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EATS (European Automotive Trim Suppliers) Recycling Project



EATS (European Automotive Trim Suppliers), a subgroup of the European association VFSE (Vinyl Films and Sheets Europe), is carrying out a **technical project to develop new rPVC applications for use in the automotive industry**. The project is funded by VinylPlus® and will look into possible options to increase

the use of recycled PVC in the automotive industry by developing a new product that includes recycled PVC.

The project called “EATS Recycling” **corresponds with the objectives of the EU plastics strategy and fits into the frame of the European Pledge Campaign intended to boost the uptake of recycled plastics**. The overall objective of the pledge campaign is to “ensure that by 2025 ten million tonnes/year of recycled plastics find their way into new products on the EU market”. DG Grow and DG Env encouraged all sectors to participate in the campaign and therefore the automotive industry is required to act and respond to the demand of the EU Commission.

In particular, **the project will assess the whole life cycle of the rPVC for new applications, including the analysis of the future demand of car manufacturers and a marketing plan to exploit the project results**. The efforts of EATS members will be focused on the development of new rPVC applications with a good market potential. The project outcome will serve to open a dialogue with the car manufacturers regarding the use of rPVC applications and the need to comply with the EU Plastic Strategy.

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Update on MORE - Monitoring Recyclates for Europe



MORE (MONitoring Recyclates for Europe), **the single, unified online tool to monitor the uptake recycled polymers into products, is progressing according to schedule**. The tool, which is being developed by **EuPC** in cooperation with its members is currently being tested by a selected number of companies.

Following the end of the testing phase and the implementation of its results, MORE will be officially published in March 2019 and start its work in the 5 biggest countries of the EU: Germany, France, Spain, Italy and the UK. Later during the year, the tool will continue to be deployed in additional European countries.

MORE is being developed with the official support of the European Commission to monitor and register the industry's efforts to reach the EU target of 10 million tonnes recycled polymers used annually between 2025 and 2030. A strong participation of companies will be vital to ensure the good functioning and credibility of MORE vis a vis the public and legislators. **EuPC** will therefore work together closely with its members to guarantee a good promotion and distribution of MORE within the plastics converting industry.

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ADCA Classification Update



Diazene-1,2-dicarboxamide (C,C'-azodi(formamide)), also known as **ADCA**, is a **blowing agent widely diffused in the plastics industry**. Currently, about 3 million tonnes of plastics products in the EU are foamed with this substance.

ADCA is particularly used in the automotive sector and, more specifically, ADCA applications are used for crash protection (safety), cushioning, corrosion protection, vibration and sound reduction, artificial leather and sealants.

ADCA has recently been considered by the Commission to be included in the REACH authorization list (annex XIV) for its respiratory sensitising properties (REACH, Article 57(f) - human health). The latest application date was set at the date of entry into force + 36 months and the sunset data at the date of the entry into force + 54 months. In February, a draft proposal from the Commission for inclusion of new substances in the annex XIV was presented to the Member States in the REACH Committee and a vote on the REACH Committee is expected in June 2019.

Consequently, **EuPC, ETRMA and the ADCA Task Force are particularly active in supporting the advocacy plan for reconsidering the inclusion of ADCA into the authorization list**. In January 2019, Polymer Comply Europe (PCE) submitted technical, socio-economic and medical surveys for upstream users and plastics converters and is currently performing a refined analysis of the health effects related to ADCA exposure in the industry as well as a study on the impact of both an authorization and a non-use scenario on employment and economic consequences. The preliminary conclusion is that **the authorization process should be stopped for this substance as it is not a proportionate risk management option** and alternative regulatory options, such as the setting of an EU wide OEL (beginning with the UK level as reference), should be investigated.

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ECHA Sector Approach on Plastics Additives Published



EuPC, together with a number of other associations and the European Chemicals Agency, has **finished the work on the ECHA Sector Approach on Plastic Additives**, a project that started in 2016.

The primary goal of the project was **the development of a verified inventory of the most commonly used additives in plastic**, including information on their function, the type of polymer where additives are used and their concentration. In addition, a methodology in order to estimate the relative additives release potential from plastics matrices (mouth, skin, outdoor) and the application of this methodology to additives within the domain of applicability of the method were created.

These deliverables are a **contribution to the automated screening by ECHA**. In the next step, Member States and ECHA shall further prioritize which additives should be subject to an evaluation based on other information such as substances hazardousness, uncertainties and the results of the manual screening (the in depth review of the information available in registration dossiers). Additional information is available in the joint **EuPC/EuMBC** press release at <http://prez.ly/ayU>.

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Industry4Europe Joint Call and 2019 General Assembly



On the 18th February, the 2019 General Assembly of Industry4Europe took place in Brussels. **EuPC is one of 140 association that are members of the platform dedicated to campaigning for an ambitious EU industrial strategy**.

In the past months, the platform continued to lobby for the development of a new and ambitious industrial strategy in the European Union by drafting and distributing a number of joint documents. Amongst them the Joint Paper on Governance (1st July 2018) and the Industry4Europe Joint Call to the candidates for the 2019 European Elections (17th October 2018).

Currently, Industry4Europe is finalising the next Joint Call to the Heads of Government, which will be published in March 2019. In addition to the European Versions of the call, national editions have been prepared for all Member States. So far, 334 national associations have co-signed the national calls. All documents are available on the website of the platform at www.industry4Europe.eu.

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Unanimity for EU Tax Issues



Following the proposal of the European Commission on the 15th January 2019 to **end the unanimity required to pass legislation on taxation**, a large majority of EU governments opposed this position in a meeting in February 2019, by stating they want to protect national sovereignty and avoid having decisions forced on reluctant countries.

Next to foreign affairs, taxation is the last field of EU law-making that still requires a unanimous vote by member states. To simplify and speed up the decision making process, **the European Commission proposed in January a gradual transition toward the introduction of the qualified majority on tax matters**. However, only the largest European countries – including France, Germany and Spain – supported the plan after the first discussion, held during the meeting of the EU finance ministers (Ecofin Council), while **a large majority of countries failed to back the proposal**.

EuPC is closely monitoring the developments in the field of tax legislation, as the EU is still considering a possible tax on plastics.

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1st Meeting of the Circular Plastics Alliance



Renato Zelcher, **EuPC** President and CEO of Crocco SpA, represented the European plastics converting industry in the first meeting of the European Commission's Circular Plastics Alliance. The first high-level meeting of the Circular Plastics Alliance was organised as part of the EU Industry Days on the 5th February 2019.

The Commission launched the Circular Plastics Alliance on 11 December 2018 with the support of First Vice-President Frans Timmermans and Vice-President Jyrki Katainen. Making plastics more circular to avoid plastic littering into the environment is a priority for the European Union. Recycling more plastics is a key solution. The Circular Plastics Alliance gathers key stakeholders in the plastics value chains to promote new voluntary action by industry for more recycled plastics. The Circular Plastics Alliance wants to ensure that 10 million tons of recycled plastics find their way into new European products by 2025.

At the first meeting, the participants confirmed their strong will to work together along the plastics value chains and agreed to work in priority on 5 topics: Collection and sorting of plastic waste; Product design for recycling; Recycled plastic content in products; R&D and investments, including chemical recycling; Monitoring of recycled plastics used in the EU. Operational working groups are being set up and will work on concrete solutions during the spring of 2019.

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EuPC / IK Annual Meeting in Berlin



IK, Industrievereinigung Kunststoffverpackungen, the German association for plastic packaging, and **EuPC**, are organising together the 2019 edition of the conference A Circular Future with Plastics. **The event will take place on 13th & 14th June at the Maritim Hotel proArte in Berlin.** During the morning of the 13th June, the "**EuPC** Market Divisions" on Packaging, Automotive and Building & Construction will take place in parallel, before a session on marine litter is organised by Waste Free Oceans in the afternoon. During the conference on the 14th June, representatives of national and European politics, CEOs of the plastics converting and recycling world, as well as other industry leaders will share their knowledge and experience about the trends of the sector.

To access more information and the registration, visit www.circularfuturewithplastics.eu

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Upcoming Meetings

EuPC Packaging Division ExCom	13 March 2019
EuPC Building & Construction ExCom	<i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Senior Executives Forum	13 March 2019
	<i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Steering Committee	14 March 2019
	<i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Members Executives Forum	21 March 2019
	<i>Brussels</i>
Raw Materials Committee	4 April 2019
	<i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Annual Meeting	13/14 June 2019
	<i>Berlin</i>

CONFERENCES by Polymer Comply Europe

11- 12 April 2019

European Food Contact Plastics Seminar

Supported by EuPC

14 May 2019

3D Printing within the Plastics Converting Industry

Supported by EuPC & CECIMO

4 June 2019

Chemical Recycling of Polymers

Supported by EuPC;

17 September 2019

Technical and Economical Barriers to the use of Recycled Polymers

Supported by EuPC; Petcore & PCEP

26 November 2019

Circular Polymers in Furniture

Supported by EuPC; PRE; VinylPlus®; VFSE; Petcore; WFO & Europur

Coming in 2020

March 2020

Polymer Trading for Plastic Converters in Europe

Supported by EuPC

November 2020

Education and Labour Market for the Plastics Converting Industries

Supported by EuPC



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