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| MC meeting 09/2022 | |
| Minutes | Brussels (A.I.S.E.) Tuesday 22 November 2022 10:30-16:00 CET |

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| **Participants**  Giuseppe Abello, Assocasa *(remotely)*  Ina Andreasen, Reckitt *(remotely)*  Sonia Benacquista, FHER *(remotely)*  Agnieszka Bielach, Ecolab  Stephanie Brochard, Unilever  Ian Croft, McBride *(remotely)*  Giorgia De Berardinis, Colpal  Bernd Glassl, IKW *(from 11h00)*  Ad Jespers, Diversey  Marten Kops, NVZ *(remotely)*  Joachim Noach, KoHB (*(remotely)*  Eleni Papadimitriou, PG  Rob Roggeband, P&G  Felix Rustemeyer, Henkel  Françoise van Tiggelen, Detic *(remotely)*  Edward Whittle, SC Johnson  Guests: Sumaira Latif for point 4.1, P&G *(remotely)*  Christian Josi, P&G *(remotely)*  *Apologies:*  Pilar Espina, Adelma  Gerard Luijkx, Unilever  Thomas Rauch, IHO |  | *From A.I.S.E. (for their respective agenda topics):*  Elodie Cazelle  Cindy Chhuon  Majlinda Cobaj  Luca Conti  Dave Hemingway  Zivile Kairyte  Bahar Koyuncu  Sascha Nissen  Aisling O’Kane  Jan Robinson  Amelie Weber  Susanne Zänker |

1. welcome & reminder of competition law

Members were welcomed, in particular a new member, namely Stephanie Brochard (Unilever) in substitution of G. Luijkx. The competition law rules were reminded; all agreed to adhere to them.

1. approval of the [agenda](https://aise.wall.idloom.com/#/filelastversion/19496)

The initial agenda, restructured according to the annotated agenda sent on 16/11/22, was approved with the following additions:

4.6. Liquid detergent capsules and PVOH films

4.7 Feedback from the EU Ecolabel Board meeting on 16 November 2022

4.8 Compaction projects

1. APPROVAL OF [MINUTES](https://aise.wall.idloom.com/#/filelastversion/19398) & REVIEW OF ACTIONS OF LAST MEETING (18 Oct 22)

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved. As to the *ACTIONS*, all were covered except the following ones:   
 - Dangerous Goods Transportation (pending action from the MC 6 Sept): Call for experts *(J. Robinson):*   
 pending  
 - Reach out to AMFEP *(A.I.S.E. Secretariat):* pending  
 - Revision of Waste Framework Directive: Scoping the topic *(I. Andreasen):* pending

1. key topics for discussion / decision
   1. **Universal Tactile symbols for detergent products** *(S.Latif /E.Papadimitriou)*

E. Papadimitriou opened the topic by introducing S. Latif, who within P&G is involved among other responsibilities in developing tactile symbols to allow to people with reduced visibility to differentiate products on shelf or at home ([see slides](https://aise.wall.idloom.com/#/filelastversion/19569) presented).  
In an effort to improve the consumer experience of those in the blind and partially sighted community, P&G wishes to share work/learnings it has been doing on tactile symbols for its products. For that purpose, P&G stated that that access to P&G tactile symbols is open to any third party free of charge. P&G filed registered design rights/design patents to our tactile symbols and will not assert its registered design rights/design patents if third parties are not using their own Intellectual Property to block P&G from using its own developed symbols.   
The MC thanked warmly S. Latif for her presentation and appreciated the idea. It was agreed that each company will internally assess the proposal and come back. Further details on the use and promotion of the use the tactile symbols will then be assessed.  
***ACTION:  
-Companies to internally assess the interest of the proposal from P&G and to provide feedback by beginning of 2023 (MC).***

* 1. **Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability** 
     1. Development on the fragrance side *(J.Robinson/S.Zänker)*

An update on the discussion at IFRA on the consequences of the grouping action by ECHA on substances of concern was provided, involving 2 aspects:

1. *Awareness raising:* IFRA wants to make aware their customers about the disproportionate consequence for the palette of fragrances available for use in cosmetics and detergents.
2. *Participation in a joint action:* While not challenging the principle of grouping, IFRA is questioning the process ECHA is using i.e., its non-transparency on the science used for grouping and also the lack of consultation with the concerned companies. IFRA Board has asked for an external legal opinion on the process, and is proposing to undertake joint actions (IFRA, CE, A.I.S.E.) when reaching out to the Commission and ECHA. It is about the way grouping is undertaken, i.e. the principles that are being used for grouping, which goes beyond fragrances.  
   It was also explained that some members companies of IFRA consider to undertake in parallel legal actions on their specific substances, which is independent from the joint activities foreseen by the associations.

*In conclusion:* The MC’s view was favorable in principle for A.I.S.E. to support IFRA in its stakeholder outreach to ECHA and the Commission as long it is in a constructive tone towards EACH and the Commission, pending the one-pager of IFRA describing the expected joint activities.

* 1. **Biocides**  (E.Cazelle)

The Management Committee agreed with the proposal made by the Biocides WG ([refer to the pre-reading document](https://aise.wall.idloom.com/#/filelastversion/19470)), i.e. stop the activity linked to borderline products, and not re-open the topic at least for the coming 3 years (unless major developments at EU level necessitate a reconsideration). The MC thanked the Biocides WG for the work done on the topic.

* 1. **A.I.S.E. Cleaning & Hygiene Forum** (D.Hemingway)

The MC received a short update on the Forum, including format, participants, and key messages. More information can be found on the [forum event page](https://aise.idloom.events/aise-cleaning-and-hygiene-forum-2022/pages/programme). The overriding objective of the Forum is to show that A.I.S.E. and our members are part of the solution when legislating for a socially, environmentally and economically sustainable future. (*Post-meeting note*: 315 registered participants)

* 1. **Next Charter revision - Kick-off with PRé** (consultancy) (S.Nissen)

The MC was debriefed on the kick-off meeting with the consultancy 'PRé Sustainability' on 10 Nov. PRé has been mandated to support A.I.S.E. with technical project management for the next Charter revision. Two workstreams were initiated: one on consumer/end-user faced product comparison, considering also to bring the Charter closer to PEF, and the other one on a science-based approach for toxicity, enabling improved product information; goal is also to meet (expected) ESPR requirements. A targeted workshop with industry experts will be organised on the second workstream on 2 Dec.

* 1. **Liquid detergent capsules and PVOH films** *(J.Robinson/D.Hemingway)*

On 15 November the company [Blueland](http://www.blueland.com) and the NGO [Plastic Pollution Coalition](https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/about) submitted a formal petition to the US EPA to review and regulate the use of PVOH film in detergent capsules. The issue has attracted some media coverage in the USA, but only limited uptake in Europe (Chemical Watch, plus outlets in CZ and NL reposted the Washington Post article). A.I.S.E. produced a holding statement for reactive use as needed, however further waves of publicity are expected from the instigator.

It was proposed to develop a document to defend PVOH film, based on the position/explanatory document from April 2022. It was noted that revision of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (inter alia) is also ongoing under the Zero Pollution Action Plan; there is an indirect link with capsule films, although detergents or PVOH are not explicitly mentioned in the UWWTD proposal.

***ACTIONS:***

***- Secretariat to convene a joint call of the LDC WG and Microplastics TF together with ACI.****[post-meeting note: call held on 1 December, also including Polymer Biodegradation TF]*

***- Secretariat to provide written update for Board meeting on 7 December.***

* 1. **Feedback from the EU Ecolabel Board meeting on 16 November 2022** *(S.Nissen)*

The Commission proposed during the EU Ecolabel Board meeting on 16 November to extend the criteria expiration date for 6 detergent categories till end 2026; following some comments from member states and BEUC (see below) during the meeting, COM will check, whether this date can be moved forward (e.g., to end 2025 or mid-2026). The reason for this extension is that COM wants to address the criteria for all 6 detergent categories in one go, ensure coherence with the Detergent Regulation + other EU policies, and to have enough time for a complete finalisation of the revision process. The revision work will start in Q1 2023. The MC discussed the situation and agreed that A.I.S.E.’s involvement in the criteria revision and the potential installation of a dedicated TF should be evaluated by the PC&H SG and the SSG. Based on input from both groups, the MC will then further discuss during its meeting in January 2023.

Member States comments on proposed prolongation:

* A: ok
* B: not in support (implementation will take another 18 months)
* DK: ok
* F: will abstain
* NL: concerns, but ok
* PT: ok (high on agenda of industry in PT and good to have synergies with other (upcoming) legislative proposals)

BEUC: not in agreement; made a comment that they would not be able to support a prolongation till end 2026 due to substances in EU Ecolabel products, which they find critical.

To this regard, MC members mentioned that it would be interesting to understand, which substances those would be and to raise this question to BEUC, when the opportunity arises.

* 1. **Compaction projects** *(S.Nissen)*

The MC acknowledged the success of the Product Resource Efficiency Projects (PREPs), having contributed to a substantial sustainability improvement of detergents: apart from considerable material savings (ingredients, packaging), the reduction of the industry’s CO2 footprint is substantial (e.g. in transport). There was some discussion on how to best provide support, be it to country/region specific projects or centrally to A.I.S.E. It was recognised that those compaction projects are complex from a technical and legal perspective. It was agreed to identify an industry expert, who may take over the role of a specific ‘PREPs coordinator. This person would coordinate the projects closely with national association(s) representing the industry sector and should have experience in the industry sector with a good overview on the market. Technical expertise and project management experience would be a must.   
***ACTION:  
-MC members to get back to the A.I.S.E. team if they know any expert with a profile as indicated above / investigate accordingly (one possible option: a retired company expert who did compaction in the past).***Another topic discussed was whether the overall PREPs governance can be amended, to that effect that no consensus in the PREPs WG would automatically be a showstopper for projects which were already advanced in the past, but not carried out due to no unanimous position. Also based on the opinion of an external law firm, confirming that an approach of simple majority is aligned with the A.I.S.E. Board voting rules for decisions according to the A.I.S.E. Statutes. he MC reconfirmed its opinion that indeed a simple majority may be sufficient. Therefore, the PREPs WG is being asked to prepare a written proposal for each of the potential PREPs, incl.

* situation in WG re support (how many members in favour vs not + details/comments on position(s))
* likelihood of success (note: sufficient support within the A.I.S.E. membership + local networks are needed, also considering legal aspects such as competition rules).

***ACTION:***

***-PREPs WG to prepare such written proposals, covering the projects, which were not carried out due to no consensus in WG.***

1. Governance
   1. **Overview of the WGs re-structure and update of changes** 
      1. Update on the status of the Priority SGs

An overview of the status of the restructuring of the groups reporting to A.I.S.E. was presented (see slides).

* + 1. Priority Steering Group GRA/EUC: Approval of ToR *(J.Robinson)*

The [Terms of Reference](https://aise.wall.idloom.com/#/filelastversion/19493) for the Priority Steering Group on the Generic Approach to Risk Management (GRA) and Essential Use Concept (EUC), formerly an ad hoc strategic group, were approved in principle by the MC, with some remarks made on their detailed content and an invitation to provide written comments by 25 November. A call for (additional) participants will then be launched.

* + 1. Creating new Public Affairs and Communication SG *(D.Hemingway)*

The proposal to create a new Public Affairs & Communications Steering Group combining the Advocacy and Communication Steering Groups was approved.

* + 1. LDC: re-structuring of A.I.S.E. groups *(J.Robinson)*

The Terms of Reference were approved (available [HERE](https://aise.wall.idloom.com/#/filelastversion/19488)).

* + 1. Sustainability Policy WG: (B.Koyuncu/S.Nissen)

The objective and rationale for setting up of a sustainability Policy WG encompassing ESPR, UCPD and PEF& green claims was shared and approved. The ToR will be revised, covering PPWR as well (to be discussed with the SSG on 15 Dec); in addition, the context with the SSG and the new PSG ESPR will have to be further clarified.

***ACTION:***

***-SSG to revise ToR.***

5.1.6 Irritancy Panel of Experts: Approval of ToR (C.Chhuon)

The ToR were approved (available [HERE](https://aise.wall.idloom.com/#/filelastversion/19489))

1. Topics for information

See [pre-readings](https://aise.wall.idloom.com/#/filelastversion/19503)

* 1. **EC Work Programmes: A.I.S.E. Assessment and priorities** (L.Conti)
  2. **ESPR Update** (B.Koyuncu/L.Conti)
  3. **UCPD update**  (A.Weber/L.Conti)
  4. **Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (PPWD) review update** (A.Weber/M.Cobaj)
  5. **Sustainable Financing: Taxonomy** *(S.Zänker)*

Link to the webinar on 29/11: [Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MGZhZmM5YWUtMmI5NC00N2UzLTk5ZWMtZGM1ZmI2MDE5ZDIx%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22f2bb4852-857f-4cca-9093-cea799bf1c11%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2297a1cbdb-20cf-4ac4-83e6-5bb898877d13%22%7d) (Mtg ID: 362 257 650 547 - Passcode: 99FkC4)

* 1. **ERASM** *(J. Robinson)*

See [slides](https://aise.wall.idloom.com/#/filelastversion/19556) with overview of projects (current, recently completed and new ideas), survey on future of ERASM and planning/timeline for 2024 budget proposal.

1. any other items

No further items were raised.

1. Next DateS & close of meeting Tuesday 24 January 2023, 10:30 – 16:00, Brussels (A.I.S.E.)

Tuesday 14 February 2023, 10:30-15:30, Webconference

Tuesday 21 March 2023, 10:30 – 13:00, Brussels

Tuesday 21 March 2023 (joint meeting with some NAC representatives), 13:30-16:00, Brussels

Tuesday 18 April 2023, 10:30-15:30, Webconference

Tuesday 16 May 2023, 10:30 – 16:00, Brussels

Tuesday 20 June 2023, 10:30-15:30, Webconference

Tuesday 19 September 2023, 10:30 – 16:00, Brussels

Tuesday 17 October 2023, 10:30-15:30, Webconference

Tuesday 21 November 2023, 10:30 – 16:00, Brussels (A.I.S.E.)

Complete [**Calendar 2023** available here](https://aise.wall.idloom.com/#/filelastversion/19401)

**close of meeting: 15h**

Doc name: 2022-11-22 MC MINUTES.docx A.I.S.E., 6 December 2022