

## REACH position paper - Annex 1: SVHC Roadmap

### The impact of the SVHC Roadmap on Petroleum Substances

The European Commission developed a plan for the evaluation of substances. This so-called 'Roadmap for SVHC identification and implementation of REACH risk management measures from now to 2020', agreed by the Council of Ministers end 2012, provides an EU-wide commitment for having all relevant currently known substances of very high concern (SVHCs) included in the list of substances that are candidate for authorisation; this process is implemented by ECHA. Petroleum Substances are listed in the Roadmap because of their hazard properties and high volumes<sup>1</sup>.

### The SVHC Roadmap works as follows:

- a) The screening and phase involving the Member States and ECHA: considering which **substances are relevant** as a potential concern. A particularly key role is played by Member States in the screening phase
- b) Those substances seen as relevant will then be **assessed** in terms of potential concern and whether there is a need for further information
- c) **The Risk Management Option (RMO) analysis phase** is initiated, identifying the most appropriate tool(s) for dealing with the relevant concerns. The main tools are Authorisation, taking the product off the market except for exceptional authorised uses, and Restriction, limiting or banning the use, manufacture or placing on market of a substance. This phase may also lead to the conclusion that no further action is required.

If Petroleum Substances would be screened and the subsequent RMO analysis would find that our existing risk management measures are not sufficient to deal with the identified risks, then specific tools such as authorisation would be considered: this could mean that strict controls on the use of our products would be put in place, whilst substitution of the substance is looked for.

### Industry position on the SVHC Roadmap:

In case of selection of a substance being identified as a concern, a thorough analysis of the Risk Management Options should be carried out as a standard procedure, and this analysis should first consider the protection and prevention options resulting from other EU legislation. Only then should the substance be subjected to Restriction or Authorisation rules, as indicated in ECHA's SVHC Roadmap document<sup>2</sup>.

Such analysis should always be objective and based on sound science as well as economic considerations. The analysis should be done in collaboration with the relevant industries that manufacture or use the substances. Such analysis should consider competitiveness and innovation concerns and consider the situation that producers who are based outside EU, may use SVHCs in their processes, without the same constraint, leading to a competitive disadvantage for producers based in the EU.

### Therefore, we request:

- To keep the addition of Petroleum Substances to the "Candidate list" to a minimum, by applying criteria that include economic considerations avoid unnecessary testing. Such analysis should take into account the most up-to-date information, being provided by the industry through Concawe in the case of Petroleum Substances;
- As recommended by ECHA, Member States to communicate and interact with industry throughout the process for the screening, assessment and analysis for each substance. The strain on resources as well as the consequences of process must be assessed and scientifically justified<sup>3</sup>;
- To use alternative Risk Management Methods such as the commonly-used Occupational Exposure Limits (OELs) for the protection of workers, which we believe can offer adequate protection.

<sup>1</sup> ECHA's SVHC Roadmap Implementation Plan 2013: "The main reason why it is felt these substances need to be considered from a RRM perspective is the potential concern regarding human and environmental health due to their CMR and/or PBT properties."

<sup>2</sup> ECHA SVHC Roadmap Implementation Plan, page 9

<sup>3</sup> Roadmap for SVHC Annual Report 23 March 2015: "Definition of the scope of the work foreseen for petroleum/coal stream substances with Member States, the Commission, industry and NGOs and how to organise the cooperation and coordination."