

PETCO 8th WG Meeting Notes (Helsinki, 25-26 October 2017)

22 external participants attended the meeting representing 7 Member States (BE, DE, DK, EE, FR, NL 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 prioritisation approach to support identification of substances based on hazard (both Human Health and environment) is finalised and supported by all participants. It was agreed that there is no need to develop it further and that it is time to move on to addressing those substances identified as being potentially hazardous. The approach has been developed with a subset of petroleum stream substances and it will be investigated how to apply it to other petroleum substances. The full documentation of the approach will be available by the end of year and made publicly available.

The focus of the discussions has been on how to assess the hazard of petroleum substances. In most cases, data may need to be generated to clarify the hazard of the prioritised substances due to the paucity of information in registration dossiers and/or non-conformity of existing data with understandings of current regulatory standards. It is important to ensure that the data generated is of use for further potential regulatory risk management action. Both human health and environment hazard assessment have been addressed.

For **environment** some first elements have been introduced and discussed and this will be further discussed at the PBT EG meeting in May 2018. This work should be done in close cooperation with ongoing improvements of the PBT assessment by Concawe. The approach proposed relies on the use of the hydrocarbon block method.

From a **human health** perspective, more discussion is needed on how to address human health hazard of PetCo substances and experience will be gained by looking at specific cases.

The prioritisation approach and the discussion around both human health and environmental hazard assessment of petroleum substances relies on the definition of hydrocarbon blocks (based on GCxGC analysis). Uncertainties have been identified with the analytical data and their use to define the blocks. There is a clear need to improve the quality of the granularity of information to have a robust approach to support not only hazard assessment but also ensure proper regulatory risk management actions later on.

The group has further discussed how to best regulate PetCo substances from a risk management perspective. The draft Risk Management Option Analysis (RMOA) of one substance has been discussed and raised interesting questions such as proportionality of actions, which will be useful in developing further authorities' understanding on how to address those substances. Further discussion is needed and authorities agreed to document the discussions with the aim to have this topic brought to a wider forum of Member States.

The **PetCo inventory, which** includes now clarification of the orphans substances has been updated and is considered finalised. If changes occur stakeholders should inform ECHA who will keep it up to date. Some substances in the inventory are not supported by any consortium and are therefore called "orphans". A way to address those needs to be discussed at the next meeting. Registrants of those substances are not represented in PetCo at the moment.