



EUROPEAN PLASTICS CONVERTERS NEWSLETTER

PROVIDES EUPC MEMBERS WITH A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF EUPC ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES

January 2011

Anti-dumping duties of 13,8% on glass fibre originating in China are likely to be imposed

Based on EuCIA / **EuPC** sources, representatives of the EU27 Member States provisionally voted last week on the European Commission proposal for definitive anti-dumping duties on glass fibre originating in China.

The Commission proposes definitive import duties of 13.8 % and excludes yarns from the proceedings. The definitive import duties are to be imposed from the 17th of March 2011 for a period of 5 years if finally agreed by the Council of the European Union later next month.

The Commission proposal provisionally voted last week by the EU27 Member States was initially released for consultation in December 2010. The proposal followed the Commission Regulation 812/2010 imposing provisional import duties of 43.6% for a period of 6 months since the 17th of September 2010.

EuCIA / **EuPC** and industry representatives welcomed a reduction of duties by 68% (from 43.6%) but continued to highlight that even at 13,8% import duties remain harmful for the European users and will trigger negative impacts on the employment and innovation within the sector. A high number of major European users of glass fibre and Associations across Europe jointly expressed their concerns with regard to the investigation and questioned the provisional tariffs and the whole investigation as unfounded and whether it should have been initiated in the first place in December 2009.

The outcome of the provisional vote last week confirmed the opinions and concerns of the European industry. A high number of Member States

representatives abstained while only 4 Member States out of 27 voted in favour of imposing definitive import duties of 13.8% with detrimental effects for the European composites industry. Unfortunately, under the EU rules, that may ultimately be enough to impose the duties and make the European composites industry cope with increasing raw materials and energy prices and market demands, thus pushing the actors in the chain at the extremes.

Following the provisional consultation that took place last week, the European Commission will now formally communicate the proposal for definitive measures for consultation and voting in the Council of the European Union. A final vote is expected next month. If voted in favour, the definitive measures are expected to be published in the Official Journal of the European Union on the 16th of March 2011. EuCIA and **EuPC** will continue advocating in this case the interests of the European composites industry.

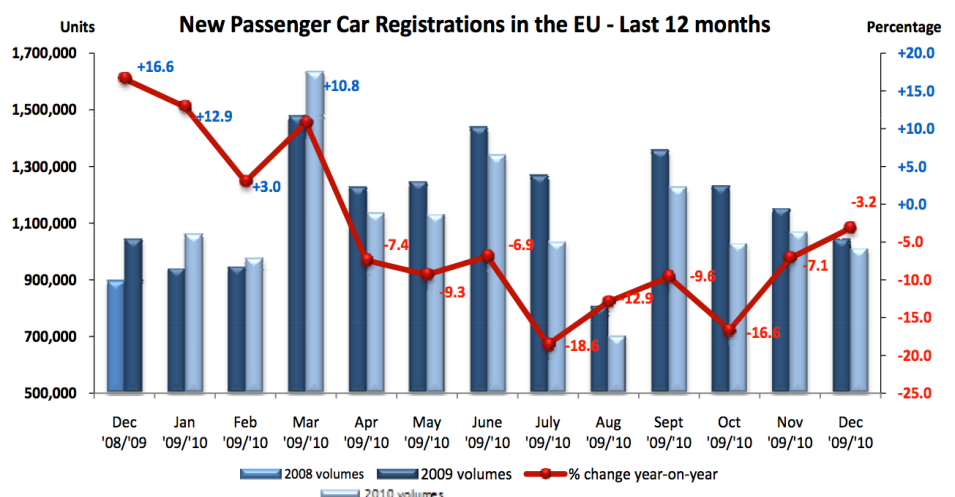
The full text of the press release including comments of Alexandre Dangis, Managing Director **EuPC** and Volker Fritz, EuCIA president is available online on the [EuCIA website](#).

Passenger cars registrations 5,5% lower in 2010 than in 2009

Based on the statistics of the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA), over the twelve months in 2010, the EU market for new passenger cars declined by 5.5%, with a total of 13,360,599 new units registered throughout the year. The 2010 results were marked by the ending of government fleet renewal schemes in many EU countries.

Registrations in December amounted to 1,009,638 units, 3.2% less than in December 2009. In December (-3.2%), demand for new cars declined significantly in Spain (-23.9%), Italy (-21.7%) and the UK (-18.0%). The French market remained stable (-0.7%) while the German expanded by 6.9%. From January to December, the situation varied across the major markets, leading to an overall 5.5% downturn over 2010. Where Spain and the UK saw new car registrations increase by 3.1% and 1.8% respectively, Germany recorded a 23.4% decline. The Italian (-9.2%) and the French (-2.2%) markets also contracted. The biggest increase was observed in Ireland where the market grew by 54.7% after the sharp 62.1% drop in 2009.

(Source: ACEA)



New EU website to provide information support on types of vehicles and their environmental credentials

The Clean Vehicle Directive (2009/33/EC) requires public authorities, when buying a vehicle, to take account of its energy consumption, CO₂ emissions and pollutant emissions over the vehicle's lifetime. The directive introduces for the first time sustainability obligations into public procurement law for the whole EU.

All purchase decisions by public authorities and private operators concerning vehicles for public transport services will now have to take into account the impact of their energy consumption, CO₂ emissions and pollutant emissions affecting air quality, integrated over the entire lifetime of vehicles. A methodology for the calculation of lifetime cost for energy consumption, CO₂ emissions, and pollutant emissions of vehicles is also defined by the directive.

In order to support the public procurement of vehicles and private users when buying a car, the European Commission set a "clean vehicle" website. The website is based on the Europe's largest vehicle database and provides the consumption and emission data of vehicles, as required for the calculation of lifetime cost. The website also features an online calculator to carry out lifetime cost calculations for the vehicles chosen. Users can receive information on the technical and economic aspects of the different vehicle technologies, including hybrid, electric, biofuel, natural gas, LPG, and hydrogen vehicles. The website covers all main types of road vehicles: passenger cars, commercial vehicles, trucks and buses.

Launched in December 2010 the website operates in three languages (English, French, German) with the aim of being extended to all EU27 languages, plus Croatian, Icelandic, Norwegian, and Russian by early 2011.

(Source: [Clean Vehicle Portal](#))

EU Expert Group set to find alternatives for fossil fuels on transportation

In an effort to decrease the overall reduction of CO₂ emissions of 80-95% by 2050 with respect to 1990 levels, the European Commission set a stakeholder "expert group on future transport fuels".

The group was established in March 2010 with the aim of advising the European Commission on the development of political strategies and specific actions aiming towards the substitution of fossil fuels oil as transport fuel in the long term.

While a single solution combining all modes of transport could not be in practice fully impossible, the increasing demand in transport cannot be met by one single fuel. The main alternatives identified by Expert Group on Future Transport Fuels are the following:

- Electricity/hydrogen, and biofuels (liquids) as the main options;
- Synthetic fuels as a technology bridge from fossil to biomass based fuels;
- Methane (natural gas and biomethane) as complementary fuel Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) as supplement.

The road transport can be powered by electricity for short distances, hydrogen and methane up to

medium distance, and biofuels / synthetic fuels, LNG and LPG up to long distance. The objective of the European Commission is to draft a Communication based on all the consultations by the end of 2011.

For questions on the above please contact [Alisa De Backer](#), A&T Division Manager.

EuPC staff news

Geoffroy Tillieux Director Technical Department



Since the beginning of January 2011 Geoffroy Tillieux has been promoted to **EuPC** Director Technical Department. Geoffroy has been working for more than ten years at **EuPC** and he developed extremely valuable knowledge on technical issues affecting the plastics converters in Europe. He successfully assisted in the implementation of Vinyl 2010 and the development of the SDS-R tool for the use of recyclate. Geoffroy is now assisted by Sophia Huda, who you can contact at Sophia.Huda@eupc.org or 003227324379.

Ruta Tamosiunaite Assistant to Alexandre Dangis



With the departure of Renata Surowiec Alexandre is now working with Ruta Tamosiunaite since 1 February 2011. You can contact Ruta at Ruta.Tamosiunaite@eupc.org or 003227396386.

We congratulate both Geoffroy and Ruta in their new assignments.

EuPC Upcoming Meetings

08 March 2011
08 March 2011
09 March 2011
15 March 2011
16 March 2011
17 March 2011
18-20 May 2011
19 May 2011
20 May 2011

EuPF Plenary
Packaging Excom
Steering Committee
NPA Meeting
NPA Meeting with PlasticsEurope
HSE / RM Committees
EuPC Annual Meeting
Market Divisions Meetings
EuPC General Assembly

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