

## **PETCO WG 13th meeting notes (Helsinki 4 and 5 November 2019)**

30 external participants attended the meeting representing 7 Member States (BE, DE, DK, ES, FR (webex), LT, NL (webex), SE (webex)), 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), and the European Re-refining Industry Association (GEIR) as observers).

The first half day of the meeting was dedicated to the CA session (Member States and Commission) which aimed mainly at preparing for the open session. In addition discussion was initiated on the future of the PetCo work and what would be the next steps for authorities to focus on. This will be further discussed at the RiME+1/2020 meeting with a view to bring to CARACAL in March some proposals. All Member States agreed that there is a need to continue the work initiated with the block approach and in particular to test the approach with the preparation of an Annex XV SVHC dossier on the hydrocarbon block discussed at the PBT EG (3-ring PAHs and their alkylated derivatives (C14-18)). Some Member States wondered whether there would be an easier way to progress as the work on hydrocarbon blocks requires quite a lot of resources. However so far no alternative approaches have been proposed by the group. Concawe has reiterated their disagreement with the outcome of the PBT EG conclusions on the 3-ring PAHs and their alkylated derivatives (C14-C18).

The other consortia have also updated the group on progress with their own PBT assessment. More discussion is foreseen at the next PetCo meeting.

Regarding **analytical**, Concawe presented part of their new analytical strategy for which further clarification needs still to be provided.

On the **human health** side, Authorities support the approach taken and work carried out by ECHA together with industry in progressing hazard evaluation for several categories with regard to human health issues. It was clarified that ECHA is providing considerable support to industry to support category approaches, with a view to obtaining optimal testing strategies and testing proposals. Industry has engaged in the process and learnings from the decision making process will be collected and applied on future categories.

Commission updated the group on the latest development regarding the **classification** questions brought to CARACAL in November 2018 (applicability of mixture rules, conditional classification and additivity in classification). A proposal to update the conditional classifications has been made at the CARACAL of June 2018. On additivity a contract has been launched by Commission in order to better understand the additivity of PAHs. The outcome of this work will be brought to RAC with the aim to get a scientific opinion on the possibility to use additivity for CMR properties of PAHs.

ECHA updated the **PetCo inventory** and shared it with the group. The focus of the group is on petroleum and coal stream UVCBs, however the scope has been widened to all UVCBs for which similar challenges with the assessment can be expected (e.g. petroleum substances co-processed with renewable hydrocarbons, hydrocarbons of plastic/waste rubber origin, Fischer-Tropsch streams, etc.).