



VinylPlus Monitoring Committee

17th April 2015– 10h30 : 12h30

European Parliament – Meeting room – A5F385

Draft Minutes

Participants:

Prof Alfons Buekens	Chairman, VinylPlus
Mr Alain Cavallero	ESPA
Mr Alexandre Dangis	Managing Director, EuPC
Ms Brigitte Dero	General Manager ECVM and VinylPlus
Mr Eric Liégeois	European Commission, DG Enterprise & Industry
Mr Heinrich Reuss	European Parliament (part-time)
Mr Carlos Sanchez Reyes	Organizacion de Consumidores y Usuarios
Ms Noelle Tracey	ECVM

Apologies:

Mr Filipe Constant	CEO, Solvin
Mr Gwenole Cozigou	Director, DG Enterprise
Mr Joachim Eckstein	Vice-President, VinylPlus
Mr Rainer Grasmück	Global Head of PVC Additives, Baerlocher
Mr Sylvain Lefebvre	industriAll European Trade Union
Mr Helmut Maurer	European Commission – DG ENV
Ms Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl	MEP, European Parliament

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.

The Agenda was approved.

2. **Formal approval of the minutes of the last VinylPlus Meeting on 21st November 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 21st November 2014 were formally approved .

3. **VinylPlus Progress Report 2015**

The VinylPlus Progress Report 2015 was formally approved by the Committee with a couple of minor comments.

The Committee unanimously reiterated the importance of the annual VinylPlus Progress report and the excellent cooperation between all the stakeholders.

A general discussion ensued. Alfons Buekens mentioned that it was important to have a stronger stance on the open burning issue of plastics in general. Industrial emissions from plastic manufacturing and incinerators are monitored and reported. There is an article on open burning of PVC – BD will circulate it.

Action: AD to send information on the European Commission Workshop on Landfill fire.

Action: BD: circulate article on open burning of PVC.

4. **VinylPlus Programme Implementation / Current Issues regarding Recycling & Legacy**

Additives

DEHP - Current Status:

Not much change on authorisation since the last meeting in November 2014.

Eric mentioned that the Commission is proceeding with its proposal to grant authorisation and believes it will go forward in the next few weeks - the delay is only because there is a new Commission and not because of opposition.

Once the green light is given, it goes forward under the Reach regulation and then will be adopted. DEHP authorisation will be a blueprint for the future

The situation of additives present at concentrations below 20 % is not clear cut. If such additives would qualify as impurities, they would not require authorisation.

Classification of waste: With the new annex III of the Waste Framework Directive, there is a risk of classifying post-consumer PVC waste as hazardous because of legacy additives. Unless there is a derogation for PVC waste, the overall commitment of

VinylPlus will be affected and cause huge problems for recycling PVC, with no benefit for human health of the environment. Also important to note that recycling of post-consumer PVC waste avoids legal or illegal export of waste and strengthens the circular economy. The Commission noted that industry is in a difficult situation but so are the regulators so there is a need to find solutions for “better regulations”.

5. **Lead Stabilisers Replacement Update**

Replacement of Lead in EU28 until the end of 2014 was 86% and in 2015 the substitution is progressing and is well on track to complete full substitution at the end of 2015. Suitable alternatives have been validated for years in all the market segments by ESPA who are in constant dialogue with the converters. They are providing assistance to reformulate the last applications still relying on lead-based stabilisers.

6. **Update of the reshaping of the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee**

It is clear that the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee needs more representatives from the different official bodies as well as different stakeholders within the EU to ensure transparency. Mrs Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl has confirmed that she will continue to be part of the committee. IndustriAll have agreed to discuss active participation at the meetings as well as to contribute to social dialogue. They have suggested to involve DG Employment / Social affairs. VinylPlus is also looking to convince an external sustainability expert to join.

The objective is to attract the interest of the stakeholders and to benefit from their input so that the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee could provide a significant contribution to VinylPlus programme development and develop and promote an image of excellence ensuring it is considered as a reference for voluntary approaches.

Since January 2015, VinylPlus has tried to meet as many MEPs as possible but it has proven very difficult due to their busy agendas, but this effort will be pursued

A short summary below of the MEPs we met:

With the help of Mr Lefebvre from IndustrialAll, we met [Edouard Martin](#), French MEP – Socialists party, member of ITRE, we explained the difficulties the PVC industry is experiencing regarding competitiveness, employment reduction and risks of limitation of recycling following amendments of the waste legislation resulting in legacy additives triggering hazardous waste classification. We agreed to send more information on the exposure of the workers in the recycling sector to demonstrate that they do not incur any risks to health.

Met the assistant of **Nadine Morano** (French MEP - member of ITRE), and had a good discussion on recycling and encouraged her to get involved in the recycling debate. Ms Morano is very motivated to revitalise the industry and about creating jobs in North East of France. **Action:** VinylPlus have agreed to get in touch later in the year.

Met **Renate Sommer**, German MEP, who is a member of the environment committee, ENVI. Although knowledgeable on PVC, she said she would not be able to join the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee as she is not an expert on waste management. She recommended to contact **Karl-Heinz Florenz** who is an expert on waste management.

MEP's Visit

BD explained when she meets MEPs, she emphasises the figures of turnover, companies and employees, e.g. Comparison between 2002 and 2012

	2002	2012
Turnover	€72 billion	€65 billion
Companies	21000	20000
Employment	530000	480000

7. **VinylPlus Sustainability Forum– April 2015**

BD explained the concept of the forum - how the industry is helping combat climate change, the measures taken to improve energy and resource efficiency” and how PVC products can contribute in reducing CO2 emissions. Keynote speeches include UNIDO who will outline the UN sustainability agenda for 2015, including the Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030) and the Paris Climate Summit (COP 21), as well as UNIDO’s approach to Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development. UNEP will outline the UN commitments and work on Sustainable Consumption and Production, highlighting the role of responsible business in 2015, in particular, on the buildings sector and on what might be expected of responsible business in the post-2015 period.

ADEME (Agence de l’Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l’Energie) will out-line plans for the Climate Summit in Paris in December (COP21);

The European Commission – DG Growth, will elaborate upon the approach to issues of innovation, waste and the circular economy, being taken by the new Commission, and implications for EU climate policy. BD invited everyone to attend this exciting forum.

Action: Noelle Tracey to send Vinyl Sustainability Forum ppts from the speakers to Eric to help the preparation of Mr Cozigou’s presentation at the VSF 2015.

Action: Eric Liégeois to send name of MEPs working on the circular economy file.

AOB

- Workshop in Denmark - BD reported on the forthcoming workshop Roundtable on the 20th May 2015, in Copenhagen, Denmark. The subject matter is part of our challenge 1 - “Controlled Loop and legacy additives.
- **Action: BD** – to invite European Commission – DG Growth and will provide detailed information on the programme.
- Based on the situation in the Netherlands - Eric mentioned that it could be a good idea to have a similar roundtable workshop in Holland in 2016 (during the presidency of the NL).

Date of next meeting: 20th November 2015 (there was a discussion on whether to change it – because it was scheduled on a Friday where most MEPs return to their constituents, but it was decided to keep it and to ensure meetings for 2016 will not be on a Friday.

Action list

AD: to send information on the European Commission Workshop on Landfill Fires.

BD: circulate article on “open burning of PVC”.

VinylPlus to contact the office of Nadine Moreno to organise a new meeting.

NT: send Vinyl Sustainability Forum ppts to Eric to help in the preparation of Mr Cozigou’s presentation.

EL: Send list of MEP’s working on the circular economy.

VinylPlus to send information on the exposure of the workers in the recycling sector.

BD – to invite European Commission – DG Growth and will provide detailed information on the programme.

The meeting ended at 12h30