

Meeting with Arkema

Brussels – Commission premises, 11/03/2024, 11:00

transparency register 35321797057-83

Participants

- [REDACTED] Arkema
- [REDACTED] Arkema
- [REDACTED] DG GROW
- [REDACTED] DG GROW
- [REDACTED] DG ENV

Notes

Arkema is a manufacturer of specialty materials with production facilities in France (Pierre-Benite), US and China. The global market share for fluoropolymers is around 7%. On the location in France, PVDF (a fluoropolymer) is produced. PVDF is used among others in batteries, water filtration membranes and buildings (coatings). In France there are 3 reactors, and a fourth reaction is planned especially for the production of PVDF for batteries.

Arkema started the phase out fluorinated polymerisation aids in 2008 and the transition took 15 years. Arkema indicated that there are no residues in the fluoropolymer. Drawback of the use of non-fluorinated polymerisation aids is the lower productivity (around 20% decrease).

Arkema is mechanically recycling some PVDF, for example the pipes from semiconductor industry used for very pure water.

Arkema is concerned on the delay of the restriction process since it is creating regulatory uncertainty.

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.