



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

October 2010

First meeting EuPC Technical Parts Division

On 9th December 2010 in Frankfurt at the TecPart offices **EuPC** will be organizing the first meeting of the Technical Parts Division. Companies and associations interested to participate can contact Renata Surowiec at the **EuPC** offices.

The meeting will focus on the strategic issues of converters operating in the E&E markets as well as the pharma/medical markets. Issues of concern also, in these market are material availability, waste streams, logistics and technical quality requirements.

The important EU Directive on ROHs will be discussed as well because this directive will have a major impact on the future substances and material use in these markets if the scope will be enlarged.

For more info: [Alexandre Dangis](#).

RoHS article

The recast of the RoHs Directive (Restriction of Hazardous Substances in electric and electronic equipment) has entered a crucial phase in the EU legislative procedure. In summer of 2010, the European Parliament Environment Committee has voted upon the inclusion of PVC, BFR's and other sensible substances in the Annex III of the Directive proposal (substances listed in Annex III should be scientifically well researched and evaluated prior to establishing restrictions).

The plastic industry is concerned by three main issues: 1) the inclusion of PVC and BFR's in Annex III, 2) the open scope of the directive proposal and 3) the relationship between REACH and RoHS. The EU Institutions (European Commission,

European Parliament and Council) are trying to strike a first reading agreement to close the dossier already in November/December 2010; this is the reason why the vote in the European Parliament's plenary session has been postponed to the week starting 22nd November. The first meeting between the three EU Institutions (trialogue meetings) took place on 1st October, the second one on 7th October; the third one is planned to take place on 10th November.

The first triologue meeting focused on the scope, exemptions, methodology and nanomaterial's. Annex III was not discussed, however it was on the agenda of the second triologue meeting. During the second triologue, the Council affirmed, in relation to Annex III, that the substances covered by this Directive are scientifically well researched and evaluated and have been subject to different measures both at EU and at national level. The concept of Annex III is opposed by many Member States; to this extent, the Council suggests a modification to Recital 12 as a compromise.

For more info: [Paolo Bochicchio](#).

Commission to launch review of EU procurement

The European Commission is to launch a review of how public procurement is carried out in the EU.

Michel Barnier, the EU commissioner for the internal market, believes that procurement, which accounts for approximately 16% of the EU's gross domestic product, is insufficiently targeted at societal objectives such as promoting innovation and fighting climate change. He is also concerned that member states have made little progress in implementing electronic

technologies for public procurement (e-procurement), which could reduce costs for businesses that want to participate in tender procedures. The European Commission is preparing two papers with policy options (one on societal objectives and one on e-procurement). It will put these out for consultation, with the aim of making legislative proposals in 2011. The green paper will also say that, in addition to cutting business costs, e-procurement can advance the single market by making it easier for foreign firms to participate in national tender operations

Several member states including France, Italy, Germany, Austria and Denmark, are in the process of linking up national e-procurement systems to enable companies in one country to respond to tenders in another. The European Commission's second green paper, on societal objectives, is expected in early 2011 at the latest.

Source: European Voice.

IN BRIEF ...

Cocktail inauguration of new offices



On 30th November 2010 an inauguration cocktail and visit of new **EuPC** offices at Avenue de Cortenbergh 71 will take place .

From 18:00h you will have an opportunity to come and visit new **EuPC** offices and staff, and take part in a small reception. You will receive an official invitation soon.

For more details: [Renata Surowiec](#).

UPDATE ON REACH AND CLP

The first **Registration deadline** for high volume- and certain categories of hazardous substances is closing in: by 30th November 2010 the dossiers will have to be accepted by the ECHA (the European Chemical Agency) for further treatment. 38.000 dossiers covering about 4.500 substances are expected. To date, only about half of them have been submitted.

In the meantime, 38 substances have been put on the "**Candidate List**" as Substances of Very High Concern, thereby triggering information obligations down the supply chain for article manufacturers such as plastics converters and compounders/masterbatchers. They cover a range of plasticisers, flame retardants, colouring agents, In addition it is expected that from this list 6 substances (including phthalates) will move to "**Annex XIV**", the list of substances subject to Authorisation. Industry will have to submit such an authorisation request within strict time limits (e.g. 30 months for DEHP).

Two REACH related **EuPC** and Plastics Chain projects have reached the implementation stage. After several years of extensive field work gathering data on exposures/emissions and risk management measures in polymer converting processes, **PEST** (Plastics Exposure Scenario Team) is concluding phase 1. This was the development of an IT-Tool ("PesTool") for the transmission of essential data to chemical substance manufacturers in order to allow them to proceed with their registration dossiers. Phase 2, developing covering the needs of compounders and masterbatchers started early October. Phase 3 will start onwards the end of the year, with a dissemination tool for converters as downstream users.

The **SDS-R** project covers the needs

of recyclers and will allow access to a data base of more than 300 Safety Data Sheets for recycled materials covering most current polymer formulations. These SDSs are "tailor-made generic" as the recycler will be able to make these SDSs more specific for his particular situation by entering real tested and statistical data. A β -version is expected by the end of October and several training webinars for recyclers are planned.

The **CLP** ("Classification, Labelling and Packaging") Regulation also reaches a deadline: by 3rd January 2011, all manufacturers and importers (and recyclers) of substances subject to Registration of hazardous in mixtures will have to notify the classification of these substances to the European Chemical Agency. Hands-on training sessions for online notifications of recyclers will be organised by EuPR.

The **EuPC Reach Club** is now fully on steam and membership is increasing. 5 Webinars were organised in the first semester and as many are planned before the end of the year. PEST, SDS-R and CLP Notification are the main topics of this year.

For more info: [Walter Claes](#).

EuPC puts Food Contact activities in a new Service Platform

On 19th October 2010 **EuPC** agreed with 12 founding partners to place its food contact activities which are merely related to the future legislation based on exposure into a service platform for companies and associations. This decision has been taken by the **EuPC** steering Committee in Dublin after several discussions took place in the packaging Division, the food contact WG and the Expoplast project.

FREP (Food Contact Regulatory Experts Panel) will develop strategies and proposals for legislation's changes, promote them within the plastics chain stakeholders and in front of DG SANCO and the EU Commission. It will provide continuous information to, and seek feedback from the Panel members. FREP will on behalf of **EuPC** participate in Commission's meetings, inter-industry groups, task forces and other ad-hoc groups which carry out activities related to all regulatory matters related to the use of plastics in food contact. Furthermore FREP will also exert surveillance on incoming legislation, standards, guidelines and industrial good manufacturing and hygiene practices, providing feedback in line with the **EuPC** Strategy of the Packaging Division.

The former **EuPC** Food Contact WG will cease to exist and all former members should request access to FREP if they want to continue to remain informed on the latest developments.

For more info: [Geoffroy Tillieux](#).

From Vinyl 2010 to Vinyl Plus

On 8th October 2010 the Vinyl 2010 Management Committee agreed on the new name for the next 10 years commitment: Vinyl Plus! TNS is now working on behalf of the board of Vinyl 2010 with external stakeholders to challenge the new commitment that will be officially presented in April 2011. Several internal industry stakeholders meetings took place and are ongoing to consult in more detail the PVC converters community. Stefan Eingärtner is presenting the roadmap to all sector associations involved during their annual meetings.

For more info: [Alexandre Dangis](#).

EuPC Upcoming events

30	November 2010	Cocktail inauguration of EuPC new offices	Brussels, EuPC Offices
30	November	Packaging Excom	Brussels, EuPC Offices
01	December 2010	B&C Excom	Brussels, EuPC Offices
01	December 2010	Steering Committee	Brussels, EuPC Offices

EuPC Calendar 2011 is already available on the [EuPC extranet](#)