

Quarterly **NEWS**
LETTER

WINTER ISSUE 2018

BeST

Beryllium Science & Technology Association



Dear Valued Readers,

**Welcome to the winter edition 2018
of the Quarterly Newsletter.**

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The Beryllium Science and Technology Association (BeST) is a non-profit organization based in Brussels.

BeST represents the suppliers of Beryllium in the EU market, as well as traders and industries who rely on the unique properties of beryllium to design for miniaturisation, energy conservation, greater reliability and longer product life.

It aims to promote sound policies, regulations, science and actions related to the use of beryllium and to serve as an expert resource for the international community on the benefits and criticality of beryllium applications

Our mission is to provide the best available scientific information related to Beryllium, and to ensure that its benefits to society in critical

applications are realised, embraced and maintained by industry, governmental authorities and the general public. It is also the objective of BeST to promote good practices in the workplace, in order to protect workers handling beryllium-containing materials.

BeST has developed a specific Product Stewardship Program, Be Responsible, accessible at www.berylliumsafty.eu.

As 2018 comes to an end, BeST would like to thank you all for the great work done during the year, for your general support and for the results accomplished. We look forward to cooperating with you in addressing the new challenges 2019 will bring.

Season's greetings and best wishes!

*Prof Dr. Andreas Köster,
Chairman of BeST*

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Protection of workers

~ key priority for all European Institutions

The protection of workers, through the adoption of binding occupational exposure levels for carcinogens and mutagens, is maintained as a key priority in the European Commission's published Work Programme for 2019.

Both Council and the European Parliament have recently finalised their positions on the 3rd batch of substances under the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive (CMD) and BeST continues to advocate in favour of a binding occupational exposure limit for beryllium that is protective for workers and feasible for industry.

On 24 October 2018, the European Commission presented its Work Programme for 2019 which features 15 new initiatives, 10 new REFIT evaluations and 45 pending priority proposals.

The proposal for amending the directive on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work is featured as a priority file under the policy objective "A Deeper and Fairer Internal Market with a Strengthened Industrial Base".

To the point, the European Parliament adopted its position on the 3rd batch of

substances of the CMD on 20 November 2018 and confirmed the European Commission's proposal with a few additional elements, i.e biomonitoring for Cadmium.

Similarly, the Council of the European Union adopted its General Approach on 06 December 2018. The Council has endorsed the European Commission's proposal and, in addition, has removed reference to beryllium sensitisation, not an adverse effect of exposure to beryllium, and has eliminated the proposed notations. BeST welcomes this decision.

Interinstitutional discussions are likely to begin in January and BeST will advocate in support of the Council's General Approach. BeST recalls however that the limit value proposed after the transitional period will be not feasible for certain operations, as reported by the European Commission in its Impact assessment.

Read BeST's position paper [here](#).

Read the Council's General Approach [here](#).

Read the European Parliament's position [here](#).

Read the European Commission's Work Programme 2019 [here](#).

BeST becomes official campaign partner of the Safe Worker Campaign



BeST has been chosen as one of the official campaign partners of the 2018/2019 Healthy Workplaces Campaign: Manage Dangerous Substances. BeST, EU-OSHA and the other official campaign partners will cooperate in order to improve the safety of workers handling hazardous substances at the workplace. Regular updates on BeST's involvement in the campaign will be uploaded on the BeST website.

As reported in our spring edition of the Quarterly Newsletter, BeST participated to the launching conference of the EU-OSHA (European Agency for Safety and Health at work) 2018-2019 campaign – Healthy Workplaces Manage Dangerous Substances.

The conference not only coincided with the official launch of the campaign but also signaled the beginning of the application period to become an official campaign partner. Over 100 applications were submitted by industry companies, organisations and research institutions.

At the end of August, BeST was confirmed as an official campaign partner of the 2018/2019 Healthy Workplaces Campaign.

The 2018/2019 Healthy Workplaces Manage Dangerous Substances Campaign aims to:

Raise awareness of the importance of preventing risks from dangerous substances at the workplace

Promote a culture of risk prevention to effectively manage the risks associated with such substances

Provide technical tools and examples of good practices

Provide guidance on the legislative framework

“BeST looks forward to cooperating with EU-OSHA and other campaign partners in improving the safety of workers handling hazardous substances at the workplace. Through the “Be Responsible” Voluntary Product Stewardship Program and the participation as an official campaign partner of the campaign on Healthy Workplaces Manage Dangerous Substances 2018-2019, BeST is committed to improving and raising awareness on the protection of workers handling beryllium and beryllium containing materials at the workplace.”

~ Dr. Andreas Köster, chairman of BeST

Read more on the campaign here.

Read more on the Be Responsible Voluntary Product Stewardship Programme at www.berylliumsafety.eu

Do not forget to monitor our webpage for all updates concerning the campaign and BeST's outreach activities.

EU-OSHA is the European Union information agency for occupational safety and health. Their Healthy Workplaces Campaigns are flagship awareness raising activities that aim at promoting safety and health at the workplace across Europe.

Read more on EU-OSHA [here](#).

So many legislative activities on RoHS

The European Commission has recently asked the OEKO Institut to assess the need to restrict seven substances present in EEEs, including beryllium, in the frame of the Directive 2011/65/EU (RoHS) on hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (EEE).

The 1st stakeholder consultation has revealed that industry believes that beryllium must not be restricted under RoHS as it does not represent a risk for the environment or for recyclers. A 2nd stakeholder consultation on the methodology to assess substances was launched with deadline on 21 December 2018. BeST has prepared comments to submit.

In addition, the European Commission has also launched its evaluation roadmap on the review of the RoHS Directive, to be concluded by 2021.

The Directive 2011/65/EU, commonly known as RoHS, aims at restricting the use of hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) and has been object of a series of legislative discussions in the last six months.

As reported in Spring, the European Commission has commissioned the OEKO Institut, a German research institute, to assess

the need to restrict the use of certain substances EEE. The conclusions of the study will feed into the European Commission's future proposal to include new substances in the RoHS Directive.

In the 1st stakeholder consultation, which aimed to obtain information on seven substances - including beryllium - identified for initial assessment under RoHS, industry underlined the fundamental importance of the critical raw material and the lack of reasons to restrict its use in EEEs.

OEKO Institut launched a 2nd stakeholder consultation in November, with deadline on 21 December 2018, with the aim of receiving input and comments on the substance review methodology manual draft and collecting information on the use of substances in EEE under the scope of RoHS for the purpose of updating the inventory of substances present in EEE.

In its comments to the draft methodology, BeST highlights the importance of limiting the assessment to substances actually present in EEE and the importance of risk-based approach when assessing potential restriction. Moreover, BeST does not support the grouping of substances and the use of the most hazardous substance of the group as prioritization benchmark as this is illogical and

not justified by sound scientific evidence. As other associations involved in EEE and concerned by the RoHS directive, BeST highlights that the development of the methodology should be performed first, before the selection of 7 substances to assess, not the contrary. BeST also draws the attention of legislators to the trade impacts of RoHS beyond the EU on the world market, and requests that this global dimension is considered with sufficient attention.

Please, read BeST's comments [here](#).

Read more on the consultation [here](#).

Finally, the European Commission also launched the RoHS evaluation Roadmap on 14 September 2018, with a 12 October 2018 deadline to submit feedback.

According to the roadmap, the RoHS Directive will be reviewed by July 2021 and information from stakeholders will be gathered through (i) a public consultation in Spring 2019, (ii) targeted interviews (Member States' Authorities + key stakeholders) and (iii) a stakeholder Conference in Q4 2019.

BeST has submitted its feedback to the published roadmap and will actively participate in all the future public consultations in the frame of the RoHS review.

BeST's feedback can be found on the website [here](#).

CRMs against overregulation and in favour of consistency

BeST was invited as a speaker at the CRM Alliance's CRM Day dedicated to "The Current Status of CRMs in the European Union". The event aimed at raising awareness on the importance of CRMs for the EU and on the regulatory landscape affecting CRMs.

In such occasion, the issues of overregulation and inconsistency of EU policies was identified as a general concern for all CRMs and raw materials.

On 27 September 2018, BeST participated to the second bi-annual CRM Day, coordinated by the CRM Alliance. The event, entitled "The Current Status of CRMs in the European Union", gathered key players in the raw materials field.

The speakers of the two panels, respectively dedicated to Production and Trade of CRMs, identified the key issues that their substances encounter at European level and opened the floor to a constructive exchange of views on how the European Union should address the challenges faced by CRMs and raw materials in general.

BeST was invited to speak in the 2nd panel dedicated to trade. After a brief introduction of beryllium applications, its uses and its unique characteristics in terms of conductivity,

strength, reliability and lightweight, BeST's presentation gave concrete examples of the impact overregulation and inconsistent legislation has on the beryllium Industry.

Indeed, due to its classification as a carcinogen – classification linked to only a few Beryllium compounds not commercially available in Europe – pure beryllium and beryllium metal have been subject to regulatory pressure, such as REACH, RoHS and CMD, and this has often led to overregulation, incoherent legislative frameworks and constraints.

Various participants highlighted the need to enhance Industry efforts to raise awareness and push the European Commission to take into consideration how the global regulatory framework negatively impacts the entire value chains of CRMs.

BeST will continue highlighting the negative impact of overregulation and of EU inconsistent policies in terms of unnecessary constraints and burden of the Beryllium Industry.

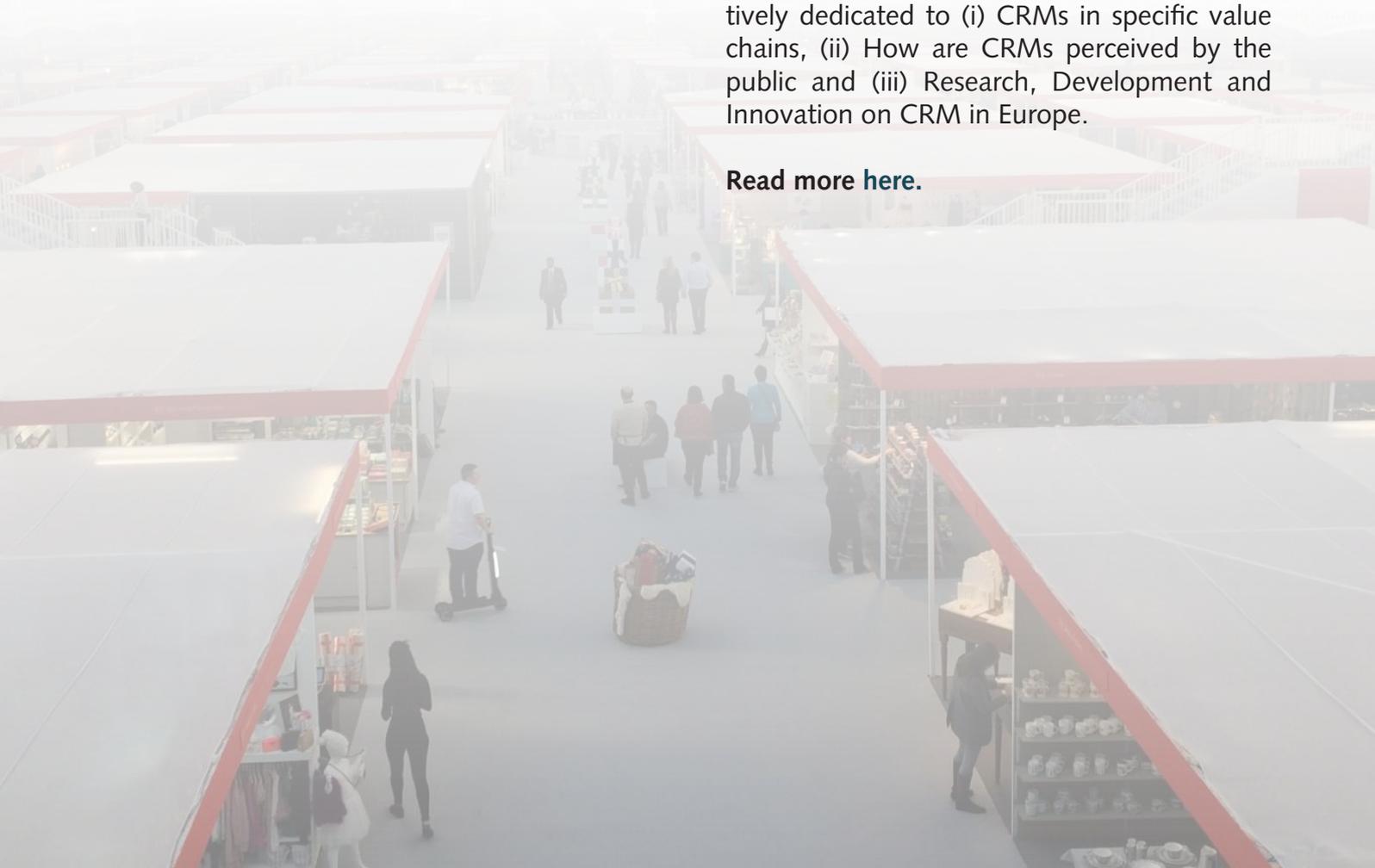
CRMs in our everyday life : Raw Materials Week

The 3rd edition of the Raw Materials Week took place on 12-16 November 2018 and featured a full day exclusively dedicated to CRMs (Monday 12 November).

BeST attended to raise awareness on the use of Beryllium in our everyday life.

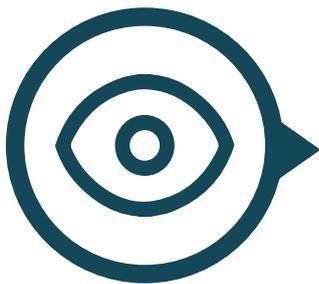
The program featured three sessions respectively dedicated to (i) CRMs in specific value chains, (ii) How are CRMs perceived by the public and (iii) Research, Development and Innovation on CRM in Europe.

Read more [here](#).





DID YOU KNOW?



Beryllium Discovery

Discovered by Louis-Nicolas Vauquelin in 1798 who was investigating the chemical properties of beryl. He isolated a compound containing an unknown element with a sweet taste. However, pure beryllium was first isolated in 1828 by German chemist Friederich Wöhler and French chemist Antoine Bussy independently from each other.

Beryllium Name

Dr. Vauquelin named his element after the substance he was investigating, beryl. He originally named the substance Earth of beryl, but later switched to glucinium to reflect the sweet taste. Ultimately, Dr. Wöhler proposed changing the name given that many different elements have a sweet taste. He named the element beryllium after the Greek word beryllos for beryl.



Beryllium Transparency

Unlike most metals, beryllium is virtually transparent to x-rays and hence it is used in radiation windows for x-ray tubes.

Beryllium & Neutrons

Beryllium helped to discover neutrons: Beryllium played a large part in proving the existence of neutrons. In 1932, James Chadwick, an English physicist, bombarded a sample of beryllium with alpha-rays (helium nuclei). He observed that the bombarded sample emitted a subatomic particle, which had mass but no charge.



The BeST website keeps you informed with a 'Latest news' section, where readers can follow the latest news and features on beryllium.

The new section complements the wealth of information already on the site, on issues such as environment, health and safety.

Get the latest news on **BeST online**.

BeST can also be found on Facebook. 'Like' **the page** and be notified when there is news from our association. Photos of events organised by BeST can also be found on our Facebook page.



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