RE-EVALUATION OF HEXANE AS AN EXTRACTION SOLVENT

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Hexane:

- authorised extraction solvent in the production of food and food ingredients according to directive 2009/32/EC on the basis of SCF assessment (1996).
- **extensively** used in the **extraction of vegetable oil and fats** and in proteins production.

2023: mandate to EFSA to assess the need for a safety re-evaluation of hexane

2024: EFSA technical report **concluded that the safety of hexane should be re-evaluated** based on considerations on its identity, uses, exposure and toxicology

2025: EC mandated EFSA to **re-assess hexane as extraction solvent** (deadline 22 November 2027).

   Call for data to collect information from stakeholders/interested parties (22 June 2025- 23 October 2025)

   Systematic literature review (focused on toxicity data)

PARALLEL ASSESSMENTS

Parallel assessments of hexane by other agencies and MSs were identified:

- Hexane proposal as **substance of very high concern** (SVHC) under REACH - Slovenia

- Possible proposal for **Restriction under REACH** (to be confirmed) - Germany

July 2025: a meeting was held with SI and DE representatives to discuss ways to cooperate and avoid possible scientific divergencies.

Outcome of the meeting:

- Expert sharing (SI will provide neurotox expert to EFSA WG, DE already has an expert from BfR as member of the WG).
- Participation of EFSA to the public consultation of the SVHC report.
- Sharing of the Regulatory management options analysis (RMOA) report, if possible.
- Propose the case for presentation in the 1S1A Expert group meeting.

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