



Technical Parts ISSUE

January 2014

MedPharmPlast Europe Kick-off Meeting

After the successful conference held in Brussels on the 2nd of October 2013 about plastics converters in the medical devices industry and pharmaceutical packaging, **EuPC** officially launched **MedPharmPlast Europe** with its kick-off meeting on the 28th of January 2014 in the **EuPC** offices in Brussels.

The Founding Members of **MedPharmPlast Europe** came together in Brussels in order to start the activities of this new **EuPC** sector group that will facilitate the development of market opportunities and will defend the competitiveness of the European companies in the international market. They will make it together with the monitoring of the strict and rapidly evolving regulatory environment at EU and national level. As the first field, this group will work on the EU regulatory specificities of plastics in the medical devices and pharmaceutical packaging markets. **EuPC** has already asked and obtained from the European Commission the right to represent plastics for medical devices through a direct participation in the European Medical Devices Expert Group. Mr Thierry Eyrard, General Manager in Medical Device Industry of the company Fresenius Medical Care SMAD was elected by the Founding Members as President of MedPharmPlast Europe for a term of two years.



EuPC calls to all the interested parties in the Medical Devices and Pharmaceutical Packaging industries to join MedPharmPlast Europe in order to create a strong group to work together and to defend the interest of the industry. More info: alvaro.fernandez@eupc.org

Reach update

The REACH process continued strongly in 2013 with Registration of about 3.000 new substances and is now heading for the "final" deadline of 31 May 2018 when all remaining substances will have to be registered. Seven more substances were added to the Candidate List in December 2013 (now 151). The Authorization List Annex XIV stands at 22 substances and in addition, 10 new substances were being "recommended" for inclusion in 2014. Amongst them are DMF, DecaBDE and ADCA which would have the severest impact on the plastics processing industry. Authorisation: Three PVC Recyclers are applying for Authorisation to use recycled PVC containing DEHP. On 13 November the EU Chemicals Agency (ECHA) started an 8-week consultation on 7 Applications for Authorisation for DEHP and DBP. On 3 January the Agency recommended a 7-year Authorisation for the specific use of DEHP by Rolls Royce. More info: walter.claes@eupc.org

REACH : ADCA blowing agent : Voluntary Commitment as faster and safe alternative to authorization?

Azodicarbonamide (ADCA) is a blowing agent widely used in the plastics industry (about 3.4 million T of processed foamed plastics products would be concerned). In the coming weeks, the European Chemicals Agency should, having applied strictly predefined prioritization criteria (toxicity, tonnage, dispersive use...), recommend to the Commission to consider to make the substance subject to authorization under REACH. The authorization process is not only costly (joint industry cost could range between 1.7 and 2.7 billion EUR out of pocket expense not including internal resources tied up in companies) but would also severely hinder the possibility for further investment. Since potential risk is focused on the use of ADCA in factories, **EuPC** develops a Plastics Users Voluntary Commitment as a faster, responsible, at least as safe and more economical alternative to the authorization.

This commitment focuses on :

- 1) Inventorying current exposure to ADCA
- 2) Reviewing sensitizing properties of ADCA with other industry sectors
- 3) Voluntary limiting exposure to at least the Occupational Exposure Limit in force in the United Kingdom anticipating setting of binding EU Occupational Exposure Limit

This Commitment would be widely communicated and its implementation reported periodically to the European Commission. All companies using ADCA powder in the plastics sector should confirm by the end of January their intention to join this Voluntary Commitment. Cost supporting the first 6 months of activity are 2500 EUR per company and 1250 EUR per SME. **EuPC** shall assess in February whether or not to go on with the Voluntary Commitment depending on the answers of industry. More info : geoffroy.tillieux@eupc.org

European Commission publishes results of consultation on a review of EU waste targets

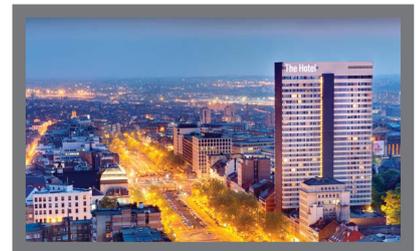
The European Commission has made available the results of a recent consultation on a review of the Packaging Waste Directive, the Landfill Directive and the Waste Framework Directive. In total, 670 responses were received with 32% coming from industry. Amongst other things, respondents called for: i) clear definitions of recycling (with distinctions between the types of recycling) and material recovery; ii) better waste sorting; iii) a gradual ban on landfilling and/or incineration of packaging waste; and iv) the setting of minimum levels for use of recycled materials in packaging. The Commission will now analyse respondents' feedback and take these into account in the expected EU waste policy review. The results of this consultation may be found here: <http://www.wastetargetsreview.eu/section.php/4/1/consultation/35c06f18d9b5c0713a88eea86daab351>
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RoHS Directive - Stakeholder Consultation on Additional Study for Impact Assessment

The European Commission (through consultant Öko-Institut e.v.a), has launched a stakeholder consultation on the additional study to support the review the scope of new EU rules restricting the use of certain hazardous substances in new electrical and electronic goods (RoHS II). The consultation's scope concerns i) technical and socio-economic considerations concerning a possible exclusion for electric bicycles from the scope of RoHS; and ii) technical and socio-economic consideration relevant for assessing the impacts of various possible amendments to Article 2(2), 4(3) and 4(4) (i.e. EEE newly in scope). The 2nd area of consultation, as well as a guidance document, is available at the following link: <http://rohs.exemptions.oeko.info/index.php?id=208>. The Commission's consultant will consider the additional information from this stakeholder consultation when drafting an impact assessment for the expected proposal revising the scope RoHS II Directive. The consultation was launched on January 13th 2014 and will run until the 10th of March 2014. The Commission, itself, plans to launch a further public consultation later in 2014.
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EuPC Annual Meeting 2014

On 5th and 6th June 2014 **EuPC** is going to celebrate its Annual Meeting in Brussels. On the 6th June several market division sessions with high level speakers will be held. The Building & Construction forum will deal with a vision: plastics a material of choice for construction, turning knowledge into sustainable and resource efficient products adapted to people's lifestyles and well being. The Automotive & Transport session presentations will be focused on Horizon 2020, lightweight, recycling, ACEA, etc. Packaging forum will focus on global standards, laminates and waste management and other important issues. At the Technical Parts presentations on Medpharmplast launch, Horizon 2020, substances use for medical applications among other issues will be addressed. The conference on the 6th June will focus on **Revitalising Europe and how will plastics contribute**. The topic of the afternoon session will be **plastics waste management, a potential growth or a threat to the industry**. Programme and all registration details will be communicated very soon.
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NEW EU-PROJECTS FP7 SLIPSAFE and FP7 GREEN PACK

Slip accidents are a major source of injury in Europe. The floorings industry is therefore challenged to develop flooring with improved slip behaviour under varying environmental conditions (humidity caused by rain or cleaning). There is often a conflict of interest between decreasing slipperiness and maintaining ease of cleaning because conventional approaches to reduce slipperiness imply the macroscopic roughening of the surface resulting in the collection of dirt which is a problem in hospitals. FP7 SLIPSAFE will have its' kick-off on February 5th 2014 and will address this issue with a very powerful consortium, and with a strong involvement of the industrial Value Chain, including interested flooring producers. **EuPC** will be coordinating the project, which involves key partners such as ERFMI and the British Plastics Federation as well. FP7 GREENPACK is another new project, which will aim to launch new processing applications (thermoforming) for innovative fully recyclable G-PET formulations.
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WEEE Recycling - REMIX Project

EuPC is working on a mixed plastics recycling project for the European Commission. The first phase of the project was aiming at a market analysis of the mixed plastics waste streams and a review of the technologies able to recycle these various streams. The project is currently in its second phase with the final target of building-up a pilot plant for treating WEEE. The complexity of the WEEE fraction is a technologically challenging but there are various paths to overcome existing barriers. This project will end in May 2015 with an event demonstrating the capabilities of the pilot plant.
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EuPC Calendar (first semester) Events & Meetings

19-02-2014	Budget Committee	Brussels - Belgium
11-03-2014	B&C Committee	Brussels - Belgium
13-03-2014	Packaging Excom	Cascais - Portugal
14-03-2014	Steering Committee	Cascais - Portugal
18-03-2014	MEF	Brussels - Belgium
19-03-2014	PE/MEF	Brussels - Belgium