

VinylPlus Monitoring Committee

11th April 2014 – 10h30 : 12h30

European Parliament - Meeting room - A4F384

Minutes

Participants:

Prof Alfons Buekens Chairman

Mr Eric Liégois European Commission, DG Enterprise & Industry

Dr Brigitte Dero General Manager ECVM and VinylPlus

Mr Kaoutar Abousmir European Parliament

Mr Helmut Maurer European Commission, DG Environment

Mr. Nitharshi Nagarajah European Parliament

Mr Carlos Sanchez Reyes Organizacion de Consumidores y Usuarios

Mr Joachim Eckstein Vice-President, VinylPlus

Apologies:

Mr Klaus Berend Head of Unit, Chemicals Industry – DG Enterprise & Industry

Mr Alexandre Dangis Managing Director, EuPC

Mr Filipe Constant CEO, Solvin

Mr Gwenole Cozigou Director, DG Entreprise

Mr Rainer Grasmück Global Head of PVC Additives, Baerlocher

Mr Sajjad Karim MEP, European Parliament
Ms Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl MEP, European Parliament

Mrs Sophie Jaenicke 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.

He welcomed Eric Liégois from DG Enterprise and Industry, Team Leader Fertilisers, Detergents, Pesticides/Biocides, Plastics and Wastes Recycling, who was attending the Monitoring Committee for the first time, replacing Maik Schmahl.

The Agenda was approved.

2. Formal approval of the minutes of the last VinylPlus Meeting on 29th November 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on the 29th November 2013 were formally approved.

3. Date of next meeting

The next meetings will be held on the 21st November from 09h00 : 10h30 at the European Parliament.

4. <u>VinylPlus Progress – Report 2014 – final review and endorsement</u>

Generally speaking, the participants of the Monitoring Committee expressed the following positive comments:

- It was very much appreciated to receive the draft report two weeks in advance.
- Once again, VinylPlus produced a progress report with interesting content and an attractive layout. The overall amount of 444,468 tonnes of recycled PVC is impressive and the partners of the Voluntary Commitment appear to be well on track to reach the target of 80,000 tonnes by 2020.

Recycling and legacy additives:

DEHP - Current Status:

It appears to be heading in the right direction with a good chance that authorization will be granted for recyclates - RAC/SEAC opinions are expected in September 2014.

ADCA - other potential challenges through legislation:

Various opinions expressed through ECHA which will be carefully examined by the Commission with regard to its priority ranking for Authorisation. The decision might well be postponed as the Commission intends to test the Authorisation process first and prove that it works.



Lead in consumer articles

The proposed restriction in consumer articles is on its way. Recycling is not affected. Results of the lead migration study performed by VinylPlus are welcome.

REACH & Wastes

DG ENTR and DG ENV have agreed to launch a study 'to assess the possibility of granting a derogation to specific types of plastics and rubber waste in the EU Hazardous waste list'. The call for tender will be launched in a few weeks' time. The aim is to identify cases where the legacy chemicals are sufficiently embedded in the polymer matrix to avoid classification as Hazardous according to the existing methodology (dangerous mixtures in the CLP). The study should start early July for a period of 8 months.

This study is considered as an important step in the direction of an open reflection in the Commission regarding the future revision of the waste list.

DG ENV informed that in the next few weeks, internal discussion to re-think the interface between 'end of waste' and the product status under REACH and whether it makes sense to exempt from the Hazardous waste list those containing legacy additives. Hence, the study launched by DG ENTR will be a first interesting step at providing the methodology to assess that "legacy additives" are not leached. DG ENTR will also launch shortly (2014) a study to evaluate 'the cumulative costs associated with the Implementation of existing legislations in the EU' in the chemical sector. The study will not only evaluate the administrative costs but also the missed opportunities for business sectors to invest. Data will be needed on the cost of recycling due to legislation. VinylPlus will be interviewed in that respect.

In 2015, DG ENTR will enlarge the study to benchmark with other regions. Work with VinylPlus through UNIDO will help.

As part of the overall thinking of the Commission regarding the presence of legacy additives into wastes, DG ENV will launch an additional study on the 'Ecotoxic criteria - for waste classification' to compare various ways to implement it and evaluate the consequences for businesses.

6. Organochlorine emissions" and Investigations on "uncontrolled burning of waste" "Organochlorine emissions" is the second of the five key challenges identified by VinylPlus. Its commitment document of June 2011 states "We will help to ensure that persistent organic compounds do not accumulate in nature and that other emissions are reduced." Two targets are especially relevant for dioxins, namely "Engage with external stakeholders in the discussion of the organochlorine emissions during 2012", and "Develop a plan to deal with stakeholder concerns on organochlorine emissions by end 2012."

The first consultation was initiated in September 2012. A comprehensive 30 pages "discussion document" was distributed to more than 40 stakeholders selected by NGO 'The Natural Step' (TNS) among EU and country policy makers, relevant NGOs (EEB, ChemSec, Greenpeace, WWF, FoE, HCWH), academia, and a few PVC users in the construction sector.

The feed-back was received and analysed by TNS. Although several stakeholders remained unconvinced and the response rate was lower than hoped for, the reactions were broadly positive, recognising that the document is interesting and does not erroneously represent the facts. Some called for more recycling. Several stressed that diffuse emissions due to uncontrolled burning is



the real problem.

On the basis of this discussion document, a follow-up Stakeholder's roundtable took place in Vienna on 14th November 2012. It was attended by representatives of the Austrian authorities, Greenpeace and industry, and was facilitated by TNS. The participants appreciated the initiative and the discussions were constructive.

Several important issues were raised during the event. Regarding dioxins, the participants acknowledged that manufacturing processes and controlled waste incineration in the EU are not a key concern anymore. However, uncontrolled burning of waste and its impact on human health and the environment were highlighted as an issue that requires further investigation. In its response to stakeholders, VinylPlus undertook to investigate further the situation on this important issue.

A comprehensive bibliographic study was therefore carried out during 2013 under the leadership of a leading academic expert on dioxins. The investigation covered both "uncontrolled burning" in general, and "open burning of waste". More than 200 scientific papers were assembled and analysed. One of the most interesting conclusions is that, following a spectacular reduction of regulated emissions, diffuse emissions such as forest fires, and open burning of waste, represent a much higher and possibly dominant share of the total worldwide dioxin emissions. Open burning of waste is a health and environmental issue, irrespective of waste composition.

It should be energetically banned, as it is in most EU countries. A major issue is not only POP's such as dioxins, but also poly-aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), fine particulates and its cardio-vascular consequences.

Preliminary findings were presented to the Monitoring Committee (attached), and well received. Mr Helmut Maurer expressed interest to have a presentation on these preliminary findings on the occasion of an internal lunch/meeting at DG ENV.

A second stakeholder roundtable is scheduled in Vienna on 17th September 2014. It will be mainly devoted to PVC additives, an issue highlighted during the first roundtable. The main results of the above described investigations will however be shared with the participants.

7. VinylPlus Sustainability Forum- April 2014

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

The meeting ended at 12h30