



VinylPlus Monitoring Committee

21st November 2014 – 09h00 : 10h30

European Parliament – Meeting room – ASP 1 H-1

Draft Minutes

Participants:

Mr Joseph Barker	European Parliament
Prof Alfons Buekens	Chairman, VinylPlus
Mr Alain Cavallero	ESPA
Mr Eric Criel	Recovinyl
Mr Alexandre Dangis	Managing Director, EuPC
Dr Brigitte Dero	General Manager ECVM and VinylPlus
Mr Joachim Eckstein	Vice-President, VinylPlus
Mr Eric Liégois	European Commission, DG Enterprise & Industry
Mr Carlos Sanchez Reyes	Organizacion de Consumidores y Usuarios
Ms Noelle Tracey	ECVM

Apologies:

Ms Kaoutar Abousmir	European Parliament
Mr Filipe Constant	CEO, Solvin
Mr Gwenole Cozigou	Director, DG Enterprise
Mr Rainer Grasmück	Global Head of PVC Additives, Baerlocher
Mr Sajjad Karim	MEP, European Parliament
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 11th April 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11th April 2014 were formally approved without comment.

3. Date of meetings in 2015

The following meeting schedule has been agreed:

17th April 2015 – 10h30 : 12h30

20th November 2015 10h30 : 12h30

4. Reshaping of the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee

BD gave a brief overview of the history of the Vinyl 2010 Voluntary Commitment, from its start in 2001 to the present day, highlighting the industry's commitment to openness and transparency.

BD emphasised how important and unique the Monitoring Committee structure is and the pivotal role it plays in highlighting the credibility and transparency of the VinylPlus programme through recommendations and active contributions of its annual progress reports. These reports are a reference in best practice of the industry.

Mr Karim, MEP, who had been part of the committee for the last 4 years will resign after today's meeting due to other pressing commitments and everybody thanked him for his many positive recommendations and contributions over the years. He requested to be kept in the loop of all further achievements and developments.

Objectives in 2015 - There is a serious need to revamp the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee and to seek and contact new MEPs to join as well as motivating other stakeholders to join. AD mentioned that he received confirmation that Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl will continue to support VinylPlus and to be more active in future.

There was a meeting with industriaAll recently at high level and they have committed to help with the review of the Social Dialogue Charter. They also suggested to involve DG Employment/Social Affairs in this regard

Action: AD to check for possible MEP from the green party

5. VinylPlus Programme Implementation

Recycling Progress

Eric Criel gave a brief update on VinylPlus recycling process. Current recycling volumes for 2014 will be around 500kt with the bigger portion in Germany, Austria and Switzerland with over 145kt.

Although some recyclers who had promised to join had not done so, there has, nevertheless, been an increase in active recyclers from 129 in May to 148 and an increase in converters from 9 to 15.

Issues of concern for recyclers - difficult to find post-industrial PVC ; low oil prices are starting to have an effect on recycling volumes as well as the effect of REACH at a number of flexible recyclers plants that could stop post-consumer activities unless an easier solution can be found to re-use materials containing substances on the candidate list .

There is a need to continue to integrate more converters into the project, cooperate more with the major floor converters and to spread the audits more smoothly over the year as most recyclers are closed in December.

Alexandre Dangis emphasised the value of the audited recycled volumes and the certification system (Eucertplast) as followed by VinylPlus.

Eric Liégois agreed that audited volumes is a guarantee of quality indeed.

Stakeholder engagement

Brigitte Dero reported on the **“Roundtable on the “Sustainable use of Additives” on the 17th September 2014, Austria.** 12 critical organisations representing Federal Environment Ministry, Environmental Agency, Consumer Associations, Institutes, NGO’s and UNIDO attended the meeting. It was an open and construction discussion where the EPD Plus concept was generally welcomed.

Some questions were raised by the stakeholders, e.g. on how the EPDPlus tool will actually be used; the tool should also cover legacy additives. VinylPlus will follow-up.

The next roundtable on the VinylPlus sustainability challenge 1 (Recycling, Legacy additives) will be held in Denmark in May 2015.

Eric Liégois suggested to invite the Head of the Chemical Unit in DG Growth (R. Büescher) as he might be interested to join.

6. Recycling and legacy additives:

DEHP - Current Status:

REACH and the recent amendment to the Waste Framework Directive made it difficult to reach the VinylPlus Recycling targets.

Some PVC waste streams from PVC applications like cables or flooring may contain additives, which are listed on REACH annex XIV (e.g DOTE, DEHP). Recyclers who want to put recycle pellets containing REACH Annex XIV substance need an authorisation. Unfortunately, for most of the recyclers, who are mainly SMEs, it is due to the huge workload and high costs that it is not possible for them to apply for an authorisation. Therefore they will stop recycling of waste streams with annex XIV substances after the sunset date of the substance.

The end of waste criteria for plastics as currently proposed by the Joint Research Center (JRC) would constitute an additional barrier as plastic waste which is qualified as hazardous (annex III WFD) will never leave the waste status, even if authorisation is granted.

7. Lead Stabilisers replacement

Progress continues to be made toward the replacement of lead based stabilisers. However, 2015 will be a critical year as there is still around 15kt to be replaced. ESPA members are in constant dialogue with the converters and helping them to complete the substitution. ESPA is working with the Cefic Statistical Department to ensure that the lead stabilisers statistics can actually continue to be published while respecting the competition compliance rules. In 2014, the volumes must be released with some restrictions and in 2015, the situation will be even more critical.

Action: Alain Cavallero will prepare a briefing paper on the issues for Eric Liégois who will follow-up in the Commission

8. PVC Packaging in the Netherlands

The Dutch government has created an official agreement on paper (Staatscourant paper) to seriously reduce or to stop the use of PVC in packaging in supermarkets. They followed an agreement of retailers, brand owners and packaging industries. This agreement is not supported by the Dutch packaging industry associations. In the Government of the Netherlands decree, article 2, the option to prohibit the use of substances could be invoked with respect to PVC.

Although the quantities of PVC packaging are small, it is damaging to the PVC industry. The European PVC Rigid Packaging Association “ERPA” has complained to the EU Commission against the Dutch “PVC restriction”.

9. VinylPlus Progress Report 2015 – Time Schedule

The draft Progress Report will be circulated for comments two weeks before the next meeting of the Monitoring Committee, by the 2nd April 2015 at the latest.

10. VinylPlus Sustainability Forum– April 2015

All members of the Monitoring Committee are cordially invited to join the event on the 30th April 2015 in Cannes, France.

The meeting ended at 10h30