



A&T Workshop at EuPC's Annual Meeting



Circular Economy Package - The Plastics Strategy



EU investments in the transport sector



New_InnoNet



EuPC's 3D Printing Platform



Polyolefin Circular Economy Platform



New EuPC Website

A&T Workshop at EuPC's Annual Meeting

The 2017 edition of **EuPC's** Division Workshops was held on the 1st of June in Madrid, Spain. This year's conference theme was "A circular future with plastics" and the Automotive & Transport Division focused on the future challenges for the A&T plastics converting industry: new composites for aerospace, surface and interiors trends, light weight initiatives and standards for vehicle interior air quality.

The A&T workshop was opened by Claude Clement, President Europe of PLASTIC OMNIUM Auto Inergy Division, and José Sanchez, Executive Composite Expert and Central Composite Technical Authority of Airbus and President of Materplat (Advanced Materials and Nanomaterials Spanish Technological Platform). Both highlighted innovation as a key driver for the European economy and specifically for the A&T sector. The workshop provided an extensive overview of the industrial trends and regulation needs.

Introducing the Spanish industry, Miguel Angel Rodiel, Technology Director of IMDEA Materials Institute and Materplat Coordinator, presented the work done by the Transport Innovation Group, where Airbus is an active member. Following this introduction, Rafael Avila, Airbus Materials & Processes Composites, underlined the importance of the new developments for composite materials in the aerospace sector and its application in other transport fields.

Discussing the car of the future, Pedro Colaço, KLC Managing Director and President of the Portuguese Association of Plastic Converters (APIP) and David Martinez, Chief Technology Officer at Teknia Technologies presented the new trends of plastics in automotive interiors and other challenges for the plastics converting industry, such as the light weight initiatives.

Also speaking at the event, Maria Piedra Curiel, Jefe Laboratorio A. Instrumental y E. Físicos, Repsol explained the status of the European regulation regarding the Vehicle Interior Air Quality (VIAQ) standard and the needs of the industry.

To see the video of the **EuPC** Annual Meeting, please click [here](#).

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Circular Economy Package - The Plastics Strategy



During the summer break, the European Commission has launched a public consultation in order to collect the views of stakeholders and citizens regarding the policy options to reduce microplastics entering the marine environment. The term microplastics includes plastics intentionally added into products (such as microbeads) and not intentionally added (pre-production plastic pellets, powders & flakes, textiles and road tyres). The consultation is open for comments until October 16th and **EuPC** will participate. To access it, click [here](#).

In the meantime, it is expected to get a better understanding of the Commission's intentions during a dedicated conference in Brussels. The event, titled 'Reinventing Plastics – Closing the Circle', will take place on the 26th of September in order to discuss the issues that will be featured in the new Plastics Strategy at presence of all stakeholders and policymakers. To read more about the conference, click [here](#).

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EU investments in the transport sector



The European Commission proposes to invest €2.7 billion in 152 key transport projects that support competitive, clean and connected mobility in Europe

In the framework of the modernization of the European mobility and transport, the European Commission has published in May "Europe on the move – An agenda for a socially fair transition towards clean, competitive and connected mobility for all". The goal is to move towards clean energy and digitalization in the sector. The agenda is accompanied by a first series of 8 legislative initiatives linked to road transport which will be complemented in the next 12 months by other proposals such as post-2020 emissions standards for cars and vans and emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles.

Following this initiative, an investment proposal of €2.7 billion in 152 key transport projects was announced in June. EU Commissioner for Transport Violeta Bulc said: "The demand for investment in transport infrastructure is huge. This new wave of investment focuses on clean, innovative and digital projects to modernise Europe's transport network. Today we are one step closer to a true Transport Union, serving the needs of citizens, stimulating the economy and creating jobs. Looking ahead, I am inviting stakeholders to make best use of the remaining funds, using blending to maximise impact and leverage all possible resources."

The largest part of the funding will be devoted to developing the European rail network (€1.8 billion), decarbonising and upgrading road transport and developing Intelligent Transport Systems (€359.2 million) and deploying Air Traffic Management (ATM) systems (€311.3 million).

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New_InnoNet



The NEW_InnoNet project is coming to an end and the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda and Policy Brief are available for download.

NEW_InnoNet is a European project and stakeholder platform within the context of Horizon 2020. Between 2014 and 2017, the project conducted bottleneck analyses, drafted roadmaps and identified promising use cases for the circular economy in the automotive, electronics and plastic packaging sectors. The analyses – and close interactions with 175+ stakeholders – resulted in a Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda (SRIA) and Policy Brief.

The NEW_InnoNet SRIA emphasizes the need for more innovation in recycling in order to quickly and effectively unleash the true power of the circularity of materials, in addition to necessary actions on waste prevention, reuse and remanufacturing. The SRIA proposes research and innovation actions to be taken. The agenda is supported with a policy brief, where policy recommendations are given to provide a environment in which innovation in recycling can thrive and develop.

- [Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda for the automotive, electronics and plastic packaging sectors](#)
- [Policy recommendations for unleashing the power of circulating materials](#)

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Polyolefin Circular Economy Platform



PCEP
POLYOLEFIN
Circular Economy Platform

Founded by three plastics industry associations (**EuPC**, PlasticsEurope and PRE), this value chain collaboration aims at increasing the reuse and recycling of polyolefin based products and the use of recyclates as raw material, thus advancing the circular economy. In order to achieve high

availability of polyolefin recyclates in terms of quantity and quality, PCEP focuses on two Strategic Goals: Innovation, with a focus on the Circular Economy, and enhanced collection & sorting systems. The platform works with a relatively short timeframe of only 5-10 years.

The Platform can rely upon six working groups, each dedicated to a different aspect that needs improvement and populated by experts from the three different parts of the plastics industry. For converters, RPC Group, Mauser Group, Plastotecnica and Jindal are providing the necessary knowledge and expertise for a fruitful exchange of ideas and solutions.

For more information, www.pcep.eu and Alexandre.Dangis@eupc.org.

EuPC's 3D Printing Platform



3D printing (3DP) or additive manufacturing (AM) has been available on the market since the beginning of the 1980's and thanks to its fast development in recent years, it gets more and more global attention and even becomes a hype. The global investments in this technology are expected to grow to 230-550 Billion USD in 2025. To embrace 3DP and the opportunities it brings for the plastics converting industry, **EuPC** initiated a series of actions.

A 3DP Platform was launched during **EuPC's** General Assembly in June and started its work in July, when the first meeting of the 3DP Working Group took place in Brussels. The platform is open to all companies, associations and organisations who have an interest in 3DP and the plastics converting industry.

The first aim of the platform is to enable plastics converters to use the full potential of the 3DP industry by informing converting companies, which opportunities 3DP bears for their business. To raise awareness and stimulate the consideration of 3DP, **EuPC** drafted a vision paper and a survey that will be circulated amongst the members during September.

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New EuPC Website



EuPC has been developing its new website during the past months and now the works are soon to be finished. After the incorporation of comments and improvements suggested by the members, the new website will finally replace its older version in the beginning of September.

The new **EuPC** website will be accessible at the usual address <http://www.plasticsconverters.eu>, and will combine a more modern and user-friendly design with a practical layout and lots of information about **EuPC** and the plastics converting industry in Europe. According to the results of a survey conducted amongst **EuPC's** members, the information from the last three years was kept.

The new website will also feature a new extranet, that contains information that is accessible to all **EuPC** members, such as the documents regarding the MEF or the Annual Meetings, the **EuPC** Calendar and our newsletter the FOCUS, which will now no longer be available to the public, but only to **EuPC** members.

Please take a look at the new website and inform us of any particular observations you make. We would be happy to get your feedback.

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Upcoming Meetings

Packaging Division Executive Committee	20 September 2017 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Steering Committee	21 September 2017 <i>Brussels</i>
B&C Division Executive Committee	27 September 2017 <i>Brussels</i>
A&T Division Executive Committee	9 October 2017 <i>Brussels</i>
Raw Materials Committee	11 October 2017 <i>Brussels</i>
Members Executive Forum	19 October 2017 <i>Frankfurt a.M.</i>
Packaging Division Executive Committee	15 November 2017 <i>Wrocław, Poland</i>
EuPC Steering Committee	16 November 2017 <i>Wrocław, Poland</i>

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