

Packaging Issue

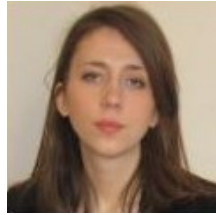
March 2016



French law on disposables and bags



Walloon Region ban on plastic bags and packaging for free press



New EuPC Packaging Division Manager



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FREP continues to grow



EXCOM meetings in Luxembourg, Ampacet Headquarters



Update on Food Contact Regulations



EuPC Food Contact Plastics Seminar 2016: 20 & 21 April



EuPC Study on Competitiveness at the Annual Meeting



Upcoming MedPharmPlast Europe Conference 2016

French law on disposables and bags



On February 26th 2016 the European Commission received the French notification 2016/95/F concerning procedures for implementing restrictions on disposable plastic cups, glasses and plates. EuPC believes this notified legislation would be a violation of EU law, namely Articles 27 & 28 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - free movement of goods, as its wording equates to a ban on conventional plastic cups, glasses and plates. On March 4th 2016, EuPC sent a letter of complaint to the European Commission regarding this notification. The Commission has until May 27th 2016 to issue any comments and/or objections to the notified legislation.

More info: Silvia.Freni-Sterrantino@eupc.org

Walloon Region ban on plastic bags and packaging for free press



On March 8th 2016, the European Commission received the Belgian notification 2016/0117/B concerning restrictions on the use of plastic bags at points of sale and on the use of plastic films wrapping certain publications, proposed by the Walloon Region for the implementation of Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste.

As per the French restriction on disposable houseware, EuPC believes that this legislation would represent a serious violation of EU Law, namely Articles 27 & 28 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and mining the principle of harmonisation of directives among Members States. Therefore, contact with the European Commission will follow in the coming week.

In this case, the standstill period for the Commission to issue any comments and/or objections to the notified legislation is foreseen until June 9th 2016.

More info: Silvia.Freni-Sterrantino@eupc.org

New Packaging Division Manager



On March 10th 2016, the EuPC Packaging Division accepted Silvia Freni Sterrantino as the successor of Pdraig Nolan as EuPC's Packaging Division Manager. Pdraig Nolan is leaving EuPC to take on new professional challenges. Silvia joined EuPC as of March 1st 2016. She is a trained lawyer and has worked in the plastics industry for one year prior to joining EuPC.

More info: Silvia.Freni-Sterrantino@eupc.org

Trade issues / suspension duties



The Polymers for Europe Alliance announced on March 11th 2016 that it would call on the European Commission to review current EU rules governing tariff suspension and quota requests. This news comes as the Alliance learns of several objections made by polymer suppliers to several EU Member States following the submission of requests by plastics converters. Under current EU rules, even if the tariff suspensions/quotas were granted, there is no guarantee that the volumes subject to the tariff changes would end up in the hands of plastics converters. In fact, there is nothing to stop EU polymer producers circumventing the work of EU plastics converters and purchasing the permitted volumes for themselves. For this reason, the Polymers for Europe Alliance is calling on the European Commission to review EU rules on tariff suspension/quota requests.

[Link to the Alliance](#)

More info: Silvia.Freni-Sterrantino@eupc.org

Circular economy package update



EuPC and PlasticsEurope have held three joint meetings on the circular economy package since its publication on December 2nd 2015. The goal is to come to a common position on key issues affecting the plastics industry. A joint task force was set up in December and it will make recommendations to EU policy makers on how best to move towards a more circular economy. The task force has already discussed views and visions with the food and drinks sectors, plastics recyclers, the cosmetics industry and the detergents industry.

More info: Silvia.Freni-Sterrantino@eupc.org

FREP continues to grow



FREP, the panel of regulatory experts from companies involved in plastic food contact materials, now has 15 members. Two new companies joined the panel in 2015. The last FREP meeting took place on March 3rd 2016, where seven new companies joined the meeting as guests and all showed interest to join the panel as well. This panel discusses regulatory topics, among other important issues, and develops projects to share its knowledge on the presence and assessment of Non-Intentionally Added Substances (NIAS) in plastic food contact materials.

The increasing of the membership gives more visibility, more weight to the sector and increases the knowledge on plastic food contact materials by developing more projects and sharing more expertise coming from different sectors of the industry.

More info: Erik.Hendriks@eupc.org

EXCOM meetings in Luxembourg, Ampacet Headquarters



On March 10th and 11th 2016, EuPC held its division meetings and Steering Committee at the Ampacet EU headquarters in Luxembourg. Both the Packaging and Building & Construction Division's held their EXCOMM meetings on March 10th and the Steering met on March 11th. During the Packaging Division meeting, it was decided that a day-long packaging conference would be held at the EuPC offices (ground floor) on September 20th 2016. The theme of this conference shall be to demonstrate the benefits of plastic packaging and how they contribute towards a circular economy.

More info: Silvia.Freni-Sterrantino@eupc.org



EuPC Packaging Division discussing latest developments in packaging issues during the EXCOM meeting

Update on Food Contact Regulations



The European Commission's Regulation EC 10/2011 is likely to be amended for the sixth time following the summer months of 2016. The new amendment mainly covers the European Union's list of additives with lower specific migration limits for zinc and aluminum. Limitations on oligomers content will be added although no test method is available. Furthermore, more changes on tests methods are being discussed. The European Commission is currently drafting food contact authorizations and defining the audit requirements for recycled plastics (EC 282/2008). Those decisions could be ready by autumn or the end of this year. Finally, MEP Christel Schaldemose (S&D) is preparing an own initiative report on food contact materials (not plastic specific) which is due by the end of May.

More on Food Contact Regulations will be presented at EuPC's Food Contact Seminar on April 20 & 21.

More info: Geoffroy.Tillieux@eupc.org

Food Contact Plastics Seminar



This year's Food Contact Plastics Seminar will be held on April 20 and 21, organized by EuPC in collaboration with Polymer Comply Europe (PCE). The seminar will focus on 'Regulatory Compliance and Tools: Cornerstones to Corporate Social Responsibility & Strategic Planning'.

The first day of the seminar will cover the topic of Risk Assessment and Management, looking into Exposure Assessment, quality assurance, critical point control and traceability from various perspectives, including those from the food and the plastics converting industries.

The second day will cover the assessment and management of Non-Intentionally Added Substances, the implementation of recycling regulations as well as the coherence between regulation, self-assessment and CSR with a panel discussion bringing together the food, plastics, ink and paper industries.

On Thursday evening, a networking cocktail will be organized for the participants of the seminar.

View the programme [here](#).

Register [here](#).

More info: Marguerite.Korenblit@eupc.org

EuPC Annual Meeting 2016



If you haven't already done so, now is the time to register for EuPC's Annual Meeting 2016. The two-day event will be taking place on 2 and 3 June in Lyon, France. During the Main Conference on Friday, the results of the EuPC Study on Competitiveness will be presented by Stephan Hundertmark (Wieselhuber & Partner). A ceremony for the winners of the Polymers for Europe Award will also be held during the conference. The preceding Thursday will be for the EuPC Packaging, Building & Construction and Automotive Division Forums, followed by a lovely evening of a boat tour around Lyon and a dinner at the Restaurant Fond Rose, managed by the world-renowned Chef Paul Bocuse.

[Link to register](#)

Find out more about the EuPC Annual Meeting 2016 sponsors: [Billion](#) and [Vynova](#).

More info: Marguerite.Korenblit@eupc.org

Upcoming MedPharmPlast Europe Conference 2016



On 29 June, leaders and experts from the complete medical devices and pharmaceutical packaging value chain will meet at the Hilton Hotel in Strasbourg for the annual MedPharmPlast Europe Conference. Following up on the success of MedPharmPlast Europe information event in June last year, the upcoming conference will focus on the Medical Device Regulation and its implications for the value chain. An Innovation session will among others centre on 3D printing and a last part will give the floor to a national association presenting their common activities with MedPharmPlast Europe.

Get an insight into the most important topics for the plastic medical devices and pharmaceutical packaging industry by participating in the conference.

To register or for more info: Eva.Schneider@medpharmplasteurope.org

Upcoming Meetings

EuPC General Assembly	2 & 3 June 2016 <i>Lyon, France</i>
EuPC Packaging Conference	20 September 2016 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Packaging, Building & Construction EXCOM	21 September 2016 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Steering Committee Meeting	22 September 2016 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC MEF & NPA Meeting	20 October 2016 <i>Düsseldorf, Germany</i>
EuPC Packaging, B&C EXCOM	17 November 2016 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Steering Committee Meeting	18 November 2016 <i>Brussels</i>