



## VinylPlus Monitoring Committee

20<sup>th</sup> November 2015– 10h30 : 12h30

European Parliament – Meeting room – A5F385

### Draft Minutes

#### Participants:

Prof Alfons Buekens	Chairman, VinylPlus
Mr Alain Cavallero	Secretary General, ESPA
Mr Eric Criel	Managing Director, Recovinyl
Mr Alexandre Dangis	Managing Director, EuPC
Ms Brigitte Dero	General Manager ECVM and VinylPlus
Mr Joachim Eckstein	Vice-President, VinylPlus
Mr Heinrich Reuss	European Parliament (part-time)
Mr Carlos Sanchez Reyes	President, Organizacion de Consumidores y Usuarios
Ms Noelle Tracey	ECVM

#### Apologies:

Mr Gwenole Cozigou	Director, DG Entreprise
Mr Rainer Grasmück	Global Head of PVC Additives, Baerlocher
Mr Sylvain Lefebvre	Deputy General Secretary, IndustriAll European Trade Union
Mr Eric Liégeois	Team Leader, European Commission, DG GROW
Mr Helmut Maurer	Waste Management Policy Officer, DGENV
	European Commission – DG ENV
Ms Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl	MEP, European Parliament

1. **Welcome and Agreement of the Agenda**

Professor Buekens welcomed the participants and thanked them for their continuous participation at the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee meetings. The agenda was approved.

Brigitte Dero informed the meeting that Mr Eric Liègois was unfortunately unable to attend today due to his very heavy workload with respect to the Circular Economy Package and asked to extend his apologies to the committee.

2. **Formal approval of the minutes of the last VinylPlus Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015 were formally approved.

3. **Dates of next meetings 2016**

The following dates were agreed

4<sup>th</sup> April 2016 : 10h30 : 12h30

8<sup>th</sup> December 2016 : 10h30 : 12h30

Venue for the 2016 meetings will be confirmed shortly.

4. **Reshaping of the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee**

Problems remain on how to reshape VinylPlus Monitoring Committee.

One of the main concerns revolve around the absence of members of the committee at meetings.

- Mrs Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl: although interested to be part of the committee, has unfortunately decided to step down.
- Mr Carlos Sanchez has decided to engage in a political career in Spain and has to withdraw his participation on the monitoring committee. All the participants of the committee warmly thanked him for his involvement and advice over the last 10 years and wished him every success for the future.
- Trade Union representative –Industrial - Had several meetings with them and progress has been made e.g. as part of the Voluntary Commitment - social dialogue charter. There is now agreement to engage and there is a draft plan to work together over the next five years. Industrial should re-join and become an active member the Monitoring Committee in 2016.



Some ideas on the table for improvement include;

- moving from a monitoring committee to an Advisory and Monitoring Committee;
- focus on circular economy, i.e. case study of industry - how the circular economy can be put into practice, e.g. - Recycling; contribute to developing pragmatic solutions allowing compliance and development of the recycling materials containing hazardous “legacy substances” whilst ensuring appropriate protection of Health and the environment.
- invite new independent driving forces to elevate debates and initiate innovative proposals and to help the Voluntary Commitment to progress;
- involve DG EMPL in order to reactive EU Commission participation and contact has been initiated;
- 25 MEPs, mostly from ENVI and ITRE committees were contacted over the last several months but none showed a clear interest at this stage.  
The chairman expressed the point that in his view it would be better to inform the MEPs more regularly on the progress of VinylPlus towards sustainability rather than trying to have them participate in the committee;
- BD suggested to prepare a draft document to redefine the purpose and charter of the committee (for discussion).

## 5. VinylPlus Programme Implementation / Current Priorities

### **Recovinyl Recycling Progress: Eric Criel**

Latest estimated volumes of 490kt is in line with the target for 2015. There are presently 145 active recyclers and 15 converters (15 certified recyclers/converters) in 18 countries and this is expected to increase with 5 new recyclers/converters in 2016, adding +/- 17kt. in volume.

Issues of concern - An increasing number of recyclers are complaining about decreased demand as well as the effect of REACH making the life of small recyclers very difficult. More and more recyclers refuse to accept post-consumer waste material containing DEHP. On flooring recycling, there is a continued high demand for alternative waste



material. All recyclers are concerned about CLP although no one is changing their production process and are reluctant to raise the issue.

CO2 module - We had to restart the development of the C2 model, as we changed partner. The new partner is Ecochain, based in Amsterdam, and we hope to have a working model soon (beginning 2016).

### **Stakeholder Engagement: Brigitte Dero**

The third stakeholder meeting was organised by VinylPlus in Copenhagen on 17 September 2015. The objective was to discuss the role of PVC in the circular economy with influential Danish stakeholders and main topic was controlled loop management of PVC waste, including the key issue of “legacy additives”. Attendees included 20 representatives of the Danish EPA, the City of Copenhagen, environmental NGOs, leading Scandinavian construction companies, academics and the waste sector and facilitated by TNS.

Several of the stakeholders expressed criticism about the PVC industry and VinylPlus. Some of their concerns included PVC incineration, presence of hazardous substances by recycling, continued use of phthalates and little action to prevent waste or re-use products. TNS managed to get a real debate going and to focus on what VinylPlus could/should be doing to progress towards sustainability. In conclusion, a very useful exercise and highlighted issues to be addressed in the VinylPlus review process. It is clear that more work is necessary on reducing the impacts of PVC incineration, but also on communications, as the knowledge of some stakeholders about PVC waste management (control loop, recycling applications) and additives was rather limited.

### **6. Recycling & Legacy Additives Update**

Joachim Eckstein expressed his concern on the impact of the motion on DEHP authorisation recently issued by the EU Parliament. He has calculated the potential waste and recycling quantities taking into account the average life-time for flexible applications is 15 years (attached ppt). There is no means to differentiate DEHP from other plasticisers. Hence if restrictions/bans on certain additives arise to recycle the materials containing them will stop. All these materials will probably be exported and in a way, will come back again on the EU market.



7. **Lead Stabilisers Replacement Update**

Substitution is progressing well and can be expected to be completed by the end of the year as per the Voluntary Commitment. For competition compliance reason, the sales statistics will be available only later on in 2016. ESPA have agreed to make an “Agreed Upon Procedure” in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2016, to certify that ESPA members who produce(d) lead-based stabilisers to confirm that they no longer place on the EU 28 market lead-based stabilisers since January 2016. These results will be included in the VinylPlus Progress Report 2016.

8. **VinylPlus Progress Report - 2016 - time-line**

The draft Progress Report will be circulated for comments two weeks before the next meeting of the Monitoring Committee, i.e. by the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 at the latest.

9. **VinylPlus Sustainability Forum– April 2016**

The VinylPlus Sustainability Forum will be held in Vienna, Austria on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016. The theme of the forum is **Vinyl for Smart Cities**. An exciting Forum in prospect with speeches, panel discussions, debates, by authorities, decision-makers, the industry, architects, designers to examine why cities are at the core of sustainable development in the modern world, as well as the key global trends driving future PVC applications and markets in these urban environments. Updates on the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030 and their relevance for cities will consider the challenges for PVC.

All members of the Monitoring Committee are cordially invited to join.

The meeting ended at 12h30