

Meeting report

Cobalt Institute - GROW Unit F1 meeting on essential use concept

Purpose: on request of the Cobalt Institute (CI), to discuss latest COM developments on essential uses

Date: 27 Sept 2021, 10-10.40h

Participants: [REDACTED] (CI); [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (GROW Unit F1)

Cobalt Institute (CI):

- introduced their portfolio and gave an overview of Cobalt uses
- expressed their concerns about the concept of essential uses, mainly as regards batteries
- main concerns: stigmatisation, industrial ecosystems, temporality, lack of foresight, overlapping regulation

COM [REDACTED]

- took note of the concerns raised by the CI and ensured CI that the COM is aware of the importance of Cobalt in batteries in particular
- COM study launched on the notion of “essential use” (REACH revision), as currently there is no criteria
- discussions are premature until the notion is agreed, and the task is (legally) complex
- the question is not if we should introduce the concept, but rather how and when
- encouraged CI to submit constructive comments via the upcoming Public Consultation (Impact Assessment) and invited them to explain in a note the consequences if Cobalt is e.g. not used in batteries.

COM [REDACTED]:

- Cobalt (and its compounds) is a good and recent example to avoid overlapping regulation

Slides presented during the meeting by CI was agreed to be sent following the meeting (not yet available).