting results can be found [here](#)). The vote was 336 in favour, 242 against and 33 abstentions. Members of Parliament (MEPs) are generally supportive of the ambition to achieve healthy soils and to establish a harmonised soil monitoring framework across the EU. The assessment of soil health is rather left to the national authorities of the Member States, using soil descriptors that best illustrate the soil characteristics of each soil type at national level. The EP proposes a five-level classification to assess soil health (high, good, moderate ecological status, degraded and critically degraded soils). Soils with either good or high ecological status would be considered healthy. The European Parliament's opinion is rather "patchy", with amendments that could contradict each other. Soil health is to be left to Member States, but some amendments call for the EU Commission to establish a watch list and a priority substances list with EU-wide environmental quality standards (EQS) for soil (just as there are for the Water Framework Directive). Further analysis is needed to understand how the assessment of the ecological status of soils will be carried out in practice and where the concentration of metals in these soils will be addressed.

The EP made significant changes to the Annexes, dividing Annex 1 into three different levels (of what should be monitored and how by the Member States, depending on rather complicated conditions), the criteria for describing soils are given but no thresholds are associated with them to assess soil health, it

is left to the MSs and for them to decide what conditions mean high/good/moderate degraded/critically degraded ecological status of soils.

## 2) EU Council

The BE Presidency has been very active on this file since January with several meetings of the Working Party on the Environment (WPE).

The compromised text was sent to COREPER 1 in preparation for the Environment Council on 17 June, where the General Approach (GA) of the EU Council will be voted.

From the meeting we had with the Perm. Rep. on this file, we can say that in the BE compromised text:

- There seems to be a reference to the fact that soil contamination is already dealt with under the IED or other existing legislation and that the new Soil Monitoring Law should not interfere with this already existing legislation (same with regard to previous risk assessment/management already put in place).
- It would appear that the soil data, such as the LUCAS database and the future monitoring outcomes, will continue to be unavailable to the public.
- The monitoring is set at EU level to be harmonised, but the rest (assessment of soil health) is left to Member States.
- For soil contamination, and in particular for metals, risk assessments would consider natural and anthropogenic background levels. Soil should be considered healthy if only the natural background concentration pushes the soil assessment towards poor status;
- The method for assessing metal concentrations in soil should be aqua regia (as we advocated) and ISO 17586 using dilute nitric acid would be listed as optional.
- The pollution/risk characterisation would take into account site-specific conditions, physico-chemical properties, natural/anthropogenic background concentrations, parent material, etc.
- The "one out all out" principle associated with soil health has been changed. Rather, soil health is assessed in relation to soil degradation criteria (some of which are also set at EU level and some at Member State level) using non-binding target values and operational trigger values.
- There is a more specific focus on soil degradation/sealing from activities such as mining (with specific indicators for assessment).
- The EC will be responsible for developing a watch list of soil contaminants.

## 3) Summary timeline

- 10 April: EP opinion
- 17 June: EU Council GA
- Autumn 2024: Trilogues (tentative)
- Early 2025: Publication in the Official Journal (tentative)
- Member States will then have two years to transpose the Directive into national law.

(more information: Lara Van de Merckt).

## METALS ENVIRONMENT EXPOSURE DATA PROGRAM (MEED)

### **MEED program: a request for funding from VLAIO for the Ecorelevance project**

After receiving the greenlight at the MEED webinar workshop in April, ARCHE, the University of Ghent and Eurometaux progressed and finalised the subsidy request for the Ecorelevance project under the Flemish Innovation fund (VLAIO). Indeed, the biodiversity impact assessment toolbox that was developed under the MEED project on Ecorelevance has a very high potential to support companies in demonstrating that the combined impact of their emissions are safe and the impact on local biodiversity is limited. Currently this weight of evidence is often lacking for use in environmental permits and to demonstrate REACH safe use. The aim is to support the validation cases on the toolbox and to make the method and toolbox available for use in industry. The defence of the proposal at VLAIO's premises is on 25 June 2024 and we expect to receive -by the end of the summer- the response from VLAIO to see if they support this innovative technology with high and direct relevance for industry.

Finally the MEED team have scheduled an extensive MEED debrief workshop to take place on 18 November (pm) and 19 November (am) in Ostend aiming to review the test work on metal and organic mixtures and debate on how to correct for the Mixture Allocation Factor (MAF) in practice (more information: Marnix Vangheluwe and Hugo Waeterschoot).



## TOOLS

### **Metal release and carcinogenic potency report: *translated in impacts***

Eurometaux was kindly invited to participate in a meeting organised by Eurofer to discuss the potential consequences of the cobalt classification on stainless steel with experts of the Cobalt Institute, the Nickel Institute and Nipera. The call, after recalling some background (i.e., harmonised classification of cobalt metal) discussed successively the possible impacts of the recently released carcinogenic potency report (identifying most metals as being very potent- even if the report acknowledges some limitations) and the consequences of the withdrawal of the metal release project at OECD. The outcomes of the potency work could lead authorities to question the generic concentration limit that was agreed on for cobalt metal, and the difficulties with the metal release project makes it less probable to have agreed decision trees for the self-classification of mixtures in a short future. To mitigate the consequences of the 'all routes' classification, including on downstream legislations (e.g., restrictions), the CI and NI/Nipera have submitted a testing proposal to ECHA aiming at clarifying whether the GCL or SCL would also apply to the oral route. The testing proposal was approved by ECHA and starts with a dose-range finding study in 2024. It represents a huge effort (resources wise) from both commodities who were expecting to get some support from the steel sector that will need the outcomes and data. Despite the very clear presentations made by the cobalt and nickel experts, there did not seem to be a lot of traction. Eurofer concluded the call by indicating that they would follow-up with internal discussions also involving the carbon steel actors (more information: Violaine Verougstraete).

### **IUCLID 6v.8.0 release on 29.04.2024**

Since a few years, IUCLID updates are categorised as major or minor updates, occurring respectively in April and October. Accordingly, on 29 April, IUCLID 6 v8.0.1 was published. A second release is expected by end of October to introduce minor updates to the IUCLID tool (service tool update). Following this pattern, the next major update is expected for April 2025 and so forth.

The IUCLID 6v.8.0.1 release includes format changes, tool improvements and problems fixes, such as ensuring that data migrated from annexes of older IUCLID version(s) will be assigned to the relevant fields (and not get lost during the process). ECHA provided a short checklist to ensure smooth upgrading and reminded users to verify both the information provided on the 'IUCLID release note' before updating IUCLID and whether the typical IT tools used are compatible with the IUCLID update (or would also need to be updated).

Overall, the main drivers for IUCLID updates in the 6v.8.0 came from the need to include changes in CLP, Drinking Water Directive requirements, data collection and processes in REACH, BPR and PPP, new and updated OECD Test Guidelines and templates. New OECD harmonised templates (on study summaries and endpoint summaries) have been introduced to better reflect information requirement updates and will automatically allow data migration. New hazard classes proposed by the European Commission under CLP, REACH and BPR are reflected in the IUCLID v6.8.0 even if at this stage new hazard classes can be submitted but not yet validated (i.e., the IUCLID validation assistant only identifies warnings on the new CLP fields, but not yet failures). The entire documentation on the IUCLID release is accessible via the webinar page.

Short list of interesting information linked to IUCLID 6 v.8.0 release:

- (1) in classification, the field "reason for classification" is not mandatory: a quality warning is associated with this field when information is not provided and should it ever become mandatory, ECHA will inform the users well in advance;
- (2) IUCLID 6v.8.0 can be used with Chesar 3.8 (new version is in preparation) and the additional improvements identified are available in the IUCLID v. 6v.8.0.2 (released on 16.05.2024);
- (3) the REACH and OECD versions of the Use and Exposure templates were quite well aligned in the past and the migration done in IUCLID 6v.8.0 should not require any manual changes. The REACH templates were the ones kept in IUCLID 6v.8 and become the new OECD templates;
- (4) REACH-IT, and other ECHA submission systems are accepting IUCLID 6v.8 dossiers since 29 April;
- (5) IUCLID & REACH IT: submission of dossiers can be made in an older version of IUCLID 6: the recommendation to use the latest version is to make sure the content of the dossier complies with the latest information requirements (validation assistant support) (more information: Federica Iaccino).

# OUTREACH

## OTHERS

### **PARC: *getting clarity on deliverables and cooperation***

Eurometaux is co-chairing the Stakeholder Forum of the PARC project. PARC stands for 'Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals' and aims to develop next-generation chemical risk assessments. It supports the European Union's Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability and the European Green Deal's "Zero pollution" ambition with new data, knowledge, methods and tools, expertise and networks. The Stakeholder Forum is composed of NGO, industry and other associations representatives aims at facilitating the dialogue and collaboration between all parties involved in chemical risk assessment.

The third Stakeholder Forum meeting recently took place in Tirol, back-to-back with the PARC consortium meeting. The main aim was to foster collaboration and communication between stakeholders and the PARC consortium. Topics discussed included the new Generation Risk Assessment (nGRA) and alternatives to animal testing, combined exposures and workplace. Participants were updated on the progress made with the relevant work packages and invited to provide feedback to guide ongoing and future initiatives.

Participating in the Consortium meeting the days before allowed to better grasp the content of the different work packages of this huge project and also the links between the different communities and actors involved. Participants were also invited to comment on their own priorities and communication modalities of the projects, essential to ensure good use of the outcomes. Eurometaux's notes will be circulated as soon as the presentations have been made available (more information: Violaine Verougstraete).

### **UK PARC: *invitation to present on SSbD***

PARC works also with national hubs in the 29 countries involved in the project (more information on PARC can be found [here](#)). These National Hubs are networks of organizations at the country level, involving [PARC partners](#), the relevant national ministries, public and research institutions and other stakeholders (e.g., industries, NGOs, trade unions) active in the field of human biomonitoring, environmental monitoring, toxicology and chemical risk assessment outside the umbrella of PARC. Each National Hub is led by a National Hub Contact Point. The UK National Hub organised Science Days on 21-22 May, inviting Eurometaux to participate in a panel on 'Safe and Sustainable Chemicals' with the Commission presenting a state of play on its SSbD framework and the Queens University Belfast talking about using *in vitro* bioassays to guide the development of safer bio-based polymers for use in food packaging. The SSbD projects were presented by Defra. Eurometaux gave its perspective on how to achieve the SSbD objectives with hazardous substances and its perspective on sustainable metals? The presentation triggered several questions and a clear encouragement by Commission to submit comments and input to the second feedback collection launched by Commission, open until 30 August 2024 (more information: Simon Cook and Violaine Verougstraete).

### **SETAC Europe: *extensive debriefs on the MEED project results***

The SETAC Europe meetings are always an opportunity to present and debrief on recent research findings with the scientific, regulatory and industry community. Hence MEED and the metals sector participated very actively in the SETAC Europe 2024 meeting that took place in Seville from 4 to 8 May. A selection of MEED posters covering the program's generic progress, final conclusions on the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) release impact assessment, the progress made with the metals-metals and metals organics mixture review and testing program as well as the design of the Ecorelevance toolbox, were all presented. On top of this, we managed to organise an interesting and well attended poster corner session where regulators presented how they are progressing with mixture toxicity in the EU (and abroad) as well as initiatives from research institutes and industry. The metals sector (commodities and consortia) further contributed in organising presentation sessions on metal related themes (like Endocrine Disruptors (ED)) that were attended by large groups of researchers while the SETAC Metals interest group provided *\_as usual\_* a platform for quick exchanges on ongoing regulatory and research initiatives on metals, with Chris Cooper in a key coordinating role (more information: Marnix Vangheluwe and Hugo Waeterschoot).

# KAMILA'S SUSTAINABLE CORNER

## **Battery black mass: *the European Commission Waste Expert WG meeting (08/05)***

The work on the new waste codes for the battery black mass continues (see CM News N° 146). On 8 May Eurometaux participated to the European Commission Waste Expert WG meeting. It aimed at discussing the draft report by JRC and the proposal for the delegated act updating the EU List of Waste (LoW). Experts from the Member States, industry and NGOs had commented on the proposal supporting the approach and asking for clarifications especially in reference to the current practices of the competent authorities in various Member States.

Some of the proposed amendments to the EU LoW will change the existing waste codes, but most will be addressing the:

- New codes for battery manufacturing waste for all chemistries;
- New codes for waste batteries;
- New codes for intermediate fraction (black mass) for all chemistries.

Vast majority of the codes are hazardous but for some entries mirror codes are proposed (i.e., those waste can be both hazardous and non-hazardous). Following those changes, the names of some chapters in the waste catalogue will be changed as well.

Stakeholders have a say until 5th June to comment on the Commission proposal for the Delegated Act. Once updated with the feedback received, the draft act will be published in the "Have Your Say" portal and a notification to the WTO will follow. The Commission foresees the adoption of the act for Q4 of this year, once the new European Parliament and Commission are in place (more information: Kamila Slupek).

---

## CALENDAR

**Please find here below a non-exhaustive list of the meetings already planned for Q2 & Q3 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](#)

- 03-07/06: RAC-69 Plenary
- 03-07/06: SEAC-63
- 06/06 (12:00 - 14:00 CEST): ECHA Webinar: Chromium (VI) restriction preparation: what you need to know about the second call for evidence Online
- 10-14/06: SEAC-63
- 10 -14/06: MSC-86 (TBC)
- 18-19/06: ECHA MB-74
- 18/06: [Risk Management Taskforce](#)
- 18/06 (11:00 CEST): ECHA Webinar: Research needs for protecting human health and the environment - an EU regulator's perspective.  
[Research needs for protecting human health and the environment - an EU regulator's perspective - YouTube](#)
- 21/06: Launch event of INCITE (Sevilla)
- 24-25/06: NeRSAP (Antwerp University)
- 26/06: LVIC Working group (online only)
- 27/06: Chemicals Management Steering Committee
- 01-02/07: CARACAL
- 01-03/07: RAC-70 CLH Working Group
- 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
- 23 or 24/09: Risk Management Taskforce webinar session on substitution options
- 24-25/09: RAC-71 DWD Working Group
- 26-27/09: ECHA MB-75
- 30/09-02/10: Chemicals Management Autumn Week

---

## 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.

**A continuously updated** list of acronyms is available under the Reach Metals Gateway (RMG)

---