



EU Plastics Strategy
& Pledge Campaign



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EU Plastics Strategy & Pledge Campaign



The European Parliament is finalizing its position on the Plastics Strategy. The competent **ENVI Committee has adopted a Report** containing several recommendations supporting at large the European Commission proposals. Notably, the Report recommends that all packaging plastics placed on the European market is reusable or recyclable by 2030. In addition, it calls for the principles of resource

efficiency and circularity, development of products standards and broadening the scope of the Ecodesign Directive.

The European Parliament's plenary session is scheduled to debate and vote on the Committee Report on 12-13 September 2018.

As previously announced at the beginning of 2018, the European **Commission has launched a voluntary pledge campaign** "to ensure that by 2025, ten million tonnes of recycled plastics find their way into new products on the EU market." Stakeholders from various plastic sectors (construction, packaging, automotive, electrical equipment, etc.) were asked for commitments to increase the uptake of recycled plastics in new products.

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Single Use Plastics (SUP) Update



The **proposal of the European Commission for a new directive on the reduction of certain types of plastics** and fishing gear is now under the assessment of the Environmental Committee of the European Parliament, who was called to present amendments by September 4th.

On this matter, the **Rapporteur for the Parliament**, Belgian MEP Frederique Ries, has proposed further amendments concerning the scope of the directive. Notably, on one side, she has proposed to add very lightweight carrier bags, minimum recycled content for certain products, fixing it to 25% for all beverage bottles; on the other, she recognizes financial responsibility should be shared to cover costs to clean up litter when the issue is consumer behaviour and the lack of publication of the Report made by Eunomia, on behalf of the European Commission, on which the Impact Assessment supporting the proposal is based on.

Also, the **Council's Working Party on the Environment** is working on its internal position. Once the European Parliament and the Council have finalised their positions on the proposal, the finalization of the text will start. Then, the result will have to be approved by the European Parliament in plenary, not earlier than Q1 2019, and by the Council, with a final adoption of the Directive within Q2-3 2019.

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Next Executive Committee of the Automotive & Transport Division



After the conference "Plastics in motion" organized within the **EuPC** Annual Event on the 24th of May in Italy, the Executive Committee of the Automotive & Transport Division will meet again on the **11th of October in Portugal**.

AUTOMOTIVE & TRANSPORT

The meeting aims at continuing the discussion initiated in May about the **European Plastic Strategy** and the current activities to boost the circular economy principles in the automotive sector. Additionally, the updates about the **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda** for the EU Plastic Strategy will serve to assess the R&D topics to be included in the next framework programme.

Other stakeholders in the automotive value chain will join the meeting to open a dialogue about the Brexit's impact and automotive market trends to increase plastics circularity and resource efficiency.

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Upcoming EuPC MEF Meeting in Croatia



Upon the kind invitation of HGK, the Croatian **EuPC** member, the upcoming meeting of **EuPC's** Members Executive Forum (MEF) will take place on the **24th October 2018** in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

All MEF members are invited to participate in the meeting that will focus on the different aspects of the EU Circular Economy Package (Plastics Strategy, Single Use Plastics Proposal, etc.).

The MEF meeting is organised from 09.00 to 12.30 and is followed by a lunch as well as the joint NPA meeting with representatives from PlasticsEurope. To access the full invitation and agenda, please visit www.plasticsconverters.eu and log in to the Members Area.

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EuPC / IK Annual Meeting 2019 in Berlin - SAVE THE DATE



The **EuPC** Annual Meeting 2019 will be organised together with IK, the German Association for Plastic Packaging, on the **13th and 14th June 2019 in Berlin**. As usual, the Annual Meeting will take place in form of a two-day conference that targets the whole plastics converting industry.

On the 13th June, separate **market sessions** will focus on the three main sectors: Packaging, Building & Construction and Automotive & Transport. The 14th June begins with the **EuPC** General Assembly, open only to **EuPC** members, before the **main conference** session takes place until early afternoon. The overarching theme of the conference will be the **sustainability and circularity of plastics**. All information about the 2018 edition of the Annual Meeting can be found at www.circularfuturewithplastics.eu.

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Brexit – preparation for the withdrawal of the UK from the EU



Over summer, the EC published the communication [Preparing for the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union](#) on 30 March 2019, which "encourages businesses of all sizes that may be affected by the United Kingdom's withdrawal to take the necessary preparedness actions and to take them now."

The document summarises the most important changes influencing business and trade such as: **trade with the UK as a third country** instead of intra-EU trade (customs declaration, duties and taxes, ...); safety, security and access to market of transport; and financial services regulated by third country regimes in EU law and in national legal frameworks. In the meantime the fear of a "no-deal" Brexit – meaning that WTO trade rules would apply – is getting bigger, according to the International Monetary Fund this would have [considerable negative impact](#) on income and employment.

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FOCUS



VinylPlus Projects Deadlines



VinylPlus has invited again its official partners to submit technical and communication project proposals in the framework of the VinylPlus Projects Programme 2019.

“On our way to a closer collaboration among the European PVC and industry sector organisations, the focus for our investments in 2019 will clearly be on using and cascading down the achievements of successful work in some regions to other countries. While remaining open for new ideas at any time we want to develop our pan-European know-how transfer and see the higher speed and synergies from organizations working efficiently together.” said Brigitte Dero, General Manager VinylPlus®.

The deadline for submission of proposals is the 15th of September 2018 and the final funding decision will be taken by the VinylPlus Board in December 2018.

The [Progress Report 2018](#) includes a short overview of the last VinylPlus funded projects.

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UPSKILL - New Erasmus+ Project



Erasmus+

UPSKILL, a European Erasmus+ project focused on the plastics converting industry, has been selected for funding in a decision at the end of August.

The aim of the two-year project is to respond to the plastics sector-specific labour market needs by **designing, piloting and implementing an innovative vocational training programme for plastics machine operators** with specific emphasis on digital and green skills, as well as entrepreneurial competencies.

The project is coordinated by **EuPC** member LINPRA, the representative of Lithuanian manufacturing companies. Other members of the consortium are Fédération de la Plasturgie et des Composites, and **EuPC** itself. The project will start on the 1st October 2018.

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EU Project POLYNSPIRE Kick-Off Meeting



To **improve the circularity of plastics**, it is important to develop and establish effective ways for recycling of plastics in order to make sure that more and more plastic waste is recovered and doesn't end up in landfill or in the environment.

European Plastics Converters (**EuPC**) is participating in a plastic **recycling project called POLYNSPIRE**, funded by European Commission under current framework programme Horizon 2020. The overall objective of the project is to demonstrate a set of **innovative, cost-effective and sustainable solutions aiming at improving the energy and resource efficiency of the recycling processes** for post-consumer and post-industrial plastic containing materials. The project kick-off meeting will be held on 25 & 26 Sep. 2018 in Brussels.

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Demeto – Chemical recycling of PET through depolymerization by microwaves



The European Project on Chemical Recycling of PET “Demeto” was launched in October 2017. As reported last year, EuPC is involved as one of the 13 project partners. At the moment the project is in an important phase as the technical experts are working intensively on the design of the pilot plant, which was also discussed during a **progress meeting in April in Lomazzo, Italy**.

The Demeto project is supported by an **Industrial Advisory Board consisting of top brands of home textile, sportswear textile, fashion textile, home and personal care and drinks, as well as plastic converters, waste collectors and recyclers**: a2a, Adidas, ALPLA, Coca-Cola, EIT Raw Materials, Ikea, Logoplaste, MAKSC, Nestle Waters, OVS, Petcore Europe, SEFEA IMPACT, SOEX, Sorema, Suez, Unilever and Waste2Wear. Check out the [recently published newsletter](#) for further information.

The research project DEMETO receives funding from the European Union’s Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020 (2014-2020) under grant agreement no. 768573.

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Upcoming Meetings

EuPC Packaging Conference	25 September 2018 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Packaging and Building & Construction Division ExCom	26 September 2018 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Steering Committee	27 September 2018 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Automotive & Transport ExCom	11 October 2018 (tbc) <i>Portugal</i>
Members Executive Forum	24 October 2018 <i>Dubrovnik, Croatia</i>
Packaging Division ExCom	14 November 2018 <i>Tbd</i>
EuPC Steering Committee	15 November 2018 <i>Tbd</i>
EuPC Furniture Conference	26 November 2018 <i>Brussels</i>
EU Plastics Industry Day	11 December 2018 <i>Brussels</i>