

EU Monitoring Report

18 - 25 February 2021

CONTENTS

CHEMICALS	3
➤ REACH	3
• Evaluation activities sped up by assessing chemicals in groups	3
• Minutes of the 44th meeting of the Coordination Group (25 – 26 November 2020)	3
• Publication of working documents for the 38 th Meeting of Competent Authorities for REACH and CLP (CARACAL) (3 – 4 March 2021)	3
• Minutes of the 72 nd Meeting of the Member State Committee (8-10 Dec 2020)	4
• Minutes of the 49 th Meeting of the Committee for Socio-economic Analysis (30 Nov – 4 Dec 2020 and 8 – 10 Dec 2020).....	4
➤ Biocides	4
• Updated draft agenda of the upcoming Meeting of the Biocidal Products Committee (BPC) (2–5 March 2021)	4
• Treated Articles: List of allowed substances (Article 94 list) updated.....	4
• Summary of product characteristics for a biocidal product - Algaecide treatment of water of swimming pools	5
• Article 95 has been updated and includes new suppliers of biocides	6
• Available working documents for the 91 st meeting of Competent Authorities for the implementation of Regulation on biocidal products (10-11 March).....	6
➤ Industry	7
• 2021 Facts and Figures of the European Chemical Industry	7
➤ Other	7
• Call for applications – Expert group on Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability	7
SUSTAINABILITY.....	8
➤ Environment.....	8
• Draft Agenda of the 17th Plenary Meeting of the Scientific Committees on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER) (3-4 March 2021)	8
➤ Climate	8
• EU Climate Adaptation Strategy adopted.....	8
➤ Energy	9

• Consultation on Energy efficiency – Revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.....	9
➤ Construction.....	9
• Discussion in EU Parliament on the marketing of construction products.....	9
• Standards for Construction Products: Assessment of release of dangerous substances.....	10
➤ Circular Economy	10
• Study on quality standards for the treatment of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE).....	10
• Huge market potential in removing substances of concern from circular economy	11
➤ Water	11
• Standards for Water supply and for plastics piping and ducting systems	11

CHEMICALS

➤ REACH

- Evaluation activities sped up by assessing chemicals in groups

Source: [ECHA](#)

Checking similar chemicals in groups helps ECHA to select substances more efficiently for assessment. In 2020, ECHA checked 1 900 substances and conducted 271 compliance checks addressing 258 substances in 240 draft decisions. This led to 1 365 requests to generate information for clarifying the long-term effects on human health or the environment. ECHA also examined 130 proposals from industry to carry out further testing on their chemicals.

Substance evaluation is done by Member States to clarify if the use of a substance poses risks to people or the environment. In 2020, clearer drafting of the decisions and work in expert groups resulted in faster decision-making. ECHA adopted 18 substance evaluation decisions, requesting further information to assess the safety of substances of potential concern. Member States further concluded the assessment of 13 substances indicating a need for further regulatory follow-up action at EU level.

To increase transparency, ECHA also publishes for the first time a list of the substances evaluated in 2020. The list includes full details on the information requests that have been issued to companies as part of ECHA's decisions.

- Minutes of the 44th meeting of the Coordination Group (25 – 26 November 2020)

Source: [ECHA](#)

A referral was discussed concerning a PT2 product containing hydrogen peroxide as an active substance. A point of disagreement was related to the product family's classification for the hazard class Metal Corrosion. MSs found an agreement for the point of disagreement. Another point of disagreement was related to the product family's classification for hazard class Oxidising liquid. For the latter point, Article 36 of the BPR was triggered.

- Publication of working documents for the 38th Meeting of Competent Authorities for REACH and CLP (CARACAL) (3 – 4 March 2021)

Source: European Commission

You can access the full agenda [HERE](#).

The following work documents and information points for the meeting are also available:

- List of entries to be included in Annex VI of CLP (RAC opinions 2020 - preparation for 18th ATP) can be found [HERE](#);
- Completeness check of chemical safety reports can be found [HERE](#);

- MISA 3-year progress review can be found [HERE](#);
 - Update on the end of the transition period of the UK withdrawal from the EU can be found [HERE](#);
 - Update by the Commission from the 2nd CASG-polymers meeting and outlook on next steps can be found [HERE](#).
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- Minutes of the 72nd Meeting of the Member State Committee (8-10 Dec 2020)
Source: [ECHA](#)

The Minutes includes items on: Substance evaluation; SVHC identification; ECHA's recommendations of priority substances to be included in Annex XIV and opinion of MSC.

- Minutes of the 49th Meeting of the Committee for Socio-economic Analysis (30 Nov – 4 Dec 2020 and 8 – 10 Dec 2020)
Source: [ECHA](#)

The Minutes includes items on: Microplastics; Revision of derogations from proposed restrictions on PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related substances; European Commission presentation of the EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability.

➤ Biocides

- Updated draft agenda of the upcoming Meeting of the Biocidal Products Committee (BPC) (2– 5 March 2021)
Source: [ECHA](#)

The Biocidal Products Committee (BPC) prepares the opinions of ECHA related to several BPR processes, such as applications for approval and renewal of active substances or identification of active substances which are candidates for substitution. The final decisions are taken by the European Commission.

As already mentioned in the EU Monitoring Report of 28 Jan – 4 Feb, the agenda meeting shows that the BPC will put to adoption draft opinions on Union authorisations for biocidal products (i.e., biocidal products family containing paracetic acid).

The subject “Revision of working procedure for active substance approval” is no longer on the agenda for discussion and agreement.

- Treated Articles: List of allowed substances (Article 94 list) updated
Source: [ECHA](#)

ECHA has updated the list of substance-product type combinations that can be used in treated articles. The following substances are mentioned:

- Active bromine generated from sodium bromide and chlorine
- Active chlorine generated from chloride of ambient water by electrolysis
- Active chlorine generated from magnesium chloride hexahydrate and potassium chloride by electrolysis
- Active chlorine generated from seawater (sodium chloride) by electrolysis
- Active chlorine generated from sodium chloride and pentapotassium bis(peroxymonosulphate)bis(sulphate)
- Active chlorine generated from sodium chloride by electrolysis
- Active chlorine generated from sodium N- chlorosulfamate
- Active chlorine released from calcium hypochlorite
- Active chlorine released from chlorine
- Active chlorine released from sodium hypochlorite
- Chlorine dioxide
- Chlorine dioxide (Redefined from Chlorine dioxide generated from sodium chlorite and sodium persulfate)
- Chlorine dioxide generated from sodium chlorate and hydrogen peroxide in the presence of a strong acid
- chlorine dioxide generated from sodium chloride by electrolysis
- Chlorine dioxide generated from sodium chlorite and sodium bisulphate
- Chlorine dioxide generated from sodium chlorite by acidification
- Chlorine dioxide generated from sodium chlorite by oxidation
- Chlorine dioxide generated from Tetrachlorodecaoxide complex (TCDO) by acidification
- **Summary of product characteristics for a biocidal product - Algaecide treatment of water of swimming pools**

Source: [ECHA](#)

ECHA has published a summary of product characteristics for biocidal product under the name: LO-CHLOR POOL ALGAECIDE.2

- Article 95 has been updated and includes new suppliers of biocides

Source: [ECHA](#)

As a reminder, ECHA is responsible for the publication of the list of relevant substances and the respective substance and product suppliers, in accordance with Article 95 of the Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR). The purpose of this list is to "ensure the equal treatment of persons placing active substances on the market".

The following changes occurred:

- Active chlorine generated from sodium chloride by electrolysis for PT11 submitted by Deutsche NovoChem GmbH & Co.KG
- Available working documents for the 91st meeting of Competent Authorities for the implementation of Regulation on biocidal products (10-11 March)

Source: European Commission

As already mentioned in the previous EU Monitoring Report, You can find the full agenda of the meeting [HERE](#).

More work documents for the meeting are now accessible:

- “Authorisation of “Same biocidal products” – legal nature and consequences” can be found [HERE](#);
- “Proposal to bridge the endocrine disruptor (ED) assessment of biocidal non-active substances with REACH screening and assessment can be found [HERE](#);
- Presentation of the Biocides Industry Association, “Biocides for Europe” can be found [HERE](#);
- New “Template for information to be provided by the Member States for future reporting under Art. 65 of REACH Directive (Due from 2025 on)” can be found [HERE](#);
- Draft Note for agreement on the “Categorisation of an active substance containing an impurity identified as an endocrine disruptor” can be found [HERE](#);
- Draft Note on the “Categorisation of an active substance leading to a disinfection by-product considered as having endocrine-disrupting properties” can be found [HERE](#);
- Draft note on the “Categorisation of a biocidal product containing a non-active substance meeting the criteria for being PBT or vPvB” can be found [HERE](#);
- Draft note on the “Approach on providing information in public documents on non-active substances with indications of endocrine-disrupting properties” can be found [HERE](#).

➤ Industry

- 2021 Facts and Figures of the European Chemical Industry

Source: [CEFIC](#)

Cefic, the main European trade association for the chemical industry, released a publication of facts and figures describing the current situation of the European chemical industry as a whole and at the global level.

➤ Other

- Call for applications – Expert group on Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

Source: [OSHA](#)

In association with other relevant Directorates-General of the European Commission, DG Environment calls for applications to select members for the expert group High-Level Roundtable on implementation of the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability.

The expert group's mission is to set the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability objectives and monitor its implementation in dialogue with the stakeholders concerned.

Interested organisations are invited to submit their application before 18 March 2021.

SUSTAINABILITY

➤ Environment

- Draft Agenda of the 17th Plenary Meeting of the Scientific Committees on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER) (3-4 March 2021)

Source: [European Commission](#)

Relevant points on the Agenda are:

- Request for a scientific opinion on draft environmental quality standards for Priority Substances under the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)
- Request for a scientific opinion on “Zero Pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment”

➤ Climate

- EU Climate Adaptation Strategy adopted

Source: [Eureau](#)

The European Federation of National Associations of Water Services (EurEau) reacted to the adoption of the EU Climate Adaptation Strategy, one of the pillars of the European Green Deal.

The protection of water resources is one of the priorities listed by the Strategy. The Strategy proposes a series of measures to address the impacts of climate change on the quantity and quality of water resources. EurEau points out the actions that the European Commission will take regards to water use:

- To reduce water use, "the Commission will promote a wider use of drought management plans, measures to increase the water retention capacity of soils and safe water reuse".
- The Commission and Member States must promote the transition to water-saving technologies and practices by setting a price that correctly reflects the value of water. This can be achieved by promoting instruments such as water resource allocation, water-permitting systems and by incorporating environmental externalities.
- There is a specific acknowledgement that climate change also threatens water quality.

You can read more about the EU Climate Adaptation Strategy [HERE](#).

➤ Energy

- Consultation on Energy efficiency – Revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

Source: [European Commission](#)

In 2020, the Commission presented its ‘Renovation Wave’ strategy to boost energy renovation of buildings in the EU. This strategy contains an action plan with: regulatory, financing and enabling measures; and the goal of at least doubling the annual energy renovation rate of buildings by 2030.

This goal requires a revision of the relevant EU legal act, the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. The revision will focus on provisions that are central to boosting building renovation.

The roadmap is open for feedback until 22 March 2021.

➤ Construction

- Discussion in EU Parliament on the marketing of construction products

Source: [European Parliament](#)

The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) adopted the report by Christian DOLESCHAL (EPP, DE) on the implementation of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR).

The purpose of the CPR is to remove technical barriers to trade in construction products to enhance their free movement in the internal market. Members of the IMCO Committee welcomed the Commission’s CPR evaluation and ongoing review, which seek to further address barriers in the internal market for construction products and contribute to the objectives of the European Green Deal and the Circular Economy Action Plan, while taking account of technological developments and innovation.

The CPR defines a common technical language, which is the same for all construction products falling under the CPR, for assessing the performance of construction products over their essential characteristics, laid down in harmonised technical specifications. Members pointed out that unlike other new legislative framework legislation, the use of harmonised standards under the CPR is mandatory to ensure legal clarity and a level playing field for SMEs and meet the regulatory needs of the Member States.

The Commission is called on to ensure the active involvement of the industry and relevant stakeholders to ensure that new standards are as relevant as possible. A common technical language could help to promote a circular economy as it enables the performance of construction products to be declared in a common manner.

Market surveillance for construction products is seen as insufficient and ineffective by the industry. Therefore, the report called on Member States to fully implement Regulation (EU) 2019/1020, which aims to strengthen the market surveillance of products covered by EU

harmonisation legislation, including the CPR, and establishes the framework for cooperation with economic operators. Consistent, harmonised and uniform enforcement of new rules by the national market surveillance authorities and for enhanced cross-border cooperation is needed to ensure a level playing field in the construction sector and fair competition in the EU market.

Members stressed the need to improve the sustainability of construction products and the availability of secondary and renewable products and materials on the market. In this regard, the Commission is called on to:

- incorporate certain requirements regarding environmental performance and sustainability criteria across the lifecycle of products into the harmonised standards for specific product categories under the CPR;
- assess how the CPR could support the circularity of construction products, including reused or remanufactured products or those manufactured from recycled materials.

The report will be discussed in plenary session on March 8th.

- Standards for Construction Products: Assessment of release of dangerous substances

Source: [European Committee for Standardisation](#)

As a reminder, the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) is one of three European Standardization Organizations (together with CENELEC and ETSI) that have been officially recognized by the European Union and by the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) as being responsible for developing and defining voluntary standards at European level.

The Terminology of the European Standard on the Assessment of release of dangerous substances for Construction products is currently under drafting. This European Standard defines terms used in the field of the assessment of the release, and the content, of dangerous substances from / in construction products. The terms are classified under the following main headings: - Terms related to products and substances (general; soil, groundwater and surface water; indoor air); - Terms related to sampling and sample preparation; - Terms related to test procedures and test results (general; soil, groundwater and surface water; indoor air, radiation).

➤ Circular Economy

- Study on quality standards for the treatment of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)

Source: [European Commission](#)

The Commission requested the development of European standards for the treatment of WEEE, which were subsequently developed and published by CENELEC.

This study supports the Commission in view of possible action to follow-up by providing related recommendations. Based on an analysis of the environmental, economic, health and social impacts of setting additional treatment requirements under EU WEEE legislation and the analysis of the situation in the Member States, a proposal with key elements of additional minimum treatment requirements for WEEE was elaborated.

- Huge market potential in removing substances of concern from circular economy

Source: [ChemSec](#)

The phase-out of substances of concern from new materials would entail billions of Euros in business opportunities. We need to recycle more, but have to consider chemical safety alongside increased recycling rates. And the presence of hazardous chemicals in recycled materials prevents the upscaling of circular economy.

The article presents the key findings of the report “What goes around”, addressing the importance of a circular economy free from substances of concern, made by non-profit NGO ChemSec.

➤ Water

- Standards for Water supply and for plastics piping and ducting systems

Source: European Committee for Standardisation

As a reminder, the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) is one of three European Standardization Organizations (together with CENELEC and ETSI) that have been officially recognized by the European Union and by the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) as being responsible for developing and defining voluntary standards at European level.

CEN is working on different documents in order to apply standards to piping systems and ducting system. The documents are at different stages of the process:

- Under approval: [Plastics piping systems for pressure and non-pressure water supply, drainage or sewerage - Glass-reinforced thermosetting plastics \(GRP\) systems based on unsaturated polyester \(UP\) resin](#)

This document specifies the properties of piping system components made from glass-reinforced thermosetting plastics (GRP) based on unsaturated polyester resin (UP). It is suited for all types of water supply, drainage and sewerage with or without pressure. Types of water supply include, but are not limited to, raw water, irrigation, cooling water, potable water, salt water, sea water, penstocks in power plants, processing plants and other water-based applications. This document is applicable to GRP UP piping systems, with flexible or rigid joints with or without end thrust load-bearing capability, primarily intended for use in direct buried installations.

CEN is also currently drafting the [Requirements for water supply systems and components outside buildings](#). This standard comprises:

- general requirements for water supply systems outside buildings including potable water mains and service pipes, service reservoirs, other facilities and raw water mains but excluding treatment works and water resources development;
- general requirements for components;
- general requirements for inclusion in product standards which may include specifications which are more stringent;
- requirements for installation, site testing and commissioning.