

Day, place

23/11 at EC premises

Company

Rhodia Acetow

Purpose of the discussion

To present technical issues around tobacco filters including biodégradabilité in the framework of the proposal of a “SUP Directive”

ENV representatives

Sebastien Paquot (CAB) and [REDACTED] (B1)

[REDACTED], R&I and Strategic Development Director, from Rhodia Acetow and [REDACTED] presented some slides.

The firm would have around 20% of the market, outside China. World market for acetose fibres is around 700kton, mostly for filters.

They claim filters are needed, for health reasons, eg 50% of tar remains in the filter, but also for taste reasons.

The issue of the filter composition is performance, not the costs (the plastic part of the filter would cost around 1 ct/cigarette).

Industry can accept EPR, collection of litter, recycling, and the reduction of litter.

They cannot support the EP amendment (EP AM54, 118, 119) on reducing waste from litter as this is similar to a production/consumption limit.

They claim they have developed a biodegradable product with same performances as “normal” cellulose acetate and that this is certified.

This includes a certification on the american ASTM D6691, a “Standard Test Method for Determining Aerobic Biodegradation of Plastic Materials in the Marine Environment by a Defined Microbial Consortium or Natural Sea Water Inoculum”.

ENV suggested that industry could start we developing an agreed European standard.

ENV asked what is happening with the toxic components that the filter captured if the plastic part of the filter would be biodegradable. On this industry replied that at least a part of the problem would be solved.

ENV also stated that biodegradability might not become a license to litter.

Docs shared (to be put in attachment)

None. Industry sent by mail the slides afterwards, on 28/11