AoA: nickel salts in surface treatment – "decorative sector"

Background information

The current project is closely linked to a previous project carried out by the Nickel Institute in 2011 and 2012 on assessment of alternatives of nickel salts used in surface treatment in automotive and aerospace industry.

The report on these sectors were finalized and finally approved by June 2012 after an external review of its contents. "Decorative plating" was originally included in the previous project but after discussions with the plating sector it was decided to not include the section on "decorative plating" in the report in the first place and deal with it separately.

The present project thus covers the assessment of alternatives to nickel substances used in "decorative plating" to finalize the ongoing work. It is the aim to analyse the suitability of available alternative substances and techniques that were identified during the previous project. This will be done by including industry representatives in discussions of technical requirements as well as in the initial discussion of implications such substitutions on cost, safety and environmentally related issues.

Objectives of the project

It is the objective of the project to assess the alternatives (substances or techniques) to nickel substances used in "decorative plating". This includes an assessment of the suitability of nickel and possible alternatives against the requirements of the technical performance for different applications. The assessment includes identification of costs and market issues at the individual industries as well as at a sector level. Finally information pertaining to the safety and health of workers and consumers as well as environmental issues will be addressed in a life cycle perspective.

The specific aims are:

- *Provide an overview of possible alternatives to use of nickel salts in plating used for "decorative purposes".*
- *Assess the individual possible alternative against a set of relevant cross cutting technical requirement*
- *Identify issues related to production costs and implication on the market at company levels and at sector level. This will not include an SEA or specific cost benefit analysis but will provide a starting point for possible later SEA.*
- *Identify and discuss issues of significance to workers safety, human health and environmental aspects of alternatives compared to nickel based techniques.*

It needs to be noted that the report only deals with techniques that are available on the market. R&D efforts are not covered but could be mentioned where relevant.

The approach to achieve these objectives will be presented and discussed during the kick off meeting.