

## **PETCO WG 12<sup>th</sup> meeting notes (Helsinki 24 and 25 April 2019).**

29 external participants attended the meeting representing 9 Member States (BE, DE, DK, EE, ES, FR, LT, PL and SE), the European Commission (DG ENV) and 7 industry organisations (Concawe, CEFIC Coal Chemicals Sector Group (CCSG), AECM, Lower Olefins and Aromatics (LOA), Higher Olefins & Poly Alpha Olefins (HOPA), CEFIC hydrocarbon solvents, and for the first time the European Re-refining Industry Association (GEIR) as observers).

Discussions have continued in particular on the **human health approach** and the work done by ECHA together with industry in progressing hazard evaluation for several categories with regard to human health issues. There is in general clear support from Member States on the work carried out. It was clarified that ECHA is providing considerable support to industry to foster category approaches, with a view to obtaining optimal testing strategies and testing proposals. Industry needs to engage and develop an acceptable strategy for the generation of data. The burden of proof should not be on ECHA or authorities in general, and it is clear that where adaptations fail, ECHA will request information to bring dossiers into compliance.

On the **environment** and in particular on the **PBT assessment** the plan is to focus on further development of the block approach and having discussion on the results of these development efforts at the autumn PBT expert group meetings. So far the approach to assess the PBT properties of a substance per hydrocarbon block is thought to be the way forward, due to the analytical limitations inherent to PetCo UVCB substances (impossible to identify all individual constituents of those substances and to test them all individually). In parallel authorities will discuss at RIME+ meetings how to deal in the regulatory context with uncertainties associated with the block approach. ECHA noted that the different consortia appear to envisage the implementation of different approaches for assessment of the PBT properties of their substances without good justification for such methodological differences.

Authorities have further discussed how to regulate in an efficient and proportionate manner PetCo substances from a **risk management perspective**. The aim is to have a consolidated version of the learnings so far of the group by the end of this year, which could be shared with other Member States and Commission colleagues not involved in the PetCo discussion. The scope of this document might be broader than petroleum and coal substances as many aspects will be of relevance for UVCBs and multi-constituent substances in general.