

## NEWSLETTER December 2019

### Upcoming events

This is the time to save the date for the **final HAZBREF Stakeholder Conference that will be held in Dessau, Germany on the 3–4 June 2020**. The conference highlights will include our Circular Economy report and our proposals for identifying and including hazardous substances in the BREF process. The conference starts in the afternoon on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June and finishes the next day in late afternoon.

Another event to mark in your calendar is the **Workshop on BAT reports in HAZBREF case sectors on the 27–28 April 2020**. This Workshop will be held in Stockholm, Sweden and it will dig

deep into our studies of the HAZBREF case sectors: the surface treatment of metals and plastics and polymers and fertilizer production. The studies gather the experiences from the case installations in the HAZBREF partner countries and describe the best practices for the management of hazardous chemicals in the case sectors. The BAT reports of the case sectors will be finalized based on the input we receive in this Workshop and presented at the Final Stakeholder Conference.

### WP4: Best practices in Chemical management in industry

#### Textile Sector Guidance soon released for comments

The preparation of the Textile Sector Guidance is currently in its final stages. The final draft is expected to be released for comments by the end of January 2020.

One of our key findings is that there are already numerous references and tools available that can support textile companies and competent authorities in implementing the IED and managing chemicals. However, there is no strategic approach for the efficient use of these resources. Because of this we recommend that plant operators and competent authorities should be provided with a clearly arranged overview of the tools and references. A compilation of the tools and references that are relevant for the IED permitting steps is presented in the Textile Sector Guidance report.

The case studies carried out in four textile companies revealed that a well-managed chemical inventory is the key to effective and appropriate chemicals management. The compilation of chemical inventories is therefore among the five BAT proposals that HAZBREF has developed and submitted to the Technical Working Group responsible for the revision of the BAT Textile Reference Documents (2003). The BAT recommendations as well as the proposal on minimum requirements for chemicals inventory are included in the Textile Sector Guidance.

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are the main source of chemical related information for both the competent authorities and the textile operators. However, the quality of SDS varies significantly in terms of completeness and integrity of data. For example, information about the composition of mixtures is only rarely provided by the chemical suppliers. The Textile Sector Guidance contains recommendations on how to close the potential information gaps in SDS as well as examples of the best practice SDS. It also provides guidance to the competent authorities and operators on how to best use the information provided in the SDS.

## HAZBREF case studies:

### Learning from other sectors interest Borealis Polymers

Borealis Polymers is one of the companies involved in HAZBREF case studies. On its industrial site in Porvoo the company produces polyolefins and base chemicals.

HSE Expert **Anna-Maija Leino** from Borealis Polymers tells that joining the HAZBREF project fits well with the continuous improvement that is the company's goal in environmental issues. "The interesting aspect of HAZBREF is that the project evaluates the management of hazardous substances in various sectors and not just within one. In this way the identified best practices can be utilized broadly in different industrial sectors. We also hope that the results of the project will influence future regulatory policies in such a way that they will focus on those risk reduction measures which have the most significant impact on the environment," Anna-Maija Leino explains.

Promotion of Circular Economy is an essential part of the strategy of Borealis. Currently the company is researching the possibilities of mechanical and chemical recycling. "The polyethylene and



polypropylene plastics we produce are fully recyclable as such, but even so the recyclability should be promoted more in product design. For example, one material solutions could make a big difference in the recyclability," Anna-Maija Leino says.

Borealis Polymers produces polyolefins and base chemicals in the town of Porvoo, Finland. © Borealis Polymers

## Circular Economy

The report on promoting non-toxic material cycles is currently being prepared for distribution among stakeholders for commenting. The report consists of an analysis of the applicable regulatory framework, HAZBREF case sector examination and conclusions and recommendations. HAZBREF has identified three approaches to circular economy and non-toxic material cycles: 1) production waste approach, 2) secondary raw material approach, and 3) product end-of-life approach. These approaches were discussed throughout the study.

Incorporating circular economy into the traditional installation gate-to-gate thinking of the IED and BREFs requires better implementation of value chain thinking and better connection of upstream and downstream processes. The study revealed that basic elements for promoting non-toxic material cycles already exist within the legal framework of the IED and BREFs. Still, there is room for improvement in the way these elements are used, and appropriate measures are identified in the report.

The report will be distributed for stakeholder comments in early 2020.

## WP2: Selection of target substances

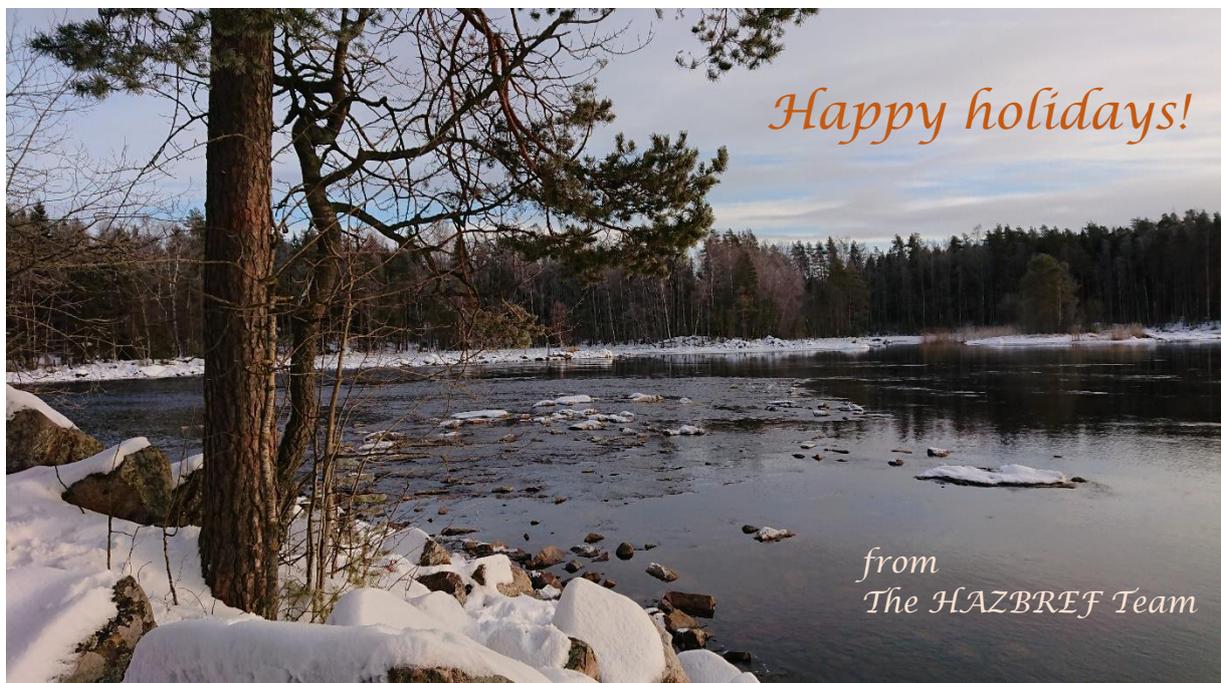
WP2 continues to work on the strategies to derive lists of relevant target substances for the case sectors. The work now focusses on the technical functions of chemical groups, rather than individual chemicals, and is done in collaboration with the stakeholders and EIPPC Bureau. Additionally, we have listed some industrial uses of the priority substances mentioned in Water Framework Directive and the substances of very high concern mentioned in REACH within the industrial sectors of textiles,

surface treatment of metals and plastics and production of polymers and fertilizers. The work will be finalized in spring.

The report of Activity 2.2 on *Fate of substances during emission treatment* is now published and available on the project's webpage. The purpose of this activity was to obtain generic knowledge about the fate of industrial chemicals in typical waste water treatment and use this information in the creation of a decision tree for the identification of substances which should be considered in BREF process.

### **WP3: Policy improvement**

The final draft of the report *Analysis of the interfaces, possible synergies and gaps between IED, REACH, WFD, POP Regulation and HELCOM concerning hazardous substances* was circulated in November in order to gather additional feedback from HAZBREF stakeholders. The draft is available on the [HAZBREF webpage](#) where also the final report will be published in mid-January 2020.



**More information on the HAZBREF webpage:**

[www.syke.fi/projects/hazbref](http://www.syke.fi/projects/hazbref)

Please, don't hesitate to contact the project partners if you have any comments or questions!