



Bundesministerium
für Arbeit und Soziales

Current Status on Welding Fumes at EU

11 and 12 June 2024
IVSS Symposium



Content

- Procedure of CMRD amendments
- Current state of play for welding fumes
- Potential consequences on national level



For your information

- Directorate General for Employment → DG EMPL amends the Carcinogens, Mutagens and Reprotoxic Substances Directive (CMRD)
- The Advisory Committee for Safety and Health → ACSH (81 members, one representative from the government, employers and workers per member state)
- Working Party on Chemicals → WPC (15 members, nominated from the ACSH, five from the government, employers and workers each)
- Government, employers and workers are interest groups (IGs) GIG, EIG und WIG

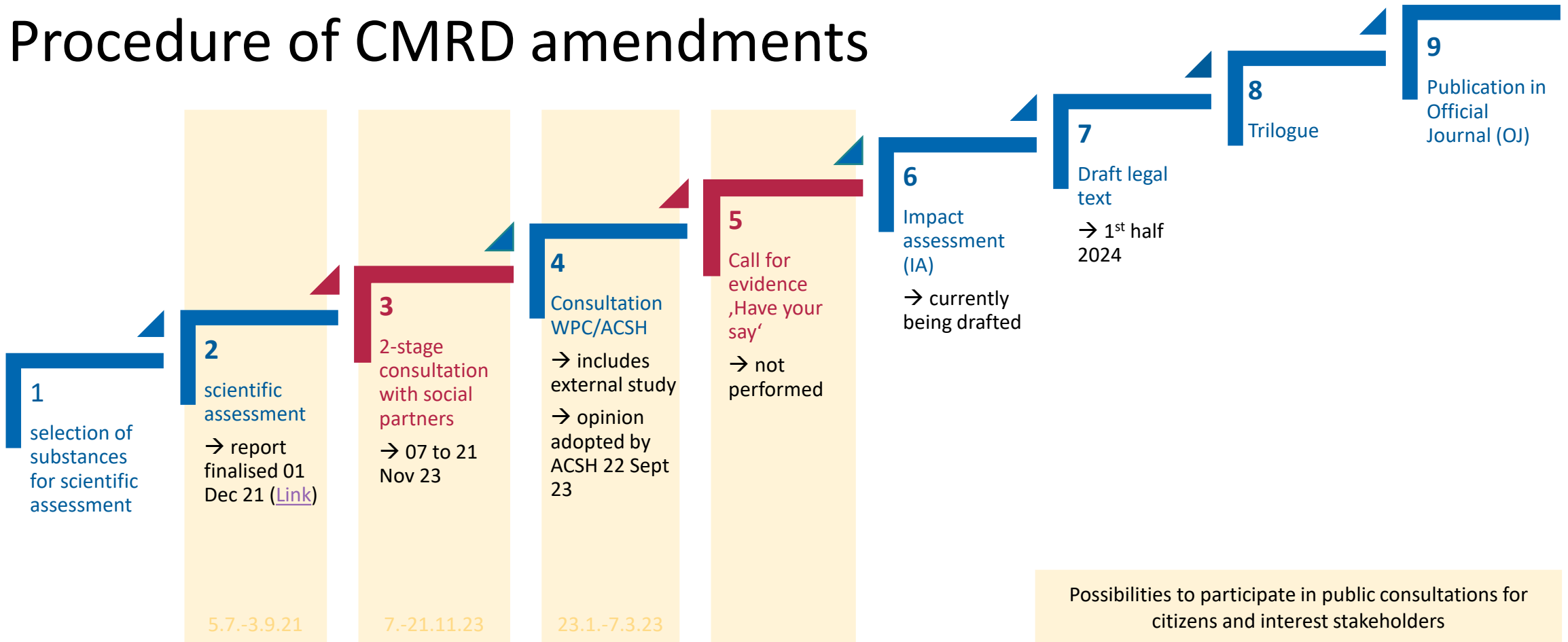
Directorate
General EMPL

Advisory
Committee for
Safety and Health
(ACSH)

Working Party on
Chemicals
(WPC)



Procedure of CMRD amendments





Current state of play for welding fumes

- The ACSH covered the opinion* of the WPC from 06 Sep 23 in a technical meeting on 22 Sep 23 and agreed
- Currently, EMPL is finalising the IA; external study/opinion are taken into account; COM has to justify the introduction of an Annex I entry for welding fumes before the regulatory scrutiny board → due to the elections the timeline is not predictable
- After the trilogue (EC, EP, COM) the Directive amendment is published in the Official Journal → typically, member states are given 24 months to implement

* Cobalt and inorganic compounds, PAHs, Isoprene and 1,4-Dioxane were also on the agenda



Welding fumes – proposed entry in Annex I

Work involving exposure to fumes from welding processes containing substances that meet the criteria for CMR category 1A/1B set out in Annex I to the CLP regulation



Inclusion in the CMRD

- Entry aims at more intense awareness that welding work can be associated with process-generated carcinogens (PGC)
- Already now the CMRD introduces limit values for individual substances that can be released during welding → This was proposed to be highlighted with a footnote
- DG EMPL is asked to elaborate in a guidance which welding processes are likely to be associated with PGC and which carcinogens are released during different welding processes
- A limit value is NOT foreseen



What are the potential consequences in Germany?

- BMAS provided input in the trilogue negotiations to best fit the TRGS 528
- After publication in OJ as foreseeable now:
- Welding work to be included in TRGS 906 (which is the transposition of Annex I)
- For the Hazardous Substance Ordinance and current measures on workfloor practice nothing changes; TRGS 528 is valid and there is no need to change
- The content of the guidance will be essential to make clear that not all welding work is carcinogenic



Thank you for you attention!

Questions?

Dr. Philipp Bayer

Chemical Safety, Biosafety, Physical Agents

Federal Ministry for Labor and Social Affairs

phone: +49 228 99 527 2636

mail (unit): IIIb3@bmas.bund.de

mail (personal): philipp.bayer@bmas.bund.de