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| BOARD Meeting 04/2020 | |
| Minutes | Webex conference call  Thursday 8 October 2020 10:30-15:45 |

## Participants

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | *By phone*  Mr Giuseppe ABELLO, Assocasa  Ms Heather BARKER, RB  Ms Ana-Maria COURAS, A.I.S.D.P.C.L.  Mr Jean-Paul DECHESNE, Colgate Palmolive  Ms Virginie D'ENFERT, Afise  Ms Helle FABIANSEN, KoHB  Mr Charles-François GAUDEFROY, Unilever  Mr Ludger GRUNWALD, Ecolab  Mr Ad JESPERS, Diversey  Ms Sari KARJOMAA, T.Y.  Mr Thomas KEISER, IKW  Mr Philip MALPASS, U.K.C.P.I.  Mr Stefan MUELLER, Dalli-Werke  Mr Lorenzo POTECCHI, SC Johnson  Ms Mihaela RABU, Rucodem  Mr Thomas RAUCH, I.H.O.  Mr Arndt SCHEIDGEN, Henkel  Ms Françoise VAN TIGGELEN, Detic  Ms Nadia VIVA, P&G | *From A.I.S.E*  Mr Luca CONTI,  Ms Jan ROBINSON  Ms Valérie SEJOURNE  Mr Mohamed TEMSAMANI  Ms Susanne ZÄNKER  *Apologies*  Mr Ismaël DJELASSI, Spechim  *Guest* (for point 7.1)  Ms Virginia JANSSENS, PlasticsEurope | |

1. WELCOME AND REMINDER OF COMPETITION LAW RULES

Nadia Viva, as newly elected President opened the meeting by welcoming the participants to the webex conference call. She regretted that her first meeting of the Board could not be a physical one to meet all participants in person. She also took the opportunity to thank the outgoing president, Arndt Scheidgen for his great work undertaken for the association during the last 4 years and expressed her proudness to inherit “his legacy” and her intend to build on this during her mandate. She also expressed her thanks for the trust of the members for being elected and her wish to continue the work in full engagement with the continued and constructive support from the Board members.

Before actually starting the agenda as proposed, N. Viva shared with the Board members her Vision for her mandate as the new President. (see her slides). She visualised the journey with a compass to reach the NEWS destination as following. In the centre the “trusted” A.I.S.E., in the North a “N” standing for “Nurture” the arguments, facts via science to keep the licence to operate, in the East, to “Elevate” the industry voice based on science, in the South, “Shaping” the operating framework, and in the West, to “work” altogether as members, value-chain partners to even further elevate our voice toward the EU stakeholders in particular the policy makers. She presented a short overview of the current priorities for A.I.S.E. (more or less all covered also through the agenda) which we need to address in a proactive and reactive way to overcome the potential obstacles ahead and to grasp the opportunities. This Vision was welcomed by members.

S. Zänker also took the opportunity to welcome back Françoise Van Tiggelen (DETIC) to the Board and in addition as Vice President representing the National Associations. She also to introduced from the A.I.S.E. team Luca Conti, the newly appointed manager for public and legal affairs.

Luca Conti reminded the Board to comply with the rules of the Competition Law and all agreed to adhere to those.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the meeting was approved as sent out.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES & REVIEW OF ACTIONS OF LAST MEETING (9 June 2020)**

The actions recorded at the last meeting were either carried out or will be covered through the agenda. The Minutes of the meeting were approved.

1. **GOVERNANCE**  (S.Zänker)
   1. **A.I.S.E. Internal rules** *(for approval)*

The A.I.S.E. internal rules had to be amended as parts were shifted to the Statutes to comply with the new Belgian Law “Code for Associations and Companies”. The change of the Statutes had been approved by the GA last June, leading to the subsequent adaptation of the Internal Rules submitted for approval to the Board. The [amended version](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https://aise.wall.idloom.com/Content/Uploads/B17FCB62-E57C-4EFA-84DC-504A7E6CBA5D/PostFiles/7245cd16-c115-442c-90ed-5d29468131ae.docx) as attached to the pre-readings were approved by the Board.

* 1. **Board Observer Seat** *(for approval)*

According to the statutes the 2 observer seats are under the governance of the Board for a yearly approval following the first meeting after an ordinary GA. The current seat holder, namely Thomas Rauch submitted his candidature to continue his function. The Board approved his nomination for the period until the next GA in June 2021.

* 1. **Revocation of Christine Boudet delegation of powers** *(for approval)*

Due to the leave of Christine Boudet, who has held also the position of Deputy Director, the delegation of her powers needs to be revoked and published in the Belgian Gazette (Moniteur Belge). The Board approved the revocation of her powers and approved that the mandate to undertake the official steps should be granted to Mr. Alain Costantini and Mr. Julian Delplanche, with offices at 1340 Ottignies, to take care of the filing and publication of the formalities. (for the exact wording see pre-reading).

* 1. **Brexit and UKCPI membership at A.I.S.E**.: update

Over the past months, A.I.S.E. and UKCPI continued their dialogue on the potential options for a future membership of UKCPI at A.I.S.E. which is in line with the needs for the members of both associations. Those would apply from 1.1.2022 onwards as until then UKCPI remains an Ordinary Member of A.I.S.E. The following points had been put forward:

* A close and strong relationship between both associations due to business needs;
* Awareness of the regulatory developments on both ends;
* Collaboration on potential crisis and communication aspects;
* Collaboration on voluntary industry initiatives.

Ph. Malpass added that the following from his Council of UKCPI (Sept 2020 meeting):

* maintain a healthy relationship with A.I.S.E. but clearly membership value has shifted,
* that a future membership relationship should recognise and reflect the level to which the A.I.S.E. workplan provides benefit to UKCPI members,
* A.I.S.E. to provide detail on the level of service UKCPI could expect to justify membership fees above that of extraordinary / non-EU category,
* Ph. Malpass should aim to agree a membership relationship based on the above and at least on the basis agreed with Council in Sept 2019 (full rights, 50% fees and review after a further 12 months).

At the Board, the company members underlined the need for a strong relationship between both associations due to their business/ trade situation in the EU and the UK. The on-going trade negotiations between both sides should be monitored closely to take into account the outcome, with more clarity expected beginning of next year. It was also emphasised that both associations and the companies’ members of the respective Boards should remain in close dialogue when elaborating a proposal to be presented at the Board meetings in February and April 2021 for submission at the GA in June 2021.

***ACTION: To keep the Board informed about the developments with the aim to come up with a final proposal latest at the April 2021 Board meeting; and to add this point in the next NAC meeting agenda (December 2020) for discussion to keep national associations updated on latest developments (S. Zänker)***

* 1. **A.I.S.E. Financial Situation as of 30th June 2020** *(for information)* (A.Scheidgen)

A. Scheidgen, as the A.I.S.E. newly elected treasurer for the period of June 2020 – June 2022, presented the financial situation of the first half year of A.I.S.E. for information. (see slide). When looking to the income, the figures are in line with the budget; as to the expenses, the figures are slightly below the forecast. His end-of-year forecast is that based on the current figures the budget will probably show some underspending.

He also took the opportunity to thank I. Djelassi and C. Baïer for the thorough review ahead of the Board meeting and the continued support in this matter.

1. **EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL** (S.Nissen/M.Temsamani/J.Robinson)
   1. **A.I.S.E. priorities and its contribution to Commission Roadmaps and consultations**

A short overview on the Green Deal, the Commission’s overall objective and the known timelines was given. When assessed against the A.I.S.E. strategic priorities, the Board agreed that we are on the right track, however with regard to the overall amount of work ahead some concerns were raised on the resources to manage the work ahead. The priorities as identified by the A.I.S.E. Green Deal Panel and approved by the Board in June were relooked again, and some Board members strongly suggested to treat the areas linked to climate change also as “A” priorities. This shift will be undertaken; however, it was noted that some members did not agree with this shift and preferred to stay with the previously agreed priorities. It was suggested to assess the activities along the lines of importance and also their urgency i.e. short- and long-term priorities. It was also mentioned that indeed the documents published for consultation related to “Climate” are currently be dealt with like an “A” priority, when contributing to the different consultations. However due to the lack of participants to the call to set up the TF on Climate Change, a discussion about potential actions by industry have not been progressed.

***ACTION: Reassess the priorities (A.I.S.E. Team/ MC)***

In relation to the management of the topics within the A.I.S.E. groups (see slide), the Board adhered to the proposal for the Management Committee to be the central point to keep a holistic overview and to ensure a comprehensive approach before it goes to the Board for further discussion and approval. The frequency of MC meetings might to be increased over the coming months to cope with all chapters.

***ACTION: Table at the next MC meeting (20.10.2020) the idea of additional meetings of the MC focusing solely on Green Deal matters. (S. Zänker)***

The overview list of the documents published by the Commission was welcome as a useful tool to keep track of the chapters and their timelines.

With regard to the upcoming publication of the Chemical Strategy for Sustainability, the Board approved the proposal for issuing an A.I.S.E. Press Release reflecting our view on the Commission’s Communication. While the intention of the Commission to better protect human health and the environment can only be supported, the Board stressed that we should communicate clearly our position and where our red lines are. We should highlight that certain proposals can’t be tolerated such as challenges on (i) science, (ii) risk-based approach, and the unintended consequences of some policy decisions on the consumers and consumers’ interest. It was also noted that the lack of ‘sustainability” dimension in the so-called Chemical Strategy for Sustainability is regrettable, as is the willingness the secure administrative control for ECHA. This assessment demonstrates that the fundamental objectives of the Strategy may not be forthright and lead to an improved framework for products which are important and provide essential benefits.

* 1. **Political discussions and next steps**

This point was covered through the agenda item 5.1.

* 1. **Proposal for adapting the internal governance structure**

This point was covered under agenda item 5.1.

1. **PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP & REGULATORY AFFAIRS**
   1. **Microplastics** (J.Robinson)

The Board took note of the status update on the restriction proposal on intentionally added microplastics and on secondary microplastic releases (refer to presentation).

* 1. **CLP Annex VIII** (J.Robinson)

The Board noted the outcome of and learnings from the advocacy to postpone the applicability date of the new obligations. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of the national association network, which helped to garner substantial Member State support but ultimately without success. This dossier is now closed apart from continuing input by the Secretariat and CLP Working Group to the revision of the ECHA guidance documents.

* 1. **Ethanol - harmonised classification proposal** (J.Robinson)

The Board was updated on the classification intention and on the discussions in the cross-industry task force comprising ethanol producers and downstream user sectors. Pre-emptive advocacy is to be attempted in Greece (dossier submitting authority) and Germany; T. Rauch confirmed that the VCI task force has been re-activated. Ample scientific data and information on impacts are available, but a mechanism is needed to manage, use, and leverage it all since the issue affects numerous working and steering groups in A.I.S.E.

The Board agreed with the conclusion of the Management Committee that it is important to act on this substance and supported the discussion of a proposal for an ad hoc A.I.S.E. task force at the MC meeting on 20th October.

* 1. **Digitalisation Roadmap – update on progress and developments** (V.Séjourné/J.Robinson)

Progress on this Roadmap approved by the Board in Feb 2020 was shared (cf slides). This includes notably the work towards common ingredient messaging which is underway for about 200 ingredients used in our sector, with the help of a consultant. Another important development is the release by the European Commission of a study for “the simplification of the labelling requirements for chemicals and the use of e-labelling with a view to improve the communication of hazard and safety information as well as use instructions to users”. This fits perfectly with the objective that A.I.S.E. has started in 2015 with the former BRES project to have simpler, more consumer-relevant labels, complemented by on line info. The Commission will appoint the consultant in Dec 2020 who will have 15 months till March 2022 to deliver the report. A.I.S.E. will actively engage with them and contribute constructively, notably with consumer data gained during BRES.

The Board was also informed that another study to assess the potential future of the Detergent Regulation was also being commissioned, with approximately the same timing. This is very likely prompted by the ‘bigger picture’ of the various Green Deal packages and deliveries (see Sustainable Product Policy, Empowering consumer, Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability notably). Within the new political context, attention will need to be paid by A.I.S.E. to both studies and the potential different scenarios that the consultants will explore.

A joint meeting of the A.I.S.E. Detergent Regulation WG and Digitalisation WG took place end of September. The agreed follow activities (see PPT) were supported by the Board, including the commissioning by A.I.S.E. of a specific survey on IT tools to further enrich the knowledge of our sector on potential tools to enable digitalisation on information.

*BREAK 12:45 – 13:30*

1. **COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY TOPICS** 
   1. EU Plastics Levy (30min) (M.Temsamani/ S.Zänker)

**Invited guest: Virginia Janssens, Managing Director of Plastics Europe**

N. Viva welcomed V. Janssens and thanked her for having accepted to participate in the Board to comment on 3 points relevant for A.I.S.E., namely the upcoming Plastic Levy in the EU; the challenge for the business on the EU and MS approaches and unharmonized situation as to recycling and also the Single Market for plastics.

V. Janssens explained that she had a longstanding link with A.I.S.E. through her former work as DG at Europen and is pleased to continue this relationship also in her new function (actually since March) as Managing Director of Plastics Europe.

She went through her slides pointing out that the implementation of the Plastic Levy is imminent (i.e. 1.1.2021) and except for the principle about a tax, the operational details are still unclear. It is not meant to be a direct taxation system on the plastic industry or other industries but a demand to each member state authority to collect money based on the quota of the use of non- recycled plastic. Each member state (MS) will implement its own mechanism to collect this tax. Through EPR the brand owners have already a share to pay, it could well be that some MS may use the same mechanism to claim the tax. At the EU level, the incoming money from the member states, i.e. the Plastic Levy, will not be “earmarked” to trace back where the Commission will invest the collected money. She also referred to on-going discussion related to the Packaging & Packaging Waste Directive, which includes plastic packaging and encouraged to contribute to the consultation. The deadline mentioned for all material to be reusable or recyclable is 2030, which is also very close.

To tackle the issue, V. Janssens strongly recommends the collaboration through an advocacy alliance group, in particular on the main advocacy messages.

On the question whether Plastics Europe is covering all plastic material, V. Janssens clarified that PET are covered by another association, but the collaboration is ensured.

A question was raised on the possibility to develop guidelines on implementation systems of the tax levy. In the mind of V. Janssens this is a potential way forward, however, the way MSs are designing and implementing tax system is a national prerogative.

V. Janssens was thanked for her presentation and wished all the best for her new role.

Building on the last point, at A.I.S.E., the need for an efficient exchange between the network of National Associations about the actions by each national authority are of paramount importance to support them in the advocacy at local level. M. Temsamani hinted to the recently released document by A.I.S.E., to support the National Associations with a “Toolkit” in their work. It is a living document, to be further expanded based on the experience of the NAs who were invited to share any information from their discussion with their respective authorities.

It was concluded that the issue will impact the industry and that regardless who has to pay, the money will be further cascaded down to all partners along the value chain and potentially at the end to the consumer. At long term this will accelerate the recycling process however there is still a long way to go because of the different systems in the EU Member States. A.I.S.E. should therefore remain engaged in the discussion to help NAs and also to contribute through different channels, incl. Plastics Europe to the discussion about the need to further harmonise the systems across the EU.

***ACTION: The toolkit document will be re-circulated for approval and the plastics levy issue will be addressed at the next NAC meeting (M. Temsamani).***

* 1. **Single-use Plastics – Implementing Acts** (M.Temsamani)

Board members were updated on latest developments and advocacy actions undertaken by A.I.S.E. secretariat and national associations. There was a broad support for continued effort to secure a positive outcome of the issue.

* 1. **Update on Hygiene Communications Project** (V.Séjourné)

Progress was shared (see presentation). Focus is on the development of a joint report between industry and academia (IFH/Sally Bloomfield) on good hygiene guidance at home (cf use of cleaning products and/or disinfectants). Several A.I.S.E. company experts are involved to progress this work which is highly sensitive. This report will also comment on the current consumers habits (pre/post COVID), as gathered in the 2 habits surveys commissioned by A.IS.E. in February and June this year. The aim is to develop recommendations from A.I.S.E. for appropriate use of biocides. In parallel, work is being initiated for the development of specific case studies in the PC&H sector with the same objective.

It will also be explored whether this A.I.S.E. guidance can potentially be a project to apply to the broader “EU4Health” Commission campaign.

* 1. **Cleaning and Hygiene Forum 2020** (M.Temsamani)

Board members were presented with the proposed approach for the annual event (2 Dec pm) and supported the draft programme on content and format. Work will continue as expected.

* 1. **Retail reach-out at national level: landscape** (S.Zänker/V.Séjourné)

S. Zänker commented on the results of an A.I.S.E. survey that was organised mid 2020 with the network of National Associations about the engagement of National Associations with retailers. This landscape assessment was undertaken following the recommendation made by the Board in Feb 2020 to consider further engagement with retailers. This enquiry demonstrates already a strong level of dialogue between the A.I.S.E. network and retailers or their federations. A.I.S.E. in Brussels also ensures a good level of cooperation with retailers. Board members encouraged the network to pursue in this direction, mapping for the various topics when/where it would be relevant to liaise with retailers. No further concrete action was developed at this stage by the Board in view of the amount of work already on the plate of A.I.S.E..

1. **FOR INFORMATION/QUESTIONS ONLY** 
   1. **Communications and Advocacy Plan 2021 – 2022** (M.Temsamani/V.Séjourné)

In 2018, the Board approved a joint Political and Communication plan developed for the period 2018-2020, inspired from the A.I.S.E. Strategy calling for better visibility and political outreach of the Association.

The Advocacy and Communications teams are now working on the update of this plan for the period 2020-2022 and aim at presenting this to the Board at its meeting in December.

* 1. **Habits Survey release** (V.Séjourné)

No further comments were raised based on pre-reading.

* 1. **Biocides** (M.Temsamani)
     1. **COVID-19**

Based on the A.I.S.E. members’ survey on disinfectants availability, it seems that demand remains high, in some countries such demand can be met, in others it is more challenging. The COVID-19 topic was discussed at the Biocides CA meeting on 24-25 September (including disinfectants availability, Art. 55, borderline biocides vs. cosmetics).

A suggestion was made by National Associations that A.I.S.E. should propose to authorities a kind of ‘simplified’ authorization procedure for some biocidal Product Types (PT), on the basis that some PT’s are less ‘risky’ than others (like hand disinfectants). The option will be assessed under the EU BPR assessment project.

* + 1. **BPR assessment project**

Following A.I.S.E. Management Committee approval, the ‘BPR strategic assessment’ project was launched early July, in collaboration with EBPF (CEFIC). Over summer the A.I.S.E. and EBPF secretariats have worked to develop further the project description and identify potential consultants. The A.I.S.E. Management Committee validated at their September meeting the consultant selected, namely ERM. Regarding the budget, the A.I.S.E. Management Committee approved the proposal to equally split the costs between A.I.S.E. and EBPF (as done in the past for other projects), i.e. a total of about 32.000 EUR for A.I.S.E. spent over 2 years.

* + 1. **In-can preservatives**

Discussions are on-going at European level on the topic of skin sensitising preservatives. ECHA, who had been given the mandate by the Commission earlier this year to look closely at the Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA) method for skin sensitisers, recently concluded that it is not possible to develop a reliable guidance on how to perform QRA. The topic was briefly discussed at the last CA meeting (25 Sept), during which the Commission endorsed the conclusions from ECHA. A.I.S.E., CEPE and EBPF had also tabled a position paper, proposing an approach in which authorities would not introduce restrictions in the approval conditions of the skin sensitising active substances (as they did for CMIT/MIT, based on the specific concentration limit of 15 ppm). After a short discussion, the Commission invited Member States and stakeholders to provide comments, with a view to rediscuss the issue at a forthcoming CA meeting. The Biocides Working Group will prepare an A.I.S.E. response at their next meeting on 12 October.

* 1. **Charter 2020+ Update** (S.Nissen)

With 109 Ordinary Charter members, the break-even was reached to secure the Charter funding as separately funded project in 2020 via Charter membership fees. In addition, 47 distributors have signed up so far, including some of the biggest retail organisations in Europe. In order to further increase this number and also to engage retailers on the Charter, further activities are in the pipeline, including A.I.S.E.’s participation with a virtual booth at Consumer Goods Forum Sustainable Retail Summit (15-16 Oct 2020) and the plan to present the Charter at one of the next Eurocommerce Sustainability Committee meeting.

* 1. **Detergents Regulation: update** (J.Robinson)

See above, Digitalisation.

* 1. **Polymers Requiring Registration** (J.Robinson)

The report from the Commission’s consultant proposing criteria for polymer registration was published in July, and written comments were provided by industry (including A.I.S.E.). The first meeting of a CARACAL sub-group (CASG) was held on 11 September, at which alignment was seen between industry sectors and with animal welfare organisations, who seek to minimise the number of polymer registrations and the amount of new animal test data required to fulfil the registration requirements. Environmental NGOs however try to connect polymer registration with the issues of marine pollution and microplastics, despite these being subject to separate policy initiatives.

Three further CASG meetings are planned between November 2020 and the end of 2021, each on a specific aspect of the Commission’s proposal. A.I.S.E.’s Polymers Task Force is developing its input to the discussions and piloting the collection of supporting data on polymers used in the sector, as well as cooperating/aligning with other industry sectors through DUCC and Cefic.

* 1. **PC&H: update** (J.Robinson)

During the meeting on 22nd September the group reassessed the priorities for the PC&H sector. Topics on European Green Deal, Packaging initiatives and Organic food production were reconfirmed as priority. During the meeting it was also agreed to nominate participants to the taskforce that will work on the hygiene communication project with a focus on the PC&H sector. The group also noted that the upcoming proposal for Ethanol harmonised classification and labelling will have an impact on the PC&H sector, and it was decided that the topic requires specific attention and could be added to the list of priorities for PC&H sector.

* 1. **PREPs: Potential for a PREP L3 for liquid laundry detergents** (S.Nissen)

During summer, a consultation with the PREPs WG was carried out about a next compaction project for liquid laundry detergents,  i.e. a potential PREP – L3 for heavy-duty and light-duty low-suds liquid detergents for household laundry in  the EU + UK, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Not all the consulted WG members are in support of such a project, though a majority; those in support propose different compaction steps, varying from 35 ml/wash to 45 ml/wash. Several comments on technical aspects have been provided as follows:

* problem to guaranty same performance;
* more complicated formulation work hence potentially leading to new investments in the production line;
* higher amount of solvents (per dose) will lead to a higher impact on the environmental footprint (re experience with PREP L2); step from 55ml to 50ml feasible but would be out of proportion to the effort and probably the environmental benefit would be too small;
* new bottle design may be needed;
* further compaction may have impact on product classification and child-resistance closures may be needed.

A meeting of the PREPs WG is planned to discuss the results and to also talk about the idea for PREPs concerning other product categories than laundry products.

* 1. **LIKOCHEMA Report for the first half of 2020** (S.Zänker)

The report shared with the pre-reading was acknowledged by the Board, no questions were raised.

1. **CALENDAR FOR DATES IN 2021**

All dates for the Board meetings in 2021 were approved except the December one: the Board meeting will take place on 8 December. The final version of the calendar is [HERE.](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https://aise.wall.idloom.com/Content/Uploads/B17FCB62-E57C-4EFA-84DC-504A7E6CBA5D/PostFiles/57848263-ae3b-434e-a18a-7867462b69be.doc)

In case the meetings continue to remain virtual, they will start at 10h30 and end not later than 15:30.

1. **CONFIRMATION OF NEXT BOARD MEETING**

**Wednesday 2 December 2020** (9:30-13:00)

Document name: 2020-10-08 BOARD Minutes A.I.S.E., 19 October 2020