Meeting with wet wipe producers 15 10 2018

At “Outlook 2018, the world premier nonwoven personal care and hygiene products conference”, the organisers (EDANA, the related business producers) asked for a meeting with some wet wipe producers.

Participants:
- ENV, B1
- EDANA
- EDANA
- Lenzing
- Lenzing
- Kelheim Fibres

I explained the general objective and framework of our SUP proposal, which was welcomed and well understood by the participants.

Their main concern was the plastics definition and how this would impact the possible alternatives in their industry. Specifically, I was asked if cellulose based fibres, in particular viscose, would be considered as plastics or not. I replied that this would depend if they were chemically modified or not, referring to the definition of plastics in the SUP proposal.

Art 3 of the SUP proposal states:

‘plastic’ means a material consisting of a polymer within the meaning of Article 3(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, to which additives or other substances may have been added, and which can function as a main structural component of final products, with the exception of natural polymers that have not been chemically modified

While the participants accepted the definition, they claimed that it was not clear what chemically modified means and that therefore a reference to Reach would be needed, as done in the beginning of the definition.

As there is already a clear reference to Reach in the beginning of the definition, I initially thought that a further clarification could not harm, but that I needed to confirm with the relevant colleagues.

Follow-up:
- Checking if legally such a reference to Reach would be needed
- Inquiring if viscose would be considered as a possible plastic