

EuPCfocus



EUROPEAN PLASTICS CONVERTERS NEWSLETTER
PROVIDING EuPC MEMBERS WITH A BRIEF OVERVIEW
OF EuPC ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES

February 2008

Internal News

Plastics recovery reach 50% and growth in demand outpace GDP by 50%

The plastics industry publishes its 17th report on trends in production, demand and recovery of plastics called the "Compelling Facts about Plastics 2006". For the first time ever the 4 parts of the plastics industry collaborated to create this study, **EuPC**, PlasticsEurope, EuPR and EPRO. 2006 was the year when recovery of plastics reached the 50% for the first time. Underpinned by strong growth in mechanical recycling as well as energy recovery resulted in 3% points increase over 2005. This was achieved in a year with a strong growth in demand - 4% - to a total of 49.5 million tonnes across EU25+NO,CH exceeding GDP by 50%. 7 countries (representing 29% of the population in EU25+NO/CH) recover more than 80% of their used plastics and are near realising their divert from landfill vision.

The key observations for 2006 are:

- **Demand growth outpace GDP by 50%**

Demand in EU25+N,CH grew by 4% over 2005, exceeding GDP by 50% to reach 49.5 million tonnes up from 47.5 million tonnes in 2005. Globally demand grew to 245 million tonnes, up from 235 million tonnes in 2005.

- **Plastics are now recovered to 50%**

Half of all post-consumer plastics ending up as waste were recovered either as recycling or as energy recovery. Recycling rates increased to 19.7% and energy recovery rates to 30.3%.

- **Divert from landfill vision comes through**

Countries like Switzerland, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, Austria, Netherlands and Belgium recover more than

80% of their waste. They are all near to realize diversion from landfill. Recovery progress however remains slow amongst countries with lower rates. Still half of the Member States recover less than 30%. This partly reflects the slow political process and partly the long lead times for energy recovery options.

Again it is proven that good performance on energy recovery is not contradictory to good performance on recycling.

- **Despite quantity of used plastics increased, the amount going to landfill continued to drop**

Driven by economic development and increased substitution by plastics in a range of applications the quantity of post-consumer plastics waste increased by 1 million tonnes- or 4% - over 2005. However thanks to the strong increase in recovery the quantity going to landfill fell by 1%.

This confirms the observation since a few years that:

There is decoupling of economic growth and plastics going to landfill.

- **Mechanical recycling grew 18% and energy recovery grew 9% over 2005**

Driven by increasing virgin material prices, improved collection and sorting technology, improved schemes and strong demand, mechanical recycling saw an accelerating growth. Compared to the past trend the increase nearly doubled in 2006. Applications driving this growth include traditional streams like bottles and film but also e.g. window profiles. Capacity for closed loop recycling is being installed in a number of countries.

Energy recovery saw the historic growth continue in 2006 reflecting that this option require longer lead times and is hence less responsive to market drivers.

The report can be downloaded in pdf format from:

www.plasticsconverters.eu

www.plasticseurope.org

www.plasticsrecyclers.eu

www.epro-plasticsrecycling.org

European Pavilion Stand

A 'European Pavilion Stand' will be proposed by **EuPC** for international exhibitions and fairs in 2008-2009 in order to promote the EU plastics industry outside the EU. This was stimulated by a survey of attendees from the SME sector attending the Kunststoffe fair in Düsseldorf in October. The plastics industry expressed particular interest in the Russian market as it is experiencing continuous growth, particularly in the construction, packaging and automobile industries.

The Vinyl 2010 Foundation

In a market where green credentials and evidence of social responsibility are becoming increasingly important



J-P. Degreuve; A. Dangis

procurement criteria, converters contributing to the Vinyl Foundation will be able to demonstrate commitment to the sustainable development of their products through the use of the Vinyl 2010 branding and point to their inclusion on the Vinyl Foundation website as an accredited Vinyl2010 Partner.

The Vinyl 2010 commitment, made by the whole of the European PVC industry in 2000, included ambitious recycling targets for post-consumer PVC waste. The Vinyl 2010-funded Recovinyl programme is not only succeeding in stimulating the required growth in PVC recycling across Europe to enable the industry to meet these targets, and coping with the

significant proportion of mixed PVC waste that nationally funded monostream recycling programmes cannot handle; but it is doing it much more cost-efficiently than the alternative - prohibitively expensive government enforced recycling schemes that we have witnessed being introduced where industry has not been willing to taking action voluntarily. The Vinyl Foundation will provide a much fairer allocation of the cost of implementing Vinyl 2010 spreading it fairly across the whole PVC value chain and enable us to fulfill the commitment we made as an industry in 2000.

www.vinylfoundation.org

More information

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EU Regulatory News

Trade Defence Instruments reform necessary

Commissioner Peter Mandelson's decision to postpone a planned reform of the European Union's trade defence instruments (TDI) is a lost opportunity to carry out a necessary modernisation of the EU's trade Regulations.

The consequences of the Commission's failure to reach an agreement will be carried by all of us. There will be unnecessary trade conflicts and lost competitiveness. EU companies that are modernising and adjusting themselves to new realities in a globalised world will continue to be punished by old and outdated Regulations. Peter Mandelson bares a responsibility for this grand failure, but it is a responsibility the Commissioner shares with those Member States that have been working against any change in the Regulations.

More info EuPC Trade Committee:
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European Commission proposes new strict rules for toys

The European commission proposed measures to improve toy safety in Europe, in particular by toughening up the rules for using of chemical substances in toys. The commission proposes a ban on all carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic (CMR) substances in toys. Originally due at the end of last year, the proposal is designed to replace an existing 1988 directive on toy safety ([EED 04/10/07](#)). The revision has a three-fold objective: first and foremost there will be new and higher safety requirements to cope with recently identified hazards, secondly it will strengthen manufacturers' and importers' responsibility for the marketing of toys and finally it enhances the market surveillance obligations of Member States.

The proposal addresses a wide range of issues to improve the existing rules for the marketing of toys that are produced in and imported into the EU in view to reducing toy related accidents and to achieving health benefits.

It will, amongst others prohibit the use of chemical substances that are susceptible to provoke cancer, prohibit allergenic fragrances or oblige toy manufacturers to issue appropriate warnings to improve the prevention of accidents.

More information

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Tour de l'Europe - Destination Plasturgie

The concept of Destination Plasturgie arises from a request of indus-

trialists to have a mobile tool serving at the same time for the promotion of the plastics processing sector and for the training of young students and trainees from continuing educa-



tion. This veritable mobile workshop of plastics processing, has been travelling Europe wide for the past seven years to promote the benefits the industry.

Destination Plasturgie is presented in the form of a semi-trailer especially designed to attract the general public, industrialists, and young people in training. This mobile workshop consists of plastics processing procedures like injection moulding, thermoforming and extrusion: several machines with its equipments and peripherals. The truck is also equipped with a space for theoretic demonstration with video projector and informatics. This exchange space complements the physical equipments of the workshop with pedagogical tools. From January 2008 until September 2008, the following 13 countries will be visited: UK, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Turkey, Hungary, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Poland, Italy, Switzerland and Austria.

For more information, please visit www.laplasturgie.fr

EuPC Upcoming events

14	February 2008	Innovative Polymers Conference	Brussels, EuPC Centre
25	February 2008	Packaging EXCOM	London, UK
26	February 2008	Steering Committee Meeting	London, UK
27-28	February 2008	BSP Kick-off Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
3	March 2008	Communications Committee Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
3	March 2008	Trade Committee Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
10-11	March 2008	NPA Platform Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
19	March 2008	HSE Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
21-24	May 2008	EuPC Annual Meeting	Athens, Greece