

EuPCfocus



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

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Automotive and Transport Division News

Internal news

The EuPC Excom A&T agreed in an extraordinary meeting to set up specific sector groups in order to increase the activities of the Division.

The A&T Plenary meeting on 8th June 2006 in Helsinki will have on the agenda the election of the Chairman of the Division and the 2006-2007 workprogramme. Specific meetings will be organized to set up sector groups in the next months and the Division will remain the coordinating body for all A&T activities at EuPC.

Cars 21 (All About Safety)

This 10 years program of the EU Commission and the European Parliament as well as 5 Member States on car safety offers unique opportunities for European plastic moulders to look into the new future safety requirements for automotive exterior parts. Specialized WG's with member states are being set up to discuss the safety aspects around cars. EuPC is trying to be represented in these groups in order to assist its industry to develop new safety applications.

3 New A & T EuPC Sector Groups to be launched in 2006 with Groupement Plasturgie Automobile (GPA).

Exterior Car parts

This group will be composed of European companies active in exterior plastic parts for



automotive and will discuss how plastics can contribute to car safety.

The first meeting will be held before summer 2006.

Interested companies can contact EuPC directly or contact GPA:

(vgenin@autoplasticgate.com).

Interior Car parts

Decorative parts and dashboards suppliers will discuss future functionalities inside the car as well as emissions of substances.



This new group will also have its first meeting before summer 2006. Interested parties can contact EuPC directly or contact GPA (vgenin@autoplasticgate.com)

Plastics parts under the hood

Specific moulders for parts under the hood will have the opportunity to discuss their

business relations with the automotive suppliers and look into the increased used of plastics



under the hood.

This group will meet for the first time after summer 2006. More info GPA.

Launch of a European road safety campaign in 2007!

The informal meeting of transport ministers about organizing and implementing a European road safety campaign was held on 2-3 March in Bregenz. No details have yet been decided about the campaign funding and organization. But it seems likely that drink-driving will be the main objective. The priorities of the EU Transport Commissioner Jacques Barrot remain unchanged: the preparation of a Directive on the safety of road infrastructure, the preparation of a directive on the application of cross-border controls and road fines and the extension of the scope of the Directive on rear view mirrors' blind spots. Setting a uniform speed limit throughout Europe is also on the agenda. But this idea has been rejected by EU member states. Jacques Barrot wants to sponsor a study under which conditions it's advisable to recommend a maximum speed. Setting speed limits remains however an issue to be decided by the national authorities.

Recycling of car parts: Autoplastic recycling

Recycling project successfully launched!

On 10 February 2006 EuPC organised in Brussels a project group meeting to analyse the potential of recycling PP bumpers and PE fuelsystems into roofcoverings. Participants in the meeting were converters such as Plastic Omium, TI Automotive and Inergy, raw material producers Borealis and INEOS, recycler/converter Worldroof and ARN as collector of ELVs.



All participants agreed to perform a small scale test to recycle 80% PP waste and 20% PE fuelssystems waste into a sheet for roofcovering. The test is being conducted during March '06 and the results will be presented on 12 April 2006. Should the technical specifications for the plastic roofcovering be reached the potential for a larger scale test will be analysed.

EU Funded projects

FreeFlow

The project has started in September 2005 and 16 European partners joined forces to work together under the coordination of Rapra Technology. The purpose of the Freeflow project is to develop a commercial high output processing method for the extrusion of solid thermoplastic sheet and profile. The project will result in a technological edge leading to increased competitiveness. The product and process will contribute towards sustainable manufacturing. In addition this technology should allow for reduced energy usage and reduced environmental impact. After the first 6 months working package 1 'Definition of Equipment and Materials' has been finished. EuPC will be mostly involved in the dissemination and promotion of this project.

Plasteam

EuPC was launched into the Plasteam project, ETIS-CT-2004-508566, since 01/05/2004. Throughout the project 12 European partners, coordinated by Ascamm, tried to promote the use of FP6 instruments fitting the new economical and technological necessities and opportunities of the SMEs in the

European Plastic Processing Supply Chain. Two years later the project is coming to its end and EuPC can proudly say to have played its role well within the Plasteam project. Not only has EuPC contacted and profiled over a 100 SMEs and RTDs within the PPSC. But more importantly, EuPC has organized two international conferences in order to promote the goals and the results of the Plasteam project. The first conference took place in Milan on the Plast06 fair on the 17 February 2006. The second one will take place in Goteborg on 5 April within the Scanplast fair.

Pegasus

This new European project which will start in June 2006 aims at the IT and material combinations in cars. New technologies and new materials might well change the actual car components and many researchers are working on this. Pegasus aims at highlighting the different technologies which could be used in the future for automotive component supplies. Rapra in UK is the coordinator of this project. For more information please contact Alexandre Dangis at EuPC.

EuPC Upcoming events

5 April 2006	Free of charge expert conference for SME's, Plasteam	Scanplastfair, Göteborg
24 April 2006	APPRICOD European Workshop	Flagey, Brussels
27 April 2006	EuPC Trade Committee	Istituto Tecnico, Venice
28 April 2006	Conference on Education and Training	Istituto Tecnico, Venice
7-10 June 2006	General Assembly EuPC	Hilton Kalasjatorppa, Helsinki
22 June 2006	A practical approach to LME Plastics Risk Management	EuPC centre, Brussels
6 December 2006	Trade Conference	EuPC offices, Brussels
7 December 2006	REACH Conference	EuPC offices, Brussels