

SOLUTIONS

Winter 2020



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Editorial



Dear reader,

It is my pleasure to feature as the introduction to this Winter Solutions Newsletter.

2020 has been an unexpected and challenging year for all of us and it is not over yet.

Like many other groups and companies, the European Solvents Industry Group (ESIG) has gone virtual and digital for events, meetings as well as its stakeholder outreach.

However, it makes me proud that we have been able to remain fully operational in these turbulent times. I would like to thank the ESIG Secretariat for its continuous support.

In this edition, you will find as usual reports about ESIG's main activities and the outlook on what to expect next from us. Should you wish to receive more information on any topic, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I wish all of you and your families a relaxing and happy end of the year.

With my best regards,

Rob Oades

ESIG chairman

ESIG STAKEHOLDER DAY “SOLVENTS & THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL”

ESIG will organise a series of stakeholder days on the European Green Deal. The very first event, in conjunction to the ESVOC, our downstream users co-operation platform annual meeting, will be devoted to the circularity and sustainability aspects of the Green Deal and the role of solvents in the societal and regulatory context. It will take place on 14th January 2021 from 14:30 to 16:00 CET.

Paola Migliorini, Deputy Head of Unit for “Sustainable Production, Products & Consumption” at DG Environment, will set the scene and provide the context and the bigger picture. The event will give an overview of how solvents are already contributing to circularity and sustainability and be the opportunity to exchange and discuss what more can be done to help reach our sustainability goals.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY



A second “Solvents and the Green Deal” Stakeholder Day day is planned in June 2021. It will focus on the Zero Pollution Ambition and Air Quality.

Should you wish to attend the Stakeholder Day and have not yet received an invitation, please contact the ESIG Secretariat at esig@cefic.be.

SOLVENTS@WORK CAMPAIGN

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, many events were cancelled or postponed in which ESIG intended to participate and present its Solvents@Work materials. This is why the ESIG Product Stewardship Team organised webinars to promote its posters, Best Practice Guidelines and films that encourage the safe handling of solvents. Over 200 people registered, of which 65% were from downstream user companies and associations.

ESIG experts were also invited to speak at several events organised by national Federations: in [Italy](#), [Belgium](#) and the Netherlands.

All Product Stewardship materials are available on the ESIG website. The printed versions of posters and Best Practice Guidelines can also be ordered in several EU languages via the ESIG Secretariat.



For further information, please find all the ESIG Solvents@Work materials [here](#) as well as the [flyer](#) summarising the ESIG tools. All films are also downloadable via the ESIG website.

Should you need the materials in any other language than the ones currently available, please contact esig@cefic.be.

ESIG SOLVENTS AWARD



As announced in the latest newsletter, the ESIG Solvents Award 2021 will be open for applications during Quarter 2/2021 – depending on the COVID situation. The ESIG Award aims at highlighting not only safe but also sustainable use of solvents with respect to health and safety, environmental improvements or product performance or any combination of these. In 2021, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, ESIG has decided to broaden the scope to initiatives which protect employees and public health or help provide critical supplies.

Applications are welcome from downstream users of solvents, including anyone involved in the distribution, formulation, storage or use of a solvent and includes their trade associations.

Candidates can apply easily online by filling in the form that will be available soon. So, watch out for it!

WHAT WILL YOU NEED TO SUBMIT?

A description of your project (2000 words maximum) detailing the following:

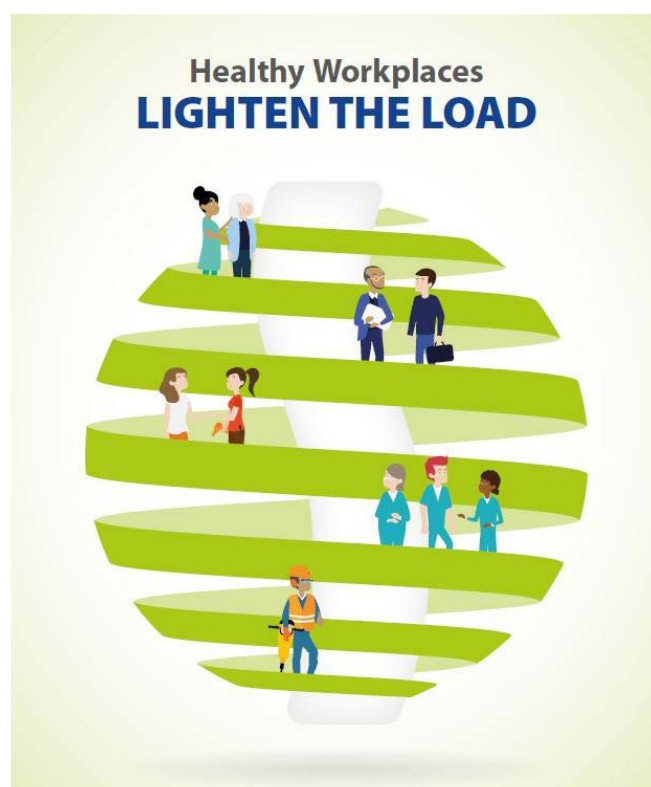
- your objectives
- what you achieved
- how you measured your performance
- how you communicated the benefits to your target audiences

Your application can also include any additional information on the project, such as photographs, videos, illustrations or charts. We look forward to receiving your contribution!

EU OSHA HEALTHY WORKPLACES CAMPAIGN

ESIG is happy to announce that we have applied again to be a campaign partner of the new EU OSHA Healthy Workplace Campaign. The 2020–22 campaign, called “Lighten the Load”, aims to raise awareness of work-related musculo-skeletal disorders (MSDs) and the need to manage them and promote a culture of risk prevention.

ESIG is committed to encouraging the exchange of information and good practices amongst its member companies and raise awareness by disseminating the EU-OSHA campaign’s materials to its stakeholders. If you want to know more, please consult the dedicated Healthy Workplace Campaign website. Amongst other things, you will find a database containing practical tools and guidance developed at EU and national level: www.healthy-workplaces.eu



NEXT GENERATION GES

ESIG exposure experts have worked throughout the year to improve the Generic Exposure Scenarios (GES). The goal is to create ESIG's own SWED (Specific Workers Exposure Descriptions) codes and align the available downstream user sector use maps to ESIG's own use maps. This will facilitate the tasks and decisions for risk assessors as well as the work of formulators who are required to create safe use information for their mixtures. To do so, ESIG use maps will be mapped to the ones of the downstream user sectors. Registrants will be able to use these GES SWEDs for their registration and as part of their communication.

ESIG GES experts align with the Cefic Exposure scenarios Network of Experts and ECHA staff as well main downstream user associations to put in place a smooth, workable and acceptable approach.

NEWS FROM OUR SECTORS

Life Cycle Analysis/Product Environmental Footprint

OSPA and HSPA members have been busy collecting life cycle data for several months. The data will be compiled into PEF compliant data sets by contractor Sphera. We have included three oxygenated solvents and three categories of hydrocarbon solvents which all have consumer end uses. This exercise is reaching the end for glycol ethers and butanol. It is still ongoing for acetone and in an almost final phase for two hydrocarbon solvents categories.

The latest status will be presented at the Stakeholder Day on 14 January 2021.

News from the Oxygenated Solvents Producers Association (OSPA)



The Glycol Ethers group is preparing publications addressing the discussion on suspected endocrine disrupting properties. The glycol ethers E-series are expected to be covered by the end of this year. The P-series will follow in 2021.

News from the Hydrocarbon Solvents Producers Association (HSPA)



HSPA members have identified the hydrocarbon solvents that are used in printing inks for food contact materials (FCM) and, with the support of our contractor FOBiG, dossiers are being prepared to be submitted for evaluation to the responsible Swiss and German authorities. The substance identity is particularly challenging as many hydrocarbon solvents are so called UVCB substances (Substance of Unknown or Variable composition, Complex reaction products or Biological materials). They are usually characterised by their phys-chem properties (boiling point, density) and manufacturing method (including distillation range) and/or feedstock, rather than their chemical composition. The composition can be very complex, including the molecular weight and isomeric composition. It makes it difficult to comply with regulatory requirements that are meant for mono-constituent substances or mixtures.

BACKGROUND ON PRINTING INKS IN FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS (FCMS)



In Switzerland, the "Ordinance of the Federal Department of Home Affairs on materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs", has a positive list of substances that can be used in printing inks for FCMs, whereas in the EU the current FCM regulations do not yet include them. Therefore, Germany has been considering adopting its own national legislation and has evaluated substances for printing ink in FCMs together with their Swiss colleagues. At EU level, the European Commission is waiting for the publication of the results of the FCM impact assessment and the FCM evaluation before presenting any further possible measures. The results are expected to be published at the same time during the first quarter of 2022. ESIG is a member of the Printing Ink Joint Industry Taskforce (PIJITF) that monitors the process.

COOPERATION WITH SIA

Despite the impending Brexit with all its uncertainties for businesses, ESIG would like to reiterate that its close cooperation with



Kevin Morgan, SIA Chair

UK sister association, the Solvent Industry Association (SIA), will continue as before. The relationship between both organisations has resulted in many benefits to members and solvents end-users over the past years. ESIG and SIA are currently waiting to finalize the filming for the "Solvents

and the Safe use of Gloves" film which had to be postponed due to COVID. For next year ESIG and SIA are planning to reshoot two more films: "Solvents and IBCs" as well as "Solvents and static electricity".

All face-to-face solvents training sessions with the SIA were cancelled this year. Due to their interactive format, it was considered not possible to organise these virtually. ESIG hopes to be able to organise the trainings again in May and November 2021. The sessions are open for both ESIG members and solvents end-users.

CEFIC BOX ON MAFS (MIXTURE ASSESSMENT FACTORS)

As part of its Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS), published on 14 October, the European Commission is proposing to develop and implement a mixture assessment factor (MAF) within the REACH regulation.

What is this all about?

The Swedish and Dutch competent authorities (CAs) organised a workshop in early 2020 to propose an ad-hoc MAF to be applied to chemical risk assessments under REACH to **consider combined exposures from unintentional mixtures**. The proposal was evaluated by ECHA and discussed at CARACAL. The thought behind the proposal is that most of the population and other living organisms are exposed to a wide mix of chemicals and that explicit requirements are generally lacking for the potential impact of unintentional mixtures. Its intention is to have a MAF implemented for all substances that are classified under the Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation and for which the REACH registration requires a chemical safety assessment for workers, consumers and/or the environment. Although the concern and discussion due to unintentional exposure focuses on environmental issues, the human health (worker and consumer) risk assessment is the most heavily impacted by such a MAF. Detailed impact assessments performed by the chemical industry – notably simulations conducted with different values of MAF – have shown that introducing a MAF will have a huge impact, in terms of implementation of additional risk management measures (RMMs) to account for the increase in risk values (i.e. Risk Characterization Ratio) or may result in the lack of ability to demonstrate adequate risk control for certain uses of classified substances. This effect is considered disproportionate and is not based on solid exposure science data.

Introducing an ad-hoc MAF, as discussed by the initiators and quickly, randomly checked by ECHA as being feasible, will force registrants to either adopt additional RMMs to reflect the increased risk values resulting from it or they may not be able to demonstrate control of risk for a number of identified uses. End users in the supply chain will either be faced with investments for additional RMMs or performing their own Downstream User chemical risk assessment. This, moreover, is not consistent with requirements in place under the Chemicals Agents directive (CAD) for combined exposure at the workplace. Also, when a MAF is applied for risk assessment for human health, control of risk will in many cases not be demonstrated in the Chemical Safety Report (CSR), even if such substances are used below the CLP classification limits in nonhazardous (consumer) products (e.g. water-based paint). This creates discrepancies between regulations (REACH and CLP). Cefic created an ad-hoc task force to assess the impact of a MAF. Pilot cases on specific substances indicate that it will have a major impact for workers, consumers, and partially also for the environment. ESIG provided an in-depth case study, applying the MAF to the Generic Exposure Scenarios (GES) for solvents. The results show that if a MAF of 10, or even 3 or 5, is implemented, almost all workers scenarios would be affected. If this kind of blanket or ad hoc MAF approach is adopted, the impacts for the GES are significant and all scenarios need potentially to be adapted. The pilot case study also developed a visual indicator based on the traffic light system to show whether the implementation of additional RMMs is feasible. Additionally, a scientific project within Cefic, the Mixtures Industry Ad-hoc Team (MIAT) looks at how risks from combined exposures can be effectively identified and managed. Last but not least, a joint group has been set up within the Cefic's Chemicals Legislation Issue Team to better align and progress the issue and develop an industry proposal for the assessment of unintentional combined exposures.



DU BOX



The cleaning, hygiene & disinfectant products is an essential sector in the fight against COVID-19

A.I.S.E., the association representing the European manufacturers of cleaning, hygiene and disinfectant products, is an essential sector in the fight against COVID-19 due to its portfolio of products and services. A.I.S.E. and its members are actively supporting authorities and healthcare professionals to manage the current public health crisis, ensuring that essential cleaning, hygiene and disinfectant products can be made available and delivered at a fast pace. Find out more about our engagement [here](#).

A.I.S.E.'s ongoing interaction with EU and national competent authorities is focussed on securing fast availability and delivery of disinfectants. We do not work alone but as is our association's

tradition to engage with our stakeholder, we have established a cross-industry alliance on COVID-19 together with the European Biocidal Products Forum, a sector group of CEFIC and FECC (the European Association of Chemical Distributors).

Good hygiene is key to fight the virus, as recommended by WHO, ECDC and national authorities. Disinfectants (for general or human hygiene purposes, or for use in food and feed areas) produced by our professional cleaning and hygiene sector are critical to help combat the spread of the virus in hospitals, as well as in food manufacturing facilities and other key industries. Read more on how our industry is responding to the pandemic at www.aise.eu/our-activities/covid-19.aspx.

SEASONAL GREETINGS

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers!



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