

EuPC focus

on Building & Construction

October 2005



Revision of Vinyl 2010 after 5 years

After 5 years of implementation the Vinyl 2010 Voluntary Commitment is undergoing some revision. All member organisations in the PVC chain (ESPA, ECPI, ECVM and **EuPC**) are providing input to a revised document to be presented next year in the Vinyl 2010 annual report. Discussion will also be held with the Monitoring Committee which involves MEPs and EU Commission officials. The EU 15 is now history and the EU 25 a reality! The EU enlargement has to be taken into consideration and as well the experience achieved in the last 5 years on the recycling and collection of PVC post consumer waste. The targets on the Pb phase out are being discussed by the General Assemblies of TEPPFA and EPPA in view of a potential new target date for a final phase out. In order to ensure a stronger financial commitment from the PVC producers **EuPC** has tabled a new approach to the achievements of the voluntary commitment. Based on this proposal a special task force has been set up by ECVM and **EuPC** with key CEOs of the PVC converters and producers to prepare a financial plan for the next 5 years. This plan should be agreed with all parties before the end of 2005.

Cable issue "Vote in SCC postponed"

The Standing Committee on Construction will NOT vote on the acidity criteria for cables at their next meeting. The inter service consultation of the Commission is not yet finalised and some WTO issue and Low

voltage directive implementation needs a final check before putting to vote. **EuPC** and PlasticsEurope have been leading during the last weeks a European advocacy strategy together to exclude acidity from the fire criteria.

More information about this might be available once the agenda of the SCC meeting will be available. A potential written procedure (for voting by Member States) could well be the result of this situation. It needs very close monitoring by all associations involved also at national level.

For more information, please contact Alexandre Dangis.

EuPC and Federazione Gomma Plastica (formerly Unionplast) met respectively with DG Environment and DG Enterprise on the issue of the IPPC Directive (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control). Even though the sector of plastic converting would not usually fall under the specifications of this legislation (because, among other sectors, it refers to the production of chemical substances), there is a segment (i.e. HPL Laminates) in which companies produce their own raw material, making it fall under the provisions of the Directive in question. One of the key points of the IPPC Directive is the existence of an installation that could produce a chemical substance; thus it becomes irrelevant 1) the amount produced (1 gram or thousands of tons) and 2) if commercialised.

The Directive, which is currently being implemented in all Member States, will be revised in 2007. The member States are currently discussing, in apposite working groups, how to define some terms (i.e. economy of scale) and how to

give a common approach to the Directive in order not to create distortions of competitions within the EU.

Natural Polymer Fibres Composites

A new sector group is being set up by **EuPC** to deal with this growing product on the B&C market. Ulrike Grawe is in charge of helping the setting up of this new sector group. Two meetings took place and the internal rules have been adopted. Membership remains free of charge till end of 2005. Interested parties can contact Ulrike Grawe.



Twinson plank

CEN TC 350

The first Plenary meeting of CEN TC 350 "Sustainable Construction" took place in Helsinki. **EuPC** requesting an observer status was represented by Nikkola Aulis from the FIPF (Finland).

The name (Integrated environmental performance of buildings) of this TC was decided to change. It is now. "Sustainability of construction work".

A Business plan was accepted

with some editorial changes. Several WG were established.

- All willingly liaisons/observer was established (also **EuPC**). The following meetings were decided:

WG 3: 24 April 2006

WG 1 and WG 2: 25 April 2006

TG 26 April 2006

TC: 27 April 2006 .

All these meetings will be held in Berlin/DIN.

Walter Claes has been appointed as permanent member of this TC as **EuPC** representative.

CYCLIC Project close to be finalised

Several plastics organisations and research centre have been setting up a consortium to request EU funding to create a platform for increasing the use of recycled plastics in public procurement. The greening of public procurement is not addressing this issue and therefore **EuPC** joined this consortium to ensure good follow up of its objectives. The project has reached stage 2 which means that in a few months a decision will be taken if the EU funding will be provided. The Cyclic project is due to start in autumn 2006.

A new document on CE marking

The EU Commission has published on 30 August 2005 a position paper on "The role and significance of the CE marking". The objective of this paper is to examine the options related to CE marking and if it is to be maintained, on what conditions. It does not deal with issues of voluntary marks, as they should be considered as complementary to the review of the New Approach, rather than central.

The paper is available at **EuPC**. You can contact Delphine Hébette (delphine.hebette@eupc.org)

Decorative surfaces

First meeting of this new Working group will be held at the **EuPC** offices in November or December 2005. Items on the agenda are:

- Presentation of working programme of the EuPC LHDS WG (Large & Hard Decorative Surfaces);
- Update on IPPC & requirements for change in the current EU legislation;
- CEN & EOTA representation of **EuPC** of these markets;
- Market data on laminates production in Europe Union;
- Fire performance and classification;
- modus operandi of the Working Group

EGMA

EGMA, the European Geomembranes Association, a Sector Group of **EuPC**, has now 9 members representing all major players in the European market. The organization welcomed two new members since its constitution in 2003: Werra Plastic GmbH in January 2004 and Naue GmbH & Co. KG in May 2005. On 18 October 2005, a new Executive Committee has been elected and is now composed by Mr Bruno Broccanello (President), Mr. Stefan Baldauf (Vice-President) and Mr Frédéric Weemaels (Treasurer).

During the International Waste Management and Landfill Symposium (from 3 to 7 October 2005, in Sardinia), Mrs. Catrin Tarnowski of GSE Lining Technology (member of EGMA) presented a paper on the "Assessment of the durability of HDPE-Geomembranes in landfills - practical approach under consideration of material examination performed during service life". Mr Walter Claes, Managing Director of EGMA, also attended the

Symposium during which he made a presentation on REACH and presented ROOFCOLLECT, a collect and recycling system for roofing and waterproofing membranes managed by ESWA, a sister organization of EGMA.

For more details, please send your e-mail to egma@eupc.org.



Mr Bruno Broccanello

Internal News

Alexandre Dangis has temporarily taken over the B&C Division issues management. This was confirmed by the **EuPC** Steering Committee of 20th September 2006 in Brussels. Joy Donné, **EuPC** legal Director, will continue to deal with the **EuPC** services activities and manage the Trade Committee in the future. A proper replacement for the position B&C Division manager as of 2006 onwards is being looked for. Early December 2005 several B&C division meetings will take place during the Policy Forum days at the **EuPC** offices in Brussels.

EuPC has reinforced its team with Susan Strömbom (Swedish nationality) since 24 October 2005. Susan is chemical engineer and will work on technical issues such as Food Contact, Fire safety and air emissions.

EuPC calendar and Building & Construction events

Next Internal EuPC meetings:

Raw Materials Committee meeting: 7 November 2005

Packaging Division meeting: 5 December 2005 from 13:00hrs to 15:30hrs in Brussels

EuPC Steering Committee: 6 December 2005 from 9:00hrs to 13:30hrs in Brussels

B&C WG Regulated Substances: 7 December 2005 from 9:00hrs to 11:00hrs in Brussels

B&C WG Fire: 7 December 2005 from 11:0hrs to 13:00hrs in Brussels

EuPC B&C Plenary: 7 December 2005 from 14:00hrs to 16:00hrs in Brussels

REACH Conference: 14 December 2005 from 9:30hrs to 16:00hr in Brussels