



Business at OECD Chemicals Committee Meeting Summary Record

Tuesday, 3 February 2026, 16:00 – 18:15 (Paris time)

Hybrid Session

Welcome & Opening Remarks by the Chair

Business at OECD Chemicals Committee Chair Jay West welcomed members joining the meeting in person and online. He provided an overview of the Business at OECD Chemicals Committee meeting agenda and the general OECD meeting structure. The purpose of this meeting was to prepare for the February 2026 session of the OECD Chemicals and Biotechnology Committee.

This was followed by a roundtable of introductions.

Preparation for the OECD Meeting of the Chemicals and Biotechnology Committee

The evolution of risk assessment methods and data, including the transition towards New Approach Methods

- **Item 3. Progress and Highlights in the EHS Programme (Part I)**

Jay introduced the item, summarizing recent progress and key developments in the OECD's Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Programme. Members discussed the latest updates. Jay also briefed members on the broader strategic direction of the OECD, noting the potential for future budget reductions. Maxime Ledieu from the BIAC Secretariat added further points to clarify specific issues on the Medium-Term Orientation Paper which will result in a cut of the Chemicals Committee budget.

Recommended Elements of a BIAC Intervention:

Members agreed to listen to the Committee meeting exchange with no proposed intervention. The Chair may intervene as necessary.

- **Item 4. Best practices for developing OECD Test Guidelines**

Jay introduced the item, outlining the background to the document prepared following the Committee's June 2025 discussion on copyright issues related to referencing standards from regional or international standardization in OECD Test Guidelines. The document sets out practical guidance on respecting copyright and seeking permission when reproducing protected material. The Committee is expected to approve and declassify the document, enabling wider dissemination within the Test Guidelines community.

Recommended Elements of a BIAC Intervention:

Members agreed to listen to the Committee meeting exchange with no proposed intervention. The Chair may intervene as necessary to support the Secretariat's guidance as a

pragmatic solution and underline the importance of legal certainty and scientific rigor in Test Guideline development.

- **Item 5. Availability of quality biological material for non-animal methods**

Jay introduced the item, summarizing a concept paper highlighting the need for reliable access to high-quality biological materials, particularly cell lines, used in non-animal testing methods. Discussions emphasized strengthening cooperation with national and regional cell and tissue banks and clarifying responsibilities between OECD and member countries. Industry interventions highlighted challenges related to intellectual property, commercial availability, and mutual acceptance of data—especially in jurisdictions such as China.

Recommended Elements of a BIAC Intervention:

Members agreed to listen to the Committee meeting exchange with no proposed intervention. The Chair may intervene as necessary to acknowledge the importance of quality-assured biological materials for NAMs and encourage practical solutions that facilitate global availability while respecting IP and supporting MAD implementation.

- **Item 6. Progress with OECD work on integrating computational methods in Test Guidelines**

The Chair introduced this item which addressed the growing role of computational models and the need to enhance OECD and national expertise to keep pace with technological advances. Key issues included transparency of proprietary models (“black box” concerns), reviewer capacity, and possible mechanisms to access external expertise. The discussion also raised the emerging role of AI-based models, which are not yet explicitly addressed in the current framework.

Recommended Elements of a BIAC Intervention:

Members agreed to listen to the Committee meeting exchange with no proposed intervention. The Chair may intervene as necessary to encourage capacity-building and expert engagement while stressing the need for transparency, scientific robustness, and early consideration of AI-driven approaches

- **Item 7. Process and Procedures for the 3rd Cycle of On-Site Evaluations of GLP Compliance Monitoring Programmes**

Jay introduced the item, presenting the agenda document that outlines the procedures and processes governing the continued programme of on-site evaluations (OSEs) of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) Compliance Monitoring Programmes in countries participating in the OECD Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) system.

Recommended Elements of a BIAC Intervention:

Members agreed to listen to the Committee meeting exchange with no proposed intervention. The Chair may intervene as necessary.

- **Item 8. Outcome of the workshop on nano-plastics and proposal for next steps**

Members discussed the outcomes of the OECD workshop on nanoplastics and potential next steps, including standardized sample preparation, characterization criteria, reference materials, and ring trials. Diverging views were expressed regarding OECD’s role, given that micro- and nanoplastics are largely unintentional degradation products rather than commercial substances. Several participants

emphasized the value of standardization for monitoring and analytical reliability rather than hazard assessment.

Recommended Elements of a BIAC Intervention:

Members agreed to intervene to support OECD involvement focused on standardization of methods, monitoring, and analytical quality, while cautioning against premature hazard classification frameworks.

- **Item 9. Proposal for a Global Forum for the Environment on Alignment of Data and Decisions in the Evolution of Chemical Management Frameworks**

Jay introduced the item, which will aim to present a proposal for a Global Forum jointly organized by hazard assessment and risk management working parties. The objective is to discuss the role of New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) in evolving chemical management frameworks. Members noted the importance of distinguishing between harmonization of scientific tools and alignment of regulatory decisions, which remain sovereign.

Recommended Elements of a BIAC Intervention:

Members agreed to listen to the Committee meeting exchange with no proposed intervention. The Chair may intervene as necessary to support the Forum in principle, while emphasizing tool harmonization rather than convergence of risk management outcomes.

- **Item 10. Update of the work of the OECD on potential hazard classes for persistent and mobile substances in the Globally Harmonised System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)**

The Chair introduced the item, which will provide an update on OECD technical input to the UN GHS expert group regarding hazard classes for persistence and mobility. Concerns were raised about scientific robustness, problem formulation, and the potential policy implications of introducing new GHS hazard classes. Divergent national positions, particularly within Europe, were noted.

Recommended Elements of a BIAC Intervention:

Members agreed to intervene to exercise caution; underline the need for sound science, clear protection goals, and careful consideration of downstream regulatory impacts.

Data Access, exchange and dissemination

- **Item 11. Progress and Highlights in the EHS Programme (Part II)**

Same as item Number 3

- **Item 12. Thought starter on the evolution of the management of the OECD ecosystem of IT Tools**

Discussions covered progress on data dissemination and a “thought starter” on the future management of OECD IT tools (eChemPortal, IUCLID, QSAR Toolbox). The OECD Secretariat proposes stronger coordination, possible governance changes, and greater interoperability to reduce duplication and errors. Industry participants highlighted usability challenges and the need for broader stakeholder involvement.

Recommended Elements of a BIAC Intervention:

Members agreed to support improved interoperability and governance of OECD tools, with strong industry and data-science stakeholder engagement.

- **Item 13. Lessons learned from the Best Practice Guide on chemical data sharing between companies**

Nicholas Ball introduced the item, presenting lessons learned following publication of the OECD Best Practice Guide on Chemical Data Sharing Between Companies. While the guidance focuses on industry-to-industry data sharing, the drafting process revealed several systemic issues that go beyond what companies alone can resolve. These include cross-jurisdictional duplication of data submissions, lack of mechanisms to support dispute resolution, protection against free-riding, and insufficient safeguards for intellectual property. The discussion highlighted the burden created by “REACH-like” regulations in multiple jurisdictions (e.g. Turkey), and the absence of effective data reuse across OECD members. Participants stressed the need for greater government-to-government cooperation, recognition of data ownership, and possible templates or frameworks to facilitate trust and efficiency.

Recommended Elements of a BIAC Intervention:

Members agreed to support further OECD work on cross-jurisdictional data sharing, data ownership recognition, and regulatory cooperation, while emphasizing the cost, complexity, and inefficiencies faced by industry under duplicative data requirements.

Regulatory and non-regulatory risk management approaches

- **Item 14. Progress and Highlights in the EHS Programme (Part III)**

Same as Item Number 3

- **Item 15. Outline of a ministerial declaration on mercury**

Members discussed the potential replacement of the existing OECD Council Act on mercury with a non-binding ministerial declaration, reflecting the absence of an active OECD mercury work programme and avoiding duplication with the Minamata Convention. The draft declaration emphasizes continued international cooperation and OECD support.

Recommended Elements of a BIAC Intervention:

Members agreed to listen to the Committee meeting exchange with no proposed intervention. The Chair may intervene as necessary to support the transition to a declaration, provided it avoids creating new obligations and aligns clearly with Minamata processes.

- **Item 16. Results from the valuation of health effects (SWACHE) and progress with the valuation of environmental effects (SACRE)**

Jay introduced the item, providing an update on the OECD’s economic valuation initiatives concerning the Surveys on Willingness-to-Pay to Avoid Negative Chemicals-Related Health Impacts (SWACHE). The session also summarized progress on the development and pilot testing of methodologies for environmental valuation surveys under the SACRE project, which assesses willingness-to-pay to avoid negative chemicals-related environmental endpoints. Members noted

limited industry participation, partly due to the technical nature of health economics and valuation methodologies. Concerns were raised that the work risks focus primarily on quantifying negative impacts without adequately assessing the effectiveness of existing risk management measures.

Recommended Elements of a BIAC Intervention:

Members agreed to listen to the Committee meeting exchange with no proposed intervention. The Chair may intervene as necessary.

- **Item 17. Report on further integration of sustainability in chemical selections and innovation for biotechnology and advanced materials**

Jay briefed members about an update on OECD work related to “Safe and Sustainable by Design” (SSbD), building on long-standing efforts within the Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials and extending to biotechnology and advanced materials. The approach aims to support early-stage innovation by anticipating safety and sustainability challenges. Members noted strong links with EU initiatives and highlighted the voluntary nature of current frameworks, while cautioning against any move toward mandatory requirements via the OECD.

Recommended Elements of a BIAC Intervention:

Members agreed to listen to the Committee meeting exchange with no proposed intervention. The Chair may intervene as necessary.

Programme Issues

- **Item 18. Programme of Work and Budget for 2027-2030**

The Chair introduced the item, which concern the draft Programme of Work and Budget for the 2027–2030 period, highlighting increasing reliance on voluntary contributions and the risk that resource shortfalls could lead to cancelled deliverables and reduced Secretariat capacity. Concerns were raised about uncertainties in major contributors’ funding, particularly the United States, and the sustainability of the current financing model.

Recommended Elements of a BIAC Intervention:

Members agreed to monitor discussions closely and underline the importance of stable funding for industry-relevant EHS deliverables, while seeking clarity on long-term financing assumptions.

- **Item 19. Proposal for streamlining the subsidiary body structure of the Chemicals and Biotechnology Committee**

This item proposed structural streamlining measures, including termination of the Working Party on Biocides, closer coordination (or future merging) of hazard and exposure assessment bodies, and consolidation of expert groups on modern biotechnology. The OECD Secretariat framed these proposals as cost-saving and efficiency measures. Members emphasized the continued importance of exposure assessment for risk-based regulation and cautioned against weakening this dimension

Recommended Elements of a BIAC Intervention:

Members agreed to fully support efficiency gains while underscoring the critical role of exposure assessment and risk-based approaches in chemical management

- **Item 20. Options for additional cost-cutting measures**

The OECD Secretariat outlined further cost-saving options, including increased use of virtual meetings, hosting meetings in member countries, and reducing reliance on OECD conference facilities. Members acknowledged budget pressures but stressed the value of in-person meetings for effective technical exchange. Questions were raised about alternative funding models and publication-related costs.

Recommended Elements of a BIAC Intervention:

Members agreed to listen to the Committee meeting exchange with no proposed intervention. The Chair may intervene as necessary to emphasize the importance of maintaining effective stakeholder engagement and meeting quality.

Joint session with EPOC

- **Item 21. Joint meeting of the CBC and EPOC at ministerial level**

Jay introduced the item, which consists of a revised proposal for a joint ministerial meeting between the Chemicals and Biotechnology Committee and the Environment Policy Committee, potentially in 2027. The overarching theme would focus on integrated environmental policies for growth and resilience. Past political sensitivities were noted, and support among members remains mixed.

Recommended Elements of a BIAC Intervention:

Members agreed to listen to the Committee meeting exchange with no proposed intervention. The Chair may intervene as necessary.

Programme Issues (cont.)

- **Item 22. Saving Costs in Chemicals Management: Inflation Adjusted Update and Planning for a 2028 Publication**

The OECD Secretariat proposes to update the 2019 OECD study on cost savings in chemical management to reflect inflation and launch a refreshed survey with simplified methodology to improve response rates. The updated report would be published in 2028. Industry participation is expected to be critical for meaningful results.

Recommended Elements of a BIAC Intervention:

Members agreed to express BIAC's willingness to support dissemination of future surveys within its network to ensure robust industry input.

- **Item 23. Proposal for adding a new non-government stakeholder organisation including research organisations as an observer to the meetings of the CBC and its subsidiary bodies**

Jay introduced the item, to explore the creation of a single umbrella observer organization representing the academic research community, similar to EEB or ICAPO. The aim is to improve engagement, transparency, and efficiency in interactions with researchers contributing to OECD work.

Recommended Elements of a BIAC Intervention:

Members agreed to listen to the Committee meeting exchange with no proposed intervention. The Chair may intervene as necessary to support improved engagement with the research community, provided representation is well-structured, transparent, and complementary to existing stakeholder input.

Outreach and capacity-building

- **Item 24. Progress and Highlights in the EHS Programme (Part IV)**

Same as Item number 3

- **Item 25. Update of the CBC's Strategic Directions on Development**

The Chair introduced the item which aims to provide an update on the EHS Programme's strategic approach to supporting developing and emerging economies in strengthening chemical management systems. The document largely refreshes existing strategies and emphasizes capacity building through OECD tools, guidance, and test guidelines.

Recommended Elements of a BIAC Intervention:

Members agreed to listen to the Committee meeting exchange with no proposed intervention. The Chair may intervene as necessary to acknowledge the relevance of capacity building and alignment with international efforts.

- **Item 26. Proposed OECD contributions to address Issues of Concern under the Global Framework on Chemicals**

Jay introduced the item, showing how existing OECD chemicals work contributes to addressing "Issues of Concern" inherited from SAICM under the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC). The document emphasizes coordination with UNEP, WHO, and other international bodies to avoid duplication.

Recommended Elements of a BIAC Intervention:

Members agreed to listen to the Committee meeting exchange with no proposed intervention. The Chair may intervene as necessary to support coordination and clarity of OECD contributions, while ensuring focus on areas where OECD has clear comparative advantage.

- **Item 27. Progress with implementing the EHS publication strategy**

Jay introduced the item, summarizing recent updates on progress in implementing the Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) publications strategy. The discussion focused on improving prioritisation, streamlining publication pipelines, and ensuring better alignment between technical outputs and policy relevance. Members were informed of efforts to reduce publication backlogs, clarify target audiences, and enhance dissemination and visibility of EHS deliverables, while managing resource constraints. The strategy also aims to improve consistency across committees and working parties and to better integrate digital dissemination tools.

Recommended Elements of a BIAC Intervention:

Members agreed to listen to the Committee meeting exchange with no proposed intervention. The Chair may intervene as necessary to support efforts to improve clarity, accessibility, and strategic targeting of EHS publications, while encouraging continued engagement with stakeholders to ensure outputs remain usable and relevant for industry.

- **Item 28. Any other business**

Jay highlighted several OECD work areas with potential cross-cutting relevance for chemicals-related workstreams, including initiatives linked to the triple planetary crisis and upcoming workshops on biodiversity. He also noted the OECD's interest in strengthening collaboration between the Working Party on Resource Productivity and Waste and the Chemicals Committee. The BIAC Secretariat additionally briefed members on recent OECD developments and forthcoming meetings.