

PETCO WG 11th meeting notes (Helsinki 22 and 23 October 2018).

30 external participants attended the meeting representing 9 Member States (BE, DE, DK, ES, FR, LT, NL, PL and SE), the European Commission (DG GROW and DG ENV) and 6 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 main discussion topics were related to i) update on the GCxGC seminar that took place in September to better understand the capabilities and limitations of the analytical method, ii) prioritisation of hydrocarbon solvents, iii) PBT assessment of PetCo substances, iv) update on human health assessment and the work done on two small Concawe categories and v) an update on authorities discussion on how to regulate PetCo substances in an efficient and proportionate manner.

On the approach developed for **PBT assessment of PetCo substances** the outcome of the first discussion at the PBT EG meeting in September was reported together with a briefing on the aim of the next PBT EG discussion scheduled for 24 October. The application of the hydrocarbon block (HCB) method has been discussed for the last 2 years, highlighting the uncertainties of the approach. In the authorities' view, application of the HCB method is a pragmatic approach. The only conceivable alternative so far is to carry out the assessment constituent by constituent, which in practice is not feasible due to analytical constraints and resource and time implications of such an assessment.

The Netherlands have worked on one example of hydrocarbon block (3 ring PAHs and their alkylated derivatives). This surfaced concerns by industry whether the detailed methodology for assessing persistence is scientifically sound. The discussion will continue in the PBT expert group. This work will support PBT assessment of all PetCo substances.

Authorities reported on the discussion so far on **how to regulate PetCo substances in an efficient and proportionate manner**. One element is the need to confirm from a classification perspective the applicability of the mixture rules to UVCBs, the additivity of PAHs and its use and the limitations and potential need to change Annex VI to CLP conditional entries of PetCo substances. Authorities will work on understanding the impact of the proposed actions.

Finally, the PetCo WG discussed the organisation and frequency of future PetCo meetings. It was agreed to have only 2 meetings with stakeholders in the future (April- May and November) and to have a meeting with Member States only around February-March. Everybody agreed to have more working meetings (as opposed to only informing and updating each other on the progress) in the future even though it continues to be useful to exchange on ongoing developments and inform each other. It was also noted that the number of meetings with individual consortia has increased and will most probably continue in the future.