

March 2016

ECHA's conclusions on the workshop on the "Materials' Information Platform" feasibility study

Background

A «Workshop on the "Materials' Information Platform" feasibility study and the way forward» took place in Brussels, on 04 December 2015.¹ The Materials' Information Platform (MIP) is envisaged as an IT-based platform with information on the possible presence of certain substances in materials. Such a tool would aim at supporting companies to identify whether or not Candidate List (CL) substances², or possible future identified substances of very high concern (SVHCs), could be contained in the materials their articles are made of. The main objective of the workshop was to present and discuss with a group of stakeholders³ the findings from a study carried out by Ökopol⁴ on the feasibility of the Materials' Information Platform, for ECHA to then decide whether the conditions are met to further invest in the implementation of a MIP. The workshop was also an opportunity to have a more general exchange on what else industry and ECHA could do, based on existing experiences, to support companies to ensure the safe use of substances in articles.

Conclusions

The workshop discussions confirmed the main findings of the feasibility study, both in terms of possible advantages and major limitations of the MIP concept.⁵ Even though they confirmed its potential added-value, the associations and companies representing producers and importers of articles stressed the difficulties that they would have at this time to collaborate with ECHA in the further development of a MIP, and in particular to provide the necessary data on the presence of substances in materials. This is mainly due to the current difficulty to get relevant information from actors upper in the supply chains. Therefore, ECHA concluded that the conditions for the practical implementation of MIP are, for the moment, not met. However, ECHA stressed that it remains open to such collaboration if, in the future, a (group of) stakeholder(s) would express its intention to engage in the implementation of this or similar tool.

The participants provided ECHA with some other suggestions on possible ways to support companies in ensuring the safe use of substances in articles. ECHA was for instance invited to consider possibilities to provide more information and guidance on alternatives to the use of CL substances and on practical strategies to obtain data on CL substances in articles, e.g. through best practice examples. Furthermore, some workshop participants asked ECHA to continue to invest in awareness and information provision to non-EU authorities and companies.

In the second part of the workshop, companies' representatives presented some tools and approaches for supply chain management and communication they are currently developing and using. Those presentations showed that an efficient communication on substances in articles is feasible and can bring benefits to businesses. While there may be some sector-specific information needs, it was recognised that there is common data that is necessary to communicate. Therefore, the implementation of a standard communication format, as illustrated by a presentation of the German Federal Environment Agency, could be beneficial. ECHA is interested in reflecting, where needed, how it could support initiatives, e.g. from sector associations, aiming at facilitating supply chain management or communication on substances in articles.

¹ The workshop's programme is in Annex 1.

² Available at <http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/candidate-list-table>

³ The list of participants is in Annex 2.

⁴ Available at http://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13563/mip_public+report_en.pdf

⁵ For more information, please see Ökopol's MIP Workshop Summary, available at ECHA's website (<http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/regulations/reach/candidate-list-substances-in-articles>).

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Annex 1



Workshop on the Materials' Information Platform feasibility study and the way forward

Draft Programme

4 December 2015

European Commission - DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
Avenue d'Auderghem 45, 1040 Etterbeek, Brussels
Room BREY/12A

08:40-09:00

Registration

09:00-09:20

Welcome and introduction to the workshop (ECHA)

- Substance in Articles: general objectives of REACH
- The origin of the MIP project
- Objectives for the workshop

MIP – Outcome and next steps (Ökopol/ECHA)

09:20-09:50

- Feasibility study: methodology, main findings and open questions (30 min)

09:50-10:20

[Discussion]

- Are the findings confirmed? If so, what are the main reasons behind a) hesitations to share the data with others, and b) doubts that companies could use the tool?
- More generally, is the approach of bridging substances/mixtures in articles through materials useful and of interest?

10:20-10:40

Coffee break

10:40-11:45

[Break out groups]

- Group 1: Under which conditions the industry/trade associations and

companies holding the necessary data, would be ready to contribute with up-to-date information to the MIP?

- Group 2: Under which conditions the importers and producers of articles, in particular SMEs, would use it in practice?

12:00-12:20

- Presentation of the main outcome of the break out group discussions

12:20-13:00

- Conclusions and next steps

13:00-14:00

Lunch break

14:00-15:30

Other approaches for an efficient support to duty holders on substances in articles

[Discussion panel]

- Presentation 1: *Substance Information – Requirements, Challenges and Solutions*
Dr. Freimut Schröder
Vice President Environment, Health, Safety - Siemens Healthcare GmbH
 - Presentation 2: *LS&Co. Supply Chain Chemical Information Management*
Szilárd Szarvas
Global Sr. Manager, EHS - LEVI STRAUSS & CO. EUROPE
 - Presentation 3: *Standard communication format for SVHC in articles*
Dr. Johanna Wurbs, Umweltbundesamt - Federal Environmental Agency (UBA), Germany
- Other ideas, discussion and final remarks

* MIP – Materials' Information Platform

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Annex 2

Workshop on the “Materials’ Information Platform” feasibility study and the way forward, Brussels, Belgium, 04 December 2015

(Organised by ECHA and Ökopol)

List of participants

	Organisation	Name	Last name
1.	Association of European Adhesives Manufacturers FEICA	Divina	GOMEZ
2.	CIMAC	Sandro	MILANESI
3.	Confederation of National Associations of Tanners and Dressers of the European Community COTANCE	Gustavo	GONZALEZ-QUIJANO
4.	Dekra	Jochen	DETTKE
5.	EU Commission	Valentina	BERTATO
6.	EU Commission	Karin	KILIAN
7.	Soft Batteries (Eurometaux)	Clemence	SIRET
8.	SEMI EUROPE – semiconductor manufacturing supply chain in Europe	Ourania	GEORGOUTSAKOU
9.	European DIY Retail association EDRA	Alisdair	GRAY
10.	European Engineering Industries Association ORGALIME	Maria Chiara	DETRAGIACHE
11.	European Federation of construction material producers EFCC	Elisa	SETIEN
12.	European Tyre & Rubber Manufacturers' Association ETRMA	Lorenzo	ZULLO
13.	Federation of the European Sporting Goods Industry FESI	Jérôme	PERO

14.	Foreign Trade Association FTA	Pierre	GROENING
15.	IKEA	Annelise	LARSEN
16.	Swedish Chemicals Agency Kemi	Lars	GUSTAFSSON
17.	LEVI'S	Szilárd	SZARVAS
18.	Ministerium für Umwelt, Klima und Energiewirtschaft - Baden-Württemberg	Sibylle	WURSTHORN
19.	PlasticsEurope	Roger	VAN DER LINDEN
20.	Siemens	Dr. Freimut	SCHRÖDER
21.	Society for Institutional Analysis SOFIA	Martin	FÜHR
22.	The European Chemical Industry Council CEFIC	Blanca	SERRANO RAMON
23.	The European craft and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises employers organisation UEAPME	Devin	BICER
24.	Federal Environment Agency (Germany) UBA	Johanna	WURBS
25.			

Organisers' participants

26.	ECHA	Rémi	LEFEVRE
27.	ECHA	Telmo	VIEIRA PRAZERES
28.	Ökopol	Antonia	REIHLEN
29.	Ökopol	Olaf	WIRTH