



Single-Use
Plastics Update



Circular Plastics
Alliance



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EUROPEAN FOOD CONTACT PLASTICS SEMINAR
11-12 April 2019 - Brussels

Organised by  on behalf of 

2019 Food Contact
Plastics Seminar



Well-Deserved
Retirement

CONFERENCES by  Polymer
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11-12 April 2019
18 May 2019

Conferences by PCE

Update Single-Use Plastics Directive



The Single Use Plastics Directive is reaching the final steps of its legislative process. After the negotiations of the text between the European Institutions, the draft text has been approved with some minor modifications both at the Council and at the Environment Committee of the European Parliament. Now, what is left is the approval in the plenary session of the Parliament, followed by the entry into force with the publication in the Official Journal of the EU.

The text has been further changed and extended to include more products and new design requirements from the initial proposal.

According to the directive, single-use means a product that is made wholly or partly from plastic and that is not conceived, designed or placed on the market to accomplish, within its life span, multiple trips or rotations by being returned to a producer for refill or re-used for the same purpose for which it was conceived. As this concept would be difficult to interpret in reality, the European Commission foresees to publish dedicated Guidelines with concrete examples within a year of the publication of the Directive.

The different regulatory measures that will have to be implemented by Member States are the following.

Food containers, containing food intended for immediate consumption, and cups for beverage will be subject to reduction; while cutlery, plates, straws & stirrers; EPS food containers, EPS cups & EPS beverage containers will be completely banned; EPR schemes will be extended to include food & beverage containers, packets & wrappers of flexible material, cups, bags with producers having to cover the costs of clean-ups.

There will also be new separate collection targets of 77% (by 2025) and 90% (by 2029) for beverage bottles, and almost all products will be subject of awareness-raising campaigns. Furthermore, design requirements will be implemented: single-use beverage containers will have to have lids and caps attached to the bottle, and a minimum recycled content of 25% for PET bottles by 2025; 30% for all bottles by 2030 is foreseen.

There will be still the possibility for Member States to reach agreements with concerned sector groups in reference to consumption reductions & EPR schemes.

To read the full draft text of the Directive, click [here](#).

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New Circular Plastics Alliance set up by EU Commission VP Jyrki Katainen



On the 5th February 2019, the EU Commission will organise a high-level meeting as a follow up of the EU plastics strategy, by inviting CEOs to the launch of the Circular Plastics Alliance.

Organisations representing all stages of plastics production, use and recycling have been invited. The objective of the first meeting is to agree on a common vision towards more and better plastics recycling in Europe and set a work plan for concrete deliverables in

2019. The outcome will serve as a basis for the creation of an effectively functioning market for secondary plastics materials. This meeting has been organised within the context of the European Industry Days.

EuPC will be represented by its President Renato Zelcher.

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MORE - Monitoring Recyclates for Europe



Plastics are in the centre of attention of consumers and legislators alike. The European Union is pushing the industry to become more circular and to increase the volume of recycled polymers used in the EU. Plastics converting companies play a crucial role in the transition towards a more circular economy and

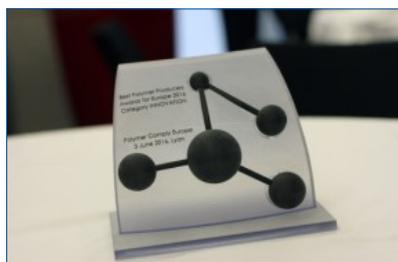
need to become more transparent to anticipate the implementation of mandatory recycled content. To demonstrate the efforts of the European plastics converting industry, and to stimulate a higher uptake of recycled polymers, **EuPC** decided to create MORE, a single, unified tool to monitor the of recycled polymers in Europe.

MORE was developed in collaboration with **EuPC**'s member organisations and with the [official support of the European Commission](#) to reach the EU target of 10 million tonnes recycled polymers used annually between 2025 and 2030. MORE is currently undergoing testing by a selected number of companies and will officially be published in March 2019.

A strong participation of companies is vital to ensure the good functioning and credibility of MORE vis a vis the public and legislators. **EuPC** will therefore work together closely with its members to guarantee a good promotion and distribution of MORE within the industry.

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2019 Best Polymer Producers Awards Launched



The Polymers for Europe Alliance will launch the 4th edition of its Best Polymer Producers Awards for Europe on the 15th of February 2018. All users of polymers in Europe will be invited to access this online customers' satisfaction survey - free of charge and in strict confidence - and rate their suppliers' performances from mid-2018 up to now. The voting tool will be open for three months until the 15th May 2019.

The rating tool is easy to understand, extremely user-friendly and provided in several languages in order to reach out to as many polymer users in Europe as possible. The rating tool will be accessible at <https://rebrand.ly/polymer-awards>.

The winners will be exclusively announced at the Awards Ceremony that will take place during the Gala Dinner of the **EuPC** (European Plastics Converters) Annual Meeting, jointly organised with the German association IK (Industrieverband Kunststoffverpackungen) on the 13th June 2019.

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The Brexit Implications on REACH



Delivering the deal negotiated with the EU remains the UK government's top priority which has not been changed.

Under the proposed deal, the UK and EU will enter a "transition period" on 29 March 2019 that may last until 31 December 2020. During the transition period, the UK will continue to follow EU rules including REACH but will lose membership of the EU's institutions. However,

during the transition period, they will negotiate the future arrangement that will come into force after 31 December 2020.

The UK government has published additional documentation on how the UK will manage chemical regulation in the event Britain leaves the EU on 29 March without a deal.

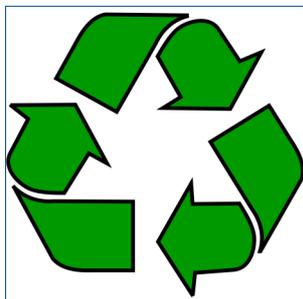
The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) released guidance on chemical regulations in case of a no-deal Brexit. For a no-deal scenario, the UK will replicate EU REACH in the form of UK REACH, but would make the necessary operational changes allowing it to work outside the EU. The HSE which would act as the agency managing UK REACH has highlighted that companies should review their roles within both EU and UK REACH as there may be significant changes. For the UK market, there will be a phased approach designed to minimise disruption and ensure continuity.

The latest guidance includes advice on safety data sheets, PPORD exemptions, and only representative provisions. Furthermore, an IT system, which will mirror EU REACH-IT for registrations, grandfathering and downstream user notifications, will be "operable" as from 29th March.

More information is available [here](#).

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EuPC publishes results of its 2nd survey on the use of recycled plastics materials



From January till September 2018, the European Plastics Converters Association (**EuPC**) conducted its 2nd European survey on the use of recycled plastics materials (rPM) in Europe's plastics converting industry. Following the period of 9 months during which 376 companies from 21 different countries filled in the online questionnaire, **EuPC** now published the results in cooperation with Polymer Comply Europe SCRL. (PCE), which conducted the survey on behalf of **EuPC**.

The survey was commissioned to follow up on the results of its first edition and provide deeper insights into the reasons preventing a bigger use of rPM by converting companies. Some of the survey's main conclusions are:

- The vast majority of plastics converters (76%) is convinced that the improvement of collection and sorting of plastic waste would be the most suitable way to increase the quality of rPM. Other measures include investments in better recycling technologies by recyclers (53%) and the implementation of better design for recycling (29%).
- Plastics converters are already doing their part to improve the quality of rPM, as 80% of the respondents are already taking measures to improve the quality of recyclates.
- An increase of the rPM volumes that are incorporated into new products as envisioned in the Plastics Strategy is practically impossible under the current conditions. 10 different plastic materials were included in the survey but for only 2 of them did the majority of respondents state that the supply is sufficient. The situation worsens when it comes to the quality of the available rPM. Only for PET did a majority (71%) state that the quality is sufficient.

All **EuPC** members and participating companies have received the detailed report on the results of the survey during the previous month. Other interested parties can acquire the report free of charge by registering on the Polymer Comply Europe website: www.pceu.eu.

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EU Tax System Under Review



The European Commission on 15 January proposed to end the veto power member states have over EU tax matters, an idea rejected by several smaller countries including low-tax hub Ireland.

A more harmonized tax policy across Europe has long been a dream of pro-EU forces in Brussels and recent scandals have regenerated Brussels' desire for an easier way to pass legislation across the bloc.

The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, said it will launch a debate with member states on allowing new EU tax laws to be approved by qualified majority rather than unanimously.

"Times have changed! Holding tight to unanimity to protect national tax regimes ... is based on myth, not reality," Economic Affairs Commissioner Pierre Moscovici told reporters at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. **EuPC** is following this development very closely.

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2019 Food Contact Plastics Seminar

EUROPEAN FOOD CONTACT PLASTICS SEMINAR 11-12 April 2019 - Brussels

Organised by  on behalf of 

On 11 - 12 April 2019, in Brussels, Polymer Comply Europe (PCE), on behalf of European Plastics Converters (**EuPC**), will hold its 6th edition of the **European Food Contact Plastics Seminar**. This year, the seminar will focus on **Improving transparency throughout the supply chain**.

The first day of the seminar will be dedicated to the main regulatory issues impacting food contact plastics manufacturers and the entire supply chain. Experts from the industry and academia will focus on regulatory and scientific developments in the food contact-related dossiers of e.g. Titanium Dioxide, Endocrine Disrupters or Nanomaterials. On the second day, we will welcome the representatives of the European Commission and the Food Contact Materials Team of DG Santé who will give us an update on the current Evaluation of the Framework Regulation No. 1935/2004. Furthermore, the opportunities for improvement of the regulations to streamline enforcement by national authorities will be discussed by the Food Safety Authority of an EU Member State. **EuPC** will present the preliminary results of the joint project of **EuPC** and Joint Research Centre (JRC) on the identification of Non-Intentionally Added Substances (NIAS).

The two-day event will bring together participants from the industry, research institutes, European and national authorities, food and drink companies and retailers. A networking cocktail will be held on the evening of 11 April. To attend the seminar you can register [here](#). A detailed programme will follow mid-February.

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Well-Deserved Retirement



Two well-known individuals in the plastics converting community in Europe are going into retirement now after almost 40 years of dedicated work for our association's network.

EuPC wishes to thank Isabel Ferreira Da Costa (APIP- Portugal) and Johann Pummer (FCIO-Austria) for their relentless efforts in fighting for our plastics industry in Europe and in their

respective countries. Their expertise and contributions on so many subjects affecting the industry will surely be missed. We wish both of the very best in their next private journey and opportunities as well as very good health.

More information at Alexandre.Dangis@eupc.org

Conferences by Polymer Comply Europe

Polymer Comply Europe (PCE), in cooperation with [EuPC](#), [CECIMO](#), the [Polyolefin Circular Economy Platform](#), [Europur](#), [Vinyl Films and Sheets Europe](#), [Waste Free Oceans](#), [Petcore Europe](#) and [VinylPlus®](#), presents the first edition of its conference series in Brussels.

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. Save the dates of our events to learn more about the future of polymers.

More information at www.polymercomplyeurope.eu or conferences@pceu.eu

CONFERENCES by Polymer Comply Europe

11- 12 April 2019	European Food Contact Plastics Seminar <small>Supported by EuPC</small>
14 May 2019	3D Printing within the Plastics Converting Industry <small>Supported by EuPC & CECIMO</small>
4 June 2019	Chemical Recycling of Polymers <small>Supported by EuPC;</small>
17 September 2019	Technical and Economical Barriers to the use of Recycled Polymers <small>Supported by EuPC; Petcore & PCEP</small>
26 November 2019	Circular Polymers in Furniture <small>Supported by EuPC; PRE; VinylPlus®; VFSE; Petcore; WFO & Europur</small>
<i>Coming in 2020</i>	
March 2020	Polymer Trading for Plastic Converters in Europe <small>Supported by EuPC</small>
November 2020	Education and Labour Market for the Plastics Converting Industries <small>Supported by EuPC</small>



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#ConferencesbyPCE

Upcoming Meetings

EuPC Packaging Division ExCom	13 March 2019
EuPC Building & Construction ExCom	<i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Senior Executives Forum	13 March 2019 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Steering Committee	14 March 2019 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Automotive & Transport ExCom	15 March 2019 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Members Executives Forum	21 March 2019 <i>Brussels</i>
Raw Materials Committee	4 April 2019 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Annual Meeting	13/14 June 2019 <i>Berlin</i>