

VinylPlus Monitoring Committee

10th December 2019 – 10h30 : 12h30

European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60, B-1000 Bruxelles,
Meeting Room ASP 5G375

Draft Minutes

Participants:

Mr Paulo Da Silva Lemos	European Commission – DG ENV
Ms Brigitte Dero	General Manager ECVI and VinylPlus
Mr Armand De Wasch	Euro consumers
Mr. Jo Dewulf	University of Ghent
Mr Ondrej Knotek	MEP
Ms Nathalie Lukyova	Assistant to Mr Knotek, MEP
Mr Martin Policar	Advocacy & Regulatory Affairs Manager, EuPC
Mr Paolo Sandri	European Commission – DG GROW
Mr Geoffroy Tillieux	Director, Technical Department, EuPC
Ms Noelle Tracey	Project Manager, VinylPlus
Ms Ingrid Verschuere	General Manager, Recovynil

Apologies:

Ms. Laure Baillargeon	Policy Officer, European Commission, DG GROW
Mr Alexandre Dangis	Managing Director, EuPC
Mr Sylvain Lefebvre	Deputy General Secretary, IndustriAll European Trade Union
Mr Nuno Mello	MEP, European Parliament
Mr Ettore Nanni	President, ESPA
Ms Ana Miguel Pedro Soares	Parliamentary Advisor to MEP Nuno Melo, European Parliament

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

Professor Jo Dewulf welcomed all the participants. The agenda was approved without comment.

2. **Formal approval of the minutes of VinylPlus Monitoring Committee of 9th April, 2019**

Arnaud De Wasch from the Euro consumers group reminded the action from the last meeting in which surveillance of imported material from outside the EU should be enhanced. He would like to have feedback from Alexandre Dangis, Managing Director, EuPC, to take up this action. This action will therefore be further followed up.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9th April, 2019 were formally approved without comment.

3. **Dates and Venue of Next Meetings in 2020**

The dates of the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee meeting in 2020 were confirmed at the European Parliament as follows:

7th April, 2020 from 10h30 : 12h30 followed by lunch

1st December, 2020 from 10h30 : 12h30 followed by lunch

4. **VinylPlus Programme Implementation - Recycling - Ingrid Verscheuren (Annex)**

Ingrid Verschuereen presented an overview of the recycling volumes YTD 2019 (Annex). The 2019 targets set for 2019 is 765kt and is very likely to be reached. She also gave an overview of the main market trends throughout the EU. Indeed, European countries have already reached or exceeded their target. Continued increase is expected in the UK due to engagement with the Fenestration self-assessment scheme FENSA. France is on track to reach its target and reported a strong growth in renovation activity and an increase in sales of old homes (+ 7% over a year) plus the fact that the start of work on the forthcoming 2024 Olympic Games in Paris could increase the demand for recycled material. Italy is also doing well. 13 recyclers joined the Recovinyl network in 2019, which will add an additional 7kt of recycling.

Mr Martin Policar explained the material flow within the Recovinyl programme in terms of the main input applications and end applications using recycled PVC. Also, he provided an update on the latest traceability survey conducted in 2019 on the volumes of 2018 to map into which applications recycled PVC is used.

Mr. Knotek raised a question as to how many cycles can a PVC product make in terms of use of the recycle. Geoffroy Tillieux informed that rigid applications are re-usable up to 7 times, which means that for profiles with a life-time of 50-100 years the material can be useful for several hundred years.

5. **Social Charter - Brigitte Dero (Annex)**

Brigitte Dero reported on the Social Charter, which was signed in 2017 with the employers' group ECEG and trade union organisation IndustryAll. The focus is on health and safety of workers in the PVC converting and recycling industry, as well as digitalisation. The goal is to increase the stakeholder dialogue, especially with social partners to better assess the needs of the sector.

Brigitte informed the Committee that in 2019 VinylPlus organizes plant visits aiming at improving the implementation of the health and safety at work legislation, among others by enhancing communications directed at workers. On 13 December 2019, a plant visit will take place at the Deceuninck recycling facility with trade union representatives and MEPs. The visit of the recycling plant will allow the participants to have a deeper knowledge of best practice in the PVC industry, with a focus on the preparation and use of recycled material.

In parallel, VinylPlus supported the study to assess the level and impact of digitalisation in the chemical and plastics industry.

6. **VinylPlus New Programme 2020 – 2030 - Consultation Process – Brigitte Dero**

Brigitte Dero reported that VinylPlus has launched the consultation process with stakeholders on the objectives of the new VinylPlus Programme for the years between 2020 – 2030. Four internal workshops have been organised and will be held in different locations between January and February 2020. An external consultation is in preparation to a larger audience, which could include MEPs, authorities, NGO's – a possible date for a workshop could be March 2020. It is hoped to have clear targets defined by the summer of 2020.

The new VinylPlus Programme will be officially launched in May 2021 in Bruxelles with the support of the city of Bruxelles, European Parliament and the European Commission.

Brigitte noted that she is also active in consultations of vinyl-related topics with several NGOs. On this note, Mr Da Silva Lemos (DG ENVI) commented that NGOs often criticize voluntary commitments, except VinylPlus which is perceived as a good example.

Jo Dewulf presented the reflection of the programme by Ghent University and provided some recommendations. He presented ideas of developing a framework for

comprehensive measuring of progress of the VinylPlus programme. More details in Annex.

It was agreed that at the next meeting there should be a presentation of the Dynamic Waste Model for PVC being under development of VinylPlus

7. **Additives Update – Geoffroy Tillieux (Annex)**

Geoffroy Tillieux provided an overview of the legacy additives issue. He also explained that multiply studies and measurements in factories had been made since the last 2-3 years on the dossier of Pb restriction. At this stage the Pb restriction proposal arrived at the European Parliament for scrutiny.

Mr. Knotek expressed his interest in the file and will check the documents distributed within the Renew fraction on this topic as the Pb restriction will be scrutinized by the Parliament in the upcoming weeks or months.

VinylPlus offered support in providing any additional information on the dossier.

8. **The EU Strategy – Information on the Circular Plastics Alliance - All**

Paolo Sandri Sandri (DG GROW) explained the feedback received so far in the context of the call for pledges. The European Commission in December 2018 launched “The Circular Plastics Alliance” (CPA) to help plastics value chains work together across Europe. The target is that 10 million tonnes of recycled plastics find their way into products in 2025, against less than 4 million tonnes in 2016.

The CPA agreed to work on 5 priority topics and working groups: collection and sorting of plastic waste, product design for recycling, recycled plastic content in products, R&D and investments, and monitoring of recycled plastics sold in the EU.

Mr. Sandri informed that the number of signatories is increasing which increases the probability of success of the CPA. However, there are still very few local and national authorities who support the CPA.

DG GROW will reach out to public authorities as much as possible to get support of the Declaration. On 20th September, the CPA Declaration was signed. Since then, all Working Groups (Packaging, Construction, EEE, Agriculture) have met. Now the organization of the next meetings is fully in the hands of the industry. DG GROW will be in the role of a supervisory institution and monitor the progress.

Deadline: By 1 March 2020:

1) mapping of investment needs in terms of recycled plastics ;

2) timeline for drafting of guidelines for design for recyclability should be reached.

DG GROW finds it critical that the working groups deliver on time as the credibility of the CPA relies on this. Mr. Sandri emphasized that VinylPlus will play an important role in the process.

DG ENVI and DG GROW emphasized that regulation is not off the table in the future, should the target not be met (10 million of recycled plastic in new products by 2025).

Brigitte Dero noted that VinylPlus has been motivated to reach the voluntary target of 900.000 t by 2025 of r-PVC into new products. She noted that as a newly elected chair of the CPA WG on Construction she believes that the industry can work constructively together on achieving the target.

P. Sandri noted that the targets are indeed tight but that they have been agreed by the CPA signatories by consensus.

9. **VinylPlus Prores Report 2020 – Time-line**

The draft VinylPlus Progress Report 2020 will be circulated for your comments 10 days before the next meeting of the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee, i.e. by the 26th March, 2020 at the latest.

10. **VinylPlus Sustainability Forum 2020 – Florence**

The theme of the next Vinyl Sustainability Forum in Florence (6-7 May, 2020) will be **#CIRCULARVINYL**. All members of the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee are very welcome to attend the event. Further information will follow shortly.

The meeting ended at 12h30