



## EuPC Annual Meeting 2010



This year the Annual Meeting and General Assembly of the European Plastics Converters (**EuPC**) will be held in **Zurich, Switzerland** from **26-28 May 2010**. The **EuPC** General Assembly will be preceded by the **EuPC** Packaging Forum, the **EuPC** Building and Construction Division meeting, the **EuPC** Automotive and Transport Division meeting, and the **EuPF** (European Plastic Films) and **ETHIC** (European Thermoplastic Independent Compounders and Masterbatchers) Plenary meetings.

## Manufacturing takes centre stage in new industrial policy

Manufacturing industries are returning to the heart of the debate on how to put Europe back on a sustainable growth path, as business leaders warn against an over-reliance on the services sector.

Forecasts of 1% growth will not be enough to boost employment and maintain Europe's social model, according to BusinessEurope, a lobby group. The difference between growth of 1% and 2% is 6.5 million new jobs and a public debt consolidation effort of €450 billion – or 7% of GDP – by 2014.

In light of such a stark prognosis, Jürgen Thumann, president of BusinessEurope, said an integrated industrial policy designed to develop manufacturing and services industries is urgently needed. He cautioned against ignoring heavy industry. "Many of the services would be lost without a strong industrial base," he said on 4 February ahead of separate

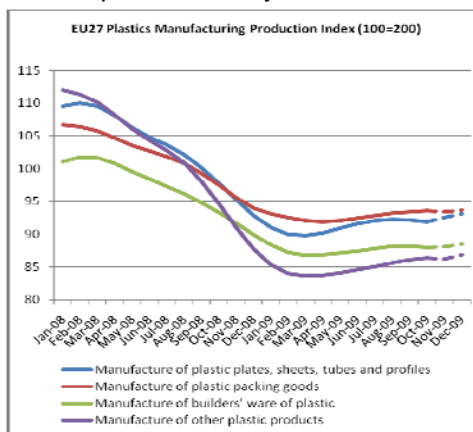
meetings with Presidents of the European Council, EU Commission and European Parliament. Thumann aims to press EU leaders to develop digital industries, complete the single market and support the efforts of European companies to expand overseas. This was echoed by Andrea Moltrasio, vice-president of Confindustria (Italian business organization) who accused academics and policymakers of "snobbery" in their attitude to manufacturing. Manufacturing has suffered partly because factories have gone out of fashion. Moltrasio indicated that industry is part of the knowledge economy and that a new industrial strategy at the core of the EU 2020 is needed. He called also for closer links between universities and enterprise through industrial clusters and measures to boost the presence of European SMEs abroad.

For more details on this issue please contact [Alexandre Dangis](#).

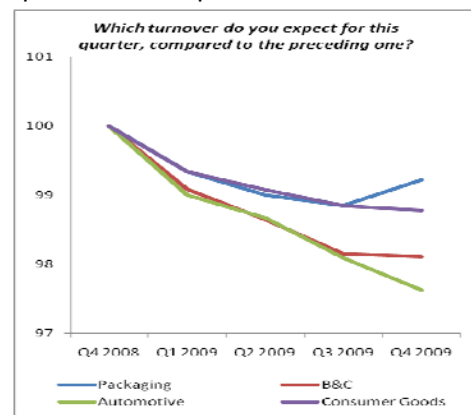
## EuPC Economic Update

The EU economy is finally at the turning point. There have been positive signs concerning the economic situation since last quarter of 2009.

The production rates of the plastics converting industry severely plummeted during 2008 (down by 16%). In 2009 the production stabilised, showing signs of growth in all the markets (graph 1: see below). This trend raises hopes for more growth in 2010 for the plastic industry.



The above mentioned trend can also be observed in the economic survey carried out by **EuPC** (graph 2: see below). All sectors, apart from automotive one, expect an improved turnover in the first quarter of 2010 compared with the previous one.



Unfortunately, unemployment and public debt will continue to increase even in 2011. Companies are expected to continue with labour shredding in the near future, with unemployment rates reaching above 10% in the EU by 2011. Moreover, young people, the low-skilled workers, migrants and those in temporary employment, are up to now those most affected by the increase in unemployment.

In conclusion, the GDP of the European Union is expected to grow from mid-2010 putting an end to the deepest recession in the EU's history.

For more information on this topic please contact [Antonino Furfari](#).

## New deadlines approaching for REACH and CLP

The Pre-registration period dominated 2008 and all efforts of the chemical substance manufacturers are geared in 2009 and 2010 to the first registration deadline on 30th November 2010. **EuPC** and **ETHIC** (European Thermoplastic Independent Compounders and Masterbatchers) is fully engaged in the PEST project (Plastics Exposure Scenario Team)

set up by the plastics value chain to produce Generic Exposure Scenarios as a basis for the Chemical Safety Assessments in the Registration dossiers.

A **EuPC** Web based Use Mapping system allowed plastics converters before the 30th November 2009 deadline to check that all their major applications would be eventually taken into account in the Chemical Safety Assessments of their suppliers. More than 600 users have submitted registrations and some chemical substance manufacturers have reported having received more than 60% of the uses communications in the PEST-format.

**EuPC** and EuPR (European Plastics Recyclers Association) are actively contributing to the final ECHA guidance on Waste and Recovered Substances expected in April 2010 as well as to the "recycling" part of the draft guidance on the Annex II Regulation on Safety Data Sheets (SDS) to be finalised end of February 2010. In the meantime the SDS-R project team (team of **EuPC** and PlasticsEurope) preparing generic SDSs for recyclers is going ahead with the collection of the historical and toxicological data for PVC additives, and other polymers are to follow.

Plastics recyclers are also affected by the CLP (Classification, Labelling and Packaging) Regulation which entered into force early 2009. In particular **EuPC** is monitoring the implementation of the CLP requirement of the C&L Notification of the classified substances before 3rd January 2011. Adequate training will be provided if necessary.

For more information on this issue please join the [Reach Club!](#)

## RoHS

The RoHs (the Restriction of the use of certain Hazardous Substances in electrical and electronic equipment) Directive is under legislative recast in the European Institutions.

When presenting her report to the EP Environment Committee, in December 2009, MEP Ms. Evans (the Rapporteur) highlighted three key issues:

- Extension of the scope of the Directive beyond what has been foreseen by the EE Commission;
- RoHs Directive should be complementary to the REACH Regulation;
- A call to ban three additional substances, namely PVC in EE applications, halogenated flame retardants, including TBBP-A.

The EU Commission, on the other hand, affirmed that the evidence concerning the substitutes of the proposed banned substances is not complete. **EuPC** believes that there are three key elements at stake:

- Safety of consumers: PVC in itself has excellent fire retardant properties compared to other plastic polymers; a potential ban of this polymer would automatically seriously increase the risk of fire in EE (Electric & Electronic) products if not counterbalanced by the introduction of suitable flame retardants in the alternative polymers;
- SME's impact: The recast of the RoHS Directive will severely impact SME's for the following reasons:
  - Problems to find and test possible alternative substitutes;
  - It may eventually be required to rewrite existing standards;
  - Once found the substitute it must be fully tested;
  - Once tested it must be approved by relevant Public Authorities;
- Recycling: Furthermore, the pro-

posed ban of so many substances would also have a negative effect on the recycling of EE equipment for the following reasons:

- Many plastic parts have a very long life time. When these parts become waste in 10 or more years the banned substance(s) in EE waste will result in the fact that, the recycled plastic can no longer be sold in the EU market;
- One of the consequences will be that the export of EE waste to non EU countries may inevitably increase and that recycling infrastructure capacities will close down in the EU.

**EuPC** is meeting with several MEPs according to this issue. For more information please contact [Paolo Bochicchio](#).

## EP Breakfast



On 24 February 2010, **EuPC** together with the European Parliament Trade Committee is organizing a breakfast event on "Plastics and Trade". Mrs MEP Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl (on the picture above) will be hosting the event. Industry representatives, EU Commission officials and MEP's will be participating in the breakfast to network and share ideas on the main concerns for the European Plastic Converting Industry. The main EU trade issues for our sector are: dumping of plastic semi finished products; export of waste; imports of low quality products from the emerging economies; cheap energy costs and cheap labor costs in the emerging economies. For more details please contact [Paolo Bochicchio](#).

### EuPC Upcoming events

24	February 2010	Steering Committee	Brussels, EuPC Offices
24	February 2010	Packaging Excom	Brussels, EuPC Offices
24	February	EuPF meeting	Brussels, EuPC Offices
16-17	March 2010	NPA Platform Meeting	Brussels, EuPC Offices
26	May 2010	Steering Committee	Zurich, Switzerland
28	May 2010	General Assembly	Zurich Switzerland
15	September 2010	Steering Committee	tbc
21-22	September 2010	NPA Platform Meeting	Madrid, Spain
15	October 2010	Raw Materials Committee	Brussels, EuPC Offices
01	December 2010	Packaging Excom / B&C Excom	tbc
02	December 2010	Steering Committee	tbc