

VinylPlus Monitoring Committee

26th April 2018– 12h30 : 17h00

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

Minutes

Participants:

Prof Alfons Buekens	Chairman, VinylPlus
Mr Alexandre Dangis	Managing Director, EuPC
Mr Timoteo de la Fuente Garcia	European Commission – DG Grow
Ms Brigitte Dero	General Manager ECVM and VinylPlus
Mr Armand De Wasch	Euro consumers
Ms Martina Dlabajova	MEP, European Parliament
Ms Lucie Horackova	Trainee to MEP Dlabajova, European Parliament
Mr Ettore Nanni	President, ESPA
Mr Martin Policar	Advocacy & Regulatory Affairs Manager, EuPC
Ms Noelle Tracey	Project Manager, VinylPlus
Mr Paul Valka	Trainee to MEP Dlabajova, European Parliament

Apologies:

Mr Werner Bosmans	Sustainable Production, Products & Consumption Policy Officer, European Commission, DG ENV
Mr Alain Cavallero	Secretary General, ESPA
Mr Sylvain Lefebvre	Deputy General Secretary, IndustriAll European Trade Union
Mr Nuno Mello	MEP, European Parliament
Ms Ana Miguel Pedro Soares	Parliamentary Advisor to MEP Nuno Melo, European Parliament

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

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

2. **Formal approval of the minutes of the last VinylPlus Meeting on 5TH December, 2017 (Appendix 1)**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5th December, 2017 were formally approved with a small comment from Alexandre Dangis on point 4 of the minutes. He will revert back shortly on an action assigned to him on the “calculation of recycled content of products to be developed”.

3. **VinylPlus Progress Report 2018 – Final Review and endorsement**

The VinylPlus Progress Report 2018 was formally approved by the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee with a small clarification on page 7 of the report. See below full change which has been incorporated into the final report taking into account the comments of Timoteo de la Fuente on the amount of actual PVC recycled.

Chapter RECYCLING ACHIEVEMENT - Thanks to a moderate but continuous increase in volumes in nearly all European countries, PVC waste recycling within the VinylPlus framework reached 639,648 tonnes in 2017. According to a study carried out by the German consulting company Conversio (www.conversio-gmbh.com) on behalf of VinylPlus, 2.5 million tonnes of PVC waste were available in Europe in 2016. The above mentioned recycled amount does represent about 25% of this available waste.

Martina Dlabajova invites VinylPlus to communicate more widely such types of achievements in safe recycling PVC wastes. The best would be to present these progress (recycled volumes, % versus available wastes, calculation method, safety data, etc..) to the EP Environmental committee. Invitation via the “Bureau of the committee secretariat” could be organised when appropriate. To raise awareness could also be done through written question.

4. **Draft EP report Mark Demesmaeker on Plastics Strategy – (Appendix 2)**

In its communication on 16th January, 2018, the European Commission has set out plans to increase the recyclability of packaging in a “plastics strategy” highlighting the issue of traceability of hazardous substances in plastics wastes. The action plan also includes to stop littering at sea, drive investment and innovation and to spur changes across the world.

The recycling of plastics with legacy additives is in principle supported under certain conditions by the European Parliament, ENVI committee. The draft report on a European Strategy for plastics in a circular economy from 27th March 2018 by rapporteur Mark Demesmaeker, indicated that the presence of a substance of concern should not be a blanket justification for precluding the recycling of waste streams for specific, well-defined and safe applications, since this could stifle innovation and discourage recycling potential in favour of incineration.

Plastics Strategy timeline - Following the draft report published on the 27th March 2018, the debate in ENVI committee will be on the 16th May and deadline for amendments is the 22nd May. The vote in the ENVI committee will be on the 9th July and the vote in Plenary is scheduled on the 10th September, 2018.

Martine Dlabajova urged industry not to wait until deadlines for amendment, but to act immediately to ensure support on the safe recycling of plastics containing legacy additives.

5. VinylPlus Programme Implementation/ Current Priorities

Towards 2030 Pledges /Commitment Achievements – Brigitte Dero - ([Appendix 3](#))

The VinylPlus commitment to recycle a total of 800,000 tonnes of recycled products will be reviewed in 2018. With the almost 640000 tones recycled in 2017, the industry is confident that the targets that are in place today will be achieved.

New recycling targets will be defined for the next 10 years (2020/2030). To make new targets achievable would require a supportive policy and regulatory environment particularly regarding the interface between waste, chemical and product policies.

Issues such as EU ban on landfilling recyclable waste, appropriate legislative framework to enable recycling of materials containing legacy additives (if not risky and safe.) would need to be worked out.

Pledges and commitment towards 2030 with a substantial investment of the same order of magnitude as currently in place, will be provided by the European PVC industry. Also with an active global engagement which is being pursued to encourage similar voluntary sustainable development initiatives elsewhere in the world with the example of India, where VinylPlus will provide advice and strong support to put in place a similar voluntary programme to VinylPlus.

Social Charter

The new cooperation agreement of the social partners of the European chemical sectorial dialogue committee (ECEG and IndustriAll for Trade Unions) under the umbrella of the EU Commission Decision 98/500/EC and the European PVC industry (VinylPlus) was signed in February 2017. Coverage of the agreement, includes, health and safety, education, knowledge transfer and sector evolutions CCMI (Consultative Commission on Industrial Changes) who are conducting a study on converting/recycling sector.

VinylPlus has been busy working with ECEG and IndustriAll to define the detailed programme on the way forward from 2018 – 2020.

On the implementation process and deadlines for each of the 4 topics listed in the cooperation agreement, it was decided to identify 1 or 2 priorities to be developed and implemented over the period 2018 -2020. In each case, the current situation/status would need to be investigated as well as the evaluation of the potential added value and the contribution of our partnership to a potential improvement in terms of efficiency, effectiveness and costs. Partners to be involved are the European Commission, ECEG (European Chemical Employers Group), IndustriAll (European Trade union) and VinylPlus.

Some defined ideas on Health and Safety

1. Current proposal amending Dir. 2004/37/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work:

The potential added value and the potential impact on the PVC industry compared to what is already existing, what are the consequences and the contribution of our partnership in particular for SMEs.

Recycling: Organisation of a comprehensive workshop gathering all partners, to analyse all available information with a focus on converters and recyclers, identification of knowledge gaps and subsequent studies. The outcome of the workshop will be reflected on a concrete action plan to work on the development of practical tools and initiatives to further improve HSE of converters and recyclers with the focus on the preparation and use of recycled material.

2. Sector Evolution:

The sector is submitted to a significant evolution (digitalisation, automation,..) which can have an impact on health and safety of the worker, the issue of isolation is one of the aspects. VinylPlus will contribute to the ECEG digitalisation project on industrial changes and their consequences in the converting sector and/or the recycling sector, which could deal with sectoral policy developments, evolution of R&D, innovation and the requested competencies.

Recycling Achievements – Alexandre Dangis (Appendix 4)

The Recovinyl recycling target of 591 kt forecasted for 2017 was largely exceeded, arriving at more than 633kt. The profiles represented the highest share of recycled PVC at 48% followed by cables at 20%, flexibles and films at 18% and pipes at 13%.

A short update on country highlights included:

France: There is a 31% increase compared to last year. Continuous demand for especially rigid PVC recyclate on converters side and in particular among pipe manufacturers.

Germany: Expected that in 2018 demand for PVC recyclate will exceed supply Profiles decreasing supply of mainly PVC windows and profiles due to low activity in building renovations.

United Kingdom: In 2017, there was an overall 6% increase in volumes compared to 2016. Also investment into new PVC recycling facilities.

Italy: High demand for mainly rigid PVC input material leaving some recyclers increasing looking outside the EU for it. Low availability of windows and profiles which is similar to other countries.

An update of the traceability study is planned in 2018 to map into which applications recycled PVC is used.

6. **Lead Stabilisers Replacement Update - Ettore Nanni** (Appendix 5)

Ettore Nanni gave a brief introduction of the European Stabilisers Producers Association (ESPA) which represent about 95% of the PVC stabilisers producers in Europe. He gave a quick snapshot of PVC stabilisers formulations and confirmed that lead had been entirely replaced in Europe 28 at the end of 2015. This result was successfully endorsed by an audit run in September 2016 by KPMG.

VinylPlus has developed a new tool for sustainable product development, "Additives Sustainability Footprint (ASF). It is a voluntary approach to assess the sustainability of the use of PVC additives in various types of articles. It was initiated by the VinylPlus Additives Committee using scientific input, such as REACH, LCAs, etc... integrated by the sustainability principles developed by the Natural Step (TNS). A peer review is ongoing.

It takes a wider perspective giving a clear picture of where to aim and what to do to improve additive sustainability performance goals by using additives that are produced using materials that are responsibly sourced. In addition, additives support the sustainable development of PVC products that are safe and recyclable. The functional benefits of additives enable PVC products to meet the UN Sustainable Goals.

7. **New chair of VinylPlus Monitoring Committee**

Firstly, Brigitte sincerely thanked Professor Buekens for his support and his considerable expertise in helping guide VinylPlus progress through its long eventful journey. In appreciation of his dedication, Professor Buekens was invited to accept the post of an honorary life-time member of the committee.

Discussion on the profile for a chairman of the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee that would be required ensued. Everyone agreed that it is important to keep the link to academia and a link to universities.

Action: all VinylPlus Monitoring Committee members to check for a candidate with an academic background.

8. **VinylPlus Sustainability Forum – 16th - 17th May 2018 – Madrid**

Brigitte thanked Armand De Wasch for his help in organising a meeting with OCU Ediciones, the Spanish Consumers Association and VinylPlus. The OCU agreed to participate in a panel discussion in session 3 on “Circular Solutions with PVC Products” at the VinylPlus Sustainability Forum 2018 (VSF) in Madrid. VinylPlus is keen to engage and work more closely with a consumer group.

Brigitte extended an invitation to all members of the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee to attend the VinylPlus Sustainability Forum, the theme chosen “**Meeting societal needs**”.

The meeting ended at 17h00