

Meeting with W.L. Gore

Brussels – Commission premises, 23/04/2024, 11:30

transparency register 885753848477-43

Participants

- [REDACTED] Gore (online)
- [REDACTED] Gore (online)
- [REDACTED] Gore (online)
- [REDACTED] Gore
- [REDACTED] Gore
- [REDACTED] DG GROW
- [REDACTED] DG GROW

Notes

W.L. Gore is an US based 'materials' company founded in 1958 with a fabrics, a medical products and a performance solutions division. Gore explained that they routinely evaluated multiple materials for products applications. In many cases, according to Gore, fluoropolymers continue to be the only material that is able to meet the performance requirements. Gore provided alternative assessments for several applications in ECHA's consultation, like pharmaceutical processing products, aerospace and defence, chemical manufacturing, professional apparel. Gore developed new (non-fluorinated) materials in consumer fabrics.

Gore explained the three different production processes for the manufacture and use of PTFE polymers (fine powder, aqueous dispersions, granular powder). In the manufacture of PTFE fine powders, fluorinated processing aids are still required to meet the performance requirements. Gore signed the manufacturing programme for European fluoropolymer manufacturing sites.

DG GROW explained the REACH restriction process and the PFAS restriction dossier submitted by 4 Member States and Norway. ECHA is preparing its opinion and carried out a third-party consultation which resulted in over 5600 comments.

After COM have received ECHA's opinion, COM will prepare a proposal and discuss with Member States in the REACH Committee. If a qualified majority of the Member States support the proposal, the proposal will be sent for scrutiny to the EP and the Council. DG GROW indicated that critical uses will be derogated if suitable alternatives are not available.