

**MINUTES OF THE UKCPI COUNCIL**

**10.30am, Wednesday 8 Sept 2021**

**By Zoom conference call**

Mr T Appleton Procter & Gamble UK & Ireland

Ms C Berto Henkel UK

Mr C Beevor Unilever UK

Mr N Bolton Procter & Gamble UK & Ireland

Ms R Eckley Unilever UK

Mr R Fenton Dri Pak

Mr R Furse (Chair) RB

Mr R Keeling AirPure

Mr K Kotsanopoulos Diversey

Ms A McClafferty Unilever UK

Mr P Malpass (Sec) UKCPI

Mr E Whittle SC Johnson

Mr P Woodhead Selden Research

**Apologies:**

Mr D Butterfield Ecolab

Mr M Cunningham PZ Cussons

Mr I Croft Robert McBride

Mr G Edwards ACDOPRO

Mr G Horne Astonish

**1. Welcome and anti-trust statement**

Mr Furse opened the meeting and made the following statement:-

*“At all UKCPI Council meetings including this one, UKCPI and UKCPI members shall adhere to UKCPI’s competition law policy and shall not share, directly or indirectly, commercially sensitive information including but not limited to pricing, terms and conditions of supply, business planning or marketing plans. Should the meeting discuss matters that fall outside of UKCPI's legal remit or contravene that policy; the Chairman will close the meeting.”*

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes from the meeting held on 26 May 2021 were agreed.

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**3. Matters and actions arising**

PM reported that the UKCPI response to the consultation on Extended Producer Responsibility went in on time with a consensus view on the question relating to the type of future administrative structure. An announcement on the consultation is expected in October.

PM reported that he will call together the Clearcast working group in the coming weeks to discuss proposals.

**Action outstanding** PM asked that companies with an interest in VOCs and indoor air quality to please confirm if they would be able and willing to disclose VOC content online alongside other ingredient listings for brands/products.

All other actions are either complete or covered by today’s agenda.

**4. Regulatory landscape – future desired state**

PM introduced this topic as a thought starter for future Council discussion.

He described that in the short term 1 – 5 years UKCPI was able to advocate members views as required when regulatory change was an option. E.g. we react to changes at an EU level and advocate our position on these changes to UK officials.

We are likely to have a stronger voice with UK policy makers than when we were part of the EU and one step away from EU policy makers.

The question was posed ‘*should we take advantage of these UK advocacy events to seed ideas with UK policy makers on a future (10 – 15 years out) regulatory regime’*.

If so what would our ideal future regulatory regime look like.

TA,NB,RE,RK shared a view that as manufacturers for a European market we should strive to reduce complexity and avoid divergence from EU regulations.

However, we have a reputation and voice internationally and could we use this to then influence EU policy making.

RF stated that the nature of our conversation with UK officials has changed given their lack of role in EU policy making, and that opportunities may exist for the UK to develop policy ahead of the EU curve.

CB suggested that there may be 2 or 3 areas where there maybe a benefit to be driving a UK policy that is likely to be a ‘pull through’ attractive to the EU.

PW said that by presenting a future vision of a potential UK regulatory landscape it might help us in our dealings with UK officials on the ‘here and now’ issues if we are seen as a trusted source.

PW cited the circular economy and the need for innovation and novel solutions but the view that this is hindered by ‘red tape’. There may also be useful insights from Govt officials presenting at ***Chem UK*** 15/16 Sept.

RE stated that a recent consultation sought opinions on a lighter touch regulation which could be aligned with a future regulatory vision approach.

RF mentioned that the development of a UK replacement for the EU Ecolabel might also be an area in which to explore this approach.

**Action:** Council members to identify 1 or 2 areas which could be the focus of further exploration with respect to a future operating environment.

**5. November Council /AGM / annual dinner**

PM proposed that the next Council and AGM be carried out by zoom and that the reception and dinner be postponed.

He cited ongoing uncertainty over COVID and company and guest travel and meeting policies and confidence to attend a discretionary event. Crucially the House of Commons Terrace and dining rooms have placed a severe restriction on numbers imposed making the reception and dinner unviable for us at this location.

Council agreed that given the uncertainty and in particular as we approach winter and media rumours about short circuit breaks etc. the proposal was the right one at this time.

**Action** November Council and AGM will take place on Wed Nov 24 at 10.30am.

**6.**  **Advocacy, Regulatory and Communications committee (ARC)**

PW summarised the last meeting (minutes in pre reads).

He highlighted the discussion and decision on the UK HSE report not to follow an EU RAC opinion to change the classification of d-limonene. This could lead to divergence in classification. It was agreed that UKCPI approach HSE to seek clarification on the use of classifying to the stricter ‘regime’ to avoid differing classifications of the same product in Northern Ireland and in GB.

The response from HSE is attached and was sent to all members.

There was a discussion over next steps with the conclusion that it should first be discussed at ARC. A possible outcome might be to use this as an example to highlight operational difficulties for UK companies and potential barriers to internal trade. Tactically it might also be better to ‘bundle’ this negative concern together with other more positive messages.

**AOB**

1. PM asked companies with the appropriate internal expertise to consider contacting Euromonitor to help validate their annual homecare trends report. Little downside and some useful upside in doing so.

**Action** Council members to ask colleagues to contact Catherine Qi directly (email re attached).

1. PM stated that the UKCPI quote probably needed updating (that UKCPI member companies directly employ 30,000 UK staff in the manufacture and sale of cleaning and hygiene products).

**Action** Council members to provide estimates of UK based employees representing the cleaning and hygiene parts of their business.

1. AM raised the topic of unit pricing and seeking UKCPI support to promote a change or interpretation of the Price Marking Orders 2004 to allow retailers to better provide price per wash information to consumers.

RK raised the scope of inclusion and how this would work for products not having a defined ‘unit’ (surface cleaners, air care etc.

PM stated that UKCPI had looked at this in 2013 and engaged with the British Retail Consortium.

Again this action could be part of a future ‘vision’ where consumer needs are included.

**Action**

AM to circ proposal to Council members to react to.

PM to circ previous briefing note.

1. TA raised concerns over UK Govt (Treasury) understanding of the complexity involved in submitting returns to HMT to calculate the plastics tax. The current likely standard of company invoicing systems may not suffice.

PM suggested that a more powerful voice could be provided by the likes of INCPEN on which many brand owning companies across many sectors are members and who will all face the same issues of complexity.

**The next Council meeting** (**inc AGM)** **will be held by Zoom at 10.30am, Wed 24 Nov 2021**