



EUROPEAN PLASTICS CONVERTERS NEWSLETTER

PROVIDES EUPC MEMBERS WITH A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF EuPC ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES

April 2011

Construction Product Regulation published

The new regulation EU 305/2011 was adopted on 9 March 2011 and published in the Official Journal on 4 April 2011. We have already described the main innovations and issues related to this regulation in previous issues. Overall, the text whilst not revolutionary officialises that practices such as without testing, without further testing which had developed since the adoption of the construction product directive in 1989. Moreover the text clearly makes sure that there will be one common technical language throughout the European Union that all will have to use in order either to describe the performance of the products or to set regulatory requirements on those same construction products. The scope of the essential requirement (now basic work requirements) has been extended in order to take into account new topics of relevance for customer or regulators such as the sustainable use of natural resources.

Whilst the regulation enters into force on 25 April 2011, most of the new rules applicable to manufacturers (CE marking, declaration of performance, basic work requirement) shall apply from 1 July 2013 only.

Commission and industry associations will however be quite busy in the transition period as several topics have to be clarified or carried out before July 2013. This includes clear rules for the affixing of CE marking and rules for simplified procedures (which technical documentation for shared type testing, without further testing) and for the revision of standard the description of generic uses and the adjustment of the annex ZA.

To continue, the Commission must also assess, by 25 April 2014, the specific need for information on the content of hazardous substances in construction products and consider the possible extension of the information obligation. If appropriate, the report shall, within 2 years of its submission to the European Parliament and to the Council, be

followed up by appropriate legislative proposals. Finally, there is a need for a Commission decision in order to enable on an EU wide basis the communication of declarations of performance via websites. Again active involvement of industry associations will be necessary to make progress on this issue.

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EPSE, the EuPC sector group representing European Polycarbonate Sheet Extruders, recently handed out the 2010 EPSE Awards.

These awards celebrate the best and most innovative applications of polycarbonate that emphasises its unique properties. For the 2010 awards there were three categories of winners. The Best Project Award went to the Centro Commercial SantaFe in Medellin, Columbia for the use of heat-filtering polycarbonate sheets in its roof and walls. The Best Innovation Award went to the Bremer Weser Stadium in Bremen, Germany whose roof demonstrated an innovative use of polycarbonate sheets by sandwiching floating silicon cells between them to act as solar panels generating 100 watts of energy/m².

The final award for Best Project and Innovation went to the façade of the Aviva Stadium in Dublin, Ireland. The movable and transparent polycarbonate 'shingles' making up the walls of the stadium reflect and respond to the surrounding environment making the Aviva stadium a marriage of innovative construction and cutting-

edge design that uniquely demonstrates the usability of polycarbonate. For more information on EPSE and the next edition of the EPSE awards please visit the website at www.epse.org

Celebration of the Vinyl 2010 success and new voluntary commitment

On 12 April, at the occasion of the Brighton conference, the European PVC industry released the final Progress Report on Vinyl 2010 – the ten year voluntary commitment launched in 2000 to enhance the sustainable production and use of PVC. The report highlights the huge advances made by the industry over the past decade in waste management, innovative recycling technologies, stakeholder engagement and responsible use of additives. Vinyl 2010 has succeeded in meeting or exceeding all of the targets set by the industry in 2000.

The achievements of Vinyl 2010 are particularly notable when it comes to collection and recycling. In 1999 there was no infrastructure for recycling of PVC in Europe and it was dismissed by many as an "unrecyclable" material. Today, the audit results show that in the last year alone 260,842 tonnes of unregulated post-consumer PVC waste were recycled by Vinyl 2010's network of PVC recyclers across Europe - well beyond the initial goal of recycling an additional 200,000 tonnes on an annual basis by 2010.

The final Progress Report also confirms that the phase out and replacement of certain additives from the PVC production process is ahead of schedule across the EU – with cadmium phased out quickly, and lead substitution well ahead of schedule and fully on track to be replaced completely by 2015.

Other achievements of note include the ongoing development of innovative new technologies to expand the scope and volume of PVC recycling and the launch of a number of multi-stakeholder platforms to discuss and promote

sustainable resource management. In addition major EU Risk Assessments on PVC plasticisers were completed and published by the European Commission and Member States with the support of producers. These risk assessments were the culmination of 10 years of in-depth evaluation.

Building on the success of Vinyl 2010, the European PVC industry is committed to setting even more ambitious targets for the future. For the past 12 months, the industry has been working with the globally respected Swedish Sustainable Development NGO, The Natural Step, to develop a progressive new commitment for the next ten years.

Among the factors that will influence the success of this new initiative will be the active support of all companies in the PVC value chain, increased recognition of the market value of recycled PVC and ever greater efforts by public authorities and other stakeholders to divert waste from landfills. VinylPlus, as the new voluntary commitment will be unveiled formally and signed on 22 June 2011 during the Vinyl 2010 General Assembly.

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Building & Construction division plenary in the EuPC General Assembly: Making Buildings Sustainable

This year Building and Construction Plenary session will develop the theme "Making Building Sustainable". François Clement (Populous) will give an architect point of view on how to use plastics in sustainable construction and Pierre Troadec (Aliaxis) will explain us how to assess the environmental performance of buildings. Sustainability is also about sustainable raw materials. Brigitte Dero, director of the CEFIC plastics additives cluster will share with us the vision of additives manufacturers on the steps to be taken

towards sustainability.

Industry association can also play a role to guide their industry towards sustainable development through concrete initiatives. Helmuth Leitner (Vinyl Plus) will introduce to us the Vinyl Plus programme, the new 10 year commitment from the PVC industry. Pierre Favrot (TEPPFA) shall show us an ambitious converters endeavour, the TEPPFA sustainability initiative. We will then examine products solutions. Philippe Thiriaux (Total) will describe how in styrenics insulation energy efficiency is improved from production to application. Finally Sylvain Lhote (Borealis) will present us pipes solutions made for generations.

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NEWS on EU projects

EuPC is involved in several innovative FP7- projects, of which we mention a few. The NanoOnSpect project, which will focus on the development of novel tools for real time nanomaterial characterisation, has its kick-off meeting on 3rd of May 2011 at the Fraunhofer ICT in Pfinztal. The aim of NanoOnSpect is the more rapid commercialisation of nanomaterials. BioStruct aims to develop the next generation of wood and cellulose-reinforced composites – so-called "enhanced wood-plastic composites" or eWPCs – for complex structural and multifunctional components. In February 2011 the BioStruct consortium held the first training event in Karlsruhe, Germany at the Fraunhofer ICT facilities. There will be a second training event on June 7th 2011 in Jyväskylä, Finland. NATEX is a project focussing on the development of natural fibre based composites (hemp and flax) for structural applications. The NATEX consortium organised a workshop on 22nd of March 2011 in Poznań, Poland, at the facilities of the Institute of Natural Fibres and Medicinal Plants (INFMP).

The workshop highlighted biocomposites use towards the textile sector. 3DPIM is now in its tenth month and aims at the development of cost-effective moulding techniques for medium to high value 3D-products using mixed polymer recyclates. The iPolyCond project aims to develop training materials and resources for European plastics converters on conductive plastic materials. A free web seminar will be held on 29th of June 2011. The WOODY Project aims to develop new composites from wood derived cellulose fibres and resins obtained from natural raw materials. The first WOODY-prototypes can currently be admired at the Swedish National Maritime Museum in the exhibition 'Shipping and Shopping'. For any question related to these and other EU-projects please contact info@eupc.org, the links to the projects can also be found on the EuPC website.



Foundation of the European Composites, Plastics & Polymer Processing Platform

Over ten organisations involved in research, technology and innovation are currently joining efforts to found a new platform named ECP4. The mission of ECP4 is to provide the SMEs of the composites and plastic converting industry with a network of excellence and expertise facilitating access to cutting edge innovations and research in order to develop sustainable plastic markets in the European Union. ECP4 will keep close links with the industry through EuPC, in order to better address the challenges of the industry. EuPC will host ECP4 in its office facilities. For more information please consult: <http://www.ecp4.eu/> www.ipolycond.org

EuPC Upcoming Meetings

18-20 May 2011
19 May 2011
20 May 2011
13 September 2011
14 September 2011
27-28 September 2011
14 October 2011
29 November 2011
29 November 2011
30 November 2011

EuPC Annual Meeting
Market Divisions Meetings
EuPC General Assembly
EuPC Packaging Excom
EuPC Steering Committee
NPA Meeting
EuPC HSE/RM Committees
EuPC Packaging Excom
B&C Excom
EuPC Steering Committee

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