

Brief report from the 18th PBT EG meeting (Helsinki, 8-9 May 2018)

In total 32 external participants were present in the meeting representing 16 member states and 5 stakeholder organisations. Seven substances were on the meeting agenda, all discussed in open session. Various generic topics, such as the status of some approach development topics, were presented/discussed in addition.

Substance highlights of the meeting were:

- For all seven substances, a need to refine the assessments was identified before conclusions on whether further testing is necessary can be made, or before final conclusions on the PBT properties will be possible.
- The Expert Group provided further advice on the approach for assessing a large group of phenolic benzotriazoles. This group relates to substances already included in the Candidate List (UV-320, UV-327, UV-328 and UV-350). Currently 19 substances in the group have been scoped for closer scrutiny as representatives.
- For hydrogenated resin and rosin acid esters the group discussed the screening data submitted according to previous substance evaluation data requests. No final conclusion was yet reached and some further refinement of the assessment was recommended.
- A precursor of PFOA was brought to discussion by industry stakeholders and the Commission. The question raised was whether there is sufficient evidence available on the stability of the substance to conclude that it would not be considered to degrade into PFOA. Some further refinement of the assessment was recommended. PFOA and its precursors are restricted in the EU.

Further, the expert group discussed potential learnings from substance and dossier evaluation cases. The group considered recently finalised or on-going decision cases with a view to identify ways to speed up the assessments, and to identify for which approach development topics speedy discussion and progress is necessary to ensure smooth processing of upcoming cases.

Another agenda point was an initial discussion pertaining to the preparation of a restriction proposal for the cyclic siloxanes D4, D5 and D6. ECHA asked the Expert Group members for views on whether/how to take into account the high volatility of the substances in socio-economic assessment. A Written Procedure will follow concerning different proposals on how to account for the atmospheric compartment in the restriction proposal. Work on the restriction proposal will continue during this year.