EU Monitoring Report

04 - 11 February 2021

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This Monitoring Report contains information retrieved by AliénorEU during our weekly monitoring of relevant sources for EUSA. We accompany each new item either with excerpts or summaries, when more context is deemed necessary, or both. This document is confidential and, destined for EUSA and its members only, and should not be made publicly available.

CHEMICALS

➢ REACH

- **Draft agenda for 45th meeting of the Coordination Group (16-17 February 2021)**

  Source: European Chemicals Agency

The meeting will discuss mutual recognition disagreement and harmonisation of technical and regulatory issues in relation to product.

- **Draft agenda for 56th meeting of the Committee for Risk Assessment (8-11 March and 15-19 March 2021)**

  Source: European Chemicals Agency

Relevant points at the agenda:

- Microplastics - infill material and 'inorganic polymers'
- applications for authorisation/review reports (DEHP)

- **Updated Guidance on the preparation of an application for authorisation**

  Source: European Chemicals Agency

The updated How to apply for authorisation guide reflects the changes made to the guidance on applications for authorisation, which was published in January. It explains how applicants are required to include a substitution plan in their applications if the analysis of alternatives shows that suitable alternatives are available in the EU.

➢ Biocides

- **Biocidal Products Committee Work programme for BPC 2020-2021 for active substance approvals**

  Source: European Chemicals Agency

This document presents the work programme of the BPC constituting the rolling agenda for the WG and BPC meetings in 2020. The current version contains the status as of 28 January 2021.

No relevant addition for 2021.

- **Report of the BPR IT Users Group meeting (7 December 2020)**

    Source: European Chemicals Agency

The purpose of the meeting was to collect feedback from users of R4BP 3, SPC editor and IUCLID about the functionalities of the tools, inform them about the new features implemented and discuss with them future developments, issues and wishes for changes and new functionalities, in order to trigger a collaboration on the way forward.

- **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 released from hypochlorous acid (Redefined from Active Chlorine: manufactured by the reaction of hypochlorous acid and sodium hypochlorite produced in situ) for PT1, PT2, PT3, PT4 and PT5 submitted by Elements of Water GmbH i.G. and ITUVAL SL.

SUSTAINABILITY

➢ Energy

- **Standard for Thermal insulation products for building applications**

Source: <u>European Committee for Standardisation</u>

This European Standard specifies the equipment and procedure for determining the resistance to impact of design ETICS kit with renders.

➢ Plastic

- **Standards for Testing of welded joints of thermoplastics semi-finished products**

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.

<u>Part 2: Tensile test</u>

This document specifies the dimensions, the method of sampling, the preparation of the test specimens and the conditions for performing the tensile test in order to determine the short-term tensile welding factor. A tensile test can be used in conjunction with other tests (e.g. bend, tensile creep, macro) to assess the performance of welded assemblies, made from thermoplastics materials. The test is applicable to welded semi-finished products made from thermoplastics materials filled or unfilled, but not reinforced, irrespective of the welding process used.

<u>Part 8: Requirements</u>

This document provides the requirements for the tests made on welded thermoplastics semi-finished products. The selection of the appropriate test method(s) is made in accordance with the particular type and application of welded product. The test results depend on the conditions of manufacture for the test specimen and on the test conditions. They can therefore only be related to the behaviour of the product or can only be used for designing a structure, if the test conditions can be related to the service conditions.

- **EU green finance advisors asked to clarify 'transition' to net-zero climate goal**

    Source: [Euractiv](#)

The European Commission has asked advisors to rework the EU's green finance taxonomy rules after member states rejected draft implementing guidelines, unhappy about the exclusion of gas as a "transition" activity towards net-zero emissions.

You can access the article through the link above.

➢ Circular economy

- **Advanced digital technologies can play a crucial role in making Europe's waste management systems more circular and sustainable**

    Source: [European Environment Agency](#)

Uses of advanced digitalisation technologies in waste management and treatment are only just emerging across Europe. In a new briefing, the European Environment Agency shows that their use is crucial to help shift to circular and sustainable models of production, consumption and disposal. Digital technologies can also help citizens and companies understand the consequences of their own behaviour to then be able to contribute to prevent waste generation or facilitate recycling by separating more efficiently.

The full briefing can be found [HERE](#).

- **Preventing chemical pollution requires a new approach for designing safe and sustainable products**

    Source: [European Environment Agency](#)

The European Environment Agency published a briefing stating that it is possible to make products safer and more sustainable by assessing their performance at the design stage of product development. This approach would reduce risks from chemical pollution and support Europe's transition to a circular and low-carbon economy.

The full briefing can be found [HERE](#).

More information on the EU's chemicals strategy for sustainability can be found [HERE](#).

- **How the EU wants to achieve a circular economy by 2050**

Source: [European Parliament](#)

On Tuesday 9 February, the Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) adopted during the plenary sitting a series of ambitious proposals and called to introduce mandatory targets to reduce waste in the next EU Circular Economy Action Plan. It follows the adoption of the report in the EP's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, mentioned in last week's EU Monitoring Report.

As a reminder, the European Commission presented a Circular Economy Action Plan in March last year. The plan outlines 35 future initiatives and measures to take in order to cut waste and resource use in areas like buildings and electronic equipment, and to move towards more sustainable production and consumption patterns.

In the plenary debate, MEPs stressed that Europe can only meet its climate targets by shifting to a circular economy – saying the transition needs to happen by 2050 at the latest.

In the resolution, the MEPs urged the European Commission to set binding 2030 targets for materials use and consumption footprint of all products place on the EU market. Such binding targets were not included in the European Commission's proposal.

Moving to sustainable products

The lawmakers also back initiatives to fight planned obsolescence, improve the durability and reparability of products and to strengthen consumer rights with the right to repair. They insist consumers have the right to be properly informed about the environmental impact of the products and services they buy. They asked the Commission to make proposals to fight so-called greenwashing, when companies present themselves as being more environmentally-friendly than they really are.

Making crucial sectors circular

The Commission action plan sets down seven key areas essential to achieving a circular economy: plastics; textiles; e-waste; food, water and nutrients; packaging; batteries and vehicles; buildings and construction.

- Plastics

MEPs back the European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy, which would phase out the use of microplastics.

- Electronics and ICT

Electronic and electrical waste, or e-waste, is the fastest growing waste stream in the EU and less than 40% is recycled. MEPs want the EU to promote longer product life through reusability and reparability.

[…]

- Batteries and vehicles

MEPs are looking at proposals requiring the production and materials of all batteries on the EU market to have a low carbon footprint and respect human rights, social and ecological standards.

- Construction and buildings

Construction accounts for more than 35% of total EU waste. MEPs want to increase the lifespan of buildings, set reduction targets for the carbon footprint of materials and establish minimum requirements on resource and energy efficiency.

Ecodesign

MEPs called on the Commission to propose product-specific and/or sector-specific binding targets and standards for recycled for recycled materials to be incorporated into new products placed on the EU market.

Lawmakers also called on Commission to introduce legislation this year to broaden the scope of the eco-design directive to include non-energy products, ensuring those are designed to be more durable, easily repaired, upgraded and recycled. MEPs want the new rules to be in place in 2021.

[…]

You can find reactions of MEPs and relevant stakeholders on the adoption of the resolution in this Euractiv article.