

EuPC Focus

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

PACKAGING DIVISION

November 2009



EuPC Packaging Division

EuPC Packaging Forum, 2010 – Eighth Edition

Zurich, Switzerland, will play host to the 8th edition of the **EuPC** Plastic Packaging Forum, which will take place on 27 May 2010.

Over the years, the **EuPC** Plastic Packaging Forum has seen an increase in the number of participants. In 2009, despite the economic crisis, a large number of participants from all over Europe attended the **EuPC** Plastic Packaging Forum.

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EU Regulatory Affairs

Derogation on Plastic Crates & Pallets (Commission Decision No 2009/292/EC)

Following the adoption of the Commission Decision on recycled plastic crates and pallets, the European Commission called upon the industry to establish a monitoring system, examining the diminishing levels of heavy metals through dilution.

EuPC and **EuPR** have organised a workshop on 19 November 2009, where the creation of a monitoring system needed to evaluate the volumes of plastic crates and pallets and the content levels of heavy metals will be assessed.

The Breweries, the Soft Drinks and the Bottled Water Industry Associations have been invited to work towards a common goal. Moreover, the highly likely attendance of the European Commission underlines the necessity to evaluate this waste stream.

Waste Framework Directive

End-of-waste criteria for plastics

The WFD calls for the definition of end-of-waste criteria for a number of materials. The JRC (Joint Research Centre) has commissioned the BIOIS (a French research Institute) to define the end-of-waste criteria for plastics.

The objective of the study is to provide accurate and reliable information and data on the recycling of plastics waste in the EU and the technologies used. The analysis will take into consideration not only the environmental aspects of recycling plastics waste but also the economic, social and international ones, thus rendering it highly comprehensive.

The result of the study will be used by the IPTS to develop technical proposals for end-of-waste criteria for one or more plastics waste types.

The structure of the study will consist of five sections:

- **Technical characterisation of plastics waste recycling:** the first step consists of identifying the different plastics waste types and recycling processes currently used in the EU for the recycling of plastic materials. The clear-cut classification of all plastics waste streams that do not constitute recyclable elements will also be taken into consideration and analysed.
- **Quantification of generation, use and trade of plastics waste:** in the second step, the identified plastics waste types will be quantified in terms of amounts generated, traded and used for different purposes.
- **Environmental and health-related classification of plastics waste**

types: the environmental and health aspects will be analysed during the plastics product's entire recovery phase (i.e. collection, storage, transport, treatment(s), use and/or disposal).

- **Economic and market characterisation of the plastics waste types:** information on market and price data will be gathered (such as market structure, costs and trends) for each plastics waste type and, if possible, making a distinction between the situations of different EU Member States.
- **Regulatory framework:** in the final step, there will be an assessment on how regulations address the environmental and health impacts of plastics recycling in the EU and in the main non-EU trading partners of the plastics waste fractions.

Food Round-Table Discussion

EuPC recently joined the 'Food Round-Table Discussion' (FRTD), which was created by the food and drinks industry to meet and face the challenges of sustainable production and consumption, as outlined by the European Commission's SCP Action Plan (sustainable consumption and production).

The objectives revolve around three main topics:

- Identifying scientifically reliable and uniform environmental assessment methodologies for food and drink products, and considering their impact across the entire product life-cycle;
- Identifying suitable communication tools geared towards consumers and other stakeholders; and

- Promoting and reporting on continuous environmental improvement across the entire food supply chain, and engaging in an open dialogue with stakeholders.

The project will run from 2009 until 2011 with the objective of reaching the goals outlined above. In its first year, the principles on F&D product assessment and communication will be realised. Moreover, in 2010 the promotion of continuous improvement initiatives across the food chain will be assessed, together with the interim report on the framework assessment methodology for F&D products, the latter being finalised in 2011.

The FRTD activities have been divided into 4 working groups:

- WP1** will aim at 1) the development of principles/guidelines on the environmental assessment of food and drink products, including their packaging; and 2) the establishment of a framework assessment methodology for food and drink products by 2011, building on international standards and on existing and emerging methodological developments at national and EU level, including work carried out by the European Commission and its Joint Research Centre (JRC).
- WP2** will aim at 1) developing 'principles' on voluntary environmental information on food and drink products, including their packaging, for consumers and other stakeholders; and 2) identifying suitable tools to communicate the environmental performance of food

and drink products and other relevant environmental information to consumers and other stakeholders.

- WP3** will aim at 1) identifying and prioritising major environmental challenges along the various stages of the different food and drink chains, including consumption; 2) mapping the existing and emerging voluntary industry and multi-stakeholder initiatives and standards in these areas at national, EU and international level; 3) identifying priority areas for continuous environmental improvement, considering the respective responsibilities of the various players across the food value chain; and 4) identifying priority areas for targeted sustainability R&D and eco-innovation in these fields.
- WP4** will aim at 1) existing and emerging initiatives in the above-mentioned areas outside the EU; and 2) other sustainability-related environmental aspects.

Next EU Presidencies:

Spain	January - June 2010
Belgium	July - December 2010
Hungary	January - June 2011
Poland	July - December 2011

Programmes

The EU-China Managers Exchange and Training Programme (METP)

Trade and investment ties with the EU's fastest growing global partner – China – have turned out to be increasingly important in these times of economic turmoil. However, many European companies, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), often lack the resources to establish business relations with China.

To respond to these challenges and offer new opportunities for SMEs, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and self-employed entrepreneurs, the European Commission and the Government of China have decided to extend the EU-China Managers Exchange and Training Programme by a further intake in 2010.

Worth €23m in funding, the multi-annual programme (2006-2011) is the major EU-China business training scheme. It is designed to promote links among managers from both sides by focusing on intercultural training and building mutual confidence, which is the cornerstone for reaping the economic gains from global trade.

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EuPC Upcoming events

19	November 2009	Workshop on Recycled Plastic Crates & Pallets	Brussels, EuPC Offices
20	November 2009	EuPR General Assembly	Brussels, EuPC Offices
27	November 2009	B&C Plastics Fire Experts Forum	Brussels, EuPC Offices
1	December 2009	B&C Excom	Brussels, EuPC Offices
2	December 2009	Steering Committee Meeting	Brussels, EuPC Offices
2	December 2009	Packaging Division Plenary Meeting	Brussels, EuPC Offices
2	March 2010	Packaging Excom Meeting	Brussels, EuPC Offices
3	March 2010	Steering Committee Meeting	Brussels, EuPC Offices
16	March 2010	NPA Meeting	Brussels, EuPC Offices
17	March 2010	NPA Meeting	Brussels, EuPC Offices