



FOCUS

EUROPEAN PLASTICS CONVERTERS NEWSLETTER

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

Packaging
ISSUE

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MedPharmPlast - A new sector group founded

On the 28th of January 2014, MedPharmPlast Europe held its inaugural meeting in Brussels with the founding members of this new **EuPC** sector group. The companies participating in this kick-off meeting agreed on the importance and need for an EU level sector group specialized in plastics for medical devices and packaging, in order to address the many challenges faced by the industry. Mr Thierry Eyrard, Fresenius Medical Care-SMAD General Manager, was appointed as the Chairman of MedPharmPlast Europe for the next two years. The next event of MedPharmPlast Europe will take place in Brussels on 5 June during **EuPC**'s Annual Meeting in the form of a workshop. Main topics on the agenda: an Overview of the EU regulatory challenges for medical devices and pharmaceutical packaging, Innovation opportunities for plastics and medical devices under Horizon 2020 and the View of the value chain on future evolutions in the medical field. Participation is free of charge. More info: Erik.Hendriks@eupc.org



Energy and Environmental Aid Guidelines

On April 9th 2014, the European Commission adopted new 'Energy and Environmental Aid Guidelines', following extensive consultation with stakeholders and Member States in 2012. These Guidelines aim to support Member States in reaching their 2020 climate targets, whilst addressing distortions of competition that may result from subsidies granted to renewable energy sources. In other words, these Guidelines are an acceptance by the European Commission that certain energy intensive industries might no longer be able to compete with renewable energy subsidies being charged on their electricity costs. The Guidelines, therefore, list a number of eligible sectors, where member states may limit renewable energy surcharges to 15% of the full surcharge. These eligible sectors include the manufacture of plastic plates, sheets, tubes and profiles (Nace sectors 2221), as well as packaging goods (NACE sector 2222). The new Guidelines will enter into force on 1 July 2014 and will be valid until December 31st 2020. **EuPC** would encourage NPA's to contact their national authorities to find out more about the national systems to be put in place to take account of these new guidelines. More info: Padraig.Nolan@eupc.org

EU level developments on Plastic carrier bags

On April 16th 2014, the European Parliament adopted, at plenary level, its legislative resolution on plastic carrier bags (following the ENVI Committee's Auken Report). Plenary amendments tabled by the EPP and ECR Groups in the European Parliament were unsuccessful and so the final legislative resolution of the European Parliament did not change much, from the Auken Report. **EuPC** is now concentrating on developments at Council level and has been meeting with EU28 permanent representations in Brussels over the past weeks. The Greek Presidency of the Council of the European Union has released a 'compromise text', which does not stray too far from the European Commission's original proposal and, in fact, reinforces the principles of proportionality and non-discrimination. On May 28th Council experts (Council working party on the Environment) are set to discuss the latest Presidency compromise text, together with comments from the Member State delegations. More info: Padraig.Nolan@eupc.org

"PackTheFuture" winners announced at "Interpack"

German Association for Plastic Packaging and Films (IK, Bad Homburg; www.kunststoffverpackungen.de) and the French Plastic and Flexible Packaging Association (Elipso, Paris; www.elipso.org) announced together with Interpack the 12 winners of the inaugural PackTheFuture awards. This competition was open to members of the two professional organisations and aims to promote creativity and innovation in sustainable plastic and flexible packaging. There were 3 different categories: Ecodesign, Product Protection, Social Benefit. The objective is to develop this award on a European scale with **EuPC**. For more detailed information about the awards and the winning products, visit www.packthefuture.com or www.plasteurope.com/news/



REACH Update

The next important REACH/CLP deadline will be 1 June 2015 when all Mixtures will have to be classified according to the CLP rules and Safety Data Sheets modified accordingly. The REACH Candidate List now counts 151 substances and the Authorization List Annex XIV 22 with 5 more being recommended. For Azodicarbonamide **EuPC** took the lead in setting up a Consortium of ADCA Plastics Users. A Voluntary Commitment is proposed as an alternative to an Authorisation. A new challenge is the reclassification of formaldehyde from carcinogenic 2 to 1B resulting in new labelling requirements, exposure limits and emission thresholds. After the prescribed "Consultation Period", and a successful "Triologue" meeting between both Committees and the Applicants, the Risk Assessment- and the Socio-Economic Assessment Committees of the EU Chemicals Agency (ECHA) now started the examination of the DEHP Authorisation Application dossier. More info: Walter.Claes@eupc.org

EUPC Packaging Forum on 5 June: Final Programme

Update on the revision of the EU Packaging & Packaging Waste Directive and carrier bags

The Food Contact Regulation and plastics packaging challenges

Little Relevance of Plastic Carrier bags to waste

PackTheFuture initiative for the plastics packaging industry

Will RecyClass further boost recyclability of plastics packaging?

Innovation potential in medical and pharmaceutical packaging

Safe, sustainable and convenient solutions for Packaging

Latest developments in packaging by DSM

Latest development in packaging by Thiele Technologies

Horizon 2020 and Opportunities for plastics packaging

Resource efficiency, doing more with less

Ms. Marianne Muller - EU Commission
DG ENVIRONMENT

Ms. Jolanda Neeff - VMK/NRK

Dr. Jürgen Bruder - IK

Ms. Françoise Gerardi - ELIPSO

Dr. Michael Scriba - mtm plastics GmbH

Mr. Steve Duckwort - MedPharmPlast Europe

Ms. Lina Prada - SABIC

Mr. Koen Devits - DSM

Mr. Jean Sébastien Moglia - Thiele Technologies

Ms. Liliana Chamudis - AIMPLAS

Mr. Joan Marc Simon - Zero Waste Europe

3rd PET Network Day in Brussels

The next PET Network Day will take place in Brussels on 9 October. It is again supported and sponsored by a number of European association representing the whole PET value chain from PET manufacturers (CPME) to converters (**EuPC**, Forum PET Europe), brand owner users (EFBW, Unesda), recycling and recovery organisations and practitioners (EPRO, PRE). The theme of this year will be "Why is PET the preferred packaging material? Does it threaten its own success?". Related papers will be presented by speakers from the European institutions, leading brand owners and retailers on the key role of PET in their activities, a number of joint-projects undertaken by industry on e.g. the environmental footprint of transported bottled waters in Europe, enhanced food-contact recycling and the latest numbers and trends on PET collection and recycling in Europe. The conference is public. Last year, it attracted more than 100 participants and also provided opportunity for effective networking, hence its name and purpose. More info: Ruth.Colado@petcore-europe.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