

**<draft> MINUTES OF THE UKCPI COUNCIL**

**11.00am, Wednesday 24 Feb 2021**

 **By Zoom conference call**

Mr T Appleton Procter & Gamble UK & Ireland

Ms A Barker SC Johnson

Ms C Berto Henkel UK

Mr C Beevor Unilever UK

Mr N Bolton Procter & Gamble UK & Ireland

Mr M Cunningham PZ Cussons

Mr I Croft Robert McBride

Ms R Eckley Unilever UK

Mr G Edwards ACDOPRO

Mr R Furse (Chair) RB

Mr G Horne Astonish

Mr R Keeling AirPure

Ms A McClafferty Unilever UK

Mr P Malpass (Sec) UKCPI

Ms A Romanowska SC Johnson

Mr P Woodhead Selden Research

**Apologies:**

Mr D Butterfield Ecolab

Mr K Kotsanopoulos Diversey

Mr B Maxwell Dri Pak

**1. Welcome**

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 25 Nov 2020 were agreed.

.

**3. Matters and actions arising**

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

**4. Membership update**

PM reported that Jerome Gourbeault has relocated back to France and will be taking on broader responsibilities for mainland Europe. As such he will step down as a member of UKCPI Council.

Council then congratulated Rowland Furse on his promotion within RB to Head of Regulatory, UK and Ireland.

PM thanked Council for approving the membership application from Saraco, a Bolton based manufacturer of wipes.

He also reported that following the departure of Matt Wood from Mirius (formerly Coventry Chemicals) he and Steve had had regular conversations with the new regulatory director Dr Richard Hastings on their ongoing UKCPI membership. This was concluded satisfactorily this year with Mirius retaining full membership.

PM also reported that SCJ Professional (formerly Deb) would be joining UKCPI.

Finally there have been detailed conversations with Nicols International, a large SME based in Belgium with a view to them joining UKCPI.

**5. Clearcast review**

PM repeated his request to have all comments in for review within the next 4 weeks with a deadline of 24 March. This would then allow for a meeting to be called in April to both agree amends and then finalise our approach to BACS and then Clearcast.

**Action:** on members of the Clearcast work group to submit comments by 24 March 2021.

**6. EU exit**

**i) Future UKCPI priorities**

PM summarised the input he had received from members and Council agreed to the following relating to legislation and policy for 2021 and 2022. See below.

PM stated that it was a framework to focus the work of UKCPI on the policy and regulatory challenges from EU exit and would not interfere with other UKCPI activities such as issues management, media handling etc.

1. The scope of our **regulatory expertise** willremain centred around UKSI’s relating toBPR, CLP, Det Regs, Reach, explosive precursors, UN GHS &TDG and certain aspects of other legislation, usually time limited, as requested by a consensus of members.

Topics such as packaging, single use plastic will require UKCPI to engage alongside or follow the experts from other industry associations.

For non core areas such as tariffs, customs, haulage documentation, rules of origin etc. UKCPI will continue to sign post members to expert sources.

1. Issues relating to trade to/from/through **Northern Ireland** will feature heavily during the first half of 2021. UKCPI will;

Seek official answers to GB / NI and NI / RoI challenges

Understand NI HSE and GB HSE roles and responsibilities as relate to the chemicals sector

Support ICDA in its dealings with RoI HSA and other bodies and where appropriate seek direct contact with RoI officials.

1. The **geographic scope** of UKCPI regulatory and policy advice to members and advocacy should in the short term be focussed on geographically ‘local’ issues likely to be around UK/BG/NI/RoI whilst continuing to signpost members to help for other overseas markets.

None the less UKCPI will build its relationship and information exchange with overseas associations should fast track assistance be required.

1. The **use of external consultants** to support UKCPI / plug gaps should be a last resort if unable to source experts / advice from member companies.
2. UKCPI will leverage its ongoing membership of AISE to seek support for UKCPI members on **EU regulations and EU policy** **initiatives** as they relate to NI. UKCPI will also continue to monitor EU developments through its membership of AISE in order to help address future UK policy initiatives.
3. The Scottish and Welsh **devolved Government’s** are able to introduce ‘independent’ legislation or policy initiatives that impact our sector. UKCPI will monitor and where appropriate respond to such initiatives with support from its members.

**ii) EU exit workability forum and regional meeting**

PM reported that there had been a full and detailed response to the request for topics for a regional meeting. The overwhelming majority had raised transport, customs and tariff queries between EU/UK/GB/NI jurisdictions. PM has asked BEIS to find an ‘expert’ to address these on a zoom meeting with members.

If a presenter is forthcoming quickly then he/she will be the main event at the next EU exit workability forum (2 March).

If we miss that date then a meeting will be convened asap thereafter.

**iii) Future relationship with AISE**

PM reported that the AISE Board supported a proposal to retain UKCPI as full members with full rights but with a reduction to fees of 50%. Reviewed in 2 years. See below.

 *Extract from AISE Board meeting of 11 Feb 2020.*

*UKCPI The Board endorsed the proposal, as discussed last year in October, to maintain UKCPI as an Ordinary National Association Member with full rights at 50% reduced membership fees. This would apply for the period of 1.1.2022 till 31.12.2023. The objective is to ensure the adequate link between both associations, to serve the members and business, and to allow for a proper assessment in 2 years-time about the long-term status and needs.*

*The NAC will be updated in March addressing also the financial outlook for their contributions, as the budget part stemming from the National Associations will be impacted through this decrease of the UKCPI membership. With a slight excess of income on expenses in 2020 in the A.I.S.E. budget, this will be taken into account to support the idea of unchanged membership fees for 2022.*

*The proposal will be then finally approved respectively in March by the UKCPI Council and in April by the A.I.S.E. Board, for subsequent submission to the A.I.S.E. General Assembly (June 2021). This submission will go hand in hand with a proposal for needed change in the A.I.S.E. statutes to include former EU Member States in the Ordinary National Associations Membership category.*

**7. Future vice chair 2021/2022**

RF introduced the request to identify a suitable candidate to act as vice chair when RK takes over chair in Nov 2021. He asked that company representatives consider the opportunity of vice chair from 2021 and 2023 which would then normally progress to becoming chair from Nov 2023 through to 2025.

PM reminded Council that by alternating between SME and multinational chairs then together (vice chair and chair) it provides a very credible representation of UKCPI membership should advocacy require it.

The candidate would join an impressive list of UKCPI alumni.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***2 year term*** | ***UKCPI Council Chair*** |
| *2023 - 2025* | *TBD* |
| *2021 - 2023* | *Rob Keeling (AirPure)* |
| *2019 - 2021* | *Rowland Furse (RB)* |
| *2017 - 2019* | *Bruce Maxwell (DriPack)* |
| *2015 - 2017* | *Gemma Cleland (Unilever)* |
| *2013 -2015* | *Brandon Pilling (ACDO)* |
| *2011 - 2013* | *Colin McIntyre (McBride)* |
| *2009 - 2011* | *Irwin Lee (P&G)* |
| *2007 - 2009* | *Alan Rogers (Kays Soaps)* |
| *2005 - 2007* | *Gianni Ciserani  (P&G)* |
| *2003 - 2005* | *Keith Weed (Unilever)* |
| *2001 - 2003* | *Chris de Lapuente (P&G)* |

**Action** Council members are to make their interest known as soon as possible.

**8. APPG on cleaning and hygiene**

PM reported that the All Party Parliamentary Group on Cleaning and Hygiene had its inaugural meeting on 2 Feb with a total of 53 MPs and a few members of the Lords. Nigel Mills, MP for the Amber Valley (SC Johnson professional) was elected chair.

PM reminded Council that MPs could still join and asked if Council members had not yet contacted their local MP to please do so or ask UKCPI to do so on their behalf.

We now have a material number of MPs with an interest in our sector for when we want to inform them. A schedule of topics and issues is still to be agreed with the British Cleaning Council who is acting as secretariat to the APPG. It was discussed that should we be in a position to hold a physical meeting in November in Westminster Palace then a briefing for MPs should be organised.

 **AOB**

PW asked how we will advocate/lobby going forward.

PM suggested that it would depend on the scale and immediacy required. Timing and focus will be key.

For example officials are currently preoccupied with ensuring that the current UKSI’s work and guidance is accurate rather than changing them. By supporting officials in this process we will be able to raise concerns that should be addressed in the mid term.

PM also stated that opportunities to seek change will inevitably arise as the UK Govt seeks to review changes in EU regs that could apply in the UK. It is likely to use a consultation process to assess appetite for adoption, adaption or rejection. These will be public consultations open to all stakeholders such as NGOs, industry, academia and consumers.

Finally if there are significant new regulatory burdens (ideally impacting numerous sectors) then direct advocacy to Ministers is possible as well as mobilising MPs (possibly through the APPG or broader).

The implementation of UK Reach and current concerns over the significant cost burden and risk of test duplication is a good example of an issue that is supported across the whole chemicals supply chain (though not NGOs). PM thought that the Govt’s response to such a concerted effort addressed at Ministerial level with industry meetings and press involvement, would be an instructive case to guide future advocacy efforts.

**Guest speaker** Melissa Hockstad CEO, American Cleaning Institute. Ppt already circulated.

**The next Council meeting** will be held by Zoom at 10.30am, Wed 26 May 2021

(this is a change from 2 June to accommodate the Australian trade association).

 26 May (joined by Bronwyn Capanna, Executive Director, Accord Australasia)

8 September (zoom or physical tbc)

24 November Council and AGM and Annual Dinner (tbc Westminster)