

EuPC focus on Packaging

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

July 2009

EuPC Packaging Division

EuPC Packaging Forum, 2009 – Seventh Edition



David Williams, chairman of the Packaging Division

Cascais, near Lisbon in Portugal, has been the host city for the 7th edition of the EuPC Plastic Packaging Forum. The EuPC Plastic Packaging Forum has become a traditional occurrence for the Plastic Packaging Industry, thanks to the consolidated experience gained in many years of organization and promotion. Despite the economic crisis, the EuPC Plastic Packaging Forum saw an increase in the number of participants; 51 participants from all over Europe have gathered in occasion of the Plastic packaging event. The Forum was sponsored by: Ampacet Corporation, Logoplaste, Solvay and Repsol. The outstanding speakers presented their view on: 1) a global Masterbatch producer view of the Plastic Packaging market (Ampacet Corporation); 2) The future of plastic packaging in Europe and beyond” (Logoplaste); 3) Packaging between marketing and sustainability (Ferrero Group); 4) Legislation and trends in Portugal (Portuguese Environment Agency); 5) Mixed plastic and recovery organizations in the EU (EPRO); 6) Ecological Footprint: a tool to future-proof your business (Global Footprint Network).

The next EuPC Plastic Packaging Forum will be organized in Switzerland.

EU Regulatory Affairs

Derogation on Plastic Crates and pallets (Commission Decision 2009/292/EC)

EuPC and **EuPR** have created in the past months numerous contacts within the European Institutions and with other industry sectors (eg: the European non-alcoholic beverages association, Breweries of Europe, European Bottled Water Association) to achieve the goal of an extension of the Commission Decision 1999/177/EC that was to expire in February 2009. Thanks to the excellent work done, the European Institutions have decided to grant a virtually unlimited (under certain conditions) derogation on recycled plastic crates and pallets. The renewal of the Commission Decision on recycled plastic crates and pallets was published on 24 March 2009; it has retroactive effects from 10 February 2009 in order to eliminate the legal vacuum caused by the fact that the “old” Decision expired on 10 February 2009.

The Scientific report (BIOIS) suggested that the extension of the derogation should be granted for environmental reasons.

The objectives set out in the Commission Decision are two:

The European Commission will review the functioning of the system after 5 years;

The European Commission will also review the progressive phasing out of heavy metals.

The old and current Decision deals only with plastic crates and pallets used in a closed and controlled loop. The material used for recycling shall come only from other crates and pallets; virgin material can be added only for technical reasons and for an amount not exceeding 20% by weight;

There will be no heavy metals introduction during the recycling process.

In addition to the above, the European Commission calls industry to commit, on a voluntary basis, to monitor the evolution of the market in terms of volumes and of dilution of the heavy metal content; otherwise, Member States will force industry to commit to the two above objectives.

Furthermore the “new” Decision does not foresee an expiration date.

But, the absence of it means that the EU Institutions could modify or annul the derogation if they are not satisfied with the progresses made by industry in phasing out heavy metals.

EU Funded project: **LabelAgriWaste**

The LabelAgriWaste project entered into its third and final year; the next meeting of the LabelAgriWaste project partners was on 30 June - 02 July 2009 in Athens, Greece. This final meeting aimed at reaching a fundamental compromise between the needs of the entire industry chain involved in agriculture plastic: in terms of legal, financial and technical framework in which the proposed scheme should operate. The intention of the partners is to collaborate with existing schemes at national level and to introduce the labelagri-waste one in those countries where there is no recovery systems in place towards agriculture plastic waste.

EuPC and **EuPR** are engaged in the LabelAgriWaste project – an EU co-funded project – aiming at developing an integrated approach towards the collection, sampling and labeling of agricultural plastic waste.

Basic principles currently being developed in the project are:

- Traceability from the plastic converters level and the suppliers to the farmers and the collection area and final disposal;
- Labelling of the plastic waste covering the whole life cycle of the plastic;

c. Specific guidelines for the use, collection, transportation and treatment of APW;

d. Financial scheme including payments and refunds to be controlled by a national agency in close cooperation with the IAGs (Industry Association Groupings). Two sets of specs were adopted based on the two distinct processes for the mechanical recycling:

1. The specs for APW acceptable to be recycled into pellets (labelled **Quality I**)

The APW acceptable to be recycled into profiles (labelled **Quality II**)

Expected Benefits for the Industrial Sector can be summarized in a higher quality cheaper plastic waste stream for the recycling industry and the industry exploiting APW and in new business opportunities for the waste management and certification companies cooperating with the recyclers, cement industries and other end users of APW.

Retail Forum

The Retail Forum has been set up in early 2009 to discuss issues of common interest among retailers, European Commission, and other relevant stakeholders (like **EuPC**), with a view to reducing the environmental footprint of the retail sector and its supply chain, promoting more sustainable products, and better informing consumers.

The Forum aims to develop a better understanding of practical measures to promote sustainable consumption/production through the retail sector, existing barriers or gaps (e.g. institutional, administrative, infrastructural, science unclear, market failures etc.) and what public authorities and other stakeholders can do to address these.

To this end, the Forum will:

1. identify opportunities and barriers (legislative and others) that further or hinder sustainable consumption and production, including those associated with extending the geographical coverage of initiatives;
2. share best practices;
3. obtain scientific and indicator based knowledge from relevant

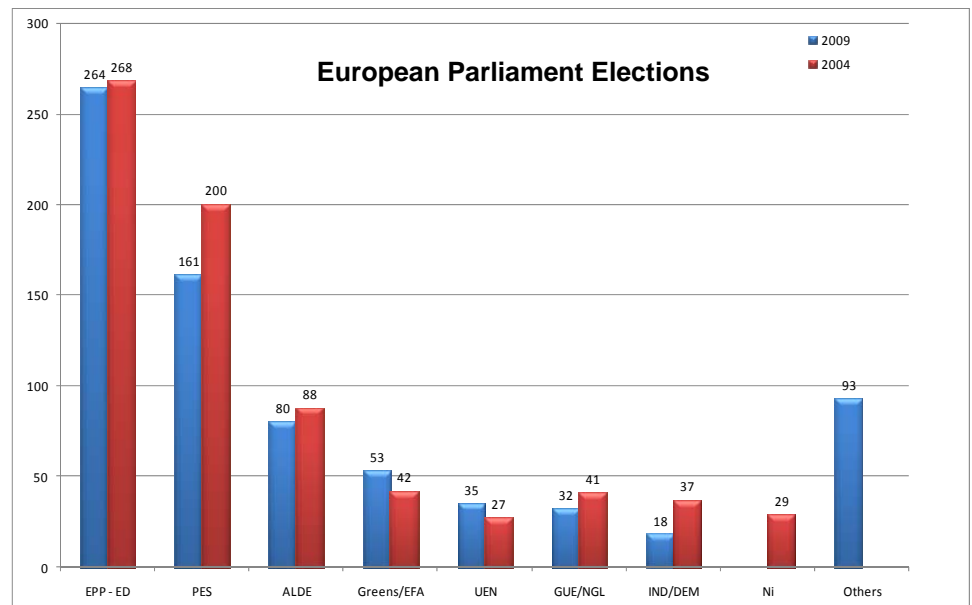
EU bodies about the evaluation of environmentally-sound products;
4. identify key challenges ahead;
5. deepen understanding of current levels of knowledge and data on key issues;

Report on progress of actions.

Initially, the Retail Forum will operate for 3 years at which point its value and effectiveness will be evaluated, and a decision taken on how best to continue to pursue the objective of sustainable consumption and production.

European Parliament Elections (2009 – 2014)

MEP's per political party (total: 736 elected MEP's).



LEGEND

EPP-ED: Group of the European People's Party and European Democrats

PES: Socialist Group in the European Parliament

ALDE: Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

UEN: Union for Europe of the Nations Group

Greens/EFA: Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

GUE/NGL: Confederal Group of the European United Left –Nordic Green Left

IND/DEM: Independence/Democracy Group

EuPC Upcoming events

15	July 2009	PlasFuelSys webconference
15	September 2009	Packaging Excom
15	September 2009	EuPF Excom
16	September 2009	Steering Committee Meeting
22-23	September 2009	NPA Platform Meeting
3	November 2009	HSE Committee Meeting
11	November 2009	ETHIC Excom Meeting
12	November 2009	ETHIC Plenary Meeting
1	December 2009	Packaging Excom
2	December 2009	Steering Committee Meeting

webconference
Brussels, EuPC offices
Brussels, EuPC offices
Brussels, EuPC offices
Copenhagen, Denmark
Brussels, EuPC offices
Brussels, EuPC offices
Brussels, EuPC offices
Brussels, EuPC offices
Brussels, EuPC offices