

Subject: 20220607 - Minutes - Meeting with Fuels Europe

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Date: 07 June 2022, 10.30 – 11.30

Participants: REACH Working Group/Fuels Europe; GROW F1 – [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Topics brought forward by the working group:

- Asked for clarification about the essential use concept and uttered concern about the politicization of essentiality.
- Which role will the essential use concept play with regard to substitution and as a screening step?
- How will the GRA be implemented and how will it influence fuels?
- Was there a discussion about the risk of the implementation of the GRA?
- What will the transition to and implementation of the GRA look like?

COM's answer

- While there are set criteria for essentiality (cf. Montreal Protocol), it should be kept in mind that essentiality refers to the function of substances only, never to entire products. Nonetheless, a political discussion about essentiality cannot be excluded. For more information about the essential use concept, the workshop papers can be consulted.
- The essential use concept as a screening step is supposed to provide certainty early in the process and to avoid lengthy discussions. Where substitutions are sensible and possible, substitution plans will be instated.
- Currently, fuels do not play an important role in the GRA-related discussions.
- At the moment, it is not possible to determine what will exactly be covered by the GRA ban. However, COM has held two workshops with stakeholders to find out about realistic impacts of GRA.
- The details of the stepwise implementation of the GRA will be discussed in the second half of this year.
- Outlook: The proposal for the revised REACH is expected in Q1 2023. There is currently a parliament discussion about the postponement of REACH; COM currently assumes that it is going ahead with the revision as planned.