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European Commission publishes Circular Economy Package



The European Commission recently published its new Circular Economy Package, following the withdrawal of a previous proposal at the beginning of 2015. When withdrawing the previous proposal, the European Commission promised that it would deliver a 'more ambitious' proposal before the end of 2015. EuPC welcomes this new package and many of the initiatives contained in the four legislative proposals (on Waste Framework Directive, Packaging & Packaging Waste Directive, Landfill Directive, and WEEE). However, EuPC is concerned that the level of legal clarity contained in the package is not sufficient to guide companies in Europe towards a circular economy.

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Polymer for Europe Alliance News



The Polymers for Europe Alliance continues to steadily grow in membership. At the end of November 2015, more than 200 companies were registered to follow the polymer supply developments for Europe from a strategic point of view. The current work being performed by the Alliance includes the launch of a study on the competitiveness of the plastics converting industry and the objective to reduce EU imports duties on polymers in order to create a level playing field. In January, the concept of the Best Polymer Suppliers in Europe will be launched and communicated to the media. Currently, all criteria for a European-wide customer satisfaction survey as well as the operational set up of the EU rating system is being prepared by a task force of experts.

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[Polymers for Europe Alliance Website](#)

Report on implementation of WEEE Directive I



On September 9th 2015, the European Commission briefed Member States on an expected Report on the implementation of EU rules on regulation of WEEE in the EU over the period 2010-2012 and implementation of the WEEE I Directive (Dir. 2002/96/EC). The WEEE I Directive was repealed by Directive 2012/19/EU (WEEE II), however the interest of this Report would be to see quantities and categories of electrical and electronic equipment put on the market, collected, reused, recovered and recycled by EU Member States. The report will also contain data on WEEE exports outside the EU for the same period. The Report is not yet finalized but should be made available in early 2016.

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EuMBC General Assembly & Conference



Created in 2001 as a Sector Group of EUPC and under the original name of ETHIC, EuMBC is today an association of companies which hold manufacturing operations in the EU, EEA and Turkey. EuMBC represents and defends the interests of the European compounds and masterbatch producers vis-à-vis the European institutions and other professional organisations. It is particularly active in all fields related to the plastic industry (e.g. REACH, Food Contact or new technologies).

On 13 November, EuMBC invited its members to its 2015 General Assembly and Conference. After a closed session for members only and a networking lunch, the Open Session Conference started. In addition to EuMBC members, a few selected European companies from the masterbatch and compounding industry were also invited.

The conference started with an update on Food Contact regulation by Nicole Petiniot, European Regulatory Affairs Manager of Cabot Corporation, followed by a presentation on Classification and Labelling by Claudia Schmitt, Product Safety Specialist Engineered Plastics & Distribution Services of A. Schulman. REACH was also an important topic on the agenda: Karine Van de Velde from ROSC updated the participants on REACH 2018 and stand-alone substances; Geoffroy Tillieux, EuPC Technical Department Director, spoke about REACH and CLP enforcement and Rudolf Staab, Vice-Secretary of the Only Representative Organisation (ORO) explained how RM can be imported in compliance with REACH.

EuMBC's next General Assembly is scheduled for 25 & 26 May 2016 and will likely take place in the UK or in Germany.

More info & to register to participate: Ingrid.Verschueren@eupc.org

MedPharmPlast News - NEW DATE



Due to the exceptional situation in Brussels last November, MedPharmPlast Europe postponed its conference which was scheduled to take place on December 1st. Now they are pleased to announce the new date for their MedPharmPlast Europe General Assembly and Conference: Friday, 22 January 2016 in Brussels (the venue will be communicated shortly).

As originally planned, they will start with a closed session for members only. After a networking lunch, they will hold an Open Session Conference on invitation only (for all members and invited non-members). The conference will give an update on important topics concerning the medical devices and pharmaceutical packaging industry. The European Commission will open the event with a presentation on the Regulation of hazardous substances in medical devices followed by an explanation on the impact of REACH on medical devices by EuPC's Geoffroy Tillieux. The second part of the conference will focus on unannounced audits, medical combination devices and relevant raw materials for packaging and medical devices.

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[MedPharmPlast Website](#)

Legacy additives under REACH scrutiny



Recent developments show that some PVC legacy additives are or will be under authorisation or restriction scrutiny in the view of the REACH Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006. As a follow up of a call for evidence in June, ECHA is now intending to implement a restriction on articles containing DEHP and three other phthalates in order to evaluate the potential impact of such restrictions on soft PVC recycling. In addition, the decision to grant authorisation for uses of DEHP in soft PVC recyclate is still pending. It was opposed by the European Parliament during their plenary meeting last November 25th. This is not a binding decision but it could influence the final decision of the Commission which will be taken in February 2016. ECHA's draft 7th Recommendation for inclusion in the Authorisation List also includes lead stabilisers. The comments to this draft may be submitted until the public consultation ends on February 18th. Furthermore, some Member States are advocating for an extensive interpretation of the lead restriction, in force since May 12th. It restricts putting on the market articles for the general public containing lead in concentration above 0,05% and that can be put into mouth. Finally, a formal interpretation of the Waste Framework Directive annex III, combined with the list of waste, would lead to PVC waste containing lead above 0,1% or DEHP above 0,3% to be classified as hazardous. So far, no consensus was reached at the level of the WFD Member States Technical Adaptation Committee. As time is critical to ensure continued recycling of PVC waste, a consortium will be set up in January.

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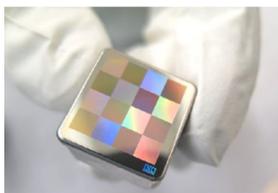
Plast4Future



The final meeting of Plast4future was held on 2-3 December, hosted by the Technical University of Copenhagen. The concluding results showed the improvement in the plastic surfaces regarding easy-to-clean, colour decoration and anti-fog properties. The successful application of the technology has recently resulted in the first commercial orders for some of the partners.

Workshops had been organized to share this expertise with end-users from the automotive and toy industry. In November, workshops at the Centro Ricerche Fiat in Turin (Italy) and the LEGO Headquarters in Billund (Denmark) gathered more than 80 participants and covered topics such as nanoplasmonic coloration for consumer products, fabrication of nanostructured functional inserts and replication of nano-scale features by injection molding. The demonstrators were exhibited so all of the participants could take a closer look of what has been achieved by Plast4Future.

For a detailed overview on the project and a better knowledge of the partners involved, a video will soon be available on the [Plast4Future website](#).



Inspired by the wings of butterflies, Plast4future technology works by enhancing the lateral resolution on free-form surfaces down to micro- and nanometer length scales. This is achieved through the development of a complete nanoimprint lithography solution for structuring the free-form surface of injection moulding tools and tool inserts.

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REACH Workshop in March 2016 – Save the date!



EuPC, with support of PCE, is pleased to announce its upcoming REACH Workshop: *The Plastics Industry State of Play with practical examples*. The workshop will take place on 17 and 18 March 2016 in Brussels. The aim of the workshop will be to focus on key learnings derived from past challenges brought on by REACH as well as keep SMEs in the plastics value chain up-to-date regarding REACH's latest developments, including practical tools and solutions developed by EuPC to facilitate the fulfilment of obligations derived from REACH. Technical difficulties will be faced in the future and this conference's objective is to propose and debate solutions.

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Upcoming Meetings

EuPC Building & Construction EXCOM	15 December <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC MEF & NPA Meetings	8 & 9 March 2016 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Packaging, Building & Construction EXCOM	10 March 2016 <i>Luxembourg</i>
EuPC Steering Committee Meeting	11 March 2016 <i>Luxembourg</i>
Reach Workshop	17-18 March 2016 <i>Brussels</i>
Plastics Recycling Show Europe	22-23 March 2016 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC General Assembly	2 & 3 June 2016 <i>Lyon, France</i>
EuPC Packaging, Building & Construction EXCOM	21 September 2016 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Steering Committee Meeting	22 September 2016 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC MEF & NPA Meeting	20 October 2016 <i>Düsseldorf, Germany</i>
EuPC Packaging, B&C EXCOM	17 November 2016 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Steering Committee Meeting	18 November 2016 <i>Brussels</i>