

Minutes of the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee Meeting 20th April 2021

Web meeting

Final Minutes

Participants:

Ms Brigitte Dero
Mr Armand De Wasch
Mr. Jo Dewulf
Mr. Zdenek Hruska
Mr Ondrej Knotek
Ms Nathalie Lukyova
Mr Ettore Nanni
Mr Paolo Sandri
Mr Geoffroy Tillieux
Ms Noelle Tracey
Ms Ingrid Verschueren

Managing Director, VinylPlus
Euro consumers
University of Ghent
VinylPlus
MEP
Assistant to Mr Knotek, MEP
President, ESPA
European Commission – DG GROW
Director, Technical Department, EuPC
Project Manager, VinylPlus
General Manager, Recovinyl

Apologies:

Ms. Laure Baillargeon
Mr. Werner Bosmans
Mr Paulo Da Silva Lemos
Mr Sylvain Lefebvre

Mr Nuno Mello
Ms Ana Miguel Pedro Soares

Policy Officer, European Commission, DG GROW
European Commission – DG ENV
European Commission – DG ENV
Deputy General Secretary, IndustriAll
European Trade Union
MEP, European Parliament
Parliamentary Advisor to MEP Nuno Melo, European
Parliament

1. **Welcome**

Jo De Wulf welcomed all the participants

2. **Agenda**

The agenda was approved by all participants

3. **Formal approval of the minutes of VinylPlus Monitoring Committee – 01/12/2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 1st December, 2020 was formally approved. The pending action from Armand De Wasch from the Euro consumers group from previous meetings. *“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.* The idea would be to organise tests of plastics potentially containing SVHCs.

Geoffroy Tillieux confirmed that this action cannot be performed at the moment for all plastics. No eligible target applications have been identified.

Brigitte Dero mentioned that VinylPlus has on its side continued to investigate how to concretely address the issue of SVHCs in imported products . One way forward identified is the recent partnership between Danish EPA and VinylPlus (reported under item 9).

Armand, as well the other participants , welcome this new VinylPlus initiative and look forward for further information.

4. **Date and Venue of Next Meeting in 2021**

It was agreed to move the scheduled 16th November, 2021 meeting to the 2nd December 2021 from 14h00 : 15h30. Venue and format to be confirmed later depending on COVID19 and government restrictions.

5. **VinylPlus Progress Report 2021 – Final review and endorsement**

The VinylPlus Progress Report 2021 was formally approved by the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee. Additional questions were sent by Werner Bosmans by email and shared during the meeting:

- I note the existing commitment: “1 MILLION TONNES of PVC recycled per year by 2030”
Did you think already how you will deal with the objective of the plastics strategy: “By 2030, more than half of plastics waste generated in Europe is recycled.”?
- I appreciate that you have added the % recycling for 2020: 27,5%. Could you explain the methodology? Mainly, at which point in the recycling process this is measured? Is it conform the new methodology of the waste framework directive?
- In relation to the CPA: “730,000 tonnes of PVC recycled in 2020”: how much is used as recycled content today, and how much will it be in 2025? What is the % contribution of vinyl+ in comparison with its market share? Why is it higher/lower that its market share?

- I appreciate that you have added the % recycling for 2020: 27,5%. Could you explain the methodology? Mainly, at which point in the recycling process this is measured? Is it conform the new methodology of the waste framework directive?

Action: VinylPlus will attach the answers to the minutes (see annex).

6. **VinylPlus 2030 Programme - Key Action Areas Annex**

Zdenek Hruska gave a short overview on the VinylPlus 2030 programme and the process of how the programme was built. There were 4 internal industry workshops in January & February, 2020 (Milan, Frankfurt, London, Brussels). Accenture, a global consultant firm ran the external stakeholders' consultations process in spring 2020. The NGO - The Natural Step (TNS) who have been cooperating with VinylPlus for many years evaluated the achieved results and provided recommendations for the new programme. The study performed by the The Sustainable Systems Engineering Group at Ghent University evaluated different material flows scenarios in the PVC industry on the basis of selected key sustainability parameters. And finally, there were also two interactive sessions during the virtual VinylPlus Sustainability Forum in October, 2020, which focused on long-term sustainability and stakeholder engagement. Three pathways were established with 4 key focus areas per pathway based on the results of these activities and consultations:

Pathway 1, Scaling up the PVC value chain circularity; Pathway 2, Advancing towards carbon neutrality & minimising our environmental footprint; and Pathway 3, Partnering for the SDGs & Building Global Coalitions. (see the comprehensive presentation for more information).

7. **VinylPlus Programme Implementation in 2021 (Annex) – Ingrid Verschueren**

The final results for 2020 is 728 kt, a 9% decrease compared to the target of 800 kt commitment due to covid 19. The amount of PVC waste recycled represents about 27.5% of the estimated PVC waste arisings (available waste) in 2020 in the EU-27 plus Norway, Switzerland and the UK. A detailed presentation (annex) describes the regional results, the audited tonnage, the pre-consumer & post consumer splits as well as the application splits.

The outlook in 2021 will confirm the expected amount of 800kt. With the new Basel Convention requirements applicable to waste shipments between the EU to the UK, changes are being felt by the recyclers. Currently, none have been able to successfully import or export material.

The new RecoTrace data collection system of Recovinyl was recently launched. It will be used for reporting recycling and recyclate uptake by converters for both VinylPlus and the Circular Plastic Alliance. It is the first system complying fully with CPA's requirements and will demonstrate the ability to continue providing reliable data.

Another new system called PolyREC has been created in March, 2021, to monitor, verify and report their plastics recycling and uptake data in Europe. This will be achieved by using a common data collection system – RecoTrace. PolyREC will ensure traceability, transparency and trust in recycled material along the entire value chain. Partners include VinylPlus, PlasticsEurope, Plastics Recyclers and Petcore, with PCEP joining shortly.

8. Restriction on Lead in Recycled PVC (Annex)

Geoffroy Tillieux gave a brief overview on the status of lead in PVC restriction. While awaiting the proposal from the commission, the legacy additives issues will stay in focus of the upcoming VinylPlus 2030 programme. VinylPlus and EPPA reshared position and clarified consequences of different policy options linked to the potential scope of derogation. More information was provided on likely Pb content in imported articles as well as the impact on past and future investment in recycling capacity and recycling potential. See presentation in annex.

MEP Ondrej Knotek expressed his concerns on this pending issue as uncertainty is detrimental to investment.

9. Danish EPA and VinylPlus new partnership (Annex) – Brigitte Dero

Denmark has been one of the frontrunners for driving implementation of policies against some unwanted chemicals in PVC. As part of the Danish Chemical Programme 2018-2021 agreed by the Danish Parliament, a partnership between the Danish EPA, VinylPlus and PVC Information Council DK was established to inspire initiatives outside the EU. The official launch is the 21st April, 2021 and will be on the EPA website.

The objective is to investigate if substitution of unwanted additives in PVC can be achieved globally and enhanced by a collaboration between a progressive European EPA and a progressive European PVC industry. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the partners.

More specifically the partnership seeks to spread the high level of European consumer protection related to PVC additives at a global level. Initially the partnership will focus on the use of lead and the 4 classified phthalates.

As China is the largest global player in PVC production, the initial focus area is the Chinese PVC industry. The first step is a report prepared by a consultancy based in Shanghai. The report deals with the Chinese market and regulation and looks at specific barriers to substitution of unwanted additives in PVC.

The core of the partnership is to develop communication activities with a global impact to raise awareness and promote substitution and aligns with VinylPlus' Commitment to global sustainability awareness.

10. The VinylPlus Sustainability Forum – 17th June (Annex) Noelle Tracey

The VSF2021 will be held in Bruxelles on the 17th June from 09h30 :13h30. This year's theme is "launch of the VinylPlus 2030 Commitment # TOWARDS 2030". A hybrid format and the programme is split into 4 sessions:

Session 1: will celebrating the 10 years of achievements of VinylPlus

Session 2: will present the VinylPlus 2030 Commitment

Session 3: will have the VinylPlus Product Label Awards Ceremony

Session4: official launch of the VinylPlus 2030 Commitment & Signatory Ceremony

Some of the confirmed speakers include, Werner Bosmans, from DG ENV, Carlos Alvarez, from the Club of Rome & UNESCO chair on Global understanding for sustainability, Stephan Sicars from UNIDO, Managing Director of the Directorate of Environment & Energy and Jason Leadbitter from Inovyn who is responsible for Sustainability & Corporate Social Responsibility.

The VinylPlus Monitoring Committee was invited to join.

11. Wrap-Up

Jo noted the following points

- Reply to Werner Bosmans email on comments Progress Report GT /BD
- New VinylPlus 2030 programme – 3 pathways with concrete targets
- Recycling tonnage affected by Covid with target hard to predict. Welcome initiative of RecoTrace and PolyREC
- DK EPA / VinylPlus partnership - interesting development and very challenging
- Lead restrictions – awaiting proposal from the Commission
- VSF2021 hybrid event – 17th June, 2021

The meeting ended at 16h