Brief report from the 14th PBT EG meeting (Helsinki, 22-23 November 2016)

In total 28 participants were present in the meeting representing 16 Member States and EEA countries (AT, BE, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, LT, NL, NO, PT, SE, SI, SK, UK), the European Commission (GROW, ENV) and 5 accredited stakeholder organisations (CEFIC, CONCAWE, ECETOC, EEB, FOEN). Also several additional scientific advisors nominated by industry and Member States representatives attended the meeting.

Six substances were on the meeting agenda. Five were discussed in open session, one in closed session. One further substance had been commented in written consultation between the 13th and the 14th meeting.

- Two CoRAP-2016 UVCB-substances (Phenol, dodecyl-, sulfurized, calcium salts (EC 272-486-4) and Phenol, 4-methyl-, reaction products with dicyclopentadiene and isobutylene (EC 271-867-2)) discussed had been extremely complex to assess and it will be challenging to define the testing strategy and test materials. The PBT EG helped to clarify the next steps of the assessment and provided views on necessary tests and which fractions would seem to be the most appropriate to target for further work.

- Alcohols, lanolin (EC 232-430-1), a substance under assessment by SE was concluded as "not P/vP" and hence as "not PBT/vPvB".

- COM presented the draft POP-dossiers of two substances:
  - Octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane (D4) (EC 209-136-7) and
  - Methoxychlor (EC 200-779-9).

  With respect to D4, the discussion was limited to Long-range transport potential (LRTP) and potential for deposition; as for the P, B and T properties RAC and MSC already had drawn conclusions. One MS expert and three industry experts considered that it would be necessary to still explore further measured data in order to clarify whether the expected D4 long-range transported via air actually would deposit to soil or water. However, the majority of the PBT members agreed that the LRTP of D4 is of concern and that sufficient evidence was presented in the dossier in order to conclude on the LRTP of D4.

  For methoxychlor, COM proposed to identify the substance as a POP due to its PBT properties (concluded as P, vB and T) and its potential for long-range transport. The PBT EG supports the LRTP, B and T conclusion. For the P assessment, the substance seems to fulfil the P criteria. However, the PBT members agreed that further information on the available data is needed before concluding.

- For the biocide colecalciferol (EC 200-673-2; vitamin D3/SE), used as a rodenticide, further refinement of the assessment was suggested by several experts. For the B-assessment, the PBT EG considered that the current B-assessment approach does not address the specificities of endogenously formed organic substances. No consensus was reached on the conclusion for the B-assessment. Some experts considered that the data available on bioaccumulation would indicate that the substance is B or even vB whereas other experts were of the opinion that the whole PBT/vPvB concept was not applicable to endogenous substances. ECHA pointed out that PBT/vPvB assessment is an obligation for biocides and registered substances ≥ 10 tpa with the exception of inorganic substances. The recommendations made by the group on the P and B properties will be implemented by the evaluating Member State and the substance will be further discussed and conclusions drawn at the Biocidal Product Committee (BPC) and its Working Groups.

ECHA presented their initial proposals for a future screening strategy for identifying substances with potential PBT/vPvB concern. It was highlighted that new strategies will be needed in future to find in general good candidates substances for further work. One way forward proposed by ECHA for example is to look more at groups of structurally similar

substances together. This was welcomed by the members and further discussion will follow in 2017, also in light of the experience gained with the groups of substances proposed to be screened on the Round 4 short list recently uploaded on CIRCABC Screening interest Group for Member States.

ECETOC provided an overview of on-going projects related to PBT-assessment and to the list of approach development topics of the PBT EG. It can be inferred that current activities of ECETOC, individual Member States and ECHA seem to indicate similar understanding of priorities and appear to complement each other well. Finalisation of the prioritisation of topics on the PBT EG list will be carried out at the beginning of 2017, as a common task.

Substances discussed in the 14th meeting:

EC number	**Substance**	**Authority**
272-486-4	Phenol, dodecyl-, sulfurized, calcium salts *(CoRAP 2016)*	FR
271-867-2	Phenol, 4-methyl-, reaction products with dicyclopentadiene and isobutylene *(CoRAP 2016)*	ES
232-430-1	Alcohols, lanolin	SE
200-779-9	Methoxychlor	COM
200-673-2	Colecalciferol *(biocide)*	SE
209-137-7	Octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane (D4)	COM