

Polycarbonate: combining freedom of design with environmental benefits



Fitness Check for the construction sector



The 7 winners for the Best Polymer Producers Awards for Europe 2016



The European Parliament votes against China's market economy status



Vinyl Sustainability Forum

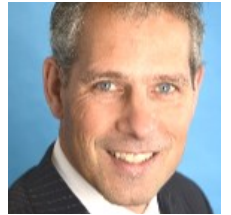
More than 500.000 tonnes of PVC recycled in 2015



REACH: Moving forward with legacy additives

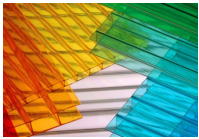


EPPA at Fensterbau Frontale Nuremberg 2016



Maarten Roef, CEO of Wavin, elected TEPPFA President

### Polycarbonate: combining freedom of design with environmental benefits



In today's world, new buildings must comply with the environmental and energy-efficient restrictions. Nevertheless, materials with which they are made should also enable architects and designers to deliver outstanding and memorable projects. Combining the 'green' aspect with the 'design' aspect is not an easy task, however, polycarbonate (PC) is the material that performs extremely well in both of these roles.

Polycarbonate offers freedom and flexibility of design for designers, architects and artists, allowing them to create highly complex structures (see: [EPSE Awards](#)). As for the environmental benefits, PC has a long life span thanks to its durability and has outstanding insulation properties. Due to its light weight, it can be significantly beneficial, such as saving in transportation costs for example.

Versatile and cost-efficient and flexible in its design capabilities, polycarbonate sheet is positioned to help meet the demand for energy-efficient buildings which are at the same time sustainable, original and practical.

More info: [Emilia.Tarlowska@eupc.org](mailto:Emilia.Tarlowska@eupc.org)

### Fitness Check for the construction sector



A public consultation on the Fitness Check for the construction sector was launched under the previously-announced Commission's Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT). The Fitness Check focuses on 15 EU legislative texts in the policy fields of Internal Market, Energy Efficiency, Environment and Health & Safety - and, more specifically, on those provisions within these EU texts that may impact the construction sector.

The EuPC B&C Division launched an internal questionnaire in order to provide comments to this consultation.

More info: [Nikola.Svobodova@eupc.org](mailto:Nikola.Svobodova@eupc.org)

### The 7 winners for the Best Polymer Producers Awards for Europe 2016



During the main conference of the European Plastics Converters (EuPC) Annual Meeting on 3 June 2016, the seven winners of the Best Polymer Producers Awards for Europe 2016 will be announced. This European-wide customer satisfaction survey reflects the contribution of these companies to the plastics value chain and was initiated in order to boost communication and open a dialogue between the converters and the polymer suppliers. The Awards voting was launched in February 2016 by the Polymers for Europe Alliance and within three months received nearly 250 ratings from polymer users all over Europe.

More info: [Eva.Schneider@eupc.org](mailto:Eva.Schneider@eupc.org)

## The European Parliament votes against China's market economy status



On 12 May, the European Parliament voted against granting China the market economy status (MES) in the World Trade Organization (WTO), concerned about the possible consequences it would have on jobs, the environment and economic growth in the EU. China, which joined the WTO in 2001, argues that protocol dictates a country automatically switches to market economy status 15 years after joining. China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi stated that "China's wish is clear, simple and reasonable: that everyone should remember the commitments they have made." MEPs however have expressed their belief that it is not the right time to grant China MES and urge the European Commission to listen to the concerns of EU industry, trade unions and stakeholders.

## More than 500.000 tonnes of PVC recycled in 2015



During the Vinyl Sustainability Forum in Vienna on April 28th, the achievements of VinylPlus were presented, noting the total of 514.913 tonnes of PVC were recycled in 2015 and replacement of lead-based stabilisers in the EU-28 market. The forum was organised by VinylPlus – the ten-year voluntary commitment of the European PVC industry where EuPC is the funding partner.

'Smart Vinyl for Our Cities' was the theme of this year's edition which featured top-level speakers from across Europe. Presentations and panel discussions were centred on the versatile role of PVC in meeting the future needs of people living and working in urban environments as well as its significant contribution to the many aspects of the buildings environment.

The 2016 VinylPlus progress report can be downloaded [here](#).

More info: [Nikola.Svobodova@eupc.org](mailto:Nikola.Svobodova@eupc.org)

## REACH: Moving forward with legacy additives



On 20 April 2016, the REACH committee voted positively the authorization of soft PVC recycle containing DEHP that were applied for by Vinyloop SPA, Stena recycling AB and Plastic Planet srl. The decision should in principle be published shortly in the official journal.

This is an important step in the process and we welcome the decision of the Commission that has been made in full compliance with the REACH regulation based on the recommendation of the European Chemicals Agency and its scientific committees. It shows that applications for authorization are possible although it demands a big effort.

In parallel, however, the European Chemicals Agency, together with Denmark, initiated a proposal for the restriction of DEHP, BBP, DBP and DiBP in indoor applications (including storage) with the exclusion of agricultural and industrial settings, articles that can be mouthed and articles with prolonged skin contact. Those restrictions are likely to come into force end 2019. The decision process should last until end April 2017. EuPC and PRE questioned the rationale of going beyond the uses advised against by the applicants for authorization (indoor applications) and will follow this up.

The use of lead stabilizers (following the industry voluntary phase-out by end 2015) and the presence of legacy lead in post-consumer PVC should be assessed in a restriction proposal, expected in October 2016.

Two of the lead stabilizers (pentalead tetraoxide sulfate and tetralead trioxide sulfate) have been proposed to be prioritized for authorization. Those lead compounds are not only used as stabilizers and therefore prioritization of this substance does not depend only on that use. EuPC and Plastics Recyclers Europe commented that, for the use in PVC recycle, a prioritization for authorization would come in addition to the foreseen restriction, which is against better regulation. The restriction dossier should address this potential overlap if possible. The dossier is followed closely.

The value chain organized in VinylPlus has already gathered much information on the safe use of post-consumer waste containing legacy lead and evaluated potential socio-economic impacts of different scenarios for lead restriction. This assessment is now further completed in the Vinyl Recycling Consortium coordinated by PCE.

More info: [Geoffroy.Tillieux@eupc.org](mailto:Geoffroy.Tillieux@eupc.org)

## EPPA at Fensterbau Frontale Nuremberg 2016



During the Fensterbau Frontale trade show that took place in Nuremberg last March, the European PVC Window Profile and Related Building Products Association (EPPA) held for the first time its own booth, representing its industry to the many visitors of the four-day event. EPPA was pleased with the high amount of interest the visitors showed in the EPPA booth, in particular to quality aspects and PVC window recycling items. EPPA used the opportunity of the conferences to promote its key messages. For example, during the Prowindo press conference, EPPA gave a presentation regarding the impact of the Circular Economy Package on PVC window recycling. EPPA also gained visibility during a conference organized by French CSTB and German RAL Gütegemeinschaft which dealt with specific quality certification items which are considered to be a novelty. The event also gave EPPA the chance to introduce its new brochure to the public.

More info: [Nikola.Svobodova@eupc.org](mailto:Nikola.Svobodova@eupc.org)

## Maarten Roef, CEO of Wavin, elected TEPPFA President



Maarten Roef, CEO of Wavin, was elected President of TEPPFA on April 6, 2016. In addition to his passion for plastics, Mr. Roef brings 25 years of personal experience in the plastics and packaging industry. Speaking on the benefits of plastics and the image it has today, he states: "Take for example the lifespan of a plastic pipe, it can last for 100 years underground without leakages. Also plastic pipes can reduce energy consumption and can be recycled between five to ten times. Altogether, there is no other material that offers that kind of sustainability. Our industry is taking the lead in the circular economy and together as TEPPFA, we should focus on creating a greater understanding and acknowledgement of the part that the plastic pipe industry can play in meeting the ambitions for a circular economy". Mr. Roef is determined to share his passion TEPPFA's values with all stakeholders in the coming years.

More info: [info@teppfa.eu](mailto:info@teppfa.eu)

### Upcoming Meetings

EuPC General Assembly	2 & 3 June 2016 <i>Lyon, France</i>
EuPC Packaging Conference	20 September 2016 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Packaging, Building & Construction EXCOM	21 September 2016 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Steering Committee Meeting	22 September 2016 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC MEF & NPA Meeting	20 October 2016 <i>Düsseldorf, Germany</i>
EuPC Packaging, B&C EXCOM	17 November 2016 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Steering Committee Meeting	18 November 2016 <i>Brussels</i>