

REGULATORY ISSUES



EuPC General Assembly in Seville

EU Commission asks business in online consultation

Reducing overregulation and bureaucracy contributes to growth and jobs. Unnecessary rules and red-tape stand in the way of sustainable growth, deter business investment or hinder job creation. This is why cutting red-tape on all levels is an integral part of the European Commission's "Partnership for Jobs and Growth". As a next concrete step to deliver on its promise, the European Commission has now launched a public on-line consultation to ask business how they feel the business environment in the EU can be improved and administrative burden can be reduced. Through an online questionnaire, the Commission asks companies and other interested parties to identify particularly burdensome rules and make suggestions as to how best to simplify them. The consultation is open from 1st June 2005 via the Commission's "Your Voice in Europe" Internet site: <http://europa.eu.int/yourvoice/consultations>. The information gathered will be compiled and examined in the Commission's "Red Tape Observatory" and the responsible Commission services. **EuPC**

will provide input and asks all its members to do the same! Only by raising our concerns we will be able to have things changed.

EuPC and BPF meet the Department of Trade and Industry

On 11th March 2005 **EuPC** and BPF met with a DTI delegation in their offices in London at Buckingham Palace road in order to provide them with a briefing on the issues affecting plastics converters. The meeting was attended by 4 senior representatives of the DTI together with David Williams, Peter Davis, Jim Jeffries, Philip Law and Alexandre Dangis. Many interesting subjects were discussed and the DTI staff appreciated the suggestions made by the industry representatives on simplifying legislation in Europe for the manufacturing industry. REACH was discussed as well and support can be expected from the UK viewpoint on excluding waste from REACH in order to keep the plastics recycling activities alive. These new ideas will be taken into account by the DTI when taking over the Presidency of the EU Council on 1 July. The initiative should be followed by other **EuPC** member associations in order to keep European issues affecting our industry on the agenda of national authorities.

EuPC PACKAGING FORUM 2005

The leading European Packaging Companies and Associations convened on the occasion of the 2005 EuPC Packaging Forum

EuPC hosted its 3rd Packaging Forum in Seville in May 2005, after Naples 2002 and Berlin 2004.

Thanks also to ANAIP (Confederación Española de Empresarios de Plásticos) the event turned out into a success for what concerns the topics examined, the debates and the networking possibilities.

For the plastics packaging industry, the year that just passed has been one of the most troublesome, especially due to international crisis that brought the price of raw material at levels never encountered before and a strong competition from emerging economies. As representatives of this industry, **EuPC** is conscious of and concerned about the difficulties that the European Packaging Industry is facing and the challenges ahead of us. At the Packaging Forum, the connection between suppliers and converters was examined, without forgetting important European Food Contact legislation and the health of the packaging industry in Spain. Key speakers, like Dario Dainelli (Director Analytical Department & Regulatory Affairs of Sealed Air Corporation) - Eduardo Mozo de Rosales (Director of ITER S.A., Grupo RKV) - Huub Meesen (Business Director of SABIC EPC business unit LD/LLDPE) - Antonia Morales (Technical Service & Development Manager, BU Polyolefins, Repsol YPF), presented their views regarding the strength, the weaknesses and the challenges that the European Packaging Industry must face as a world player. The debate, chaired by Bernhard Borgardt (**EuPC** Packaging Division Chairman - RPC Packaging Holding GmbH), followed the presentations made clear on one hand the challenges ahead of the Plastic Packaging Converting Industry for the years ahead and on the other hand the necessity to co-operate strongly and firmly through the whole supply chain.

EuPC AUTOMOTIVE & TRANSPORT DIVISION

On 30th June and 1st July 2005 the **EuPC** Automotive & Transport Division organised a workshop in Warsaw in collaboration with PPCA and GKV. The first day 2 very interesting company visits were made with a group of 35 company managers and the second day 55 participants attended the workshop.

The workshop was moderated by Alexandre Dangis and focussed in the beginning on EU legislation affecting converters in the Automotive Market. Tadeusz Nowicki (Vice President PPCA) presented very interesting data on the comparison of Polish industry with the former EU 15 countries. Felix Loose (Chairman **EuPC** Automotive and Transport Division) highlighted the importance of networking in Europe and invited the companies to use all opportunities to be kept informed about regulations via the industrial associations. Carsten Baumeiser, representing GKV, gave an excellent personal view on how difficult it is to operate as a TIER 2 supplier in the automotive chain and Albert Rierra (ASCAMM) presented the EU funding opportunities for SMEs as well as the PLASTEAM project.

It was agreed to repeat such an initiative in Spring next year in order to keep the momentum going and help the Polish industry to better understand the consequences of EU regulations affecting their business. At the same time **EuPC** will organise in Spring next year another Automotive workshop with the Fédération de la Plasturgie (GPA) most likely in Hungary (Budapest). The Automotive Division Excom will meet on 20th October to reflect on this and present a plan for next year.

This conference was sponsored by PlasticsEurope and Borealis.

If you are interested in receiving the papers please request them by e-mail to Alexandre Dangis who is taking care of the Automotive Division Management in replacing Clara Martinez-Falero during her maternity leave. Clara gave birth to a girl on 7 June 2005. **EuPC** wishes to congratulate her with her baby!



EuPC BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

Cables and Fire Safety / Acidity Criterion

EuPC together with ECVM, Borealis and PlasticsEurope had a meeting on 14 July 2005 with Head of Unit Construction (DG Enterprise) Mr Reinhard Klein on the possible inclusion of the acidity criterion for cables which is currently under debate. They put forward a common industry position, which asks for the exclusion of acidity as a criterion for fire safety of cables.

Mr Klein explained that apart from the relative minority of member states pushing actively the acidity criterion, a large part of them are more or less indifferent as the criterion is optional. As a matter of principle however, a majority would like to keep open the possibility to require specific requirements, meaning that the acidity criterion is likely to be accepted if a vote is requested.

Although the European Commission apparently sympathizes with industry's position, it is doubtful

whether the Commission will propose a draft decision without the acidity criterion. In fact, if this leads to a negative vote of the SCC, the decision would be automatically forwarded to the Competitiveness Council, where there is no specific knowledge of the matter and again the same experts would advise on the positions to be taken.

DG Enterprise has actually decided not to consult SCHER, but has asked very recently for the advice of DG Trade (Unit Technical Barriers to Trade) which will come with a recommendation within the next week. The advice will probably focus on the need for DG Enterprise to formally notify to WTO any decisions taken in the field of technical standards within the CPD (this has not been the case up till now).

Additionally, the European Commission has been informed by CENELEC and the electrical devices manufacturers that they see no real need to accommodate the Italian desire because the fire-safety aspects for cables are already covered by the Low-Voltage Directive 73/23/EC and the related harmonized standards and therefore it does not need additional regulation.

Because of these open questions Mr Klein proposes to put the issue on the agenda of the preparatory meeting in October to have a general discussion, addressing all the issues under consideration, and not only the acidity criterion. This could help achieving an acceptable outcome. He would like to invite industry representatives to this meeting to explain their position (Plastics industry, Europacables) as well as CENELEC.

Mr Klein also informed the participants that the next meeting of the Standing Committee for Construction (SCC) would take place on 22/23 November 2005. A preparatory meeting will take place on 13 October 2005 to which the plastics industry will be invited.

EuPC calendar

- 19 September 2005
- 20 September 2005
- 20 October 2005
- 3 November 2005
- 6 December 2005
- 6 December 2005
- 7 December 2005
- 7 December 2005
- 7 December 2005

- Packaging Excom meeting
- Steering Committee meeting
- Automotive & Transport Excom meeting
- HSE Committee meeting
- Steering Committee meeting
- Policy Forum
- Building & Construction Plenary meeting
- Automotive & Transport Plenary meeting
- Packaging Plenary meeting

- EuPC, Brussels
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