



VinylPlus Monitoring Committee

4th April 2016– 10h30 : 12h30

European Commission – DG Grow
Breydel Building, Meeting room number 5

Draft Minutes

Participants:

Prof Alfons Buekens	Chairman, VinylPlus
Mr Alain Cavallero	Secretary General, ESPA
Mr Eric Criel	Managing Director, Recovinyl
Ms Brigitte Dero	General Manager ECVI and VinylPlus
Mr Joachim Eckstein	Vice-President, VinylPlus
Mr Eric Liégeois	Team Leader, European Commission, DG GROW
Ms Noelle Tracey	ECVI / VinylPlus

Apologies:

Mr Alexandre Dangis	Managing Director, EuPC
Mr Rainer Grasmück	Global Head of PVC Additives, Baerlocher
Mr Sylvain Lefebvre	Deputy General Secretary, IndustriAll European Trade Union
Mr Helmut Maurer	Waste Management Policy Officer European Commission, DG ENV
Mr Carlo Pettinelli	Director, European Commission - DG GROW

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 20th November 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 20th November 2015 were formally approved with a minor correction.

3. **VinylPlus Progress Report 2016: -**

Comments received by VinylPlus Board Members on EPDplus and Product Label

EPDplus: an approach and methodology developed by VinylPlus which had been agreed by the majority of the VinylPlus committees and task forces and the overall consensus of the value chain is to go on with EPDplus until PEF is actual.

However, it was agreed to emphasize the parallel methodologies of both EPDplus and PEF. Further work on EPDplus will be developed in close cooperation with all stakeholders and will be aligned with the PEF concept when it will be established integrating it with the additional elements on which EPDplus stands.

Product Label: The general consensus is that the product label issue will need to be reconsidered.

The recommendation from the committee was to take out the paragraph on product label on page 22 of the progress report completely. **(Done)**

Other General Comments

Page 8: paragraph on EPFLOOR - check the EP floor % i.e. 15% or 19% ? **(19% confirmed)**

Page 9: Other recycling projects last paragraph - after “polymer matrix” add.... and recyclable after use. **(done)**

Page 10: RecoMed caption - take out landfill **(done)**

Page 16: Criteria for the sustainable use of additives

Re-phrase this paragraph and refer to the parallel methodology of EDPlus and the PEF concept. It was agreed to take out the example of sewage pipes and to use more general wording. **(Done)**

Final review and endorsements

The VinylPlus Progress Report 2016 was formally approved by the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee taking into account the comments above. Professor Buekens was very appreciative of the members of the committee taking their time to have good discussion and constructive comments and reiterated the importance of the high quality of the VinylPlus Progress Report which is definitely not window dressing.

4. VinylPlus Programme Implementation / Current Priorities

Update on VinylPlus mid-term review - Brigitte Dero

No major changes in terms of commitment. Industry will continue work on the programme and the 5 challenges.

Controlled loop - VinylPlus confirms the target to recycle 800kt/year of PVC by 2020. VinylPlus stressed that the presence of 'legacy additives' and the consequent current regulatory constraints as well as unclear local situations for the future of PVC recycling are the key factors which may substantially influence VinylPlus recycling commitment.

With the help of Recovinyl tools, the effective traceability and quality of PVC waste and use of recycled PVC will be enhanced. The link with savings of CO2 emissions will be established. Energy recovery is preferred option for the treatment of PVC waste which cannot be recycled for technical / economic reasons. VinylPlus will conduct trials to continuously improve neutralisation of emissions and handling of the resulting waste.

Organochlorine emissions - No changes. Participation in global efforts to promote best practice. The resin industry will continue to work on reaching full compliance with Industry Production charters (last audit showed 96 % full compliance). No transport accidents since the start of the programme. A risk assessment of VCM transportation was completed in 2015. Monitoring will continue.

Sustainable use of additives : Completion of the full replacement of lead stabilisers use in the EU-28 after 31 .12.2015 will be closely monitored and audited.

Sustainable use of additives will continue to be communicated and actively promoted also outside Europe.

The EPDplus (Vinylplus environmental footprint project) will be further developed for flooring and profiles. Alignment with PEF when implemented for construction products.

Sustainable use of energy and raw materials : No major changes - Continue our efforts towards the use of renewable raw materials, monitor opportunities for PVC and PVC additives and have an updated status report by 2020.

Energy efficiency, there has been concrete advances made in the reduction of energy consumption. Achieved mid-term target figures and well on target for a 20% reduction by 2020 compared to 2008.

Sustainability footprint - No changes, but need to monitor PEF approach.

Sustainability awareness

There are many opportunities to increase visibility at global level and with global brands by participating in more activities and aligning our policies with SDGs indicators and reporting system. Communicating these activities need to be improved at EU level.

Social dialogue: VinylPlus engages in dialogue with social partners and commits to include a social charter in the programme. VinylPlus and IndustriAll are willing to reactivate cooperation following a charter signed in 2000 as part of Vinyl 2010. A new road map has been prepared which will cover the next five years (2016 – 2020). A work in progress at the moment.

Stakeholder dialogue will be maintained and VinylPlus will continue their efforts to exchange and meet with external stakeholders, NGOs and share open dialogue and best practices.

Independent Monitoring and reporting will be continued via the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee and the verification of the progress report.

Communicating on the sustainability of PVC and engaging globally - VinylPlus' participation to United Nations activities and to other activities will be pursued and developed.

VinylPlus will align its reported achievements with the SDGs indicators and reporting system will be verified.

Recycling Progress - Eric Criel

The volumes collected in 2015 was 508kt. There are presently 145 active recyclers and 18 converters in 18 countries giving a total of 163. Targets for 2016 is estimated at 550kt.

The effects of REACH are still a major concern for the smaller recyclers as well as more and more recyclers refuse to accept post-consumer waste material containing DEHP. The cable recyclers tend to separate cables with and without DEHP which give more demand for cables from industrial sources. All recyclers are concerned about CLP although no one is changing their production process and are reluctant to raise the issue.

Some profile recyclers have been taken over by large profile producers, and consequently they are producing more high end recycle. A Dutch recycler very active in low end material of mixed plastics, 30% of which is PVC, expanded his activities, and is now present in 6 countries.

CO2 module - Methodology was created with Ecochain based in Amsterdam. The recyclers part is in development and there are some issues around PC and PI levels and whether we use industry average or company related data.

5. **Recycling & Legacy Additives Update - Joachim Eckstien**

Recycling - Joachim mentioned how beneficial the pharmaceuticals industry could be for our industry. Most people are not aware of the recycling capabilities between Aluminium and PVC with regard to “push through tablet holder’s and that there is a recycling solution to separate the aluminium from the PVC.

Legacy additives updates were not presented due to lack of time. The presentation prepared by Joachim Eckstein is attached for your convenience.

6. **Lead Stabilisers Replacement Update - Alain Cavallero**

The Voluntary Commitment process to replace lead based stabilisers substitution by the end of 2015 in the EU countries has been achieved. For competition compliance reason, the sales statistics for 2015 can only be released as a range – between 11 – 8 ktons of formulated stabilizers. The ESPA sales statistics for January 2016 show no sales. An external auditor will collect evidences from ESPA member companies to document the effective completion of the substitution.

7. **Reshaping of the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee**

To replace the MEPs who previously participated in the Monitoring Committee, 25 MEPs were contacted over the last several months. At this stage, no confirmation yet from any of them to join the Committee. Work ongoing.

Trade unions now on board. It was suggested to invite DG Research to join and action has been taken in this respect.

A search for the replacement of Carlo Sanchez to represent the 'Consumers' is also ongoing.

8. **VinylPlus PVC Value Chain Event – 28th April 2016 – Vienna**

The VinylPlus Sustainability Forum will take place later this month in Vienna, Austria.

This year's theme will concentrate on cities and smart vinyl and will explore how the growing sustainability performance of PVC can provide solutions to the issues linked with cities expansion.

UNIDO will explain the main outcomes of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Paris Climate Summit COP21 and their relevance for cities. EU DG Research and Innovation will outline the EU cities and regional policy aims and how Europe plan to achieve its SDGs in the urban context and a short brief on circular economy package including the plastics strategy plan. Several presentations from the different PVC sectors, will highlight the advances made by the industry, through innovation, recycling and improvements of products contributing to the SDGs.

All members of the Monitoring Committee are cordially invited to join.

9. **Date of next meeting 2016**

The next meeting will take place at European Commission, DG GROW on
8th December 2016 : 10h30 : 12h30

(post –meeting information: the next meeting will be held on 14 December , from 11.00 to 13.00)

The meeting ended at 12h30