



Single Use Plastics Update

PET Sheet Europe Pledge

Endocrine Disrupters Strategy

TiO2 Update

EuPC 2nd Recycling Survey



CEN and CENELEC Brexit Preparations



Polymers in Furniture Conference



UPS KICKOFF Meeting



PackTheFuture Award 2018

PackTheFuture Award 2018

Single-Use Plastics Proposal



The proposed Directive on the reduction of certain types of plastics and fishing gears seems to be reaching its final steps. In November and December, the three European institutions will meet to negotiate the final text, before proceeding to adopt the new Act.

The majority of discussions seem to be those concerning the definition of single-use plastics, the inclusion of items not found on beaches and EPR fees

to be borne by producers in order to cover the costs of litter clean up. In this latter regard, the Council has stated that the calculation methodology for the costs of cleaning up litter should be proportionate. To reduce administrative costs member states may set financial contributions for cleaning up litter by agreeing on multiannual amounts.

The second trilogue meeting took place on the 28th November and the third is expected to be held on the 18th December, with the intention to publish the Directive in the Official Journal before the European Elections in May 2019.

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

PET Sheet Europe pledges to increase the average recycled content of its products to 70%

[PET Sheet Europe](#) pledges to increase the average recycled content of its products to 70%

Earlier this month, the European Commission has welcomed numerous pledges from the plastics industry. After a preliminary assessment the EC estimated on 20 November that the commitments, if fully delivered, could supply over 10 million tonnes of recycled plastics by 2025.

PET Sheet Europe (PSE) – an **EuPC** Sector Group representing the PET film and sheet manufacturers with production facilities in the EU and EFTA – also participated in this exercise. Already today, the average recycled content of the group's members' products is at 45 % - a figure that shows the industry's sustainability. Nonetheless, more work can and must be done. PSE therefore made a [commitment](#) to the European Commission. By 2025 the average recycled content of its products will be raised to 70 % under the condition that there will be no consumption reduction target of PET trays as mentioned in the recent proposed Directive on the reduction of single use plastics, but separate collection and recycling of PET trays followed by specific targets.

More information: Sebastian.Lemp@eupc.org

Endocrine Disruptors Strategy



On the 7th November 2018, the European Commission has published a Communication containing the EU Strategy on Endocrine Disruptors. The document is a follow-up of the commitment taken by the Commission last year when working with Member States on the criteria to identify endocrine disruptors in the areas of pesticides and biocides. However, the scope of this Strategy covers all potential areas, including the identification of

endocrine disruptors, improving communication throughout supply chains by using Safety Data Sheets as established under REACH, and taking forward the scientific assessment of endocrine disruptors with further regulatory action.

The EU approach to endocrine disruptors will continue to be based firmly on science and on the application of the precautionary principle. It aims at (1) minimising our overall exposure to endocrine; (2) accelerating the development of a thorough research basis for effective and forward-looking decision-making in the context of Horizon Europe; (3) promoting active dialogue with all stakeholder, a dedicated Forum on endocrine disruptors will be organized on an annual basis.

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

Update on Titanium Dioxide



In September 2017 ECHA's Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) delivered their opinion on the hazard classification of TiO₂, proposing a classification as a carcinogen Cat. 2 via inhalation. Numerous Member States and

stakeholders submitted their comments and concerns about the RAC proposal as various aspects of TiO₂ classification are scientifically complex and the downstream consequences of its classification as Carc. 2 (H351, inhalation) have raised concern amongst some MS and industry stakeholders, as well.

While discussions and advocating activities are still going on regarding the Commission proposal for the classification of TiO₂, it is most probable that the Reach Committee will make its decision on the final text on December 4th, so to have a vote in February 2019.

However, it is also possible that decision on the classification will be postponed until the new Commission installs itself (i.e. after EU elections).

EuPC proactively monitors the process and participates in discussions with authorities and other stakeholders in order to eliminate and/or modify the critical elements and minimize unfavorable effects on our industry.

More information: Mohammad.Hayatifar@eupc.org

EuPC 2nd Recycling Survey



The 2nd edition of the survey on the use of rPM has been open to all European companies active in the plastics converting industry from January to September 2018. During this period, 376 participants from 22 different countries filled in the online questionnaire.

The report on the results of the survey will be published in cooperation with Polymer Comply Europe Sarl. (PCE), which conducted the survey on behalf of **EuPC**. The report follows up on the results of the first recycling survey that was conducted in 2017 and gives more insight on the use of recycled plastics materials (rPM) by plastics converting companies in Europe.

The report will officially be published on the 11th December and all **EuPC** members and participating companies will receive the detailed results. Other interested parties can acquire the report by registering free of charge on the Polymer Comply Europe website: www.polymercomplyeurope.eu.

More information: Felix.Miessen@eupc.org

CEN and CENELEC Brexit Preparations



In order to ensure the stability of the European standardization system and to provide legal certainty and continuity at technical and policy level to all the experts contributing to the development of European standards, CEN and CENELEC agreed, at their General Assemblies of 23 November, to apply a transition period from the date of Brexit (expected to be 29 March 2019) until 31 December 2020.



During this transition period, BSI will continue to have its full member's rights and obligations, independent from the political agreement, or otherwise, between the EU and the UK.

This approach protects BSI and its UK stakeholders after the "Brexit" date, maintaining amongst other their membership of Technical Bodies, chairmanship and secretariats, and establishes a safety net to protect CEN and CENELEC against legal uncertainties. This will ensure the necessary stability at technical and policy level, independent from the political scenarios between the EU and the UK, so that the system can have sufficient time and information to adjust.

BSI has welcomed the above decision by the CEN and CENELEC General Assemblies and has expressed its commitment to cooperate with the other CEN and CENELEC members in this process. The corresponding press release can be found [here](#).

More information: Felix.Miessen@eupc.org

Conference on Circular Polymers is Furniture



The first edition of the **Circular Polymers in Furniture Conference**, organised by European Plastics Converters (**EuPC**), in cooperation with Plastics Recyclers Europe, Europur, Vinyl Films and Sheets Europe, Waste Free Oceans, Petcore Europe and VinylPlus®, took place on the 26 November 2018, in Brussels.

The discussion focused on the use of recycled plastics in the indoor and outdoor furniture market and offered exclusive insights on the industry's way towards a more sustainable future. The one-day event featured topics such as the European Furniture Industry's vision towards a circular economy, the EU Plastics Strategy and the circularity of plastic products, the potential of recycled polymers in furniture and the EU Ecolabel and certification.

Several case studies from polymer users were analysed and representatives from the entire plastics value chain shared their vision for the transition to a more circular economy. **EuPC** hopes the workshop brought valuable information and looks forward to discussing the future of polymers in furniture during the next edition in 2019. The programme of the conference is accessible [here](#).

More information: Felix.Miessen@eupc.org

Erasmus+ Project UPSKILL Kickoff Meeting



In collaboration with Lithuanian, Finnish and French partners, **EuPC** is involved in a European project supported by the European Union's Erasmus+ programme. The goal is to create an innovative vocational training programme with a particular focus on digital skills to use robotics and other intelligent manufacturing technologies.

The project "UPSKILL: Skills for the digital factory of the future" was officially launched during the project kickoff meeting on the 20th November 2018, in Vilnius. This project takes place over 2 years and will end with a conference in Brussels. A website will soon be online to inform about the progress and share the results.

More information: Felix.Miessen@eupc.org



PackTheFuture

Sustainable Plastic Packaging Award 2018

The ceremony for the 4th edition of «PackTheFuture – The Sustainable Plastic Packaging Award», managed by the **EuPC** members ELIPSO & IK, the trade organisations representing plastic & flexible packaging in France and Germany, has taken place on the 27th November in Paris at ALL4PACK, the international exhibition for the packaging & logistics ecosystem.

For the 4th PackTheFuture Award, a competition that is now a European benchmark in the plastic and flexible packaging sector, 48 entries were received from Austrian, French, German, Italian and Spanish firms, reflecting the sector’s dynamism and innovation capability.

Once again, the high quality of the entries demonstrates that the members of IK and ELIPSO have already been very successful in pursuing the path to more sustainable plastic packaging solutions. The versatile innovations reflect the growing importance of sustainable packaging for the plastic packaging sector in Europe. The high number of entries in the category Eco Design underlines the increasing consideration of the circular economy by the companies of the industry.

More information can be found at www.packthefuture.com

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 Automotive & Transport ExCom | 15 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> |