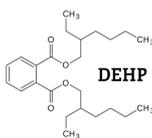




**Construction Product Regulation Revision**



**PEF and Standard EN 15804**



**Update on DEHP and other Phthalates**



**Public Consultation on PCW interface**



**Conference on LEVELS in December 2018**



**Jane Gardner**  
MD of ERFMI



**Dr. Hans-Hinrich Kruse**  
new IVK Europe President



**Circular Polymers in Furniture Conference**



**The European Plastics Industries - Towards Circularity**

## CPR Revision delayed until the next Commission college



In April 2018, **EuPC** participated in the workshop focused on the Impact Assessment study about the potential revision of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) organized by DG GROWTH. As mentioned in the previous issue of **EuPC's FOCUS**, stakeholders discussed which of the options proposed by the Commission as a solution to the current situation of CPR would be the most suitable. There was a general agreement to go either for (1) Option I: "Enhanced baseline" - No legislative change but

improved implementation through guidance/soft law; or (2) Option II.A: limited revision of the CPR focused on the issues identified in the CPR Implementation Report (e.g. improving/introducing simplification provisions for SMEs, improving detailed rules regarding Notified Bodies, Improving transition from "approvals" to "assessments" by Technical Assessment Bodies and related EOTA procedures, etc.)

The consultant was expected to submit the final report by July 2018. However, at the last meeting with Mr. Mikkeli Tappani (DG GROW), **EuPC** was informed that the outputs of the study will likely not be tackled soon but rather within the tenure of the new college which results in a delay of at least 1 year. Mr. Mikkeli expected the Final Report on CPR Revision to be published in September 2018 (Evaluation + Impact Assessment). In the next step, he explained that the report (once published) will result in a Commission evaluation staff working document which will be drafted this year and published in early 2019. However, until today, the report has not been published and **EuPC** has no information that DG GROWTH is proceeding on this matter. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that the CPR revision will be delayed until the next college takes its place after the European elections next year.

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## Amendment of EN 15804 Standard Ready for Vote



The EN 15804 standard is being revised to align with the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) methodology. The objective is to have a single methodological reference at European level when it comes to the calculation of the life cycle environmental performance of construction products and buildings.

In Summer 2018, the draft amendment was developed to fit the requirements requested by the European Commission in the mandate. The draft amendment of the EN15804 standard was sent to CEN for enquiry and the CEN standardisation bodies voted positive. The draft was then revised by CEN/TC 350 WG3 according to the comments received during the enquiry process. About 150 pages of comments were received during the CEN enquiry. According to Mrs. Schmincke (CEN/TC 350 WG3), TC350 was urged this year because of the need to fulfill the mandate in order to have only one system in the future in Europe. The technical content of the new draft was finalized the day before the plenary of CEN/TC 350 and amended with some modifications M. Galatola participated in the WG3 meeting and approved the decisions taken in WG3.

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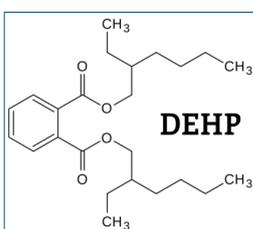
## Amendment of EN 15804 Standard Ready for Vote

Many stakeholders expressed their concern that this way of working should be changed in the future, meaning working without unnecessary time constraints and in a transparent way. Enough time for the enquiry process is necessary to be sure to obtain the standard that all experts want. Although in the beginning, all stakeholders had the same goal, only one system for EPDs in Europe, once arrived at the details, it became complex, as all experts have their own backgrounds, interpretations, and wishes.

Nevertheless, the draft amendment EN 15804+A2 is now ready for asking permission in mid-November from the TC 350 members to send the final draft to CCMC for Formal Vote.

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## Update of Annex XIV - Entries of Four Phthalates



On the 5th June 2018, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) launched a public consultation on behalf of the European Commission (EC) regarding the uses of DEHP, DBP, BBP, and DIBP.

In 2017, four phthalates were identified as substances of very high concern (SVHCs) due to their endocrine disrupting properties with effects on human health. Already in 2014, DEHP was classified as an SVHC with endocrine disrupting effects on the environment. All four phthalates had previously been identified as SVHCs due to their reprotoxic properties. The EC plans to amend the current entries in the Authorisation List according to the additional classification of the four phthalates as endocrine disruptors on the SVHC list.

Due to the fact that some uses of DEHP (e.g. in food contact materials or medical devices) will as a result no longer fall under the generic exemptions from the authorisation requirement, the update of the annex XIV list will oblige DEHP producers, medical devices producers and recyclers of flexible PVC to face a new challenge regarding the authorisation process.

In a position paper submitted to ECHA, MedPharmPlast (MPPE), a sector group of **EuPC**, proposed the exemption of usage of DEHP-plasticized PVC in blood bag systems from any enforcement to authorization or restriction until efficient alternatives with well documented toxicological data have been identified. MPPE would insist on evidence-based decision making prior to any potential decision to make the use of DEHP in blood bag systems subject to authorisation. This would need to include clinical trials and long-term data to demonstrate the benefits and risks of non-DEHP alternatives. At this time such evidence is unavailable.

Risk-benefit assessment is a clear process and the addition of authorisation is only causing uncertainties. Inclusion in Annex XIV is not a proportionate risk management measure in this case.

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## Public consultation on the interface between chemicals, product & waste legislation



On 29 October ended the public consultation on the interface between chemicals, products, and waste legislation. This initiative is part of the EU strategy on the circular economy and should result in legislative proposals within a short to medium time horizon. The following issues were addressed: A) scope: which dangerous substance to focus on? B) mandatory tracking of substances in articles: could recycled applications be treated differently than virgin substances?, C) level playing field with import, D) could the

ecodesign or EU ecolabel set requirements on substances of concern? D) should EU end of waste criteria be developed and should waste be classified solely based on the rules for virgin substance classification or could there be deviations?, E) should bioavailability/accessibility be taken into account when classifying substances.

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## Public consultation on the interface between chemicals, product & waste legislation

In summary, the submitted **EuPC** position calls for information solution at a sector/waste stream level focusing mainly on the most critical substances such as substances on the REACH candidate list. It then highlights that a robust risk and socio-economic assessment methodology should be applied to evaluate substances of concern in waste and recycled applications, but if that methodology leads to a conclusion different than for virgin material, then also different provisions should be applied to those streams.

Sector solutions such as standards may also address the end of life issue or design for recycling. EU harmonized end of life criteria would be desirable when a consensus has been reached at specific application level if needed, or major disturbances of the internal market are observed. Finally, regarding classification of waste, **EuPC** supports the taking into account of bioavailability/ accessibility of dangerous substance and the specificities of waste which may be different than virgin substances/compounds.

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## Conference on Sustainable Buildings: Level(s)



On the 18 December 2018 in Brussels, DG Environment will host a conference on Sustainable Buildings: Level(s) – Bringing Buildings into the Circular Economy.

This conference will explore the growing support across Europe for Level(s), the European Commission's new sustainable building reporting framework which aims to provide the insights that will shape future building sector policy. Level(s) is aimed at creating a common European drive towards improved performance across six areas: lifecycle emissions, resource efficiency, water use, health and comfort, resilience and adaptation, and cost and value. The test phase of Level(s) now counts more than 130 building projects throughout Europe.

Among the speakers will be Karmenu Vella - European Commissioner for Environment, Fisheries & Maritime Affairs, Lars Ostenfeld Riemann, Executive Director, Buildings, Ramboll, and Cees van der Spek, Public Affairs & Global Corporate Relations Director, OVG Real Estate.

Testers will share their experiences of testing Level(s); including their rationale, approach, and feedback on their testing experience. Lastly, representatives from leading Brussels associations across the construction and real estate sector will debate the role of Level(s) in shaping future EU sustainable buildings policy. **EuPC** will be participating in the conference on behalf of the plastics convertering industry.

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## Jane Gardner new MD of ERFMI



Jane Gardner has been appointed as the new Managing Director of ERFMI, the European Resilient Flooring Manufacturers Institute. She took up her new position on September 1st 2018.

Jane was previously Head of Consulting for Axion, a resource efficiency consultancy based in Manchester UK. In her role at Axion, Jane was involved in projects covering a number of different plastic products with a particular focus on collection and recycling. As well as setting up Recofloor the collection and recycling scheme for vinyl flooring, Jane managed Carpet Recycling UK a membership association focused on increasing carpet recycling. In addition to this, Jane was the UK Regional Representative for Recovinyl.

Jane succeeds Ton Pluijmer, who has retired from ERFMI after 16 years serving the interests of the resilient floor covering industry in Europe. Jane says: 'I am looking forward to working with my colleague Jochen Zimmerman to represent the interests of our members in Europe. I look forward to working to further develop the circular economy within the resilient flooring sector as well as ensuring that ERFMI's voice is heard at both European and National level.'

More information on ERFMI can be found at [www.erfmi.com](http://www.erfmi.com)

## Dr. Hans-Hinrich Kruse new IVK Europe President



The German trade association IVK Europe, Industrie-verband Kunststoffbahnen e.V. elected its new President and Executive Board at the occasion of its General Assembly on 24 October 2018 in Deidesheim / Palatinate - in Germany - as for the farewell of the past President Michael Kundel.

The members unanimously elected Dr. Hans-Hinrich Kruse, Konrad Hornschuch AG, as the new IVK Europe President, following Michael Kundel, Renolit SE. In addition, two new Board members were elected and two existing members for the next period of two years from 2018 to 2020 were confirmed in office. The confirmed Executive Board members are Dr. Hans-Hinrich Kruse, Konrad Hornschuch AG, Michael Kundel, Renolit SE, and Rob van der Valk, Low & Bonar GmbH. Dr. Frank Kleinert, Klöckner Pentaplast GmbH and Dr. Günther Gradnig, Sattler AG, as new members, make the team complete.

*"I am very enthusiastic about this nomination. I am happy to further develop the activities within IVK Europe and to promote the unique value proposition of the European quality of plastics films and sheets. In 2019 we will focus on sustainable solutions for our products including recycling and we are also committed to continue to support activities within the VinylPlus Sustainability Program 2020",* said Dr. Kruse after his election.

For further information: [www.ivk-europe.com](http://www.ivk-europe.com); [info@ivk-europe.com](mailto:info@ivk-europe.com)

## Speakers Confirmed - Circular Polymers in Furniture









### The Future of Circular Polymers in Furniture in Europe

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**Brussels, 26 November 2018**

Organised by  Polymer Comply Europe

European Plastics Converters (**EuPC**), in cooperation with Plastics Recyclers Europe, Europur, Vinyl Films and Sheets Europe, Waste Free Oceans, Petcore Europe, and VinylPlus® presents the first edition of its Circular Polymers in Furniture conference on the 26th November 2018 in Brussels. Save the date to learn more about the future of polymers in furniture in the circular economy.

Join the discussion and get exclusive insights on the industry's way towards a more sustainable future. Representatives from the entire plastics value chain will share their vision for the transition to a more circular economy and present case studies.

Confirmed speakers include Sylvie Ludain, DG Environment of the European Commission; Werner Kruschitz, Managing Director of Kruschitz Plastic; Roberta Dessí, Secretary General of EFIC; and Bart Haelterman, Recticel.

The complete programme and registration is accessible at [www.plasticsconverters.eu/furniture-conference](http://www.plasticsconverters.eu/furniture-conference).

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The European plastics industries are organising for the first time "The EU Plastics Industries - Towards Circularity" on the 11th December 2018 in Brussels. Eight associations from the entire plastics value chain are organising the one-day event to report publicly on their commitments to create a more sustainable and circular plastics industry. Their representatives will present concrete and binding targets, that the united industry has committed to achieve and is ready to be held accountable for.

The event is accessible upon invitation only and participation is available on a first come, first serve basis. The full programme will be sent to you in due time. For any questions please contact [Felix.Miessen@pceu.eu](mailto:Felix.Miessen@pceu.eu).

For more information regarding the voluntary commitments of the plastics industry, please visit [www.circularplastics.org](http://www.circularplastics.org) and [www.plasticseurope.org](http://www.plasticseurope.org).

More information: [Felix.Miessen@pceu.eu](mailto:Felix.Miessen@pceu.eu)

### Upcoming Meetings

EuPC Building & Construction Division ExCom	13 November 2018 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Packaging Division ExCom	14 November 2018 <i>Vincenza, Italy</i>
EuPC Steering Committee	15 November 2018 <i>Cornedo Vicentino, Italy</i>
<b>EuPC Furniture Conference</b>	26 November 2018 <i>Brussels</i>
<b>EU Plastics Industry Day</b>	11 December 2018 <i>Brussels</i>

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