

VinylPlus Monitoring Committee Web Meeting

19th May 2020 – 10h30 : 12h30

Draft Minutes

Participants:

Mr. Werner Bosmans	European Commission – DG ENV
Ms Brigitte Dero	Managing Director, VinylPlus
Mr Armand De Wasch	Euro consumers
Mr. Jo Dewulf	University of Ghent
Ms Nathalie Lukyova	Assistant to Mr Knotek, MEP
Mr Ettore Nanni	President, ESPA
Mr Paolo Sandri	European Commission – DG GROW
Mr Geoffroy Tillieux	Director, Technical Department, EuPC
Ms Noelle Tracey	Project Manager, VinylPlus
Ms Ingrid Verschueren	General Manager, Recovinyl

Apologies:

Ms. Laure Baillargeon	Policy Officer, European Commission, DG GROW
Mr Alexandre Dangis	Managing Director, EuPC
Mr Paulo Da Silva Lemos	European Commission – DG ENV
Mr Ondrej Knotek	MEP
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
Mr Martin Policar	Advocacy & Regulatory Affairs Manager, EuPC

1. **Welcome**

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

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved by all participants.

3. **Formal approval of the minutes of VinylPlus Monitoring Committee of the 10th December, 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10th December, 2019 were formally approved with the comment of the pending action from Arnaud De Wasch from the Euro consumers group from previous meeting. *“Surveillance of imported material from outside the EU should be enhanced and feedback requested from Alexandre Dangis, Managing Director, EuPC, to take up this action.* This action will therefore be further followed up (Action: G. Tillieux)

4. **Date and Venue of Next Meeting in 2020**

The dates of the next VinylPlus Monitoring Committee meeting was re-confirmed on the 1st December, 2020 from 10h30 : 12h30. Venue and format to be confirmed later depending on COVID19 and government restrictions.

5. **VinylPlus Progress Report**

The VinylPlus Progress Report 2020 was formally approved by the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee with some comments:

- Werner Bosmans from DG ENV mentioned that on page 13 of the report in the section related to the “Circular Plastics Alliance (CPA), that the commitment made by VinylPlus to recycle 900KT/year in 2025 should be clearly mentioned (note: this target is in the “forward” but indeed more clear to mention it in the dedicated section)
- Armand De Wash invited VinylPlus to communicate more widely on such types of achievements in safe recycling PVC wastes. He offered to help with the dissemination of the progress report towards a broader community and the importance to increase VinylPlus communications to make more people aware (consumers) of the achievements. Euroconsumers offered help with their media network and asked for additional communications materials in that respect.
- For the next Progress Report: requests made by Academic Chair and DG ENV. to add the % of recycled volumes versus available waste; visuals explaining the progress made on design for recycling.

6. **VinylPlus Programme Implementation - Recycling Achievements (Annex)**

All acknowledged the higher percentage of audited recycled volumes which reached 90% in 2019 and the refined traceability survey on the uses of recyclates in new products.

- Impacts of COVID-19 on the PVC recycling sector cannot yet be fully observed. In 2020 Recycling operations were nearly normal across Europe until mid-March, but then the situation deteriorated rapidly due to lack of demand, lack of supply, reduced workforce availability, and government decisions
- Recovinyl (competition law compliance, confidentiality, auditing, data representativeness, data ownership) is used as a model in the CPA to develop the first draft of the future EU Monitoring system to measure the use of recycled plastics in new products

7. **Restriction on lead in recycled PVC – Update/concerns (Annex)**

- Confirmation from DGENV and DG GROW that the issue is highly political and currently addressed at Cabinet level (Commissioners Breton and Sinkevicius).
- DG ENV. said the issue is mostly about perception and the perception / acceptance of PVC is bad.
- DG ENV. urged VinylPlus to increase its communication towards MEPS from all political party and to develop more friendly (not technical) communication tools to improve current acceptance

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

- As chair of the Construction WG in the CPA, Brigitte Dero shared the concerns of all plastics used in construction applications regarding potential mandatory recycled content.
- DG ENV. replied that the CPA is a priority but aside they are also ‘exploring ways’ to increase recycled content (e.g. via legislation) knowing that this could take a very long time.

9. **Closure:**

The meeting end at 12.30h