



# FOCUS

**EUROPEAN PLASTICS CONVERTERS NEWSLETTER**

PROVIDES **EuPC** MEMBERS WITH A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF **EuPC** ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES

Automotive & Transportation  
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## EU restrictions in Motor Vehicle Noise

On April 2nd 2014, the European Parliament endorsed a joint position with the Council on a legislative proposal to reduce noise emissions from certain categories of motor vehicles in the EU. Current EU legislation on noise emissions from motor vehicles dates back to 1995, but with increasing numbers of vehicles on EU roads and increasing numbers of people being affected by sound pollution, the European Commission came forward with a legislative proposal to review EU rules on noise emissions from motor vehicles on Dec. 9th 2011. As a result of the agreed proposal, noise limit values will ultimately be decreased by 4 dB(A) for passenger cars, vans, buses and coaches and for trucks by 3 dB(A). This will result in an overall reduction of vehicle noise nuisance by some 25%. The agreed text will now be signed by the EU institutions and published in the Official Journal before entering into force in the coming weeks. The agreed text may be found here: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A7-2014-0239+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>. More info: [padraig.nolan@eupc.org](mailto:padraig.nolan@eupc.org)

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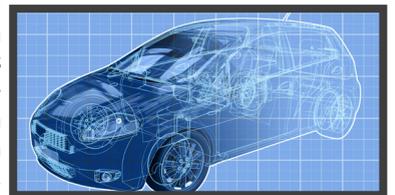
## 'Composites For Europe', a new group for composites at EuPC

During the last **EuPC** board meeting on March 14th 2014, which took place in Portugal, **EuPC** decided to set up a new group for composites in Europe. Although the composites market in Europe is still very fragmented and generally consists of small companies, fibre reinforced thermosets have a key role to play in the future of the plastics industry. **EuPC** agreed to set up this group in order to ensure innovation continues to grow in the European composites industry and to assist with the challenges this industry faces. The new group named "Composites For Europe" (CFE) will aim at assisting companies and trade associations to better understand EU regulatory challenges imposed on them and the opportunities for new markets. Understanding the consequences of the REACH regulation is essential for small composites businesses. An initial meeting will be organized by **EuPC** before summer 2014 and all interested stakeholders in the composites industry are welcome to become involved, especially those that have a strong interest to develop this business segment of the plastics industry. More info: [alexandre.dangis@eupc.org](mailto:alexandre.dangis@eupc.org)

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## EuPC General Assembly 2014 – Automotive & Transport Division meeting (June 5th)

On June 5th – 6th the 2014 **EuPC** general assembly will take place at the Crowne Plaza hotel (close to Brussels airport). The Automotive & Transport division meeting will take place from 09:30-13:00 on June 5th and the agenda will see knowledge filled presentations on the trends and the current state of the automotive industry. Speakers will include representatives of the European automobile manufacturers industry, trade negotiators on the TTIP from the European Commission and automotive plastics and composites manufacturers. For detailed information on the agenda and how to register, please see <http://www.plasticsconverters.eu/AMBrussels>. More info: [padraig.nolan@eupc.org](mailto:padraig.nolan@eupc.org)



## REACH UPDATE

The REACH process is now heading for the "final" deadline of 31 May 2018 when all remaining substances will have to be registered; so is its "sister" Regulation CLP (Classification, Labelling and Packaging) as all Mixtures will have to be classified according to the new rules in 2015 - this concerns our members as Recyclers, Compounders and Masterbatchers. Seven more substances were added to the REACH Candidate List in December 2013 (now 151). The Authorization List Annex XIV stands at 22 substances and 5 more substances are being "recommended" for inclusion in 2014. Amongst them are ADCA and DMF. For Azodicarbonamide **EuPC** took the lead in setting up a Consortium for an ADCA Plastics Users Voluntary Commitment as an alternative solution to an Authorisation. Authorisation and Recycling: before the mid-2013 deadline three PVC Recyclers applied for Authorisation to use recycled PVC containing DEHP after the "Sunset Date" on 21.2.2015. After the prescribed "Consultation Period", the Risk Assessment- and the Socio-Economic Assessment Committees of the EU Chemicals Agency (ECHA) now started the examination of the dossier after a successful "Trialogue" meeting between both Committees and the Applicants. More info: [walter.claes@eupc.org](mailto:walter.claes@eupc.org)

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## Possible review of EU rules on speed limitation devices

The European Commission has announced that it may come forward with a legislative proposal which would review EU rules on speed limitation devices for certain motor vehicles sold and operated in the EU. This proposal would form part of the Commission's 'common road safety enforcement strategy'. In particular, the proposal would target light commercial vehicles. The European Commission has commissioned a study on the benefits of introducing mandatory speed limitation devices for certain light motor vehicles and the results of this study will feed into any legislative proposal. The results of this study are expected to feed into the review of Council Directive 92/6/EEC over the course of 2015. **EuPC** will continue to follow developments on this potential legislative proposal. More info: [padraig.nolan@eupc.org](mailto:padraig.nolan@eupc.org)

## European Commission publishes Guidelines on state Aid for environmental protection and energy 2014-2020

On April 9th 2014, the European Commission published new Guidelines on State aid for environmental protection and energy. The Guidelines aim to support Member States in reaching their 2020 climate targets and addressing the distortions of competition that may result from subsidies granted to renewable energy sources. The text will enter into force on 1st July 2014 and will apply until 31st December 2020. Initially, these guidelines were not referring to certain forms of plastics converting and plastics recycling, **EuPC** then entered into discussions with the European Commission and in its final version the Commission includes plastics converting and recycling. **EuPC** will now continue to discuss opportunities arising out of these guidelines with the European Commission and the Member States. More info: [padraig.nolan@eupc.org](mailto:padraig.nolan@eupc.org)

## EuPC Annual Meeting 2014

On **5th and 6th June 2014** **EuPC** is going to celebrate its Annual Meeting in Brussels. On the 5th June several market division sessions with high level speakers will be held. The **EuPC** conference on the 6th June will focus on Revitalising Europe and how will plastics contribute. The topic of the afternoon session will be plastics waste management, a potential growth or a challenge for the industry. High level speakers have already confirmed their participation for the conference on the 6th. We inform you that due to the fact that the G7 summit is going to take place on the same dates in Brussels and that the security measures will be extremely high because of the visit of Barack Obama, we had to change the location from The Hotel, located in the city center, to the Crowne Plaza hotel close to Brussels airport. Due to the G7 summit in Brussels we urge you to book your hotel rooms at the Crown plaza as soon as possible as the rates will highly increase during the next weeks if you miss the deadlines. It will be very difficult to find hotel rooms in Brussels those days. The exact location of the dinner on Thursday 5th June will be communicated a bit later as we want to avoid the city center.

Networking opportunities with more than 100 participants from the plastics industry will make the event very interesting to attend. SABIC is the official sponsor of the event this year. For more information about registration details and programme you can visit <http://www.plasticsconverters.eu/AMBrussels> or contact [ruta.tamosiunaite@eupc.org](mailto:ruta.tamosiunaite@eupc.org) More info: [ruth.colado@eupc.org](mailto:ruth.colado@eupc.org)



## EuPC Calendar Events & Meetings

04-06-2014	EuPC Steering Committee	Brussels - Belgium
05-06-2014	EuPC Annual Meeting Market Divisions	Brussels - Belgium
06-06-2014	EuPC Annual Meeting - GA	Brussels - Belgium
16-09-2014	EuPC Packaging Excom EuPC B&C Excom	Brussels - Belgium
17-09-2014	EuPC Steering Committee	Brussels - Belgium
10-10-2014	EuPC B&C Technical Committee	Brussels - Belgium
15-10-2014	EuPC MEF	Sofia - Bulgaria
16-10-2014	EuPC MEF/PE	Sofia - Bulgaria
25-11-2014	EuPC Packaging Excom	Brussels - Belgium
26-11-2014	EuPC Steering Committee	Brussels - Belgium