

For immediate release

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EUPlastvoltage Project Kicks-Off

June 2009 sees the “EUPlastvoltage” research project commence with major national plastics associations taking part in this European-wide research project. The Brussels-based Association ‘European Plastics Converters’ (EuPC) is co-ordinating the programme. The inaugural project meeting was held on the occasion of the EuPC Annual Assembly in Lisbon on June 4th.

The two-year project is funded by the European Commission as a part of its Intelligent Energy Programme. Its objective is to prepare a voluntary agreement for the European plastics converting industry – bringing together best practice from across Europe – with the aim of creating a voluntary long-term agreement to promote energy-efficiency within the plastics sector. It is anticipated that a signed -off long-term agreement, with clear energy efficiency targets contained within it, would not only considerably help change behaviour within the plastics sector, but would also act as a pre-cursor and model for voluntary agreements in other manufacturing industries.

Energy usage within the sector is of critical importance, as part of the broad EU agenda for sustainable development, the ambitions of national governments to encourage lower carbon economies and also in terms of managing fluctuating costs on a day-to-day basis. This project will have a direct impact on the sector’s energy efficiency and will thus contribute to the EU’s objective of 20% in energy savings by the year 2020.

EuPC has participated in a variety of EU funded research and development projects, including ‘Flowfree’ and ‘Polycond’ and is developing a successful track record in managing them to a successful conclusion.

The European plastics converting industry across the 27 Member States comprises ca. 50,000 SME’s and 1.6m employees, with a turnover of over €280bn per annum. Many of its products have the potential to save the use of energy in society either through their insulating qualities or through their lightweight. EUPlastvoltage will provide a platform for deepening these benefits and enhance yet further the positive eco-profiles of plastics products.

For more information on this topic, please contact:

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