



FOCUS

Technical Parts ISSUE

EUROPEAN PLASTICS CONVERTERS NEWSLETTER

PROVIDES **EuPC** MEMBERS WITH A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF **EuPC** ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES

September 2013

Seminar on Medical & Pharmaceutical Plastics Devices: Together for the Future Challenges

In the coming months the European Parliament and the Council will decide about important changes in the legislation affecting the Medical Devices Market. Some of the proposed amendments intend to forbid the use of quite a lot of substances. Our seminar of the 2nd of October 2013 is intended to give you insights into the proposed regulatory changes, and to provide **EuPC** with your opinion so that it can correctly defend the position of our sector at EU level. Although a lot of organisations already exist for medical devices manufacturers, nothing exists to represent the interest of plastics and plastics processors. We therefore cordially invite all **EuPC** national plastics associations and their member companies involved in plastics for medical devices and pharmaceutical packaging to participate in the MedPharmPlast Europe seminar which will be held in the **EuPC** offices, Brussels, on 2 October 2013 from 10h00 to 16h00. There is no participation fee. More info: alvaro.fernandez@eupc.org



Competitiveness Task Force

EuPC and PlasticsEurope have decided to set up a common competitiveness task force to analyse the future of the plastics industry in Europe. Rising energy costs, access to raw materials and labour costs need to be benchmarked in and outside of the EU. The plastics industry in Europe can contribute to the EU objectives of

increasing the manufacturing parts of the GDP back to 20% in Europe. Plastic products will also contribute to the sustainability and resource efficiency objectives of Europe hence better conditions to keep employment and industry in the EU are needed. Similar initiatives are being conducted at national level so all efforts have to be brought together on this important issue.

Task force members from converters side are Tom Debusschere (Deceuninck), Dominique-Paul Valleé (Bericap), Björn Hoem (Sphere) and Alexandre Dangis (**EuPC**). On the polymer producers side the task force is composed of Jean François Renglet (TOTAL), Michael Traeger (Vestolit), Patricia Van Gheluwe and Wilfried Haensel (PlasticsEurope). A first meeting of the common task force is expected before the end of the year 2013. More info: alexandre.dangis@eupc.org

Use of Solar Energy Powered Vessels for the Collection of Marine Debris on the World's Oceans

On invitation of Waste Free Oceans and SDVO, the Ms Tûranor Planet Solar arrived in Ostend port (Belgium) on the 28 August 2013 after a direct crossing of over 20 days solely on solar power. On 29 August 2013 SDVO kindly hosted a workshop in their offices, where key speakers gave their view on the further development of sustainable energy. The potential use of it for the fishing and other maritime industries can be part of a solution to deal with emerging energy costs in combination with an even more sustainable way of working.

WFO symbolically attached a WFO Thomsea Trawl to the Ms Tûranor Planet Solar. The trawl will stay with the boat during the next stopovers in London and Paris. These and other events will be used to further raise awareness around the marine litter issues and for fundraising to support the 2014 joined campaign.

More info:

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EuPC calls on legislator to support separate collection of degradable plastic materials and ban oxo fragmentable plastics

In 2012 **EuPC** initiated independent testing of different sorts of degradable materials used in the production of carrier bags in Europe through its membership. The objective was to measure the impact on the current recycling streams and the quality of the recyclates for the production of new PE film.

Companies supplied all kinds of plastic carrier bags which are available on the European market and industrial scale trials were conducted during more than eight months at a state of the art plastics recycling machinery producer. Pre-consumer waste was used to perform the tests (non-contaminated and not aged material). Seventeen different mixtures of theoretical end of life situations were reproduced and 3,740 measurements were made in order to carry out the research and measure the impact. Evidence is now showing clearly that as from 2% oxo fragmentable material in the input waste stream there is already a visual negative impact, thus affecting the PE film quality. This means that oxo fragmentable plastics have a very negative impact on plastics recycling already at very low percentages. It is crucial in terms of resource efficiency for Europe to ensure that biodegradable materials do not end up in the current plastics recycling streams and that they should be kept separate from collection of conventional plastics waste. European Legislators should act accordingly and the Green paper on plastics in the environment will hopefully trigger action in this direction. More info: alexandre.dangis@eupc.org

Review of EU Waste Management

Targets

On September 10th the European Commission closed its public consultation on a review of the European waste management targets. This consultation looked at the Waste Framework Directive, the Packaging & Packaging Waste Directive and the Landfill Directive, as part of the expected review of EU waste policy from 2014. Stakeholder feedback will be taken into account by the Commission in its ongoing work on the EU waste policy review. **EuPC** submitted a response to the consultation on behalf of EU plastics converters, following internal consultation with its members. The consultation raised questions on possible options for: i) reducing landfilling of waste; ii) the development of separate targets for recycling and 'preparation for reuse' on specific waste streams, materials or products; iii) limiting incineration of waste which might otherwise be recycled; and iv) the identification of further issues related to Member State implementation of waste targets. The review of EU waste policy is expected to be presented as a Communication in 2014 which would include a fitness check of existing legislation, a plastics waste strategy (following on from the Green Paper on plastics waste), and a review of targets under the WFD, the P&PWD and the Landfill Directive. **EuPC** is currently working with both national and EU authorities in order to contribute further towards an optimisation of waste management for plastics. More info: padraig.nolan@eupc.org

REMIX Project

REMIX, a project on mixed plastics waste commissioned by DG Enterprise, has finalised the initial phases of analysis of market options, existing technology and policy implications. **EuPC**, PEP and PRE have progressed with the analysis of perspectives for mixed plastics. The dynamics of automatic sorting have been analysed. Automatic sorting capacity and technology have been

identified as determining factor in the competitiveness for European plastics recycling business. European recyclers might establish strong leadership in the high-quality segment of recycled plastics but the ability of China to rapidly adopt high-tech sorting is underestimated. More info: wouter.geurts@eupc.org

Decision nears on chemicals in medical devices



The European Parliament's environment committee will vote next week on a proposed regulation dealing with medical devices which could see new chemicals restrictions introduced, including for certain phthalates. Voting was delayed, for a second time, because of concern within the EPP group about some aspects of the wide-ranging proposal, tabled by the EU executive in response to the 2012 breast implants scare. The amendments related to carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic (CMR) substances or with endocrine-disrupting properties stand a strong chance of being adopted as they are not central to the debate that has caused the delay, sources said. Amendments call for CMR and endocrine disrupting substances to be banned from use in medical devices unless no safer alternatives exist. Where the substances must continue to be used, the devices and their packaging should be labelled as such. A plenary vote on the matter will take place in late October. More info: alvaro.fernandez@eupc.org

REACH

Registration: on 31 May 2013 an important REACH deadline was passed: 2.998 more substances with an annual tonnage of 100 to 1000 tonnes were registered at the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) mainly by large companies (80%); 23% of the registrants were Only Representatives of non-EU manufacturers. Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC): on 20 June 2013 the Chemical Agency added 6 more Substances to the

Candidate List, which now totals 144 Substances; for a further 7 Substances the Consultation procedure has started. The list of Substances subject to Authorisation has been expanded as well in April 2013 and now totals 22 substances with a further 10 being examined by the Commission after "Recommendation" by the Agency. Early 2013 The European Commission published a "Road Map" indicating that 440 new Substances will be evaluated by 2020 by RMO analysis (Risk Management Options) for SVHC identification. Recycling and Authorisation: In February 2015 the first series of Substances subject to the Reach Authorisation procedure will reach their "Sunset Date". Amongst them are 4 phthalates, the main one being DEHP. The Reach Authorisation processes have not taken into account the special case of Recycling. **EuPC** and Plastics Recycling Europe request a full exemption as was granted for Registration. The issue has been discussed at length in 2012 with the Chemical Agency and the Commission. The Commission's own proposal has been submitted for comments to the Member States on 12 March 2013. It is still under consideration but is considered unrealistic by the Recycling Industry. Constructive conversations on Authorisation continue with the Commission - especially on DEHP - but also on End-of-Waste issues. It has been confirmed already by Commission that Recyclers who apply for an Authorisation will continue to benefit from "Product Status under REACH" even if future End-of-Waste criteria would classify as waste all recyclates containing hazardous substances. Inspections: the European Member States have stepped-up inspection of Companies' Reach Compliance and 2.400 Reach Inspectors are being trained. In addition to the normal REACH Consulting Service by **EuPC**, a "Pre-Inspection Audit" service was set up, open to all members who have receive notice of inspection or who wish to be prepared at all times for unexpected inspections. More info: walter.claes@eupc.org

2013 EuPC Calendar - Events & Meetings

10 OCT 2013
16 OCT 2013
17 OCT 2013
26 NOV 2013
27 NOV 2013

B&C/RM Committees
MEF Meeting
MEF/PE Joint Meeting
Packaging/B&C Excom
EuPC Steering Committee

Brussels, EuPC Offices
Düsseldorf, Germany
Düsseldorf, Germany
Brussels, EuPC Offices
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