

9 December 2021

## **Minority opinion of the German Competent Authority (CA) on the proposal for approval of ADBAC/BKC in PT2**

The German CA does not support the approval proposal presented in the opinion of ADBAC/BKC in PT 2, since the environmental risk assessment being based on the combined tonnage-based approach for both applicants shows a risk quotient of  $>1$  for the soil compartment. The German CA is of the opinion that the arguments presented by the eCA IT are not suitable to admit the unacceptable risk in the soil compartment for the following reasons:

Since it was considered legally possible and therefore requested by the BPC Working Group Environment that the tonnage of both applicants is added up and evaluated in a combined risk assessment approach, the consumption-based approach showing lower risks for each applicant cannot be used as basis for the decision on approval anymore. In PT 2, the decision on a safe use is always based on the more conservative approach (either consumption-based or tonnage-based).

Substance properties are taken into account in the risk assessment independent of the approach chosen, starting from the entry of the substance into the sewage treatment plant (STP). Currently, only for fast reacting substances retention time in the sewer is considered relevant for the assessment. Even though ADBAC/BKC is considered readily biodegradable, it does not count as one of these fast reacting substances.

It may be possible that some substance absorbs in the sewer to larger particles, which are removed afterwards in the mechanical treatment of the STP. This may reduce the ADBAC/BKC amount entering the subsequent biological treatment. However, this effect is not quantifiable and has not been taken into account so far in the environmental risk assessment. In addition, there are other aspects indicating that the amount of ADBAC/BKC reaching the STP and the environment may even increase in future, e.g. tonnage may increase or degradation rate in STP can decline in case of high continuous inputs.

Furthermore, the substance specific properties (readily biodegradable, absorptive or non-persistent) are considered in the presented model calculations, but this does not reduce the environmental emissions to soil to an extent that no unacceptable risk is identified.