

ESIG Stakeholder “Solvents and the Green Deal” – 1: Circularity & Sustainability”

Note: second stakeholder day in June: “Solvents and the Green Deal – Clean Air”

1. **Presentation by DG ENVI** (Paola Migliorini Deputy Head of Unit - Sustainable Production, Products and Consumption) on “**Circularity & Sustainability in the Green Deal and beyond**” focusing on 3 topics:
 - Sustainable Products Initiative: addressing all products placed on the EU market, promoting better design
 - Empowering consumers for the green transition
 - Supporting more sustainable patterns of consumption by tackling false green claims stressing role of Environmental Footprint (EF) methodology

2. ESIG’s perspective and activities

a) illustrating our mission to **promote safe and sustainable use** of oxygenated and hydrocarbon solvents in Europe with concrete examples:

- *Developing PEF compliant datasets (manufacturing step) for 6 solvents which end up in consumer products - freely available to every downstream user that wants to get involved in a PEF*
- *Communication campaign to show solvents’ contribution to achieve UN SDGs*
- *Having been convenor of a CEN Working group in TC411 → EN16766:2017 Bio-based solvents – Requirements and test (includes sustainability criteria)*
- *“solvents@work” material (films, poster, guides, trainings) in line with mission statement*
- *Solvents Award to reward safe & sustainable use of solvents*

b) presenting our position:

- Circularity is an opportunity to promote innovation and further reduce the environmental impact of solvents in the sense to make our products and processes highly efficient to further reduce the amount of solvent used in finished products today.
- Solvents are playing an important role when it comes to make products that are more durable, strong and energy efficient

3. Perspective & views of solvents’ downstream users (with contributions from paints, printing inks, construction chemicals and the cleaning sectors)

- Presented each sector’s contributions
- Highlight each “dilemma” whilst making products sustainable you still need to include substances like solvents because of their properties (solvency, drying time, evaporation)
 - “Solvents are used in detergents to achieve certain benefits and/or functions”
 - “Solvents are key enablers to deliver the sustainability priorities of the construction chemicals industry”
- All agreed that **Sustainability must take the entire life cycle into account**

