

## **PETCO WG 10<sup>th</sup> meeting notes (Helsinki 6 June).**

23 external participants attended the meeting representing 7 Member States (BE, DE, DK, EE, FR, NL and PL), the European Commission (DG GROW and DG ENV) and 6 accredited stakeholders organisations (Concawe, CEFIC Coal Chemicals Sector Group (CCSG), Lower Olefins and Aromatics (LOA), Higher Olefins & Poly Alpha Olefins (HOPA) and Hydrocarbons Solvents REACH consortium (HCSC), Association European Candle Makers (AECM).

The main discussion topics were related to i) further development of the environmental hazard assessment approach in preparation of the PBT EG meetings in the autumn, ii) the classification of UVCB substances, including petroleum and coal substances, and iii) the prioritisation of hydrocarbon solvents.

On the environmental hazard assessment a discussion paper has been developed and will be further discussed at the PBT EG meetings in September and October. The main aim is to discuss with the PBT experts the constituent block approach and issues in relation to the homogeneity of blocks. Uncertainties associated with the use of the block approach for hazard assessment have to be described by the PBT experts in order to facilitate later discussion at the policy level on acceptance of these uncertainties.

Rules for classification of UVCB/complex substances were discussed and in particular, the issue of applying the rules for mixtures to UVCBs for CMR, degradation and bioaccumulation properties. Recent court cases have supported the treatment of UVCBs as mixtures in certain circumstances. It was agreed that further discussion is needed with stakeholders on whether constituents of concern can be the basis for classification of a substance as CMR. Any new testing should be defined so that the results can be used for classification and labelling, PBT assessment and risk assessment.

A proposal on how to prioritise hydrocarbon solvents based on hazard information has been discussed. Prioritisation is possible based on currently available information on composition and the naming convention of the substances, however this information may not be enough to enable the hazard assessment.

### Back to back meeting with PetCO Member States, ECHA and Commission (7 June)

The focus of this day was to further develop and document the authorities' understanding on how to regulate PetCo substances in an effective and proportionate manner. After discussion in February and at this meeting there is common understanding on the main issues and there are suggestions on how to move forward with those substances. One clear outcome of these discussions is the recognition that the way the current CLP Annex VI entries of petroleum substances are formulated may not be optimal and further reflection will be initiated. The next step is to further elaborate and consolidate the current views and prepare for further discussion involving all member states.