

# EuPC focus on Packaging



EUROPEAN PLASTICS CONVERTERS NEWSLETTER  
PROVIDING EuPC MEMBERS WITH A BRIEF OVERVIEW  
OF EuPC PACKAGING ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES

November 2008

## EuPC Packaging Division

### EuPC Packaging Forum, 2009 Edition



Cascais, near Lisbon in Portugal, will be the host city for the Plastic Packaging event of 2009, organized by **EuPC**. The **EuPC** Packaging Forum has become a traditional occurrence for the Plastic Packaging Industry, thanks to the consolidated experience gained in many years of organization and promotion. The event will occur in occasion of the **EuPC** General Assembly.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008 the Packaging Division of **EuPC** nominated the new chairman, vice-chairmen and members of the Excom.

David Williams (BPF), Chairman
Bjorn Hoem (EuPF/CeDo), Vice-Chairman
Christian Thery (Plasteuropac/Stard) Vice-Chairman
Marcel De Botton (APIP /Logoplaste)
Joachim Eckstein (ERPA/InfraServ Höchst KG)
Jurgen Bruder (GKV)
Françoise Gerardi (Fédération de la Plasturgie)
Paolo Bergaglio (Federazione Gomma-Plastica/ Piberplast Spa)
Bernhard Borgardt (IK/RPC)
Bernard Merckx (EuPR/Colcom)
Ad Groenewegen (Febelplast /Valeron)
Pier Marco Mariotto (EMPM/Hotform)
Harry Lucas (NRK)
Constantine Haralampides (AHPI/Lekatis & Co)
Dario Dainelli (Sealed Air)
Philip Law (BPF)

## Packaging Division Regulatory WG

The Packaging Division Regulatory WG held a telephone conference on 15 October 2008 to organize the future activities. The members believe that there are a certain number of issues that the above WG could deal with.

Apart from food contact, for which a specific WG already exists and is chaired by Mr Dario Dainelli, the other activities that the Regulatory WG could deal with, are:

- EU Member States developments in plastic packaging
- non-EU developments in plastic packaging
- Environmental issues, i.e. carbon footprint
- Taxation
- etc.

## EU Regulatory Affairs

**1999/177/EC: Commission Decision of 8 February 1999 establishing the conditions for a derogation for plastic crates and plastic pallets in relation to the heavy metal concentration levels established in Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste**

**EuPC** has established excellent contacts within the European Commission Directorate for Enterprise and Environment in order to request for an extension of the derogation for heavy metals concentration in recycled crates and pallets. Furthermore, in the past months, **EuPC** established strong relations also with other industry sectors concerned by the eventual non extension of the derogation, namely the European Bottled Water Association and the Breweries.

The TAC (Technical Adaptation Committee) of the Member States will meet on 9 December to vote upon the prolongation of the derogation. The institutional process will continue afterwards with the approval

(or not) of the decision by the Environment Committee of the European Parliament.

**EuPC** is relatively confident that the extension of the derogation will be granted otherwise the consequences could be extremely dangerous for the plastic recyclers. The European Commission has learned, after the report of consultant BIOIS, that the heavy metal content does not pose any threat nor to the environment nor to the health of people and workers. If the European Commission wishes to keep high levels of recycling within Europe then the solution is only one: to extend the derogation.

For more information please contact Paolo Bochicchio:  
paolo.bochicchio@eupc.org

## Revision of EU Waste Legislation

The European Council common position was adopted in December 2007; on 8 April 2008 the Environment Committee of the Parliament approves the proposed amendments and on 17 June 2008 the European Parliament Plenary (under the Slovenian presidency) reached an agreement on the revision of the WFD (Waste framework Directive); according to the co-decision procedure, the European Council will have to approve, modify or reject the Parliament position. The European Council common position will arrive in autumn (under the French Presidency). This means that the adoption of the final text and the publication in the official journal will arrive late 2008; Member States will have between 15 and 18 months to implement the directive into national law; thus we are looking at 2010 as the possible entry into force of the WFD in the Member States.

The Environment Committee of the European Council adopted on 20<sup>th</sup> October the Parliament approved text on the WFD; it aims at enhancing the re-use and recycling of waste as well as at simplifying current legislation, through repealing the current waste

framework directive (2006/12/EC), the directive on hazardous waste (91/689/EEC) and part of the directive on waste oils (75/439/EEC).

By introducing the concept of "waste hierarchy", the EU Institutions wish to promote the use of waste as a secondary resource and to reduce the landfill of waste.

The "five-step waste hierarchy" lays down, from best to worst, the most preferred waste management options which Member States should apply; the waste hierarchy consists of: waste prevention; re-use; recycling; recovery (including energy recovery); and safe disposal.

A new definition of recycling was accepted: **"Recycling means any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes. It includes the reprocessing of organic material but does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or for backfilling operations"**.

The directive also sets new recycling targets: by 2020, Member States must recycle 50% of their household (such as at least paper, metal, **plastic** and glass) and 70% of their construction and demolition waste; the text is not clear whether these targets are to be counted in terms of weight of the products or per material.

Furthermore, there is a clear message to boost recycling as much as environmentally, technically and economically possible; Member States should support the use of recyclates (such as recovered paper), in line with the waste hierarchy and with the aim of a recycling society, and should not support the landfilling or incineration of such recycla-

tes whenever possible.

Member States are required to transpose the directive into national law within two years.

### Next Presidencies of the European Union

France	July-December 2008
Czech Republic	January-June 2009
Sweden	July-December 2009
Spain	January-June 2010

For more information please contact Paolo Bochicchio:  
paolo.bochicchio@eupc.org

### EU Funded project: LabelAgriWaste

The LabelAgriWaste project entered its third year of analysis; the next meeting of the LabelAgriWaste project partners is expected for 19-21 November 2008 in **EuPC** offices in Brussels. This second to last meeting will aim at defining the best scheme to be applied for plastic converters, farmers and recyclers; this meeting will also aim at defining the guidelines that the actors in the supply chain would apply in case they would participate to the scheme.

Agricultural plastics waste such as silage film is a good source for mechanical recycling as it is made from a limited range of plastics, mostly polyolefin's. However, often high levels of contamination by soil pose a technical and financial challenge to eco-efficient recycling or recovery. **EuPC** and **EuPR** are engaged in the LabelAgriWaste project – an EU co-funded project – aiming at developing an integrated approach towards the collection, sampling and

labeling of agricultural plastic waste. Progress is expected from this project over the next year.

More for more information please contact Antonino Furfari:  
antonino.furfari@eupc.org.

### EuPF (European Plastic Films Association)

The EuPF Excom recently met and discussed the current world financial situation that is having important repercussions also to the plastic film industry in Europe. The prices of raw materials prices have been extremely volatile in the past months; the peak arrived during the summer period where we observed extremely high levels of raw material prices; instead in this moment the prices are extremely low.

Concerning plastic bags, in Europe we are assisting to an odd situation in which many governments are asking industry to produce thicker plastic bags because they are easier to recycle. This is a new tendency which has developed recently since for many years the legislator was asking to produce thinner bags in order to save on natural resources.

In France the government is pushing industry together with retailers to find a solution for plastic bags; according to EuPF the government does not want to put taxes on these products;

In Spain companies are going bankrupt due to: 1) national economic recession and 2) imports from Malaysia;

In Italy tariffs are frozen since three years in the retail activity, while in the UK the market is stable.

More for more information please contact Paolo Bochicchio:  
Paolo.bochicchio@eupc.org

## EuPC Upcoming events

18-21 November 2008	LabelAgriWaste Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
25 November 2008	Raw Materials Committee Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
25 November 2008	HSE Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
26 November 2008	Packaging Plenary Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
26 November 2008	Steering Committee Meeting	Brussels, EuPC Centre
26 November 2008	BPF 75th Anniversary Cocktail	Brussels, EuPC offices
27 November 2008	ETHIC EXCOM Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
27 November 2008	Communication Committee Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
27 November 2008	Trade Committee Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
28 November 2008	ETHIC General Assembly	Brussels, EuPC offices
4 December 2008	FlowFree & Polycond training event	Brussels, EuPC Centre