

Environmental Social Governance Meeting Minutes

23.10.2024, 15.00 h (CEST) – Online Meeting

Participants:

Jerzy Badura – Anga
 Dennis Nahuijsen – Aegir Marine
 Andy Longdon – Ceetak
 Phil Mahoney – FSA - Chesterton
 John Morton – John Crane
 Garg Manish – John Crane
 Maja Rotar - Donit
 Vinay Tripurana – Flexitallic

Francesca Torriani – General Packing
 Massimiliano Borasso – MTU Group
 Daniel Craig Bissett – WL Gore
 Lidering
 David Edwin Scott – ESA
 Ralf Vogel- ESA
 Sandy Van den Broeck – ESA

1. **Apologies for absence**
 – Peter Bowden - ESA
2. **Approval Minutes of the last meeting – Teams meeting 25 September 2024 in Düsseldorf.**
3. **Update on PFAS – Sandy V.d. Broeck**

A table was shown outlining the current status of the evaluation and the RAC and SEAC committees' upcoming plans for assessing the potential impacts of the restriction across various sectors using PFAS.

Sector/Topic	RAC	SEAC
Hazards of PFAS (only RAC)	Discussion: September 2023, March 2024 Provisional conclusions: June 2024	N.A.
General approach to emissions estimation (including waste) (only RAC)	Discussion: June 2024, September 2024	N.A.
General approach to socio-economic analysis (only SEAC)	N.A.	Discussion: March 2024, June 2024 <i>SEAC discussions will continue later, timing to be confirmed.</i>
Consumer mixtures, cosmetics and ski wax	Discussion: March 2024 Provisional conclusions: June 2024	Discussion: March 2024 Provisional conclusions: June 2024
Metal plating	Discussion: June 2024 Provisional conclusions: June 2024	Discussion: June 2024 Provisional conclusions: June 2024
Petroleum and mining	Discussion: September 2024 Provisional conclusions: September 2024	Discussion: September 2024 Provisional conclusions: September 2024

Textiles, upholstery, leather, apparel, carpets (TULAC)	Discussion: September 2024, November 2024	Discussion: September 2024, November 2024
Food contact materials and packaging	Discussion: September 2024, November 2024	Discussion: September 2024, November 2024
Construction products	Discussion: <i>scheduled for November 2024</i>	Discussion: <i>scheduled for November 2024</i>
Applications of fluorinated gases	Discussion: <i>scheduled for upcoming meetings in 2025</i>	Discussion: <i>scheduled for upcoming meetings 2025</i>
Transport	Discussion: <i>scheduled for upcoming meetings in 2025</i>	Discussion: <i>scheduled for upcoming meetings in 2025</i>
Energy	Discussion: <i>scheduled for upcoming meetings in 2025</i>	Discussion: <i>scheduled for upcoming meetings in 2025</i>

This table will be updated with more sectors as the scientific evaluation work progresses.

The committees provisionally concluded on their evaluation of the petroleum and mining sector. Discussions on the other two sectors - TULAC and food contact material and packaging will continue in the November meetings.

The next sectors for discussion are scheduled for upcoming meetings in 2025:

Applications of fluorinated gases/Transport/ Energy.

As the work of the committees progresses, more sectors will be announced. The table will be updated accordingly.

The conclusions agreed at RAC and SEAC meetings are **provisional until the committees finalise the evaluation** of the entire restriction proposal (including all sectors of use) and adopt their opinions.

These opinions will then be communicated to the public.

The final decision on the restriction will be taken by the European Commission together with the EU Member States.

SVdB registered to attend the RAC stakeholder PFAS meeting 26th November – waiting for confirmation.

4. Standards & Legislations - Sandy V.d. Broeck

4.1 No update from EDW

4.2 EU Industrial Deal Declaration update

During the EU Industrial Summit on February 20, 2024, at the BASF plant in Antwerp, the EU Industrial Deal declaration was signed with several key objectives.

So far, **1285 organizations** from 25 sectors, 873 companies and 366 associations (**including ESA!**) and unions and 46 others have signed the declaration.

Sandy will try to attend Antwerp declaration meeting on 4th November.

4.3 ORGALIM

ORGALIM represents Europe’s technology industries, comprised of 770,000 companies that innovate at the crossroads of digital and physical technology. Their industries develop and manufacture the products, systems and services that enable a prosperous and sustainable future. Ranging from large globally active corporations to regionally SME’s, the companies represent directly 11.19 M people across Europe and generate an annual turnover of €2,906 billion.

Orgalim stresses the importance of clear legal framework to avoid misunderstandings affecting investment decisions and argue that the definition of “most harmful substances” should be in line

with the REACH, CLP Regulations and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Polluters (POPs) to ensure legal clarity.

We will keep on monitoring further progress.

5. Reducing Carbon footprints – Sandy V.d. Broeck

Plastics Reduction Initiative

SWG spacers

As it seems that Silicon and biodegradable alternatives are questionable and challenging when it comes to shelf life and recycling;

- Silicon and biodegradable alternatives cost up to 5x more and still need self-adhesive (plastic!) tape to keep them together
- Even biocompostable substitutes have limited shelf life between 6-8 months and also require this self-adhesive (plastic!) tape

Solutions:

- Eliminate the spacers completely (if accepted by customer) including the self-adhesive tape, as they are thrown away on site in a lot of cases anyway.
- Or replace spacers by thin glossy densified paper/carton.
- Smaller sizes can be stacked in cardboard tubes, already existing and widely used.
- Larger sizes are stacked by smaller number of gaskets or individual packed between cardboard.

Alternative for PE Plastic foil

Today the suitable alternatives for plastic wrapping foil will be a challenge to source/use as the shelf life and recycling process is not yet clearly defined or ways to be sorted/separated by many countries.

Actions:

SVdB has approached cardboard/paper associations (ECMA-EMMPA-FEFCO) /manufacturers in the search for other innovative ideas such as moulded cardboard spacers and flexible paper or other as sustainable alternative for plastic foil.

SVdB will attend the Greener Manufacturing Conference & Expo in Köln on 14th November 2024 in search for potential sustainable alternatives.

6. Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) and LCA - Sandy V.d. Broeck

To create a generic EPD for a group of products and their variants, questions arose regarding the management of the LCA, as it can be affected by factors such as different manufacturers, supply chains, and production processes. Or is it feasible to adopt a more streamlined approach for grouping these products?

The idea was to have a guest speaker from EPD today, however due to their stakeholder conference he couldn't attend to present an example on how to generate an EPD and answer relevant questions

Action: SVdB has invited EPD's guest speaker again to the next ESG meeting on 28th November and confirmed.

6b. EU Digital Product Passport (DPP)

A DPP is a digital record that provides detailed information about a product and its entire value chain. This includes data on the product's origin, the materials used in its production, its environmental impact, and guidelines for its proper disposal.

The DPP is a crucial element of the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR), which came into effect on July 18, 2024. The ESPR forms the foundation of the European Commission's strategy to create more environmentally sustainable and circular products.

While the DPP is not yet mandatory, it will soon be required for a variety of products. Beginning in 2024, the EU plans to adopt DPPs, with full implementation expected between 2026 and 2030.

These rules will apply across all 27 EU member states and will cover following product categories:

- Textiles (including garments and footwear)
- Furniture
- Chemicals
- Batteries
- Consumer electronics
- Electronic devices
- Construction materials

The overall goal of these sustainable product initiatives is to ensure that by 2030, a significant portion of products available to EU consumers will be designed for durability, energy and resource efficiency, reparability, and recyclability, with an emphasis on using recycled materials.

To be continued.

7. Careers Area and Young People Initiatives

7.1 Re-activating the "Young Minds" Initiative:

Thomas Klenk – at Mannheim University has been approached to see if we could support one of his DHBW students in a similar way, which could benefit ESA's project on Hydrogen.

Thomas Klenk has recommended one of his students currently employed by Wacker Chemie, however will not be involved in his lab, however another student who will start in September 2025 to perform tests at DHBW Laboratory could be beneficial for ESA.

If sufficient budget available, we might support both students.

Other ideas are more than welcome!

8. Any other business?

9. Date, time and venue of the next meeting - Thursday 28th November 2024 at 15.00 h (CET)

Sandy Van den Broeck 02.11.2024