



## VinylPlus Monitoring Committee

19<sup>th</sup> April 2013 – 10h30 : 12h30

European Parliament – Meeting room – A4F384

### Minutes

#### Participants:

Prof Alfons Buekens	Chairman
Mr Maik Schmahl	Team Leader, Legislation Specific Chemicals and GLP, DG Enterprise & Industry
Mr Alexandre Dangis	Managing Director, EuPC
Dr Brigitte Dero	ECVM, General Manager and VinylPlus Deputy General Manager
Mr Sakib Ershad	European Parliament
Mr Jorma Rusanen	Senior Policy Officer, industriAll European Trade Union
Mr Carlos Sanchez Reyes	Organizacion de Consumidores y Usuarios
Mr Helmut Maurer	European Commission, DG Environment

#### Apologies:

Mr Klaus Berend	Head of Unit, Chemicals Industry – DG Enterprise & Industry
Ms Soledad Blanco	Director, DG Environment
Mr Filipe Constant	CEO, Solvin
Mr Gwenole Cozigou	Director, DG Enterprise
Mr Sajjad Karim	MEP, European Parliament
Mr Joachim Eckstein	Vice-President, VinylPlus
Ms Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl	MEP, European Parliament
Mr Rainer Grasmück	Global Head of PVC Additives, Baerlocher



1. Welcome and Agreement of the Agenda

Professor Buekens welcomed the participants and thanked them for their continuous participation at the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee.

To avoid loss of time he asked to specify on the invitation in which building the meeting will take place, in addition to the meeting room number.

The Agenda was approved.

2. Formal approval of the minutes of the last VinylPlus Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012 were formally approved.

3. Date of next meeting November 2012

The next meeting is scheduled on the 29<sup>th</sup> November from 10h30 : 12h30 at the European Parliament.

The 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014 is proposed as tentative date (to be checked as just before Easter)

4. VinylPlus Progress Report 2013 – Final review and endorsement

Generally speaking, the participants of the Monitoring Committee expressed positive comments as follow:

- It was appreciated to receive the draft report two weeks in advance.
- VinylPlus once again produced a progress report with interesting content and an attractive layout. The overall amount of 362,076 tonnes of recycled PVC is impressive, and the partners of the Voluntary Commitment appear to be well on track to reach the target of 80,000 tonnes by 2020.
- VinylPlus does not shy away from mentioning problems – i. e. the foreword of the VinylPlus chairman mentioning that a few companies withdraw their participation in the Voluntary Commitment.

Specific comments:

- On page 4, Jorma Rusanen asked to amend his references as follow: “Senior Policy Officer, industriAll European Trade Union and to add in the footnote “www.industriall-europe.eu”.

- On Page 10 clarification is asked on how the cost related to the Reach authorisation has been calculated
- On Page 16 it is asked to add that “The evaluation of potential alternative renewable resources will carefully consider the increasing awareness of a potential competition for land use between food crops on the one hand, and crop-based energy or industrial raw material on the other. It will take into account the trend to source energy or raw materials from agricultural waste whenever possible”.
- On page 18: the Monitoring Committee is mentioned only very shortly. The Commission representatives asked to further describe the tasks of the Committee in order to underline the importance of independent monitoring.

#### 5. Recycling and legacy additives: The case of DEHP – Current Status

The authorisation requirement for DEHP could have severe consequences for flexible PVC post-consumer recycling if no recycler would apply for authorisation. The industry proposal that no application for authorisation should be required if ‘legacy additives’ are present below 20% weight is unlikely to be accepted.

To avoid the Authorisation requirement, the Commission recently presented mid-March at the CARACAL meeting, a proposal to maintain recyclate under the waste legislation until a new article is manufactured. The industry drew the attention of the Commission on the practical drawbacks this proposal might have and asked for some time to analyse it more in depth.

Maik Schmalh and Helmut Maurer acknowledged that the combination of REACH and waste legislation is complex and encourage VinylPlus to explore constructive approaches according to the laws as well as to illustrate arguments with information on the economic and environmental impacts. The two DG’s will meet again soon to address the issue.

#### 6. Recycling of PVC waste containing Lead: current status

The study initiated by VinylPlus on lead in recyclate will be completed in May, allowing VinylPlus to contribute to the consultation, launched in March 2013, on the proposal to prohibit lead in consumer articles which can be put in the mouth by children. Consultation ends 21<sup>st</sup> September, but interested parties are invited to comment by the 1<sup>st</sup> June for a first discussion at RAC and SEAC meetings.



VinylPlus is also undertaking a study similar to the VITO study on cadmium:

- Objective: Assess impact that potential legislation with restrictions on the use of lead in PVC might have on PVC recycling
  - Profiles, pipes and fittings, flooring, roofing, cables
  - Modelling of lead concentration in waste and of lead distribution between disposal options
  - Social, economic, human health & environmental impact over the entire lifecycle, in various regulatory scenarios
- Initiated in March 2012, contracted to Dutch environmental consultant TAUW
- Draft report will be reviewed on 7<sup>th</sup> May

#### 7. VinylPlus Sustainable energy use

PVC resin producers are committed to reducing their energy consumption, targeting 20% by 2020. A data collection methodology has been validated. The first verification of the energy consumption related to resin production will take place in 2014. The assessment of the converters' energy use was slightly delayed due to a change of ownership of the system.

#### 8. VinylPlus Sustainability Forum– April 2013

All members of the Monitoring Committee are cordially invited to join the event on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey.

Mr Gwenole Cozigou from DG ENT agreed to make a presentation on "Industry Competitiveness".

The meeting ended at 12h30