

PetCo working group 21st meeting notes (Helsinki, 7 November 2023)

Hybrid meeting

The 21st PETCO WG meeting took place in Helsinki on 7 November 2023.

24 participants attended the meeting representing 4 Member States (DE, ES, PL, DK) and 4 industry organisations (Concawe, REACH for Coal Chemicals (R4CC) also acting on behalf of the Cefic sector group “Coal Chemicals Europe (CCE), Lower Olefins and Aromatics (LOA), HydroCarbon Solvents Consortium (HCSC)).

ECHA provided an update of which substances are covered under the work of the PetCo working group. PetCo relevant substances are registered UVCB substances of crude oil or coal origin or of alternative sources. Most of the substances covered are supported by one of the invited consortia i.e. Concawe, HCSC, LOA or R4CC. However, some substances (so called orphans) are not.

ECHA provided some reflections and feedback from the testing proposal experience and discussion so far and on the need to receive dossiers that are sufficiently clear enough to go through the testing proposal evaluation process. Discussion was continued on the need to generate compliant information for all dossiers in a timely manner, and the amount of information which is required to substantiate a grouping and read-across adaptation in a Testing Strategy.

Stakeholders brought an update on their progress in addressing both **human health and environmental hazard (including PBT) assessment**. Testing strategies are under development and timelines have been provided. Some more technical discussion in particular related to the PBT assessment of petroleum substances will be brought by Concawe at the next PBT EG (21-22 November).

In the context of the **restriction roadmap, 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 had meetings with the different consortia to exchange and gather some more information focusing on the uses of those substances. ECHA provided an overview of the information being considered and what are foreseen next steps before deciding on any regulatory action on the substances.