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| Board meeting 03/21 | |
| Minutes | Webex conf call Tuesday 15 June 2021 9:00 – 11:00 CEST |

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| ***Participants***  *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  Mr Ismaël DJELASSI, Spechim  Ms Helle FABIANSEN, KoHB  Mr Charles-François GAUDEFROY, Unilever  Mr Ludger GRUNWALD, Ecolab  Mr Ad JESPERS, Diversey  Ms Sari KARJOMAA,KH  Mr Thomas KEISER, IKW  Mr Philip MALPASS, U.K.C.P.I.  Mr Stefan MÜLLER, Dalli-Werke  Ms Anna OBORSKA, P.A.C.D.I  Mr Lorenzo POTECCHI, SC Johnson  Ms Mihaela RABU, Rucodem  Mr Arndt SCHEIDGEN, Henkel  Ms Françoise VAN TIGGELEN, Detic  Ms Nadia VIVA, P&G (Chair) | *From A.I.S.E*  Mr Luca CONTI  Mr Sascha NISSEN  Ms Jan ROBINSON  Ms Valérie SEJOURNE  Mr Mohamed TEMSAMANI  Ms Susanne ZÄNKER  *Apologies:*  Mr Thomas RAUCH, I.H.O. (Observer) |

1. Reminder on competition policy

The rules of the Competition law were reminded, and all agreed to adhere.

1. Welcome and approval of agenda

The Chair, Nadia Viva welcomed the attendees, and the agenda was approved as sent.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES & REVIEW OF ACTIONS OF LAST MEETINGS (29 April & 31 may 2021)

The meeting minutes of the ordinary Board call in April and the Extra-ordinary in May were approved; all actions were undertaken and most of them are covered through the agenda of the today’s Board meeting.

1. Governance
   1. **Last questions before the General** [**Assembly**](https://aise.wall.idloom.com/#/filelastversion/12090) *(S.Zänker)*

No questions were raised.

* 1. **Revised budgets 2021-2022 further to April Board decision to increase support** *(A.Scheidgen)*

**in A.I.S.E. team**

The revised budget reflected the discussion and decisions of the Board meeting in April, i.e. an increase of FTE at A.I.S.E. to cope with the increased work, mainly linked to the Green Deal.

* 1. **Evolution of Operational Reserve – projection till 31/12/2022** *(A.Scheidgen)*

A. Scheidgen reminded that with the above changes, additional expenses also for projects and the decreased income (mainly due to the agreement to reduce the UKCPI membership fees), the reserves will decrease. The limit for the operational reserves to be kept, i.e., € 650K will be reached by end of 2022, meaning that an increase of membership fees is foreseen in 2023. Details will be elaborated in autumn for further discussion in the Board.

*ACTION:   
- work out in QIII 2021 a proposal for an membership increase in 2023 to maintain the A.IS.E. budget sustainable (A. Scheidge; I. Djelassi; A.I.S.E. secretariat)*

1. Key topics
   1. **Green Deal** 
      1. CSS and Zero Pollution *(J.Robinson)*

The minutes of the first meeting of the **High Level Roundtable** on 5th May are available on the [Commission Register of Expert Groups](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/screen/meetings/consult?lang=en&meetingId=25355&fromExpertGroups=true). The Board asked if a summary of the positions of participants could be provided. (*Post-meeting note*: the brief positions of all 32 participants are included in the [meeting report](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/core/api/front/document/52855/download), and submitted written statements are also uploaded to the website.)

The A.I.S.E. holistic **Impact Assessment project** is currently at the halfway point of the initial data collection phase. The project, which is intended to be delivered by the end of October 2021, is important to provide robust data to support A.I.S.E.’s input both to the High Level Roundtable and to the Commission’s impact assessment studies on revision of REACH and CLP. (*Post-meeting note*: delivery of the A.I.S.E. report forecasted now end of November, due to requested extension of the survey deadline by participating companies). Other associations conducting IA projects via the same methodology are Cefic, IFRA and Cosmetics Europe.

The Commission’s impact assessments should take into account the ability and/or willingness to pay for different consumers or B2B customers. Board members noted that the debate on **essential use** goes beyond the Commission and the REACH/CLP competent authorities, as it involves also wider societal considerations. It was recommended to emphasise the essentiality of the sector’s products in upcoming advocacy positions. (*Note:* in the meantime‘essential use’ has appeared on the list of potential discussion topics for the High Level Roundtable, and the Commission is opening a call for tender for a study on the subject.)

A.I.S.E. is developing a response to a Commission (DG RTD) survey on criteria for **Safe and Sustainable Chemicals** (deadline 30 June). The Board recommended to stress the history of A.I.S.E.’s developments in sustainability, with the current Charter being just the latest manifestation of its efforts.

*ACTION:   
- update free text elements of SSbD survey response accordingly (A.I.S.E.)*

* + 1. Update on A.I.S.E. activities linked to the CEAP (post extra-meeting 31 May) *(S. Nissen)*

The Board **approved the submission** of a technical proposal to the Commission ([see pre-read),](https://aise.wall.idloom.com/#/filelastversion/12319) after final review by the president. The proposal is addressing A.I.S.E.’s vision and recommendations on the CEAP to deliver on the EU Green Deal’s objectives, especially for initiatives related to the substantiation of green claims for our sector; it further aims:

* to seek guidance from the Commission on the appropriateness of developing sectorial approaches (based on robust science-based methodologies) to accurately address the diversity of features that must be communicated to consumers.
* to seek guidance from the European Commission on our proposal to integrate environmental footprint (EF) policy in our industry’s sustainability flagship initiative ‘Charter for Sustainable Cleaning’.
* to invite the European Commission to provide input on those activities as elaborated below and help steer A.I.S.E.’s proposal in this regard.

*ACTION:   
- provide final input on proposal so that the A.I.S.E. team can send it to the Commission by end of June (N.Viva).*

In addition, a proposal was presented to the Board, addressing (i) state of play of technical developments, (ii) proposal for advocacy outreach (see presentation). These proposals were supported by the Board, incl. the signature of a cross-industry letter together with about 20 European industry and trade associations. However, it will be another association than A.I.S.E. to be in lead of submission. The reason for this is that we want to avoid any risk of diluting our A.I.S.E. recommendations on CEAP with the proposal to integrate environmental footprint (EF) policy in the Charter (see above).

In the context of an advocacy outreach, there is also a specific request for the secretariat to consult and seek support from NGOs (e.g., Ellen MacArthur Foundation) and retail on our activities.

***ACTION:   
- reach out to potential allies on Circular Economy such as the Ellen McArthur Foundation to assess opportunities for joint communication/activities (A.I.S.E.).***

* 1. **Digitalisation- Progress on roadmap and new pilot project, for approval** *(V.Séjourné)*

An update on latest developments was shared as pre-reading and discussed at the Board. One major activity is the work undertaken by the Commission consultant regarding the study on hazard information simplification and use of e-labelling, to which A.I.S.E. and its members are contributing actively (a number of interviews have taken place or are being scheduled these weeks). This is a key priority of our sector since the BRES project back in 2016.

More recently, some other developments related to the provision of sustainability-related information are emerging from the Green Deal, which could also help the Charter case (and the fight against green washing claims).

As both types of information are related to the same product, and as we are currently lacking from actual consumer reactions/data on how people would feel should (additional) information be conveyed online, it is proposed that an online pilot be organised in the course of the summer in order to check consumers’ reactions to the provision of such information. That would then equip us with further arguments for our advocacy in fall 2021, and potentially guide us for good practices to undertake in the future on both topics (hazard information/sustainability info) in the future.

Some Board members felt that the priority for this pilot should be given to hazard information, and that retrieving existing data (e.g., from PEF consumer research) should be used to help the sustainability case. Others indicated that with the new developments, and the pressure that we sense from authorities to empower consumers for more sustainable purchasing (allowing them to compare products better), the addition of sustainability information was important.

It was agreed that the 2 parts should still be progressed by the relevant groups and that a next Board in the very near future should be organised and devoted to this topic as main focus, so as to give a good brief to the teams for the summer.

**ACTION:   
- progress proposal and ad hoc Board now fixed for 7 July (Sustainability team and Digitalisation WG ).**

* 1. **ERASM: update on the activities 2021 – 2022** *(J.Robinson)*

A brief overview of the existing and proposed new projects was presented. Proposals for new projects are mainly to address CSS actions relevant for surfactants (e.g., ‘persistent’ hazard classes, Mixture Assessment Factor); project sheets and costings are anticipated in September, but there is full confidence that these would be adequately resourced by the proposed budget. The Board **formally approved the A.I.S.E. contribution** of €125,000 to the ERASM research budget for 2022.

* 1. **A.I.S.E. role: “Checking” Industry Vision and A.I.S.E. Mission** *(S.Zänker)*

As no time was left, it was referred to the annotated agenda describing the project as following:

“At the last Board meeting, where it was reported that in its broad lines the Green Deal will not be amended by the Commission, a discussion started on innovation and support for this to reach the Commission’s vision of the Green Deal. DG GROW of the Commission in particular, is encouraging industry to identify specific areas where support is needed to enable innovation to take place.

The discussion within A.I.S.E. on this topic has started on 2 levels, one within the relevant working groups to define areas of priorities for innovation, obstacles of the past and needs for the future. The other level is the Board, where some Board members have been approached for one-to-one discussions, to understand where the innovation focus areas of each company are, what is expected from A.I.S.E. to provide support and also to understand whether our Industry Vision and A.I.S.E. Mission as approved in 2016 are still “up-to-date” and reflect the members expectations to the A.I.S.E. activities.

As a next step, all input will be pulled together into a report to be discussed and finetuned for further use in the A.I.S.E. advocacy. In terms of timing, the next 2 Board meetings of October and December should serve to achieve this goal.”

1. Topics for information/ question only: refer to [pre-readings](https://aise.wall.idloom.com/#/filelastversion/12276)
   1. **Biocides** *(J.Robinson)*

No questions were raised.

* 1. **Microplastics: status of restriction proposal** *(J.Robinson/M.Temsamani)*

No questions were raised.

* 1. **Single use plastics guidelines** (M. Temsamani)

No questions were raised.

* 1. **EU Industrial Strategy** *(M. Temsamani)*

No questions were raised.

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

No questions were raised.

* 1. **Targeted Hygiene report- Stakeholder feedback received and next steps** *(V. Séjourné)*

Not discussed due to lack of time.

* 1. **Activity and sustainability report 2020-2021** *(V. Séjourné)*

Not discussed due to lack of time.

1. Next Meeting Date(s)

Ordinary meeting: 14 October 2021, all agreed to meet physically in Brussels.

It was however agreed to have additional calls until the next ordinary meeting.

*ACTION:  
- Organise additional dates for one-hour calls (A.I.S.E. secretariat).  
Post-meeting note: 7th July at 14:30 (focus on digital and consumer information); 2nd August at 10:30; 3rd September at 10:00; 30th September at 11:00.*

Document name: A.I.S.E., 8 July 2021