

## **PetCo working group 14<sup>th</sup> notes (Helsinki, 25 March)**

40 external participants attended the meeting remotely representing 8 Member States (BE, DE, DK, ES, FR, NL, PL, SE), the European Commission (DG ENV, DG GROW) and 7 industry organisations (Concawe, Coal Chemicals Europe (CCE), Lower Olefins and Aromatics (LOA), Higher Olefins & Poly Alpha Olefins (HOPA), CEFIC hydrocarbon solvents, AECM and the European Re-refining Industry Association (GEIR) as observers).

Discussion continued on the **environmental (PBT) assessment** of PetCo substances. LOA introduced their approach which was based on the specific composition of their UVCB categories. This included an assessment of all constituents found in their streams and their manufacturing process which is different to the Concawe approach which is based on the hydrocarbon block approach. Therefore, nine of the 10 LOA categories will be assessed using the constituent based approach and only one will be done using the hydrocarbon block approach. Authorities recommended to take into account the learnings from the work done on Concawe substances, in particular on the use of (different) QSAR models (both for P and B assessment) and on documentation of the details needed to evaluate the validity of experimental results. Authorities have also commented the proposal of Concawe to conduct ready biodegradability testing (RBT) on alkyl tri-aromatics. ECHA supported by Member States emphasised that RBT screening information cannot supersede higher-tier simulation degradation studies or other reliable information (this type of information is already available for anthracene and phenanthrene in matrices other than water). Concawe clarified that there is no intention to change parent compounds conclusions with this proposed testing. More discussion on the PBT status of the 3-ring PAHs and their alkylated derivatives (C14-C18) will take place at the PBT EG (13-14 May 2020). HSCS updated also on their biodegradability testing project.

Concawe updated on the discussion with ECHA on the work initiated to clarify the **substance identity** of their substances. Concawe does not intend to create new identifiers for their substances based on substance sameness as discussed at the last PetCo meeting and will focus the work on similarity in order to support grouping of substances and read across. HSCS updated on their ongoing work on the different categories, this work will most probably lead to the need to update the PetCo inventory towards the end of the year.

On the **human health** side, the work is progressing and requires a lot of work from both Authorities (ECHA) and industry sides. A face to face meeting with LOA had to be postponed due to the ongoing situation as it is difficult to have very technical discussions handled remotely.

In addition, the German colleagues (UBA) introduced the state of play of the work they have initiated on better understanding the transfer of constituents of concern through the value chain in case of intermediate uses. The project will look at around 50 PetCo substances with intermediate uses and the outcome will be discussed at a workshop foreseen to take place January-February 2021.

Consultant from Commission has launched a study on additivity of PAHs. The consultant in charge of the work (Wood) has introduced the work done so far which will be the basis for discussing whether additivity can be used to support the **classification and labelling** of substances.