

21 December 2022

PetCo working group 19 meeting notes (Helsinki, 8 November 2022) Hybrid meeting

The 19th PETCO WG meeting took place on 8 November 2022 in Helsinki.

33 external participants attended the meeting on site and remotely representing 5 Member States (DE, ES, PL, NL, DK) and 5 industry organisations and consortia (Concawe, CEFIC Coal Chemicals Sector Group (CCSG), REACH for Coal Chemicals (R4CC), Lower Olefins and Aromatics (LOA), HydroCarbon Solvents (HCSC)).

The focus of the meeting was to discuss **progress with stakeholders from both human health and environmental hazard assessment**. Stakeholders provided an update of their work and brought also specific questions related to petroleum substances. Several testing strategies focus on proposing testing on constituents from an environment perspective. ECHA suggested the need to have further reflections on how to extrapolate such information on constituents to the substance and how to consider such information to support read across/category approaches. In view of the need to generate hazard information, ECHA will develop and discuss together with consortia a timetable for addressing outstanding categories in future meetings.

Several questions were brought also on how to demonstrate similarity and the level of information on the composition needed to support the **read across**. Clarification on some elements of the guidance developed by ECHA providing advice on read across was provided and welcomed.

In the context of the **restriction roadmap** a consultant working for ECHA introduced their work on gathering more detailed information on the uses of the substances supported by Concawe. Stakeholders asked for clarifications why such work is ongoing including on substances not considered hazardous. ECHA clarified that petroleum substances have been included in the restriction roadmap (pool 2) for which further investigation work needs to be done before moving to restriction. ECHA also clarified that at this point the work on clarifying some of the hazards of petroleum substances is still ongoing in the context of the PetCo working group and for that reason the scope of the study is not limited to those already known hazardous petroleum substances. The focus is in general on understanding the uses of those substances. Some confusion remained concerning the identification of the substances and the origin of some data reported. Some suggestions were made on how to progress on clarifying the uses with the consortia. Consortia were asked to propose ideas to better support the analysis of uses before the end of the year.