

## Summary report of the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of ECHA's Nanomaterials Expert Group (NMEG-17)

ECHA organised the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Nanomaterials Expert Group (NMEG-17) on 19 April 2023, remotely using Webex Legislate.

The meeting hosted 41 external registered participants, including 21 MSCA experts representing 14 EU Member States<sup>1</sup>, Norway, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the European Commission (DG ENV and JRC) and 10 accredited stakeholder organisations<sup>2</sup>.

### A. Closed session

The closed session was dedicated to Regulatory case discussion:

**A1.** ECHA provided an **Update on current ECHA nano activities**: REACH Annex-VI targeted compliance checks on TiO<sub>2</sub>, SAS and MWCNT are at different stages of decision making (none of them is publicly available yet) ; two REACH substance evaluations are ongoing on substances containing nanoforms: links to decisions on [Zinc Oxide](#) and on [Titanium Dioxide](#).

**A2.** DE-CA made a presentation on the ongoing **REACH substance evaluation on Zinc Oxide**, where data were requested for environmental endpoints (transformation, dissolution and dispersion stability/OECD 318; Growth Inhibition Test/OECD 201; Long-term toxicity on invertebrates/OECD 211), human health endpoints (Repeated dose toxicity study via inhalation/OECD 413 combined with Reproductive toxicity screening test/OECD 421; Comet assay via inhalation/OECD 489). The evaluation of the data provided by the registrants is not yet finalised.

**A3.** NL-CA showed a few slides to illustrate the wide variety of **graphene and 2D materials** and to support a short discussion on **how to approach** such substances. Reference was made to the 19 parameters<sup>3</sup> relevant to describe graphene for characterisation and to the recent EUON report 'Assessment of the potential impact of graphene, graphene oxide and other 2D materials on health, and the environment'<sup>4</sup> to show that large variability can occur in potential impact of such materials.

### B. Open session

**B1.** ECHA made a **summary for the accredited stakeholders** on the (non-confidential) main points of the discussion held in the closed session.

**B2.** The **update on ECHA activities** briefly presented the numbers on registered substances in nanoform, the update on the [EUON](#) achievements, the ongoing [guidance](#) work, and the status of nanomaterials under BPR. For information, as of 31 March 2023, 167 substances registered under REACH contain nanoforms and there were 795 registrations with nano information. It was agreed that, in future meetings, ECHA could present the outcome of an EUON project in case a specific interest would be expressed by NMEG members and/or observers.

**B3.** An expert from Fraunhofer Institute (DE) described **How to use the Hyalella bioconcentration test (NanoHybit)** for the testing of nanomaterials **bioaccumulation**. The presenter also explained the proposed alternative strategy for bioaccumulation assessment, to reduce vertebrate testing.

**B4.** Some recommendations for **Ecotoxicity testing of NMs in sediment** and elements for improved guidance on sediment toxicity, based on the analysis of available relevant scientific literature, were presented by a researcher from Roskilde University (DK).

<sup>1</sup> AT, BE, CZ, DE, ES, FI, FR, IT, LT, NL, PL, PT, RO and SE.

<sup>2</sup> CEFIC, Eurometaux, ECETOC, Eurocolour, NIA, EEB, Eurogroup for Animals, PSCI, EUROTOX and Ecopa.

<sup>3</sup> [www.thegraphenecouncil.org/page/GCF](http://www.thegraphenecouncil.org/page/GCF)

<sup>4</sup> [https://euon.echa.europa.eu/documents/2435000/3268573/echa\\_2021\\_286\\_graphene\\_study.pdf/](https://euon.echa.europa.eu/documents/2435000/3268573/echa_2021_286_graphene_study.pdf/)

**B5.** A CEFIC expert made a general presentation on the **challenges** they face for **grouping titanium dioxide forms**, in view of consistency across different regulatory areas and one substance one assessment.

**B6.** Experts from Eurometaux and ECETOC explained the **industry's perspective** on the **results and lessons learned from the Substance Evaluation on Zinc Oxide**.

More information about this meeting (and previous ones) can be found on the [NMEG webpage](#).

The next meeting (NMEG-18) is planned to take place on 20-21 November 2023.

**Substance discussed at the 17<sup>th</sup> NMEG meeting:**

<b>EC number</b>	<b>Substance name</b>	<b>Regulatory Process</b>	<b>Session</b>
215-222-5	Zinc oxide	REACH Substance Evaluation (after submission of data)	Closed and Open