

Election EuPC President

David Williams has been re-elected as the President of **EuPC** for a further two-year term at the General Assembly. Claude Thibaut de Maisières was also re-elected as **EuPC** Treasurer for a same period Alexandre Dangis, was able to report on a strengthening of the Association's membership which now numbers 50 organisations (26 National and 24 European-level Sectoral Associations). Indeed five national associations were confirmed as new members at the Assembly (Ireland, Greece, Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania). The current key challenges Europe is facing is the competitiveness of plastics conversion in the face of globalization. Several major European plastics converters now have plants in China and the European industry should focus heavily on innovation and on making progress in the consolidation of larger groups which can command greater economies of scale. The inflationary pressures in low cost economies, growing environmental concerns and fears over the security of supply chains in a troubled world could, in the long-term, cause a strengthening of manufacturing in the EU. The in-



Selçuk Aksoy (PAGEV President), David Rolph (Vice-President Borealis Polyolefins Business Group) and Erik Deruijter (NRK President) on boatrip

dustry has been digesting very high energy costs increases in the months since last September, with converters in some countries suffering more than others.

EU Waste Revision

The revision of the EU Waste legislation, that has begun several months ago, has initiated an intensive debate in the European Parliament. The Parliament is working to be ready for the first reading on the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) in October 2006. Mrs. Caroline Jackson has just recently released its report on the revision of the WFD. Mrs. Jackson affirms that the system of "comitology" should be replaced by a full EU legislative process especially in the field of: minimum efficiency standards for recovery operations, criteria for when waste becomes a product and minimum standards for waste permits. She re-affirms the strategic importance of Waste Hierarchy, but also the concept that Member States can move away from it when it is justified by scientific evidence. More powers, according to Mrs. Jackson, should be given to the EEB (European Environmental bureau) in the field of national waste management plans. EuPR and **EuPC** are organizing meetings with key decision makers within the Parliament in order to make our voice heard and to be sure that our interests are taken adequately into account.

CPD Revision

EuPC has responded to the internet survey on the revision of the Construction Products Directive.

EuPC strongly supports to keep a European legal framework for construction products and is against any system of Mutual Recognition in Europe. A system of Mutual Recognition would only create additional and (new) barriers to trade. **EuPC** requests the setting up of an efficient EU surveillance mechanism. The CE marking seems to be the most efficient route to guarantee a fair competition in the EU for building products. **EuPC** pleads for one single organisation and system to generate h(EN) and ETAs and not 2 different organisations with other approaches. The EU Commission is now analysing all the answers received from the stakeholders on the internet consultation and will start an internal review of the Construction Products Directive. It is expected that the Commission will propose some draft revision to the Parliament somewhere end of next year. **EuPC** Managing Director and interim B&C Division Manager met already with Vicente Leoz Arguilles to discuss the **EuPC** position.

Anti-dumping case bags & sacks: final duties proposed by the Commission

The decision on final measures for stopping the cheap imports on PE bags and sacks from China, Malaysia and Thailand is made. Commissioner Mandelson took a decision to propose anti-dumping duties to the EU anti-dumping committee. Many national plastics associations supported **EuPC** in its fight against these cheap imports and finally measures have been proposed. This part of our plastics converting industry employs over 50.000 persons across the EU. The jobs are

manufacturing workers, engineers and others. Although certain retailers in the UK have actively opposed the complaint it is a fact that dumping has been demonstrated in the technical file. An **EuPC** letter signed by David Williams has gone to the President of the EU Commission José Manuel Barroso to clarify the EU Community interest on this case.

REACH Helpdesk launched

An **EuPC** Manual helping plastics converters handle the legal requirements arising from the forthcoming EU REACH Regulation has been prepared. In collaboration with Fedichem (the Federation of the Belgian Chemical Industries) and Borealis. **EuPC** experts have been exploring ways of illuminating REACH for the sector and this document is the result. The Manual will help companies to understand the basic concepts behind REACH, make it easy for them to collate information on the chemicals they are using and facilitate a basis for a dialogue with their raw material producers about further information which needs to be supplied to the authorities. A preliminary inspection of the Manual by **EuPC** members stimulated positive reactions.

By applying this tool now, companies in the processing sector will be prepared to answer most questions related to the substances they are using. They will know quickly whether a substance falls with the category of authorisation or not. The REACH regulation will come into force in mid-2007. It will require a major effort for companies over the next 10-15 years. At least 30,000 substances will be regis-

tered. A proportion of those will be taken through the evaluation and authorisation steps. From now on all stakeholders only have one year to prepare themselves for implementation. The REACH Preparation Tool is available to **EuPC** members and is available from the REACH Helpdesk. For more information on REACH Helpdesk please contact: song.la.ophaso@eupc.org.

New Film Sector Group EuPF

Since a few months now Plasteurofilm and **EuPC** have been working closely together to set the basis for a stronger representation of the plastic films sector. On 20th October 2006 at the **EuPC** offices in Brussels this new Sector Group "EuPF" will be officially presented to the industry concerned. National plastic film associations as well as companies will be able to join this new group which will be composed of an elected Executive committee and 5 specific working groups. These WGs as proposed for the time being are:

- Bags & Sacks
 - Agricultural
 - Industrial
 - Printing & Converting
 - Standards & test methods
- Industrial leaders have been identified to carry the work programmes of the working groups. Interested associations or companies should contact **Bianka Nagy** at **EuPC** (bianka.nagy@eupc.org)

Personalia update

EuPC is happy to welcome some new staff members in its organisation.

Hans Boon (Financial Administrator) has joined **EuPC** and is replacing Vera Van Malderen on the accountancy department. Véronique Cardon is working part-time and is in charge of personnel Administration.

Bianka Nagy has been hired as communication assistant and will operate as PA to the **EuPC** Managing Director during the maternity leave of Delphine Hébette. Finally Audrey Baranowski has left **EuPC** as TEPPFA assistant and she is replaced by Isabelle Adriaans.

An updated **EuPC** team booklet will be prepared during this summer to provide all **EuPC** members with this new and relevant information for contacts.

On 30th August 2006 **EuPC** is inviting the staff of its member organisations to the Plastics Network Teambuilding trip to the Belgian Ardennes. Registration and information: Véronique Cardon (veronique.cardon@eupc.org; Tel: +32 2 739 63 88).



Group photo during post-meeting tour on Saturday 10 June in Finland

EuPC Upcoming events

19-20 September 2006	NPA Meeting	Brussels, PlasticsEurope
25-26 September 2006	TAIEX	Zagreb, Croatia
26 September 2006	Steering Committee Meeting	place to be confirmed
20 October 2006	EuPF Meeting	EuPC offices, Brussels
16 November 2006	Regulated Substances Conference	EuPC offices, Brussels
5 December	Steering Committee Meeting	EuPC offices, Brussels
6 December	Trade Conference	EuPC offices, Brussels
7 December 2006	REACH Conference	EuPC offices, Brussels