

## Minutes of the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2020

### Web meeting

### Draft Minutes

#### Participants:

Ms Brigitte Dero	Managing Director, VinylPlus
Mr Paulo Da Silva Lemos	European Commission – DG ENV
Mr Armand De Wasch	Euro consumers
Mr. Jo Dewulf	University of Ghent
Mr. Zdenek Hruska	VinylPlus
Mr Ondrej Knotek	MEP
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
Mr Samuel Zabolotnij	Assistant to Mr Knotek, MEP

#### Apologies:

Ms. Laure Baillargeon	Policy Officer, European Commission, DG GROW
Mr. Werner Bosmans	European Commission – DG ENV
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**

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 – 19/5/2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 was formally approved. Still pending is an action at the request of 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.

G. Tillieux explained that this action cannot be performed at the moment. No eligible target applications have been identified. VinylPlus will continue to investigate how to concretely address the issue of SVHCs in imported products.

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

The dates of the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee meetings in 2021 were confirmed as follows:

20 <sup>th</sup> April, 2021 -	14h00 : 15h30 (web meeting)
16 <sup>th</sup> November, 2021	14h00 : 15h30 (format to be confirmed )

Venue and format to be confirmed later depending on COVID19 and government restrictions.

5. **VinylPlus Progress Report - Timeline**

See below an overview of the timeline for the 2021 progress report to the Monitoring Committee

- Submit signed off, verified and designed Progress Report by the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021
- Receive Monitoring Committee comments/approval on the 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2021
- Implementation changes to Progress Report if required by the 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2021
- Distribution of the progress report 2020 by mid June, 2021

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

The latest figure of total PVC waste recycled so far at 567 kt, the split at ytd of the pre-consumer accounts for 57% (326kt) and post-consumer at 43% ( 241kt) . To put these volumes into perspective, Jo Dewulf requested to get next time the % of the PVC recycled volumes versus the available PVC wastes. This request is supported by Werner Bosmans who asked already this information and recommended publishing it in the next Progress report.

The timeline and impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic are displayed on slide 7.

Ingrid Verschuere gave a detailed view by country and although there have been some positive trends in the market, a complete recovery from the 1<sup>st</sup> wave of covid 19 is not possible. The latest traceability survey conducted in 2020 on the volumes of 2019 to map into

which applications recycled PVC is used was provided (see slide 14). Jo De Wulf requested to add a slide on the Traceability/Tracking - where it comes from and into what application it is used .

On the CPA Monitoring System – There are many challenges ahead for everyone, but there are solutions and know-how that could help. The VinylPlus/Recovinyl database methodology could be expanded to other polymer sustainability platforms and value chain participants. A common monitoring system that serves as a credible and reliable data collection vehicle for the plastics industry and long -term solutions, beyond the CPA could be found.

How we could achieve this, is to use the expertise and lessons learned from Recovinyl – a well established data collection system since 2002. Collaboration between all interested polymer sustainability platforms and value chain participants in a non-profit organisation (asbl). This organisation could monitor and verify the recycling and update of plastics throughout Europe, to guarantee the circular movement of Europe’s polymers. See slide 19 for CPA monitoring timeline.

#### **7. VinylPlus New Programme 2020 – 2030 (Annex)**

Zdenek Hruska, gave a detailed overview of the progress of VinylPlus from 2011 until to-date. The new programme will be based on multiple inputs from internal stakeholders, external Accenture consultation, TNS report, virtual discussions during Vinyl Sustainability Forum and academia contribution. Many potential actions/targets are imposed by the current political environment.

From the technical point of view, we are now in the consultation phase with sector groups. The key communication messages on Circular Economy, Carbon neutrality and Clean Material Cycles (Chemical Strategy for Sustainability) shall reflect the programme key focus areas and targets.

#### **8. Lead Stabilisers (Annex)**

Following the vote against derogation by the European Parliament in February 2020 the EU Commission tries to find a compromise in order to amend the opposed draft regulation D063675/03. The situation has not changed for several months; the delay is due to their work on the just published Chemical Strategy for Sustainability. To the best of our knowledge, DG GROW still intends to mandate ECHA to carry out a LCA analysis on waste management options. A potential amendment by the Commission could include an additional labelling of the articles containing legacy lead (and other SVHCs), QR codes / RFID tags. The VinylPlus position is that such labelling is in principle possible, as well as improved traceability of recycled materials and that existing tools can be further improved. Another aspect is the evaluation of the possibilities linked to the application of technologies permitting to extract lead from PVC, including possible chemical recycling or extraction projects. VinylPlus argues that technology to remove lead from PVC is under development but cannot be expected soon. It is clear that decreased lead concentration limits will seriously impact PVC recycled volumes, which will compromise achieving the Circular Plastics Alliance targets and hinder societal progress towards circularity.

DG ENV Sustainable Chemicals Unit has launched a tender for a study “The use of PVC (Poly Vinyl Chloride) in the context of a non-toxic environment”. The name of the consultant selected by DG ENV has not been officially announced yet.

Another policy issue to keep in mind, is the renovation wave which the Commission adopted in October, 2020. The strategy focuses on the renovation of EU building by targeting energy efficiency and integrating circular economy principles, in particular lifecycle performance and life expectancy. The strategy aims to double renovation rates in the next 10 years, improve reuse and recycling of materials in the sector and reduce GHG emissions, while generally improving the quality of life for EU citizens. Renovation should be guided by several key principles, including energy efficiency, affordability and a life-cycle approach integrating circularity considerations.

Today, there are around 650 million PVC windows installed across Europe. With the increased renovation rate expected, millions of PVC windows will be available for recycling per year. If use of lead containing recyclate is forbidden, these windows will go to landfill or incineration.

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

As chair of the Construction WG in the CPA, Brigitte Dero explained that VinylPlus is involved extensively in the CPA programme along with many other groups such as converters.

Mr Stefan Sommer, chairman of VinylPlus will make a presentation at the forthcoming CPA 1<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2020. There will be 2 Commissioners presenting as well, which is a good sign of recognition. Paolo Sandri thanked VinylPlus and Stefan Sommer for their support and is confident of a good outcome of the GA. Currently, there are over 250 people participating and a good representation from industry.

#### **10. Closure**

The meeting ended at 12h