



VinylPlus Monitoring Committee

11th April 2017– 10h30 : 12h30

European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60, B-1000 Bruxelles, Conference Room ASP 5G 375

Minutes

Participants:

Mr Alain Cavallero	Secretary General, ESPA
Mr Alexandre Dangis	Managing Director, EuPC
Ms Brigitte Dero	General Manager ECVM and VinylPlus
Mr Armand De Wasch	Euroconsumers
Ms Martina Dlabajova	MEP, European Parliament
Mr Joachim Eckstein	EuPC
Paulo Lemos	Policy Officer, European Commission, DG ENV
Mr Nuno Mello	MEP, European Parliament
Mr Martin Policar	Advocacy & Regulatory Affairs Manager, EuPC
Mr Paolo Sandri	Policy Officer, European Commission, DG GROW
Mr Arjen Sevenster	Senior Manager Technical & Environmental Affairs, ECVM
Ms Noelle Tracey	Events – Project Manager, ECVM / VinylPlus

Apologies:

Mr Werner Bosmans	Sustainable Production, Products & Consumption Policy Officer, European Commission, DG ENV
Prof Alfons Buekens	Chairman, VinylPlus
Mr Sylvain Lefebvre	Deputy General Secretary, IndustriAll European Trade Union
Mr Eric Liégeois	Team Leader, European Commission, DG GROW

1. **Welcome and Agreement of the Agenda**

Brigitte Dero opened the meeting and extended the apologies of Professor Buekens (chairman of the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee) who was unable to attend the meeting.

Brigitte welcomed all the participants. Two MEPs recently joined the Monitoring Committee and attended for the first time.

Ms Martina Dlabajova, MEP from the Czech Republic (ALDE party). She is a member of the committee on Employment and Social Affairs as well as vice-chair of the Budget Committee and Mr Nuno Melo, MEP from Portugal (Christian Democrats) who is among other activities, a member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

Also attending for the first time, Paulo Lemos from DG ENV replacing Werner Bosmans and Paolo Sandri from DG GROW replacing Eric Liégois for this meeting.

All attendees introduced themselves. The agenda was approved.

2. **Formal approval of the minutes of the last VinylPlus Meeting on 14th December 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14th December, 2016 were formally approved.

3. **Date and Venue of next meeting in 2017**

The next meeting will take place on the 5th December at the European Parliament – conference room number to be confirmed.

4. **VinylPlus Progress Report 2017**

History – ongoing progress

As an introduction for the new Committee members, the presentation on VinylPlus update showed how it was built on the Vinyl 2010 voluntary commitment and listed its main achievements to-date. The remainder of the presentation focused on controlled loop management, sustainable use of additives and sustainability awareness.

The first of these ‘challenges’ has a 800 kt/y recycling target by 2020. With 569 kt recycled in 2016, VinylPlus is confident the target can be reached, provided the issues related to the presence of ‘legacy additives’ can be resolved. The benefits associated to PVC recycling in terms of resource efficiency and climate protection are clear and several studies have shown that appropriate protection of human health and the environment are ensured.

Criteria for the sustainable use of additives were developed, combining the EPD or PEF metrics with the Sustainable Life Cycle Assessment methodology of The Natural Step.

Last but not least, raising sustainability awareness across the value chain and world-wide is increasingly successful. A dialogue with, and recognition by, United Nations

stakeholders started in 2002. The most recent success was the recognition of VinylPlus as “Highly commended” entrant by ‘The Circulars 2017’, and initiative of the World Economic Forum and the forum of Young Global Leaders.

Final Review and Endorsement of the VinylPlus Progress Report 2017

The VinylPlus Progress Report 2017 was formally approved by the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee without further comment.

5. VinylPlus Programme Implementation / Current Priorities

Social Charter - Brigitte Dero

The Social Charter is progressing well. The European Chemical Employers Group (ECEG), is a member of the Sector Social Dialogue Committee (SSDC) together with IndustriAll (Trade unions). VinylPlus signed a new social charter endorsed by SSDC on the 24th February, 2017 under the auspices of DG Employment, Social Dialogue.

The industry will report progress at the SSDC yearly plenary meetings.

Recycling Progress - Alexandre Dangis

The Recovynyl 2017 target adds up to 591 kt compared to 560 kt in 2016.

He expressed some concerns at the limited growth from 2016 to 2017, bearing in mind that only 3 years remain after 2017 to reach the 800 kt target. It somehow reflects the uncertainty about the regulatory status of legacy additives,

EuPC Waste Calculation Model - Joachim Eckstein

Data on the production:

1. Raw materials and additives

This serves to record plastic raw materials and the additives used for them.

2. Plastic processing including processing steps using various different processing methods and processing levels

2.1 An example is mentioned involving sheets which are processed using a technology (such as extruder or calendar) where raw materials are applied to produce the sheets.

2.2 Composites are then manufactured in a second processing step. These can be laminated from several layers or extruded with an additional layer.

2.3 In a third step, the sheet can be further processed, e.g. printed in multiple colours.

2.4 In a forth step, additional processors, e.g. thermoforming companies can manufacture thermoforming dishes equipped with lids with printed artwork.

3. Imports and exports

The processed products – such as the sheets in the examples – are partly exported but also imported from various different countries. For both the exports and the imports, it is required to observe national legal regulations of those countries where the processed plastics are used (such as packages, applications for the construction industry – like pipes, window profiles, flooring materials, etc.).

4. Country of use for processed plastics, e.g. those used in sheets

Beside the regional laws, it is also required to observe recycling obligations and possibilities, thus utilising the recycling opportunities resulting from this.

5. Taking into account the lives of the applications

The periods of use for the applications are short, as a rule one year or less, especially for uses in the packaging sector.

However, there are also some long-life applications with various periods of use. Thus, it is assumed that the period of application for window profiles is 30 to 40 years, and for water pipes 60 to 70 years, based on experience; however, 100 years are also estimated as feasible, but proof for this has not yet been provided. For long-life uses, it is important to know the manufacturing preparations and their chemical ingredients from the manufacturing phase. Materials permitted by law change over time and many of them – such as cadmium – are no longer permitted and are for this reason excluded from further use by recycling.

6. Available waste

Legal regulations forbid the recycling of some of the applications and their reuse for the same purpose. This for instance applies to such recycled products as those obtained from used food packages which, pursuant to EU Regulation 282/2008 are approved only for authorized companies with a special license and new food packages.

7. Technical and economic limitations

Not all preparations used in first-time applications are suitable for all recycling uses. Economic limitations exist, e.g. if costs for waste collection and transport to

recycling companies are too high, and the technical processing of recycled material causes high costs making recycled materials too expensive as raw materials.

8. Usability of recycled substances in new products

Applications derived from recycled material may be prevented based on laws, standards, and regulations. Considering the increasing recycling obligations based on the laws—e.g. for packaging in Germany as from 2022, a recycling rate of 63%—other application will have to be found for recycled materials.

9. Potential recycled quantities

All the restrictions described above in their entirety reduce the technical and commercial options for recycling. Recycled materials from plastics are also used in technical applications including construction, automotive, electric engineering/electronics, etc. Considering the long life of these applications, however, the amount of usable recycled material is reduced.

10. Reuse of plastics

The quality of the used plastics will not improve when used in second-time applications. Low prices for recycled materials may act as compensation for this. Costs for dismantling and recycling as well as transport for manufacturing the intermediate product for recycling will/can lead to increased costs for recycling.

6. Lead Stabilisers Replacement Update - Alain Cavallero

As an introduction for the new Committee members, the presentation gave a detailed overview of the European Stabilisers Producers Association (ESPA). A pan-European trade association representing 95% of the PVC stabilisers industry. It is affiliated to the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) and a co-founding of VinylPlus. Representing three chemistries of stabilisers;

ECOSA (calcium based stabilisers including Ca-Zn and organic) for food contact & medical applications plus all lead replacement systems

ETINSA (tin based stabilisers) used primarily in rigid applications including food contact use.

ELISA (liquid) stabilisers used in a wide range of flexible PVC, calendered sheets, flooring. Stabilisers – use small amounts and get big effects. Their advantages include, avoidance of alternation during the manufacturing of articles; prevention of degradation during the

life-cycle of the article (window frames) exposed to sun light and heat and extending the durability of the articles.

In 2000 an ambitious Voluntary Commitment began to replace lead-based stabilisers by 2015. Lead was successfully replaced in the EU -28 by the end of 2015.

Draft restrictions on lead stabilisers: Since January 2016, articles made from virgin PVC resin and placed on the market by converters should no longer contain any lead compound; lead stabilisers are now “legacy additives” in the EU-28.

Considering that the replacement in the EU-28 is completed the European Commission asked ECHA to prepare a Restriction proposal, with the purpose to “seal off” any possible import of articles still stabilised with lead compounds.

The scope of the proposed restriction is about the use of lead stabilisers to stabilise PVC articles placed on the EU market ; it does not restrict the manufacturing of stabilisers for export. To achieve its objective, the proposed restriction limits the content of lead compounds in PVC articles to 0.1 % weight.

A derogation of 15 years is foreseen for certain articles in the Building & Construction articles, which may contain more than 0.1 % lead due to the presence of some proportion of recycled PVC containing legacy lead stabilisers.

The derogation foresees a maximum concentration of lead compounds of 1 % weight (measured as lead). Considering that the original articles could contain up to 2-2.5 % (as lead), the limit of 1 % is on the low side ; VinylPlus, together with the Recycling companies and the converters, is currently evaluating the economic viability of recycling within the proposed limit.

Recycling of PVC articles allows to save the energy embedded in the material, reducing thus the CO2 emissions associated to the production of new resin.

Lead stabilisers remain firmly embedded in the plastic matrix, posing no risk to the Human health or to the environment ; recycled PVC articles offer a safe harbour for legacy additives like lead stabilisers.

A Restriction limiting the lead content in articles containing legacy lead to a too low level could make the PVC recycling not economically viable.



7. **VinylPlus Sustainability Forum – 10th - 11th May 2017 - Berlin**

The VinylPlus Sustainability Forum will take place in Berlin, Germany on the 10th & 11th May, 2017. The theme chosen is “Towards Circular Economy”. The 2017 Forum will focus on sustainability and delivering durable solutions for PVC within the high-profile context of the European Commission’s Circular Economy Package. It will feature sessions with EU authorities on Circular Economy policies, both regionally and Europe-wide, case studies, success stories and panel talks. This comprehensive programme will also include discussions on eco-design and innovation concepts, including a look at better lifestyles with smart PVC products.

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

The meeting ended at 12h30