

PETCO 9th WG Meeting Notes (Helsinki, 8 February 2018)

21 external participants attended the meeting representing 9 Member States (BE, DE, DK, EE, FR, LT, NL, PL and SE), the European Commission (DG GROW) and 6 accredited stakeholders organisations (Concawe, CEFIC Coal Chemicals Sector Group (CCSG), AECM, Lower Olefins and Aromatics (LOA), Higher Olefins & Poly Alpha Olefins (HOPA) and CEFIC hydrocarbon solvents).

The meeting focused on better understanding how to prioritise substances from an environmental perspective as well as how to move forward on the environmental hazard assessment of PetCo substances. The Netherlands together with Concawe made a proposal on a way forward for the environmental assessment of petroleum substances, which was supported by the PETCO WG. A small subgroup will work further on developing the approach and test cases. Some cases will be brought to the PBT EG where most of the scientific discussion should take place. There are still uncertainties around the use of the GCxGC data and Concawe offered to host a seminar in one of their laboratory in Amsterdam to better understand how for instance assignment of constituents could be done.

On Human health hazard assessment, ECHA mentioned the work ongoing on two small Concawe categories and discussion ongoing on the strategy for human health hazard assessment.

The work on other consortia has started and more particularly on hydrocarbon solvents where there is clearly interest from Member States to start understanding how to apply the approaches developed so far as those substances have relevant uses (widespread uses). It will be investigated how to apply the prioritisation approach on those substances before the next PetCo meeting.

In summary, the work is progressing albeit at different speeds depending on the topic and the resources allocated to it. The work on petroleum and coal chemicals is difficult due to the complex composition of those substances as such together with breadth of the discussion (e.g. link to UVCB, impurities).

Back-to-back meeting with PetCo Member States, the Commission and ECHA on 7 February

The day focused on discussing with Member States how to deal with PetCo substances from a **regulatory risk management** perspective. The day was organised in breakout sessions to discuss questions aiming at increasing our common understanding on

- i) what do we want to achieve by regulating PetCo substances: in which life-cycle steps or end uses we currently identify concerns and what are the respective main protection targets,
- ii) what are the challenges in regulating them and
- iii) how the different REACH/CLP processes can best be used to regulate them.

This day was useful for authorities to better specify what are the main concerns with those substances and to start identifying those elements that are very specific to petroleum and coal stream substances as well as what would be of relevance when regulating any UVCBs or substances containing impurities. It was noted that the points discussed are of relevance to other ongoing discussions (e.g. recovered material, impurities of very high concern). From there ECHA together with Member States will work on documenting those different points for further discussion with all Member States.