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| Board meeting 04/21 | |
| Minutes | Webex conference Thursday 14 October 2021 10:30 – 15:00 CET |

Guest: Christian Verschueren and Els Bedert (Eurocommerce) for agenda item 4.

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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  Mr Ismaël DJELASSI, Mondo-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 Dave HEMINGWAY  Mr Sascha NISSEN  Ms Jan ROBINSON  Ms Valérie SEJOURNE  Ms Susanne ZÄNKER  *Apologies:*  Mr Thomas RAUCH, I.H.O. (Observer)  Ms Virginie D'ENFERT, Afise |

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, in particular D. Hemingway, the recently appointed Senior Director for PA and Communication at A.I.S.E. The agenda was approved as reshuffled in the Meeting Guide (sent on 6 October 2021).

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES & REVIEW OF ACTIONS OF LAST MEETING (15 June 2021) and last interim calls

The following minutes were approved: [Minutes 15 June 2021](https://aise.wall.idloom.com/#/filelastversion/12497) (Board virtual meeting), [Minutes 7 July 2021](https://aise.wall.idloom.com/#/filelastversion/13205) (Board interim call), [Minutes 2 August 2021](https://aise.wall.idloom.com/#/filelastversion/12668) (Board interim call) and [Minutes 3 September 2021](https://aise.wall.idloom.com/#/filelastversion/12777) (Board interim call). All actions were either undertaken or/ and will be covered through the agenda.

1. Priorities for the retail sector and potential areas of collaboration

C. Verschueren from EuroCommerce gave a short overview of his association’s members including both food and non-food companies, big and small retailers, known and less known names (see his [slides](https://aise.wall.idloom.com/#/filelastversion/13385)). The detergent sector is a very tiny part in terms of product category for the retailers.

N. Viva expressed her appreciation to C. Verschueren and E. Bedert for their attendance and emphasised that for both sectors, namely A.I.S.E. and EuroCommerce, consumers do play an important role and therefore collaboration on consumer communication is an area of common interest. C. Verschueren agreed and mentioned that exchange among both association through the EuroCommerce non-food committee is taking place since many years. Indeed, serving consumer’s interest is of utmost importance. Product knowledge be it on safety or sustainability is mainly with the manufacturing companies and less with the retailers. He added that with the pandemic situation, the retail sector and distribution channel of goods has fundamentally changed to more e-commerce and digital tools, with the price remaining an important element of choice for the consumer. He illustrated the EuroCommerce priorities in his slide, namely Data Economy, Open Markets, Fair Competition and Sustainable Living.

As to communication to consumer, EuroCommerce mentioned the role to play by public institutions, be it in safe and sustainable use. On the question about different labels by different retailers, potentially leading to a confusion for the consumer, EuroCommerce appreciated the call for a more harmonised approach, but also wanted to leave the flexibility for the retailers to develop market specific communication. It is also a competitive element for retailers (citing as example IKEA or Decathlon) to differentiate themselves from the competitors. This is also discussed at the Retail Forum, however no agreement for a common approach is actually on the agenda, and therefore it is limited to an exchange of Best Practices. C. Verschueren mentioned “nutri-score” which in some countries is driven by retail initiatives, in some countries it is not in focus and in others it is driven by governments.

On other specific questions raised by A.I.S.E., the following answers were given by EuroCommerce:   
- Re-fill: not a priority yet for EuroCommerce, as no member had raised it.  
- On-line: EuroCommerce referred to the concern raised mainly by the consumer NGO BEUC about the lack of connectivity for some parts of the population making digital access impossible. Nevertheless, in reality the use of smart phone is increasing requiring also for EuroCommerce to reconsider their strategy. A common data structure for the information would probably help, however the attempt at this stage made through the Consumer Forum was not very successful.  
- Alleged Dual Quality: EuroCommerce is also supporting sound science as a basic principle in the assessment when comparing products/ ingredients of products.

Both A.I.S.E and EuroCommerce expressed their interest to maintain a constructive dialogue like in the past. A specific project could be set up if priorities are similar and investment of resources can be devoted.

1. Key topics
   1. **Green Deal** 
      1. **Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability** *(J. Robinson)*

An [update](https://aise.wall.idloom.com/#/filelastversion/13387) on the status of CSS was given. Regarding the High Level Roundtable, the Board noted that the Commission has not yet provided any further feedback on the list of future discussion topics (on which A.I.S.E. provided its comments in June and there are still some open questions from the first HLRT meeting). This is expected to be discussed in an upcoming meeting of the Sherpas.  
There is no indication yet from Cefic regarding plans for communication on the outcomes of their impact assessment project. Caution is needed as the market could be highly sensitive to such information.

* + 1. **Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP**) *(S. Nissen)*

The Board was reminded on A.I.S.E.’s strategy to address the objectives of the CEAP Green claims substantiation dossier. This strategy was confirmed by the Board, building on the Charter as centre-piece and integrating robust PEF methods, e.g. carbon footprint via the PEF climate change impact method. In support of this strategy, a technical proposal was submitted to DG ENV and DG GROW in early summer. On 14 Oct, A.I.S.E. received an invitation for a meeting on 30 Nov by E. Maire, Head of unit of Sustainable Production, Products and Consumption in DG ENV, to discuss this technical proposal, and also trying to get a better understanding of the legislative initiative on green claims substantiation, which publication has been postponed by the Commission to early next year.

Furthermore, the Board was informed on a pre-consortium, which has been set up in the cosmetics industry sector; aim of this is to develop an environmental impact assessment and scoring system for cosmetics to enable comparison. The following information was shared by CF Gaudefroy and A Scheidgen – Unilever and Henkel are members of the pre-consortium – as follows:

* Sector specific solution for cosmetics: No intention to compete against A.I.S.E. Charter
* Global initiative, aligned with ‘Consumer Goods Forum’ programme on consumer information
* Plan: Science-based system for cosmetics products to
  + measure/assess environmental impact
  + communicate results to consumers via product label comparison (design not covered)
  + generate data (which may be used by both sectors, cosmetics and detergents – synergies?)

Following points were highlighted during a discussion of Board members:

* The Cosmetics sector should not give impression to support PEF as it stands today (to not contradict A.I.S.E. position).
* A.I.S.E. to continue as agreed and mandated: i.e. Charter as centre-piece with a science-based approach, working towards a further improved robust method (with mature EF elements integrated); addressing green and digital transition.
* A.I.S.E. team to continue monitoring; but no meeting of the SSG (which was proposed by the SSG) to be organised with representatives of cosmetics sector. The A.I.S.E. team was asked to continue to focus on those workstreams which have been initiated in the context of our technical proposal (see above).
  1. **Detergent Regulation review** *(J. Robinson)*

Refer to [presentation](https://aise.wall.idloom.com/#/filelastversion/13207). The Board queried the timing of the current proposal for labelling of preservatives, in light of the more extensive review of the Detergents Regulation in progress; the reason for this pre-emptive action being taken in advance is not known.

The Board supported A.I.S.E. showing leadership on this topic and clear articulation of all key aspects in the response to the Inception Impact Assessment. The Board requested an overview of the elements of A.I.S.E.’s position, differentiating between defensive and pro-active aspects. Advocacy towards Member States (competent authorities, MEPs and PermReps) will be important as the decision-makers.

* 1. **Digitalisation of information- Consumer research-Pilot project** *(V.Séjourné)*

Progress done over summer on the topic was shared (cf PPT presentation and online demo). This includes our input to the Commission consultation on the Inception Impact Assessment (submitted on 20 September), the development of alternative labels regarding hazard information provision vs the current one today, development of infographics to present how a brand meets the Charter criteria and explanation about CO2 and washing. This is on an online demo to present the info (see [www.thisbrandinfo.com](http://www.thisbrandinfo.com)). V. Séjourné indicated that the consumer research to check consumers’ reactions to simpler labels and to the provision of more information (both for hazard and for charter/CO2/Sustainability info) had been initiated. The preliminary findings obtained from qualitative research held in France in Sept 21 confirmed the preference for lighter labels with a QR code. She also explained that based on the learnings from this quali work the material is slightly amended. Further to A.I.S.E.’s dialogue with consumer NGOs after their release of 2 reports over summer (cf CLEAN and Nordqual projects), V. Séjourné indicated that the Digitalisation WG recommended to actually use – as part of the quantitative fieldwork- a back label inspired from consumer NGOS’s expectations i.e with full ingredients listing. Due to the various views in the WG, and the time pressure to start the field work, she sought the feedback from the Board on this topic. After some discussion, the idea was supported provided this label would be based on 3 languages. This will allow us to know how real consumers react to such an alternative. Results of this research are due end November so findings will be shared at the next Board meeting early Dec, including recommendations of what data to use externally or not and what learnings to use for our strategy.

* 1. **Advocacy – EP Political Outreach** (*L.Conti/S.Zänker)*

A.I.S.E. has started the engagement with Members of the European Parliament to organise a political outreach in fall 2021. The plan is to organise several meetings with MEPs (most likely virtual ones) during the central weeks in mid-November (8 – 19 November). The meetings are meant to build relationships with relevant MEPs ahead of the several legislative files that will land at EP level as of early 2022, and in parallel pass key messages on A.I.S.E. priority policies. A Sub-Group of the Advocacy SG is running the activities and preparation of the outreach, together with the support of a Public Affairs Consultancy (Rud Pedersen).

During the Board Meeting, more information on the operational aspects as well as on the possibility to join A.I.S.E. delegations during the meetings with MEPs were discussed. Board members will be invited to express their availabilities and interests in attending specific meetings. In addition, an A.I.S.E. Workshop meant to prepare the meetings with MEPs is scheduled on 3 November (the workshop will be recorded for those members not available to attend on that day).

1. Governance
   1. **Membership applications** *(for approval)*
      1. Evonik (Associate) *(L.Conti)*
      2. ECOPOL (Associate) *(L.Conti)*

The Board approved both applications for Associate Membership, which will be submitted in June 2022 to the GA for endorsement. In the meantime, both new members are entitled to join WGs and TFs as observers. First payment for membership fees is due in 2022.

* 1. **Slovenian Association: Activity Report 1st Half 2021** *(for information)**(L.Conti)*

The submitted report by the Slovenian Association, having a Service Agreement with A.I.S.E. was acknowledged by the Board without any questions.

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

The proposed candidate, Thomas Rauch to remain observer at the Board, was approved for the period of September 2021 until September 2022 (1 year).

* 1. A.I.S.E. **Financial situation as at 30 June 2021** *(for information)* *(A.Scheidgen)*

A. Scheidgen referred to the pre-reading and the Excel sheet “[Budget vs Actuals – Q1+Q2 2021”](https://aise.wall.idloom.com/#/filelastversion/13208).

The half year income is in line with the forecasted budget. As to the expenses, the fixed expenses are also in line with the budget, with some underspending in certain projects, foreseeing however that by end of the year most will be spent as forecasted. For the separately funded project see pre-reading.  
A. Scheidgen thanked I. Djelassi and C. Baïer for the support and the thorough preparation. He also mentioned that the small TF to review the membership fees from 2023 onwards will meet soon and present tot eh Board in December the principles and routes of reflexions to work along those lines for proposals in February. An increase of the membership fees is necessary to counterbalance the reduced income from the membership against the increase of resources, be it in projects and staff to cope with the Green Deal.

1. Topics for information/ question only

Refer to [prereadings](https://aisebxl.sharepoint.com/sites/Data/Common/A.I.S.E.%202021%20MEETINGS/BOARD/2021-10-14/Agenda_Preread_Minutes/prereadings)

* 1. **A.I.S.E. Forum/Charter Symposium** 2nd edition 2021 on 8 December *(S. Nissen)*

The Board approved the proposal to organise this as a physical event in Brussels, which will also be streamed for those delegates, who will not be able to travel to Brussels. The outline programme had been shared with the pre-reading.

* 1. **Biocides** *(J. Robinson)*
  2. **Alleged Dual Quality**  (*S.Zänker/L.Conti*)
  3. **Better Regulation cross-industry statement**  *(L.Conti*)
  4. **DG GROW report** **on strategic dependencies for chemicals** (*S.Zänker/L.Conti*)
  5. **LDC PSP update and accident reporting** *(J. Robinson/V.Séjourné)*

No questions were raised.

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

1. CALENDAR FOR DATES IN 2022

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| Wednesday 19 January 2022 | 11:00-12:00 | Board Extra-ordinary call, *if needed* (! date changed) |
| Thursday 10 February 2022 | 10:30-16:00\* | Brussels (A.I.S.E.) |
| Thursday 28 April 2022 | 10:30-15:30 | Web conference |
| Tuesday 14 June 2022 | 08:00-10:00 | Brussels (THE HOTEL) |
| Thursday 13 October 2022 | 10:30-15:30 | Webconference |
| Wednesday 7 December 2022 | 09:00-13:00 | Brussels (TBC) |

\* will end at 15:30 if virtual

Approved calendar available [HERE](https://aise.wall.idloom.com/#/filelastversion/13393)

1. Next Meeting Date(s)

- Next ordinary meeting: 8 December 2021 in Brussels

- Proposed dates for extra-ordinary calls *(if needed):*

* ~~Thursday 4 November 2021, 11:00 to 12:00~~ (post-meeting note: cancelled on 25 October)
* Wednesday 19 January 2022, 11:00 to 12:00

Document name: 2021-10-14 BOARD Minutes A.I.S.E., 25 October 2021