



VinylPlus Monitoring Committee

29th November 2013 – 10h30 : 12h30

European Parliament – Meeting room – A4F384

Minutes

Participants:

Prof Alfons Buekens	Chairman
Mr Maik Schmahl	Team Leader, Legislation Specific Chemicals and GLP, DG Enterprise & Industry
Mr Alexandre Dangis	Managing Director, EuPC
Dr Brigitte Dero	ECVM, General Manager and VinylPlus Deputy General Manager
Mr Sakib Ershad	European Parliament
Mr Rainer Grasmück	Global Head of PVC Additives, Baerlocher
Mr Carlos Sanchez Reyes	Organizacion de Consumidores y Usuarios
Mr Joachim Eckstein	Vice-President, VinylPlus
Mr. Eric Criel	General Manager Recovinyl

Apologies:

Mr Klaus Berend	Head of Unit, Chemicals Industry – DG Enterprise & Industry
Ms Soledad Blanco	Director, DG Environment
Mr Helmut Maurer	European Commission, DG Environment
Mr Filipe Constant	CEO, Solvin
Mr Gwenole Cozigou	Director, DG Enterprise
Mr Sajjad Karim	MEP, European Parliament
Ms Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl	MEP, European Parliament
Mr Jorma Rusanen	Senior Policy Officer, industriAll European Trade Union



1. Welcome and Agreement of the Agenda

Professor Buekens welcomed the participants and thanked them for their continuous participation at the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee.

The Agenda was approved.

2. Formal approval of the minutes of the last VinylPlus Meeting on 19th April 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th April 2013 were formally approved, with two corrections.

3. Date of next meetings

The next meetings will be held on:

- 11th April 2014
- 21st November 2014

10h30 : 12h30 at the European Parliament.

4. VinylPlus Voluntary Commitment – Implementation

Stakeholder engagement:

B. Dero presented the progress on sustainability awareness. VinylPlus joined the UNIDO Green Industry Platform in November 2013. The Director of UNIDO's Environmental Management Branch welcomed VinylPlus' membership, and added: *"The participation of VinylPlus enables the European PVC industry to be a key contributor to the global promotion of a more sustainable model of industrial production. While often seen as an environmental threat, plastics also offer immense potential in terms of resource efficiency and recycling measures, and we look forward to working with VinylPlus in achieving our shared objectives"*.

VinylPlus committed to share its experience and expertise through the UNIDO platform.

B. Dero was invited in November to the European Development Days, a huge forum with about 5000 participants. She made a presentation focused on the recycling/reuse of PVC products from the London Olympics in applications such as garden hoses and flooring for schools suggesting the industry is "heading step-by-step towards a circular economy", and participated to a panel, together with the Head of the Resource Efficiency unit of DG Environment.

Recycling update:

E. Criel presented the current status of Recovinyl (attachment 1). Recovinyl's network totals 133 active recyclers. Activities started 6 months ago in Bulgaria, where recyclers are small and not yet used to reporting. The potential in Norway will be investigated, but no recycler has been identified; it seems that plastic waste is brought to Sweden or

Germany. The final registered volume 2012 was 354kt of recycled PVC, outlook 2013: 410 ⇔ 420kt. Recycling of post-consumer waste is facing severe challenges: little investment, regulatory constraints. Landfill restrictions will boost supply, but capacity constraints will remain. The impact of DEHP authorisation is expected to reduce recycling by 40 to 50 kt/y as from 2015. The impact of waste legislation (End of Waste, hazardous waste classification) could push up the cost of collection and transport, require recyclers to comply with hazardous waste regulations, and reduce incineration possibilities.

Regarding recycling under REACH and the waste legislation, DG Enterprise recommended keeping the issue on the agenda through actions at Member State level. So far, only a few MS stated a clear position. The next deadline is 6th January 2014 (CARACAI meeting). Support from a few additional large MS would help.

B. Dero also mentioned the VinylPlus concerns regarding the report from the European Parliament on "The Green Paper on a European Strategy on Plastic Waste in the Environment" prepared by Mr Prodi. It calls for phasing out the "most dangerous plastics" and those "which contain heavy metals that can also make recycling processes more difficult". This report has no direct regulatory impact, but will influence the strategy of the new Commission. VinylPlus asked the Commission to continue to dialogue on this topic. DG ENT recommended to also work directly with Members States and to make other plastics aware.

5. Recycling and legacy additives:

DEHP - Current Status:

The DEHP authorisation procedure is on-going. A consortium of (3) recyclers applied for authorisation in August. It is understood that the process is as follows: a public consultation is open until 8th January, a 'trilogy' meeting between the Rapporteur, the submitting entity and the Commission will take place during the second half of February, advice of ECHA Committees will follow and draft opinion should be issued around September 12th 2014".

ADCA - other potential challenges through legislation:

J. Eckstein reported on the issue of azodicarbonamide (ADCA) a foaming agent in PVC, polyolefins, polystyrene, etc.. ADCA was placed in the REACH Candidate List in December 2012 on the basis of "equivalent concern" for respiratory sensitisation/asthma. In June 2013, The European Chemical Agency gave a high priority for potential inclusion in the REACH authorisation list. The commenting period ended on 23rd September. A decision is expected mid-December. If the high priority is confirmed, the expected deadline for authorisation application would be November 2016 and the sunset date, April 2018.

A consortium set up by EuPC is pursuing the option of an industry voluntary commitment for an Occupational Exposure Limit of 1 mg/m³. J. Eckstein discussed with Dr. K. Berend, head of REACH unit at DG Enterprise, who expressed support for the principle of a voluntary commitment. Maik Schmahl recommended to also visit DG SANCO.



6. Recycling of PVC waste containing Lead: current status (attachment 2)

A consultation on the restriction proposal for lead in articles which can be put in the mouth by children ended on 21st September. The Risk Assessment Committee is expected to issue an opinion in December 2013, and the Socio-Economic Assessment Committee's opinion is expected in March 2014.

Several lead based substances in PVC stabilisation packages are on the REACH Candidate List. Application of the formal prioritization criteria would result in a high score for moving those substances to the Authorization list.

In case this scenario would materialize, Recyclers would have to apply for (one or more) Authorizations. This could compromise the whole recycling process.

R. Grasmück explained that instead of Authorization, the Restriction route could be proposed. VinylPlus commissioned a socio-economic study to assess the impact of possible restrictions on the Lead content in PVC articles.

Outcome: a restriction below 1 % (as Pb) would seriously compromise the viability of recycling, resulting in negative socio-economic and environmental impacts.

In addition to the study on the socio-economic impacts of potential lead restrictions, VinylPlus commissioned another study on migration modelling. Maik Schmahl recommended VinylPlus to meet, in addition to ECHA, both DG ENT and DG ENV, beginning 2014 to present and discuss the results.

7. VinylPlus Progress Report 2014 – time schedule

The draft Progress Report will be circulated for comments two weeks before the next meeting of the Monitoring Committee, by the 28th March 2014 at the latest.

8. VinylPlus Sustainability Forum– April 2014

All members of the Monitoring Committee are cordially invited to join the event on the 8th & 9th May 2014 in Rome, Italy.

The meeting ended at 12h30