



VinylPlus Monitoring Committee

14th December 2016– 11h00 : 13h00

European Commission – DG Grow
Breydel Building, Meeting room number 23/14th Floor

Minutes

Participants:

Mr Werner Bosmans	Sustainable Production, Products & Consumption Policy Officer, European Commission, DG ENV
Prof Alfons Buekens	Chairman, VinylPlus
Mr Alain Cavallero	Secretary General, ESPA
Mr Alexandre Dangis	Managing Director, EuPC
Ms Brigitte Dero	General Manager ECVM and VinylPlus
Mr Armand De Wasch	Former Director General of Test Achats (consumer organisation)
Mr Joachim Eckstein	EuPC
Mr Eric Liégeois	Team Leader, European Commission, DG GROW
Ms Noelle Tracey	Events – Project Manager, ECVM / VinylPlus

Apologies:

Mr Eric Criel	Managing Director, Recovinyl
Mr Rainer Grasmück	Global Head of PVC Additives, Baerlocher
Mr Sylvain Lefebvre	Deputy General Secretary, IndustriAll European Trade Union
Mr Carlo Pettinelli	Director, European Commission - DG GROW

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. There were 2 newcomers, i.e. Werner Bosmans from European Commission, DG ENV and Armand De Wasch, former Director General of “Test Achats”, the largest European consumer association. All attendees introduced themselves. The agenda was approved.

2. **Formal approval of the minutes of the last VinylPlus Meeting on 4th April 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4th April, 2016 were formally approved with a minor correction.

3. **Dates and Venue of next meetings in 2017**

The following meeting dates were agreed upon
19th April, 2017

(Post meeting information: 19th April meeting changed to 11th April) at the European Parliament

12th December 2017

4. **VinylPlus Programme Implementation / Current Priorities**

Update on VinylPlus and current concerns - Brigitte Dero

Positive results over the last 15 years (2000 – 2015) of the VinylPlus voluntary commitment has led to a complete additive replacement, a reduction of energy consumption by 10.2%, with a 20% reduction target foreseen by 2020 and a strong commitment and cooperation to transparency with independent auditors monitoring our progress reports. We will continue to work to increase sustainability performance of PVC, following the 5 challenges, in close cooperation with the NGO “The Natural Step” (TNS) until 2020.

Controlled loop - VinylPlus confirms the target to recycle 800kt/year of PVC by 2020. In 2015, 514,913 tonnes were recycled with the support of over 170 recyclers and with certified traceability of recyclates including additives. Investment since 2000 from the industry is around €100 million. Each kg of PVC recycled is 2 kg of CO₂ saved resulting in around 1Mt/year and the creation of employment resulting in more than 1000 jobs in recycling plants. We will continue our targets to work towards the more efficient use and control of PVC throughout its life cycle.



Organochlorine emissions - industry helping to ensure that persistent organic compounds do not accumulate in nature and that other emissions are reduced. No transport accidents since the start of the programme. A risk assessment of VCM transportation was completed in 2015. Monitoring is continuing.

Sustainable use of energy and raw materials : No major changes - the resin industry is helping to minimise climate impacts through reducing energy and raw material use. Industry will continue efforts towards the reduction of energy consumption by 2020 and to have data collection methodology validated by IFEU. From the converter's perspective, with the complexity and variety of operations, data should be inputted step by step in 2017 – 2018.

Sustainability awareness

We will continue to build sustainability awareness across the value chain, including stakeholders inside and outside the industry and to accelerate resolving our sustainability challenges.

Social Charter:

The Social Charter is progressing well. The European Chemical Employers Group (ECEG), is a member of the Sector Social Dialogue Committee (SSDC) together with IndustriAll (trade union). A cooperation agreement endorsed by SSDC is expected in February 2017. VinylPlus will sign on behalf of ECVM, ECPI and ESPA. EuPC will be invited to sign in a second step.

Stakeholder dialogue will be maintained and VinylPlus will continue their efforts to exchange and meet with external stakeholders, NGOs and share open dialogue and best practices. Some milestones :

- Vinyl 2010 registered as a partnership for sustainable development with the secretariat of the UN Commission on Sustainable development in Johannesburg in 2002.
- Vinyl2010/VinylPlus participation in RIO + 2012. VinylPlus Voluntary Commitment is included in the RIO-20 Registry of Commitments
- Ambassador Christensen, United Nations office for Partnerships and European Commission, DG Industry participated in 1st Vinyl Sustainability Forum in 2013 +



VinylPlus participated at the 3rd UNIDO Green Industry Conference and enters in the Green Industry Platform (GIP)

- European Commission - DG Growth, UNEP and UNIDO participate at the Vinyl Sustainability Forum in Cannes in 2015
- Contribution of VinylPlus to governments and institutions on SDGs implementation plus cities.
- Mid-term critical review of targets undertaken in 2015.

Recycling Progress - Alexandre Dangis

The volumes estimated for 2016 are 540kt. On rigid applications, there is continued low demand in the pipe sector for recyclate with some recyclers refusing post-consumer PVC. On flexible application, production of road cones is increasing mainly due to road works. The effects of REACH are still a major concern for the smaller recyclers as well as more and more recyclers refuse to accept post-consumer waste material containing DEHP. The cable recyclers tend to separate cables with and without DEHP which give more demand for cables from industrial sources. On flooring recycling, there is continued high demand for alternative waste material.

There are presently 153 active recyclers /converters. 3rd quarter in South of Europe (France, Italy and Spain) was quite disappointing. All recyclers continue to be concerned about CLP although no one is changing their production process and are reluctant to raise the issue.

Joachim Eckstein presented a strategy towards new recycling of PVC Films. It will involve German converters in PVC films of rigid, flexible and coated fabrics sectors. This initiative will employ recycling experts and will work on communication strategies to improve image, report on the recycling results, achievements and stories on new products and applications made from recyclates.

5. Lead Stabilisers Replacement Update - Alain Cavallero

Completion of the replacement of lead-based stabilisers was achieved in 2015.

Since January 2016, the aggregated ESPA sales statistics show no sales in the EU 28 for stabilisation of PVC articles. An external auditor (KPMG) conducted an “Agreed Upon Procedure” (AUP) at ESPA member’s premises involved with lead stabilisers. The AUP consisted of presenting the accounting books, listings of relevant sales records and checking randomly selected invoices by the auditor. Conclusion was “no findings” of lead stabilisers sold to EU converters. In addition, during the Public Consultation organised by

ECHA in February, 2016, only very marginal requests for continued use of lead stabilisers were made, confirming that the market has switched to alternatives.

6. **VinylPlus Progress Report 2017 - Time Schedule**

The draft Progress Report will be circulated for comments 10 days before the next meeting of the Monitoring Committee, i.e. by the 31st March 2017 at the latest.

7. **VinylPlus Sustainability Forum – 11th May 2017 - Berlin**

The VinylPlus Sustainability Forum will take place in Berlin, Germany on the 10th & 11th May, 2017. The theme chosen is “Towards Circular Economy”. The 2017 Forum will focus on sustainability and delivering durable solutions for PVC within the high-profile context of the European Commission’s Circular Economy Package. It will feature sessions with EU authorities on Circular Economy policies, both regionally and Europe-wide, case studies, success stories and panel talks. This comprehensive programme will also include discussions on eco-design and innovation concepts, including a look at better lifestyles with smart PVC products.

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

8. **AOB**

Eco-label on furniture - AD expressed concern on the decision made by the European Commission to discriminate PVC. This is having already a market impact on business. Criteria had changed at the last minute and industry didn’t understand the process. (Cfr – letter attached & commission reply).

Action: Werner Bosmans agreed to verify internally

The meeting ended at 12h30