

PetCo working group 15th notes (Helsinki – webex meeting, 5 November)

The 15th PETCO WG webex meeting took place on 5 November 2020.

36 external participants attended the meeting remotely representing 6 Member States (PL, DK, NL, SE, FR, ES, DE), the European Commission (DG ENV, DG GROW) and 7 industry organisations (Concawe, CEFIC Coal Chemicals Sector Group (CCSG), Lower Olefins and Aromatics (LOA), Higher Olefins & Poly Alpha Olefins (HOPA), Hydrocarbon Solvents REACH Consortium / Hydrocarbon Solvents Producer Association (Cefic), AECM and the European Re-refining Industry Association (GEIR) as observers).

The meeting has focused on stakeholders providing an update on their ongoing activities in particular from LOA and Concawe. Both consortia have introduced their strategy for supporting the grouping and read-across approaches to be used in UVCB categories and further hazard data generation. LOA has introduced in particular the metabolomic work they have been doing whereas Concawe has moved to more analytical work to support read across and hazard assessment of their categories. The hydrocarbon solvents category have submitted a number of testing proposals for human health, and the aim is to consider the environmental endpoints in 2021.

Other points for discussion on the agenda were the recent update of Annex XI of REACH focusing on read across and weight of evidence, as well as an update on how to classify substances containing more than one constituent in preparation of the discussion that will take place in CARACAL mid-November. On the first point it was acknowledged that if the update clarifies to some extent the expectations in terms of read across some more guidance will be needed as there is still room for interpretation with some wordings. The PetCo colleagues took note of the future CARACAL paper without real discussion at this point.