

EuPCfocus



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

July 2007



Internal News

During EuPC's General Assembly seven new members were unanimously elected to **EuPC's** Steering Committee for the period 2008-2011: Mr. Joel Portnoj (Huhtamäki Oyj), Mr. Jordi Sabadell (Envases de Plástico), Mr. Alain Requillart (Syndicat Français des Enducteurs Calandriers et Fabricants de Revêtement de Sols et de Murs), Mr. Bruno Estienne (MECELEC), Mr. Torbjörn Trangteg (The Swedish Plastics & Chemicals Federation), Mr. Claude Thibaut de Maisières (INERGY), Mr. Felix Loose (Roga AG). Additionally David Williams, EuPC President, invited Kjell Lövsold (Plastindustriforbundet) as guest to the Steering Committee. Alexandre Dangis, reported on the strengthening of the Association's membership which now numbers 51 organisations (26 National and 25 European Sectoral organisations). It now represents close to 50.000 companies, producing over 45 million tonnes of plastic products every year an industry with a turnover in excess of 175 billion € per year. He defined the upcoming issues facing the European industry. Foremost is the new European law on chemicals, REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals), which entered into force on 1 June 2007. He has basic concerns about Converters' awareness of their REACH obligations and he anticipated more REACH workshops being held in the future as collaborative ventures between the EuPC REACH Helpdesk and EuPC member organisations. In a review of trade issues

he reported that since the anti-dumping measures on PE bags were imposed, **EuPC**, on behalf of its European Plastics Films (EuPF) Sector Group, has been monitoring imports of PE bags from China, Malaysia and Thailand into the EU 27. A significant drop in imports occurred in October and November 2006 but from December 2006 to February 2007 increases were registered again. Dangis warned that this situation will be closely monitored by **EuPC** and representations made to the EU Commission if needed.

REACH and Plastic Recycling

The REACH Regulation has entered into legal force on 1 June 2007, and ECHA, the new **European CHemical Agency** in Helsinki has been set up. "Real" operations, starting with pre-registrations, will start on 1 June 2008. Most Technical Guidance Documents, which industry needs to implement Reach in practice, will only be ready by the end of this year. But many practical problems remain unsolved. For plastics processors, the main as yet unsolved issue is Plastics Recycling. With the legal Reach text as it stands today, the technical and administrative burden on plastics recycling will be such that costs would be a multiple of the average revenue. The result would be either to stop plastics recycling in Europe (and the consequent exportation of the waste) or to continue recycling in non-compliance with the Regulation, exposing our industry eventually to heavy civil and financial penalisation as well as in fine the loss of the

market because customers will gradually wish to be 100% Reach compliant for all raw materials they use in their processes. **EuPC** and **EuPR**, the association of European Plastics Recyclers, have from the start taken a constructive attitude towards this challenge of "Recycling in Reach". Our objective is to present new solutions which are technically and financially feasible, while at the same time respecting the "spirit" of REACH. We have presented a double solution. First, a new "Safety Data Sheet - Recycling" has been worked out, for which the data will be supplied mainly on a "generic" basis. The "average historic recipe" of the waste-to-be-recycled will be determined by experience, measurements and by pooling historic knowledge of plastics recyclers, plastics processors and additive manufacturers. The principle of this SDS-R is however still being discussed in the Reach Implementation Project 3.2-2 where the Technical Guidance Documents are being drafted. Second, we are asking the Commission Services to follow our broad interpretation of the obligation for Registration of Substances in "Preparations formulated in a Recycling Process" such as recycled plastics, in order to make the whole system workable, or even to exempt these substances from Registration altogether. **EuPC** and **EuPR** are confident that, with the additional support of the main Member States, a workable solution will have been found by the "Entry into Operations" of Reach", i.e. before 1 June 2008 .

The Vinyl 2010 Foundation

On 29 June 2007 the Vinyl 2010 Board agreed to proceed with the setting up of the Vinyl Foundation for PVC converters. Alexandre Dangis reported during the meeting that a principle support from all the EU PVC converters organisations under the **EuPC** umbrella was reached but that still some important details need to be solved over summer. By this, starting September a strong communication campaign will be launched about the Vinyl Foundation in order to reach the widest possible network of PVC converters in Europe. A solution has also been found to continue to support the Recovinyl activities without losing the momentum of its success. High level meetings with several CEOs of the large PVC converters are taking place

and will continue over summer in order to finetune the proposed Vinyl Foundation. Meanwhile all projects are working according to plan and budget and no major problem have been reported. One concern remains regarding the new chemical regulation REACh, where plastics and PVC recyclates/regranulates are being requested to provide Safety Data Sheets before usage in the final application. Solutions to this problem are being analysed with the EU Commission DG ENV and DG ENTR. Both Commission services are well aware now of the problem for plastics recycling. For more info please contact Alexandre Dangis.

EU Funded projects

FlowFree

The FlowFree Project which aims at the development of a high output processing method for the extrusion of solid thermo-plastic sheet and profile, is in its second year of activities. The work performed in the first 18 months has focused upon the selection of suitable materials to demonstrate the process, the development of a prototype extruder and its optimisation. In addition, parallel activities including economic evaluation and dissemination have begun. **EuPC** is mostly involved in the dissemination and promotion activities of the project. The project will end on 31 August 2008.

The next FlowFree partners meeting will be held in Bergamo, Italy on 18 September 2007.

A FlowFree workshop will be organised on 23 August 2007 in Brussels. Admission to the workshop is free of charge for companies. For more information about the workshop: bianka.nagy@eupc.org
<http://www.euflowfree.com/>

Polycond

The aim of the Polycond project is to develop conductive plastic composites that are eco-friendly, cost effective and of high added value. This will be

achieved through an ambitious multidisciplinary approach developing new, radically innovative, knowledge-based and sustainable products for protection against the effects of Electromagnetic Interference (EMI) and Electrostatic Discharge (ESD).

Polycond is in its second year of activities and will end on 31 January 2009. Polycond will benefit plastic processors in the EU by developing new technologies and providing solutions to key long-term problems.

The next meeting will be held in Tampere, Finland, on 5-6 September 2007.

EuPC is in charge of the WP13 (training & education) and is also involved in the WP14 for dissemination of the project.

More information:

geoffroy.tillieux@eupc.org

<http://polycond.eu/>

LabelAgriWaste

LabelAgriWaste in its second year of activities has mapped the current situation in Europe concerning Ecolabelling systems. The state of the art results are as follows: In the EU there are numerous Ecolabelling systems at national level which create obstacles and impede the development of the EU Ecolabel flower. Rarely this tool has been used or developed as a marketing tool for products. In addition most of the schemes analysed are voluntary. Therefore, to make the system workable, the Ecolabel system needs to be recognized also to be a commercial tool for companies. And a future Ecolabelling system for agriculture plastic waste that includes all types of agriculture plastic waste needs to serve two purposes: the environmental "sensitivity" needs to be accompanied by: A) an economical return and B) a tested efficient system of collection the agriculture plastic waste. There is no scheme at European level for agricultural plastic wastes (APW): Germany (Palmira) and Norway (Plastretur) represent the most advanced systems in the continent.

Deliverable 18 is certainly one of the most important of project because it

aims to:

- Analyze the legal basis of the proposed labeling scheme by analyzing the existing labeling schemes and legislation in the EU;
- identify (or create) the legal framework under which the proposed labeling scheme should operate at European level;
- Identify the technical basis of the proposed labeling scheme;
- Quantification of the procedures of the labeling and economic scheme;
- Any other complimentary issues.

On 27, 28 and 29 June the LabelAgriWaste partners met in Montpellier for its 4 meeting since the start of project. More information: paolo.bochicchio@eupc.org

<http://labelagriwaste.aua.gr>

Personalia EuCIA - EuPR



Ab Kasper has been appointed as new sector group manager of EuCIA. Kasper, a chemical engineer was born in the Netherlands and has been working for Akzo and DSM before he started his own consultancy business in 2000. During his past career, Kasper was mainly involved in process engineering and technical service applications.

Email: ab.kasper@eucia.org



Antonino Furfari joined on 2 July 2007 the **EuPR** organisation and consequently the **EuPC** team in Brussels. Antonino is an Italo/Belgian chemical engineer graduated from the Solvay Business School in Brussels. He will be in charge of the interests of the plastics recyclers with a particular focus on data-collection and statistics.

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EuPC Upcoming events

17-18 September 2007	NPA Platform Meeting	Prague, Czech Republic
24 September 2007	Packaging EXCOM	Milano, Italy
25 September 2007	Steering Committee Meeting	Milano, Italy
1 October 2007	Trade Committee Meeting	Madrid, tbc
5 October 2007	Communication Committee Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices, tbc
16 October 2007	REACH Workshop for Extrusion	Brussels, EuPC Centre
18 October 2007	Raw Materials Committee Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
24-31 October 2007	K2007	Düsseldorf, Germany
6 November 2007	HSE Committee Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
4 December 2007	Steering Committee Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices