

MINUTES

Meeting:	AFEM
Date:	25 October 2017
Place:	Vienna Marriott Hotel Parking 12A – 1010 Vienna
Timing:	11.00 – 17.00 hrs
Attendance:	See attached list

Utz Tillmann, in the chair, opened the meeting and gave the floor to Sylvia Hofinger, the host of this 2017 Chemicals Convention. Sylvia expressed her pleasure to welcome all in the beautiful city of Vienna and wished all an excellent stay.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17th AND 18th MAY 2017 IN ATHENS AND OF THE AGENDA

Utz Tillmann started by asking if there were any comments on the agenda. Colette Alma proposed two additional topics: REACH landscape study and REACH Annexes on nanomaterials' registration. No comments have been received on the minutes of the meeting held on 17th and 18th May in Athens and they were approved.

Actions' follow-up:

Questionnaire on Reputation survey: circulated and ongoing contributions' process

Process Safety incidents reporting: the ICCA guidance implementation by National Associations is underway

BREFs: the importance of AFEM support in the Industrial Emissions Directive's call for a review of all BREFs was highlighted

Product Stewardship different topics: AFEM feedback on their meetings with authorities to continue

2. MISSION, VISION, VALUES AND STRUCTURES

Marco Mensink reported on the latest developments in the new structure's process. The new statutes, by-laws and operating rules would be presented for approval by the General Assembly. On the nominations in the different Programme Councils, Fora and working groups, Marco said the Executive Committee would be invited to approve the enlargement of PCs & Fora's composition up to 30 members. After a thorough examination, the composition of the different groups is now well balanced. The importance of the role of the PCs and Fora's chairs (2 years' mandate) was highlighted as they are the links between the different groups. Marco insisted on the need to have active people and for those who would not show up, they would be excluded. Some comments followed on the important AFEM role in having companies heard at Cefic level, on the risk to lose valuable expertise with the limited AFEM representation, and on the risk to have companies not well representing the National Associations' lines on the Board. Responding to these fears, Marco recalled the role of the AFEM Chair to coordinate and relay information when necessary.



PRIORITIES

updates on the different issues at stake. On the AFEM representation's side, Beat Moser announced that it was the last AFEM meeting he was attending as he was going to retire at the end of the year. His successor is not yet known. Dorte Ibsen informed all that it was also her last meeting since her Board has decided to change the representation and she will be replaced by Karin Klitgaard, Director for Environmental Policy (Confederation of Danish Industry), as the Danish AFEM representative. Emilia Ionescu, on her side, informed of the change of the Romanian Chemical Association's Board whose chairman is now Alexandru Badea (Brenntag).

4. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Advocacy

Aaron McLoughlin referred to the briefing note he had sent the day before on the just published Commission Work Programme 2018, the last major legislative programme under this Commission. The programme contains only a limited number of new proposals with a first group of initiatives to be completed by end of 2018 and a second group of initiatives to be launched with a 2025 perspective.

Communications

Steve Elliott briefed the participants on the latest developments in communication since the Athens meeting. The AFEM Communicators Network held a workshop on the Benefit of Chemicals in order to develop common messages for improving the chemical industry reputation and for a communication strategy. Based on the presentations by the different countries, Cefic will develop artwork that each Federation will then be able to adapt to the national context.

Irene van Luijken then reported on the Barcelona World Chemical Summit where the level of speakers and the proposed issues to be discussed at global level were very good but the attendance was disappointing. In the future, Cefic and ICCA have to decide how they will be involved as the chemical industry has a visibility role to play in this World Chemical Summit in moving to a sustainable society.

The discussion that followed addressed the future of the AFEM Communicators Network in the new structure in order to secure the continuity of the good work already completed such as the coordination of social media activities and the exchange of best practices, business initiatives and communication material. Steve Elliott said that Andy Rae, the successor to Graham van't Hoff as Chair of the new Advocacy Forum, sees the value of continuing the ACN activities. Comments around the table confirmed this intention and it was agreed that this group's work should be done under the AFEM umbrella. On the question whether to include companies in the ACN, different opinions were expressed. There is indeed a fear of losing the European view, as companies' prime interest is corporate. AFEM Members recognized that companies' input on specific issues/cases might be of value. It was therefore agreed to continue with the ACN current composition but to see how companies can be involved at some point.

3. KEY ADVOCACY TOPICS

HSE, Energy and Climate Action

Yves Verschuere said that nothing was new in this area but that all topics are important and need AFEM attention (see attached slides).

es, AFEM support by defending Cefic position vis-à-vis
objective to avoid Member States to enforce local actions on
the use of certain chemicals outside REACH.

ETS

While the dialogue is ongoing, AFEM members are invited to advocate the Cefic objectives with their authorities, i.e.

- Safeguard the right balance between “price and leakage prevention”
- Secure up to 5% additional free credits for industry
- Source in full the innovation fund from the auction share
- Minimise policy interventions such as the cancellation of allowances and the changes to MSR.

Clean energy package

Cefic key objective to ensure that we are part of providing reliable and sustainable energy has not changed and we are working with the Estonian and Bulgarian presidencies as well as with the Parliament and the Council to secure progress on market design, digitalization, targets for the promotion of renewable energy and governance.

BREFs

Yves recalled members of the importance to pay attention to BREFs. The Common Waste Gas Treatment in the Chemical Sector BREF is the current most important one and negotiations are going to turn into recommendations.

Cefic has provided the Refit Committee with a submission on how to improve the BREFs drafting process.

Product Stewardship

EDs

The PC Product Stewardship concluded that the best outcome is for the Commission’s proposed criteria for biocides to be adopted and to enter into force. This recognises that a Cefic red line for the Biocides criteria has been crossed and in this respect, Marco Mensink said that the Executive Committee and Board would discuss the following day the status of the legislative process and decide to support Cefic’s recommendations.

Action: AFEM members were invited to provide feedback on the views of their governments and developments on this topic.

Microplastics

The newly formed Microplastics Issue Team already worked on definitions and a scenario planning in the companies has taken place. The PC Product Stewardship has prepared the Cefic reaction to the Commission stakeholder consultation. Marco Mensink said the Board would be updated on process and developments, including the wider framework of the upcoming EU Plastics Strategy.

Action: National initiatives to be shared (UK, DE)

Individual substances

Advocacy work on the different individual substances is continuing. On TiO₂, TDMA is going to work with Fleishman Hillard on a communication campaign to defend and promote the substance across the EU. On D4/D5, the Silicones industry submitted a response to the public consultation in view of the Risk Management Option Analysis that will be conducted. On NMP, after the successful vote by the Member States Committee of the restriction proposal, Petrochemicals Europe will continue to advocate for the three aprotic solvents pending.

Trade secrets and waste legislation

the results of the analysis of the above-mentioned interface.

Positions in view of Cefic participation in the public consultation

REACH Landscape study

Colette Alma mentioned a study that Cefic started to identify overlap/inconsistency with other regulations/directives and make REACH the overarching chemicals regulation in Europe.

REACH Annexes on Nanomaterials

Following the Commission release of a draft proposal for a delegated regulation amending the REACH Annexes for nanomaterials registration, Cefic is preparing an official comment to the consultation process. Based on the current scientific knowledge, we believe the Commission proposal is a reasonable compromise which should be agreed as it is, rather swiftly, in order for industry to be ready to update their dossiers by 2020.

Action: AFEMs to convince their authorities to follow the Commission's proposal

Industrial Policy

René van Sloten referred to the joint paper that Cefic, together with more than 100 European industry associations, have signed which outlines their view on the European Commission's recent Communication "Investing in a smart, innovative and sustainable industry – A renewed EU industrial policy strategy". The Joint Paper is part of the industry's engagement with the European institutions to devise a long-term European industrial strategy that would safeguard the world leadership of the EU manufacturers and create more jobs.

René then referred to the investment screening process that would be presented to the Board in order to see whether Cefic should take position or leave it to horizontal business organisations. This is a sensitive political issue due to the increasing Chinese investments in European companies and there is a need to reflect on possible actions. At EU Member States level, there is no common understanding of the investment screening concept sometimes understood as a review mechanism and sometimes as a control instrument.

Brexit

Steve Elliott and René van Sloten mentioned the Cefic/CIA joint statement on Brexit developing recommendations to minimise the possible negative consequences on the chemicals' trade and employment that would be presented for Board approval and which may be used for a joint statement with the social partners ECEG and industriAll.

On the CIA scene, Steve said that they had recently reviewed their position statement on Brexit, keeping the major priorities but including the call for an appropriate transition period until formal exit from the EU and for the UK to remain a member of the single market during that transition period, avoiding 2 phases of disruption.

Legis

Better Regulation

Vincent Navez referred to the successful workshops on Better Regulation that had already taken place with several National Associations with the aims to raise awareness on new advocacy opportunities and tools set up by the Commission Better Regulation agenda and to share the Cefic experience for national advocacy purposes in that area.

Action: Other National Associations to consider setting up such workshop with their members

Trade Secrets

The first EU study on the importance of trade secrets and their relationship with patents was published in July 2017.

Action: AFEMs to look into the details of this important study in view of the implementing process of the Trade Secrets Directive

ic statutes, by-laws, and operating rules that would be voted by
s willing to answer any questions they might have.

Research & Innovation

Update on the next Framework Programme (FP9)

Pierre Barthelemy updated participants on the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative which objective is to create a European joint programme for monitoring and scientific assessment of human exposure to chemicals and potential health impacts in Europe (see attached slides).

FP9

Action : National Associations to share Cefic positions with their authorities and highlight the role of the chemical industry in the innovation ecosystem and the need to support KETs and industrial technologies. The need to advocate for continued funding for small and large companies under FP9 was also underlined.

6. ICCA MEETINGS

Marco Mensink referred to the coming ICCA meetings and said one of the main issues was to bring the Chinese on board, either as full members or first as observers.

Marco said that they are striving to have ICCA more transparent and in governance compliance.

7. ELECTION OF THE NEW AFEM CHAIR

Yves Verschueren took the floor and mentioned the need for a strong AFEM representation in relation to the implementation of the new Cefic structure. Yves recalled all work achieved by Utz Tillmann in the discussions to develop all changes and in this regard proposed to members to extend the AFEM chair to one year. The proposal was unanimously approved.

8. AOB

AFEM Meetings in 2018

After consultation at the May meeting, it has been decided to stick to the frequency of 3 AFEM meetings a year. The January/February meeting will take place in Brussels and the October one in the framework of the Chemical Convention. The May meeting will take place on invitation by one of the National Associations. Tomasz Zieliński said PIPC would be pleased to host the 2018 meeting and he invited all to Warsaw on 15th and 16th May 2018.

Dates:

- 24/25 January in Brussels
- 15/16 May in Warsaw
- 24 October in Amsterdam

The Chairman closed the meeting inviting all to the dinner at the Palais Cobourg.