



### New President for EuPC



Bernhard Borgardt & David A. Williams

Bernhard Borgardt has been unanimously elected as President of European Plastics Converters (EuPC) for two-year term beginning June 2008. He succeeds David A. Williams as EuPC President, who served for the past 6 years. Prior to his election, Bernhard Borgardt was chairman of the EuPC Packaging Division, a position he held since 2002. Borgardt was elected at the EuPC General Assembly, which was held on 23 May 2008 in Athens, Greece. The event was organised in collaboration with the Association of Hellenic Plastics Industries and over 180 participants from all over Europe active in different markets of the plastics converting industry took part in this yearly event. Claude Thibaut de Maisières (INERGY) has been unanimously re-elected as EuPC Treasurer for two-year term (2008-2010). Philip Law (BPF) and Heinz-Gunther Sauerhoff (TERHELL) were unanimously elected as Budget Committee Members for 2008 -2010. David A. Williams (BPF) has been elected as Packaging Division Chairman, Alain Requillart (Fédération de la Plasturgie), has been elected as Building and Construction Division Chairman and Claude Thibaut de Maisières (Federplast.be). has been elected as Automotive & Transport Division Chairman

Furthermore, Inigo Duque (CURVER) will represent ANAIP at the EuPC Steering Committee. The next EuPC Annual Meeting will take place in Caiscais, Portugal on 3-5 June 2009. EuPC will be celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009.

### Voluntary Commitment : the last step before the arrival line

On April 9, the Vinyl 2010 progress report on the PVC Industry Voluntary Commitment could announce that it was clearly on track with 150 kt non regulated post-consumer PVC waste recycled, a total phase out of cadmium stabilizers in the EU 27 and a reduction in lead stabilizers used by 34% since 2000. So there is only one last step to reach the objective in 2010. Making this step possible will however need the increased support from the whole value chain including converters. A financing mechanism for converters has therefore been put in place, the Vinyl Foundation. The Foundation is financed by way of a voluntary levy based on the tonnage PVC bought by converters in Europe. The system is operating through a confidential black box run by KPMG fiduciaire. In June all European PVC converters shall receive a request for payment from KPMG. The contribution is modest (0,35 EUR per ton PVC used in rigid applications and 1,25 EUR per ton PVC used in flexible applications). In order to ensure cash availability prepayments have already been made by the major PVC converters based on a self-assessment. By the end of July, the Vinyl Foundation shall publish a first positive list of contributors to the PVC converting industry commitment to sustainability. For more information please contact : [Geoffroy.tillieux@eupc.org](mailto:Geoffroy.tillieux@eupc.org) [www.vinylfoundation.org](http://www.vinylfoundation.org)

### Construction Product Regulation : draft adopted by the Commission



Mr. Tapani Mikkeli, EU Commission, DG Enterprise & Industry

On 23 May, the Commission agreed on a proposal for a Construction Product Regulation which shall now be submitted to the Parliament and Council.

Evolution, revolution or repetition? Probably the third word better defines the new legislative text. The new regulation is first a way for the Commission to reassert control and make sure that the initial objective of the Construction Product Directive shall at last be met. Indeed the implementation tools used, directive and standardization, have meant a slow, divergent and somewhat confusing process has taken place over the last twenty years. Not to say that there is only one to blame. Some Member States decided that CE marking was only a voluntary tool. The EU legislator confused everybody with so-called New Approach concept which is not the one actually necessary or used for construction products. And yes, standardization work is slow.

Does it mean that the last twenty years were a waste of time? Definitely not. Some essential construction work requirements have been harmonized throughout the EU esp. fire and those standards enable

more safety and a better internal market. This was made possible in great part by the intense efforts of a responsible industry.

So what does this new regulation bring?

It clarifies that the aim of the legislation is to provide **one unique and mandatory language for describing product performance** throughout all the EU Member States. It is of course still possible for a member State to block a product because it could present a risk to health and safety, but such decision must be justified and the last word is for the Commission. Be careful, the construction work requirements are still and will remain within the sole power of Member States, but creating barrier to trade based on slightly different technical requirements on products won't be possible anymore.

To continue the regulation adds a new basic work requirement "sustainable use of natural resources", meaning that now the whole product life cycle will become a criteria for building products selection. The regulation strengthens the acceptance criteria for notified bodies that can deliver attestations of conformity in order to reinforce the credibility of the system.

In addition, the regulations formalizes and simplifies procedures such as without testing, without further testing, shared type testing or systems (kits) through the use of a supporting document called Specific Technical Documentation. This Specific Technical Documentation must only be certified for a system of assessment and verification of consistency of performance (done previously through the Attestation of Conformity system) one and two. Specific Technical Documentation can also be used for any product (except those product that fall under the conformity system one or two) produced by a micro-enterprise (less than ten employees or 2 million Euros turnover) or for

individually manufactured products. This flexibility can be understood for such cases, however this creates a difference in the level of conformity check. There should therefore be made a clear distinction between those two categories of Specific Technical Documentation.

Finally, timing is still uncertain. If the legislation is adopted before the election of June 2009 a complete entry into force can be expected by 1 July 2011. If not, several years of delays can be expected;

In conclusion, this proposal for a construction product regulation is welcome and only necessitates minor adjustments. In the interest of the internal market and of industry it is desirable that the Parliament and Council adopt this text quickly and without major revision.

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### **Fire safety engineering : a technique to master in order to gain new markets?**

Fire safety engineering, the application of scientific and engineering principles to the protection of people, property and the environment from fire, is a new assessment technique which is now standardized in ISO. It enables to foresee how a building will react in case of fire and how policy objectives such as safe escape or health can be met.

Fire safety engineering is therefore a decision tool that can be used by authorities or a building work specifier in order to determine if such building meets the objective in term of fire safety. This kind of tool is however not widely used in Europe, neither by authorities, nor by specifiers. It is key for the plastics industry to master these techniques and use those to its advantage. On 11 December, EuPC shall organize a conference on the topic of fire safety engineering for the plastics in-

dustry in order to initiate thinking and debate among the key stakeholders.

### **United Arab Emirates : a booming construction market?**

It is foreseen in the next 10 years that the population of the UAE shall increase exponentially. For instance the population in Abu Dhabi should more than double. This entails a great demand for accommodation and hence construction products. The construction market represented 6.3 billion EUR in 2006 and 7 billion EUR in 2007. Construction market is expected to continue to grow at an accelerated rate with the infrastructure development foreseen by the government : a new port, airport, industrial zone and corresponding lodging in Abu Dhabi or new canals, waterfront and "cities" in Dubai.

In order to support this need for infrastructure, but also consumer good such as packaging, a specialized Industry Park, the Abu Dhabi Polymers Park, has been designed to support the development of the Plastics Conversion industry in the GCC region. Recognising that 50% of the global capacity growth of Polymer production will come on stream in the GCC region between 2009 and 2012, the Abu Dhabi government has allocated 4 sqkm in a prime industrial development site for Plastics Conversion industry. The Polymers Park will offer shared services such as logistics and technical center. Infrastructure work is ongoing and first tenants are planned for production start-ups in Q1 2009. You can find more information including how to contact ADPP on their website

[www.polymerspark.com](http://www.polymerspark.com)

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### **EuPC Upcoming events**

<b>16 June 2008</b>	Communications Committee Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
<b>16 June 2008</b>	Trade Committee Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
<b>24 June 2008</b>	Innovative Polymers Conference	Brussels, EuPC centre
<b>15 September 2008</b>	Packaging Excom Meeting	Bad Hamburg, Germany
<b>16 September 2008</b>	Steering Committee Meeting	Bad Hamburg, Germany
<b>22 -23 September</b>	NPA Meeting	Split, Croatia
<b>26 November 2008</b>	BPF Cocktail	Brussels, EuPC Centre
<b>26 november 2008</b>	Steering Committee Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices