

REGIONAL NEWSLINK CENTRAL REGION March 2012

Dear Colleagues,

The series of Youth Parliament Debates by PlasticsEurope just came to an end with the grand final in Rome. 50 students from Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Italy and Turkey were present in the Parlamento of Villa Borghese and discussed about plastics and their contribution to sustainability. It was encouraging to hear how much they know about plastics – and, at the same time, frustrating to realize how many prejudices about plastics are still alive and kicking. Much remains to do, a whole lot of information still needs to be spread, challenging times are lying ahead, I dare to predict.

By the way: The media echo on this event was quite encouraging, especially a TV report on a Bulgarian prime channel and many online clippings here in Germany are worth to be mentioned. Maybe it is not the worst idea to approach the young, the decision makers of tomorrow.

Best regards

Rüdiger Baunemann

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1. ETS

CZ: Impact of renewable energy sources on chemical of industry

The Association of chemical of Industry discussed this topic with Dr. Kuba (Minister of industry). The association gave information about presumption increase of charges for chemical industry. Between 2010 – 2011 increased the charges more than about 750 millions of CZK on the level 1,2 milliards CZK. For year 2012 we presumption another increase of charges around 500 million CZK on the whole level 1, 7 milliard CZK.

Since 2013 will be establish the duty bay EUA i.e. another the increase around 2 milliard CZK cost for chemical industry.

Contact : *Ladislav Novák*

PL: Blocking CO2 reduction program

At a meeting of European environment ministers in Brussels on March 9th, the Polish government blocked a declaration on the path for the EU to meet a political goal of cutting greenhouse gases by at least 80 per cent in 2050.

Meeting the 2050 goal would compel quite radical changes in energy mix and Poland feels particularly threatened by this. It produces more than 90% of its electricity using highly-emitting coal and it fears any move toward tough long-term targets would lead to much higher prices, which would have an important adverse effect on Polish economy.

Contact: *Kazimierz Borkowski*

SK: ZCHFP SR against the aim to “set-aside” carbon allowances

ZCHFP SR supports the standpoint of Cefic arguing the consideration of the European Commission to “set-aside” a substantial number of carbon allowances, under the ETS in order to increase the price of the remaining allowances and, thereby, to increase the price of energy. Such step would have hard impact on Slovak chemical industry, chiefly with respect to the fact that current prices for electricity and other sorts of energy in Slovakia are one of the highest in the EU.

We translated the Cefic standpoint into Slovak language and sent it to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic.

Contact: *Silvia Surová*

2. Climate Protection & Energy Efficiency

AT: Entropy – A new alternative for measuring sustainability

In a conference on 27 April, Dr. Thomas Jakl (Head of deptm. for chemicals policy within the Austrian ministry for environment & chairman of the Board of ECHA) together with UBA Austria is introducing a new approach for measuring sustainability: (increasing) entropy. The Vienna conference is this year’s contribution to the ministry’s annual “risk:dialogue”. The scientific standards and the quality of presentations there are usually very high. Consequently I would strongly recommend participation in this groundbreaking conference. Only precondition: good grasp of the German language, there will be no translation services available.

Information/registration: http://www.umweltbundesamt.at/nachhaltigkeit_fassbar_machen

Contact: *Heinz Schratt*

DE: Energy Efficiency directive in the European Parliament

The Energy Efficiency Directive was set up by the EU-Commission to implement measures for improving energy savings in industry and households. PlasticsEurope has two core messages to the recent amendments of the European Parliament on the directive.

First, the proposed renovation rate of 3 % of the public buildings must not be reduced to 2,5 % as proposed by the Parliament. Second, a withhold of CO2-certificates from the auction market is not supported by our industry. The industrial committee of the Parliament voted in favour of a reduction of the renovation rate, which had been set by the commission on 3 % in the original draft of the directive. The current renovation rate is estimated to be at about 1 %. If

the renovation rate was increased from 1 to 3% by the directive 400,000 more public buildings would be renovated in Europe each year.

This proposal has been watered down by the Parliament to 2.5% which would reduce the number of annually renovated public buildings by approximately 100,000. The proposal on withholding certificates is also critical for our industry. This idea intends to rise the prices of the certificates which are currently at about 7 Euros per ton CO₂. In 2008 the EU-Commission calculated the business impact of the emission trading scheme with a price of 30 Euros per ton. In Germany the financial minister is concerned about the low “filling level” of a national energy and climate fund. This fund is fed by the auctioning revenues of certificates (calculated with a price of 17 Euros per ton).

The initially foreseen “Brennelementesteuer” (tax on fuel rods in nuclear power plants) is no longer feeding the fund, due to the withdrawn lifetime extension of nuclear power plants in Germany. The fund is designated to finance, among others, the compensation for risen electricity prices due to the emission trading system. PlasticsEurope Germany together with VCI is objecting the ideas about influencing the certificate price by a set-aside of certificates. The trading scheme is fully effective due to its cap and trade system. This system guarantees the fulfilling of established climate aims (cap) to the lowest available price (trade). A market-based system requires rising and falling prices.

Contact: Tina Buchholz

DE: New initiative for the sustainable provision of raw materials for the material use of biomass

The Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV) invited companies and associations from the field of “industrial use” to a first working meeting: for the setting up of the above new “Initiative der nachhaltigen Rohstoffbereitstellung für die stoffliche Biomassenutzung”. That meeting took place on 7 March in Berlin. The current state of deliberations for the initiative was discussed between the BMELV, the Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR) and the cluster “chemistry, detergents, cosmetics”. Some more clusters – e.g. packaging industry, carmaking, paints and coatings, materials, hydraulic and lubricant oils – are involved in the founding activities. Further participants are to come from environmental organizations, NGOs, science and other ministries. The goal is to define common criteria for sustainability and, as the next step, to certify these criteria.

Contact: Sabine Lindner

CZ: Suggestion of Energy Efficiency Resolution

The Association of chemical of Industry contact Czech’s EU parliament members in issue new Energy Efficiency Resolution namely in point set – aside and request vote against this suggestion. Because this point would led to direct or indirect increase cost of energy.

Contact: Frantisek Svoboda

SK: ZCHFP SR rejects higher energy saving targets

ZCHFP SR supported the standpoint of Cefic that reject the compromise amendments to Articles 3 and 6 to the Energy Efficiency Directive Draft that was to be voted on 28 February 2012 in the European Parliament’s ITRE Committee. We mainly consider the amendment that call for binding energy savings targets as unacceptable.

Contact: Silvia Surová

3. Waste Framework Directive Transposition

4. Plastics Waste Management

DE: Political dialogue on Resources Efficiency and Marine Litter

On 6 March Ruediger Baunemann met Ingbert Liebing, the marine environment expert of the conservative group (CDU/CSU) in German Parliament and on 7 March Liebing’s colleague from the Social Democrats Dirk Schwabe for a pre-emptive exchange of views on Marine Litter and improved resources efficiency on national, regional and global levels. Baunemann will be

present in Hamburg on 24th March to publicly represent Plastics industry on a Green congress dedicated to the protection of the Seas.

Contact: Michael Hillenbrand

DE: Conference on Marine Litter

On 29 February NABU ("protecting German nature") and DSD ("organizing recollection and recycling of waste") organized a conference on Marine Litter in Berlin with about 60 participants – around ten from plastics industry. The well designed conference involved crucial actors (e.g. Bernard Merckx, Waste Free Oceans or Dr. Helge Wendenburg, Director General BMU – German environment ministry). NABU experts want to become involved into the design of "Fishing for Litter"-initiatives and asked plastics industry to pay more attention to marine biology issues. Onno Groß from deepwave.org addressed the problem of ghost nets. Peter Orth, BKV, who represented plastics industry in a panel discussion, acknowledged the expertise of our possible allies in tackling the Marine Litter Problem and gave evidence of plastics industry's expertise regarding resource base, benefits of plastics during product life and end of life options, giving "the answers we are competent to give". According to NABU expert Jörg-Andreas Krüger we would have to resolve the marine problems on land.

Contact: Michael Hillenbrand

PL: On RDF use in Polish waste management reality

Almost 50 representatives of Polish RDF producers, waste recyclers, technologists and science participated in national conference "Various possibilities of RDF use" organized in Warsaw on 15-16th March by the Polish Association of RDF's Promotion (SPPA).

Most of the presentations and discussions were related to trends and directions of thermal usage of RDF in Polish economy, not only in cement industry.

Participants debated on barriers and chances for thermal utilization of RDF, legal attempts to introduce green incentives for RDF incineration and quality standards. In Poland the only RDF application is cement industry, and further development in this area is driven by quality standards according to CEN 15389. Use of RDF in CHP plants (Combined Heat and Power) is restricted by lack of proper installations with controlled emissions. PlasticsEurope Polska as the member of SPPA supported the conference with presentation "RDF and other ways of managing plastics waste" with focus on value of plastics waste used in energy recovery and in quality recycling.

Contact: Grzegorz P. Rękawek

5. Ecolabelling & Green Public Procurement

6. Packaging

AT: Future Packaging

Active and intelligent (food) packaging and the role of bio plastics were the main topics of a two days conference and exhibition in Wiener Neustadt. Organiser was the Lower Austria Plastics Cluster.

Measuring migration (ofi) and legal aspects (ministry of health) have been discussed as has been the impacts on recycling and carbon footprint of bio plastics.

Contact: Heinz Schratt

7. Consumer Protection

CZ: Project Eco – Profile GPPS and HIPS

We completed the questioner for GPPS/HIPS units. Description of use raw materials (quantity), technology, energy consumption, types.

Contact: František Svoboda

CZ: Belgium´s law proposal to restrict BPA

The information was handed over the Association of Chemical Industry and the Czech Packaging Association.

Contact: František Svoboda

CZ: Oligomers in plastics

Team PS EH&S discussed about draft of the study to styrene oligomers _ endocrine. The group request adding data for this topic i.e. PE study and Nestle one. Proposed to collect the data from each company and anonymise it through a third party letting trace to company away.

Contact: František Svoboda

DE: Project meeting “Plastics in contact with drinking water”

At the project meeting “Plastics in contact with drinking water” on 29 February at the Water Technology Center (TZW) in Karlsruhe, the project participants presented progress in the three part-projects and further drove forward the integration of initiated activities. In order to enable inclusion of results obtained from the part-projects into the FABES modelling system, testing should take place at the same temperature conditions. Furthermore, results from the Ruhr District Institute of Hygiene (Gelsenkirchen) on storage stability of samples should be observed by all three project partners.

The central element of the FABES migration model is the FABES formula for calculating the diffusion coefficient of the individual substance under examination – within a certain polymer (= polymer-migrant system). For the diffusion coefficient calculation, the parameters A_p and τ_{ap} need to be determined by way of experimentation: in migration tests at three different temperatures for a polymer-migrant system. Both the TZW and the Hygiene Institute (Gelsenkirchen) will use the formats prepared by FABES for entering findings from experiments directly in the existing FABES software “Diff-SIM” and “Ap-tau”.

As the procurement of materials and the preparation of test specimens (scheduled for end of April) have been delayed, the project might need to be extended in a cost-neutral manner.

Contact: Sabine Lindner

DE: Responses from the German federal government on plasticizer burden in day-care centres for children

On 27 February the federal government responded to a minor interpellation from the political party DIE LINKE, regarding a study from 2011 on amounts of plasticizers in kindergartens and the ensuing consequences (Bundestag ref. 17/8734). It is pointed to deliberations at German federal and EU levels of whether the measures so far taken are sufficient to regulate the phthalates or whether further measures are deemed necessary. For all phthalates classified as mutagenic (toxic to reproduction of category 1B according to the CLP Regulation (EC) no. 1272/2008) it was examined in Germany and other EU Member States whether identification as substances of very high concern (SVHC) under the REACH Regulation and thus inclusion in the relevant candidate list would be possible.

Furthermore, reference is made to two topical research projects: The Federal Environment Agency (UBA) is studying burdens of plasticizers and flame retardants in some 200 children's day care centres in Berlin. The focus is on covering known phthalates and also so far little studied phthalate substitutes such as DINCH. Measuring activities run to the end of 2012. The Environmental Research Plan 2012 (UFOPLAN) of the Federal Environment Ministry (BMU) includes a project on “pollutants in house dust: improving health assessment by determining the real dust intake of children and adults”. Results are planned to be available in May 2015.

Contact: Sabine Lindner

8. Communications

CH : Image Campaign

The Swiss Plastics Association KVS launched an image campaign with advertisements in newspapers and a website www.wir-tragen-verantwortung.ch . The campaign highlights the benefits of plastics in different applications. The website provides more in-depth information and also examples from industry.

Contact: Ernesto Engel

EU: Youth Parliament Debate final in Rome

Five nations, 50 youths, one topic: How can we save our planet for future generations? Students from Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Italy and Turkey were invited to Rome for the European final of the Plastics Europe Youth Parliament debate. The youths discussed about tomorrow's energy supply, resource efficiency, new technologies and the role plastics play in



key issues of today. The one with the best arguments on his side and the best speech and therefore the winner of this years' finale was Svetoslav Kostov from Bulgaria.

All of the students taking part in the finale had won their respective national competitions. The debate in the historical atmosphere of the "Parlamentino" in the Villa Borghese followed the well-established scheme: Two fractions were constituted by accident and each of the participants got the chance to challenge the pro and counter arguments for plastics, climate

protection and pollution control. The jury then selected the three best candidates as the pan-European winners.

The Youth Parliament final was opened by Francesco Ferrante, member of the Italian Senate. Plastics pros and cons were then introduced by Dr. Onno Gross, president of Deepwave, and Giuseppe Lo Faso, plant manager at Polimeri Europa.

The Youth Parliament Debate is a series of European national competitions launched by PlasticsEurope in 2007. At each of these national events, over 100 students are given the opportunity to debate the pros and cons of plastics in our daily life.

Contact: Kurt Stepping

DE: Kuno travels to the coast

The federal ministry for education in the German Bundesland Lower Saxony had commissioned this workshop, and the regional competence centre Aurich now had invited Tanja Rühl to the frisian coast to teach working with Kunos coole Kunststoffkiste. 26 teachers from regional primary schools learned how to work best with the experimental kit. They will now spread their new skills in their home schools and serve as multipliers.

Contact: Tanja Rühl

DE: Desperately wanted ... plastics sample sets

The plastics sample set is very much en vogue in German secondary schools – that much that we now had to produce 500 more sets to be distributed.

Contact: Tanja Rühl

DE: „Plastic & Design“ – Exhibition in the federal Parliament of NRW



The plastics museum recently re-designed its show and now calls it „Plastics makes design“. It will be open to the public from April 27 onwards for one month in a very special and prominent place, i.e. the federal parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia. PlasticsEurope is a long-time supporter of the museum.

Contact: Kurt Stepping

PL: On BPA in Polish media

The BPA issues was not much present in Polish media and the few articles/notes in last few years on this subject presented rather balanced view and usually referred to the baby bottles or EU restrictions. This time in scientific section of most prestigious news agency PAP (www.naukawpolsce.pl) appeared the article on research of University of Exeter claiming that BPA may enhance the probability of occurring the [coronary heart disease, what seems to be a](#)

[“new” BPA issue](#). By far there is not much resonance observed in other media, and anybody contacted us for the opinion.

Contact: Anna Kozera-Szałkowska

9. Economy and Trade - “Trade-related Issues”

EU: Current business situation of the plastics industry in Europe (EU27)

Overview

The positive development of the EU27 Plastics Industry after the bounce back from the great recession continued until the beginning of 2011. Since the 2nd quarter 2011 especially Primary Plastics showed decreasing tendencies, while Plastics Products remained more or less stable during the 2nd half year. The Plastics Machinery sector grew further on until August, but showed more constant tendencies in the last two months of 2011. Compared to 2010, production figures for the year 2011 had been higher within all of the three segments, but especially for Plastics Machinery with +11,2%.

Sectors

Across sectors, the pace of recovery was somewhat uneven since the second half 2010.

Production quantities of Primary Plastics grew until the beginning of 2011, but show decreasing tendencies since the 2nd quarter of 2011. The Plastics Products sector remains more or less stable during the last months and also the Plastics Machinery sector shows a constant development since November 2011 after a two months decline.

Plastics Industry **producer prices** clearly increased in the second half of 2010 and first half of 2011. In the second half year of 2011 prices for Primary Plastics decreased steadily, while prices for Plastics Products more or less remained on the same level. Plastics Machinery prices also showed a stable development, but increased again in December 2011. Compared to 2010, prices in 2011 had been higher within all of the three segments.

End use Industries

The upward trend in the Electrical Machinery Industry continued until August 2011, while the following months showed slightly decreasing production tendencies. Recovery of the Automotive sector is still going on. Production figures for the construction industry grew slightly at the beginning of 2011, but show slightly decreasing tendencies since August 2011. Production in the more crisis-resistant Food and Beverages sector still remains on a constant level.

External Trade

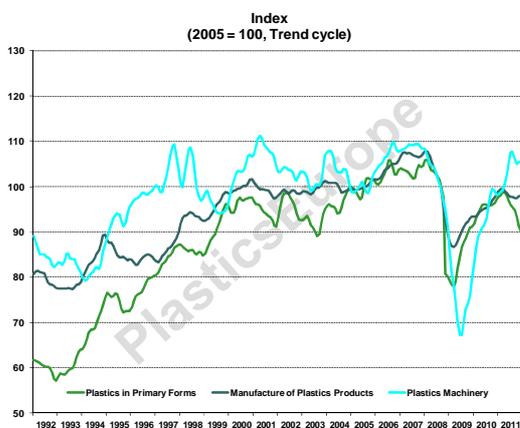
Export growth of Primary Plastics was strengthening in the second half of 2010 and has reached its peak at the end of 2010. Also export quantities of Plastics Products grew until the end of 2010, but showed primarily decreasing tendencies in 2011. Last months showed more constant exports for Primary Plastics and slightly growing exports of Plastics Products.

Outlook

The end of the year 2011 showed diverging tendencies in the key-sectors of the EU27 Plastics Industry. The same applies to Plastics Industry producer prices. Therefore, trends and developments for the following months in the EU27 Plastics Industry seem to vary in the different segments.

European Union (EU27) Plastics Industry Production

PlasticsEurope
Association of Plastics Manufacturers



Plastics Industry Production by long term view (1992-2011):

- Long time series shows strong growth for production of Primary Plastics and Plastics Products during the 1990's and a more sideways development from 2000 to 2005. Plastics Machinery shows a more fluctuating development in long-term view.
- After strong growth in all the three segments in 2006 and more constant development in 2007, the effects of the economical crisis are clearly recognizable in 2008 and first half of 2009.
- Economic recovery since mid 2009 in all the three segments: Plastics in Primary Forms, Plastics Products and Plastics Machinery.

Source: Eurostat / PlasticsEurope Market Research Group (PEMRG)

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European Union (EU27) Plastics Industry Production

PlasticsEurope
Association of Plastics Manufacturers

Production Index (working day adjusted)

Sectors	Dec 11 Index 2005 = 100	Jan - Dec 11 Index 2005 = 100	Dec 11 y-o-y (%)	Jan - Dec 11 y-o-y (%)
Primary Plastics	74,6	95,8	-8,8	0,6
Plastics Products	76,6	98,3	0,5	3,2
Plastics Machinery	126,6	103,7	10,6	11,2

- The year 2011 showed increasing production figures compared to 2010. The strongest increase by far was recorded for the Plastics Machinery sector with +11,2%. Production of Plastics Products increased by 3,2%, while Primary Plastics recorded a slight growth of 0,6%.

Production Index (Trend cycle)

Sectors	Sep 11	Okt 11	Nov 11	Dec 11
Change in % against previous month				
Primary Plastics	-0,7	-1,6	-2,1	-1,5
Plastics Products	-0,2	0,0	0,3	0,2
Plastics Machinery	-1,6	-0,9	0,4	0,1

- Compared to previous month, Primary Plastics Production in December decreased again by 1,5%. Thus, the recent downward trend continues.

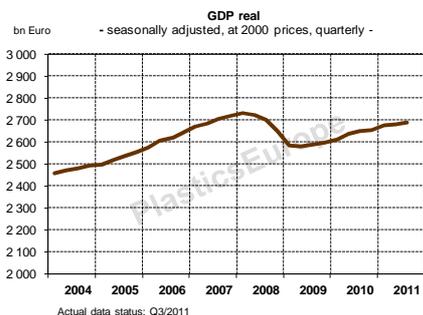
- Production of Plastics Products and Plastics Machinery showed a more or less constant development in December 2011.

Source: Eurostat / PlasticsEurope Market Research Group (PEMRG)

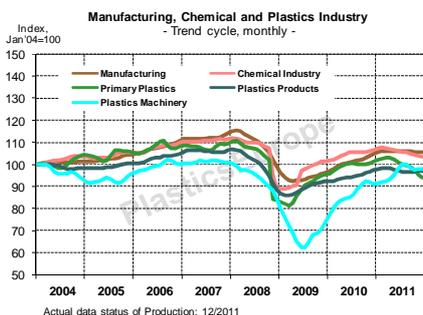
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European Union (EU27) GDP, Chemical and Plastics Industry

PlasticsEurope
Association of Plastics Manufacturers



- EU27 GDP increased by 1,8% in 2010, compared to 2009.
- In the third quarter of 2011 the GDP increased by another 0,2% compared to second quarter.
- Actual estimations of Eurostat for EU27 GDP growth rates (year on year):
2011: +1,6%, 2012: +0,6%



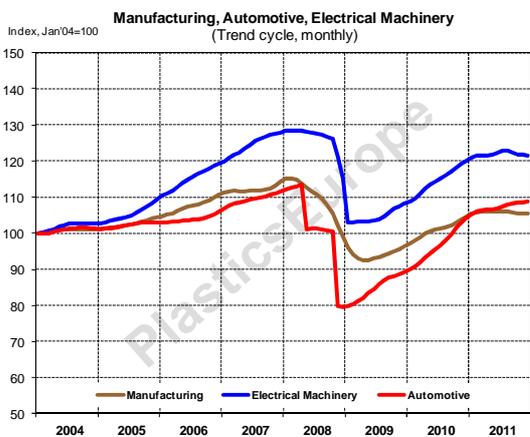
- Uptrend in the Chemical Industry as well as in Total Manufacturing has lasted until the first quarter of 2011. Since then, slightly decreasing tendencies can be observed.
- Also, slight downward trend in the second half of 2011 for production of Primary Plastics and Plastics Machinery, while Plastics Products showed a more or less constant development.

Source: Eurostat / PlasticsEurope Market Research Group (PEMRG)

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European Union (EU27) Plastics Customer Industries - Part I

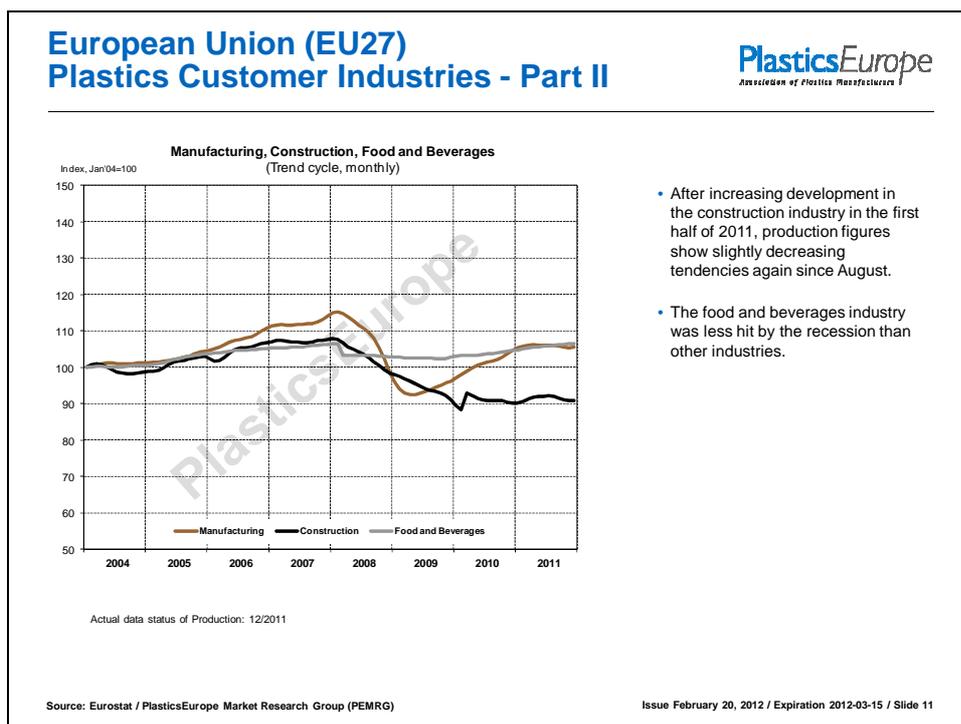
PlasticsEurope
Association of Plastics Manufacturers



- Continuing recovery in the EU27's Manufacturing Industry since 2009, but with more sideway tendency since the second quarter of 2011.
- Recovery in the Automotive Industry is going on in 2011.
- Upward trend in the Electrical Machinery Industry continued until August 2011, but shows a slightly decreasing tendency since September.
- Industrial production activity in the EU27 is still below the pre-crisis level.

Source: Eurostat / PlasticsEurope Market Research Group (PEMRG)

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The above data are taken from the database of PEMRG (PlasticsEurope Market Research Group). This database provides key data from the plastics industry for all Member States of EU27, resorting to official European statistics (Eurostat).

Contact: *Claus Simon (PED) and Frank Schnieders (Bayer MaterialScience)*

10. The Association

Central Region: Regional Team Meeting

The Central Regional Team met on 19 / 20 March in Vienna. The meeting was dedicated to advocacy issues with participation of Martin Engelmann and Michael Hillenbrand. Rüdiger Baunemann and Ingo Sartorius gave an update on Bisphenol A, Marine Litter and on Waste Management issues. First preparations for the RAB Meeting on 5 / 6 September in Prague were made. All country directors presented their respective country reports.

Contact: Rüdiger Baunemann / Anja Ziegler

DE: Board meeting of PlasticsEurope Deutschland

The board of PlasticsEurope Deutschland met on 23 February in Frankfurt. Rüdiger Klein from Basell Deutschland participated as a guest of BKV. Main targets of the meeting were the preliminary financial year end reporting, the reorganization of BKV and tecpol and the actual status of the EoM Project. The next meeting is on 10 May in Augsburg.

Contact: *Rüdiger Baunemann / Claus Simon*

DE: Working Committee Plastics and Environment (Kunststoff und Umwelt)

In its first meeting of 2012, the working committee Plastics and Environment reflected the diversity of many issues in the fields of resource efficiency, consumer protection and energy/climate. The next meeting is scheduled on 10 May on the occasion of the General Assembly.

Contact: *Ingo Sartorius*

SK: Meeting of Working Groups ZCHFP SR

On 28 February the working meeting of heads of all working groups of ZCHFP SR was held in Bratislava.

There are WGs as follows:

Representatives of the Association are members of following Expert Working Groups (EWG) of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic:

- EWG for Emission Trading System
- EWG for IPPC
- EWG for Wastes Management
- EWG for Chemical Legislation
- EWG for Environmental Burdens
- EWG for Water.

Nine representatives of ZCHFP SR are members of the Working Group for REACH of the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic.

Working Groups (WGs) in the frame of ZCHFP SR organizational structure also contributing to advocacy:

- WG for Responsible Care
- WG for Transportation and Logistics
- WG for Collective Bargaining
- WG for Trading Policy
- WG for Pharmacological Legislation
- WG for Specialized Education
- WG for Industrial Accidents Prevention – Seveso.

The aim of the meeting: to make a SWOT analysis of the up to now activities of the WGs and prepare the Action plan for 2012.

Contact: *Silvia Surová*

PL: Annual Foundation Council Meeting

The Board and the Council of PlasticsEurope Polska Foundation have approved the activity and financial accounts of the organisation in 2011. During those meetings detailed plans of PEP activity in 2012 have also been discussed and accepted. This year besides regular activities (projects in frame of Resource Efficiency program, media relation and education), we focus on organising Identipast 2012 conference (6-7 November in Warsaw) and on communication around sport events such as Euro 2012 and Olympic games.

Contact: *Kazimierz Borkowski*

11. Further topics

DE: “Kieler Marktplatz” – Marine litter

Some 60 delegates from science and research, politics, administration and industry discussed about marine litter at the 7th Kieler Marktplatz. Latest studies by maritime research institutes show that most releases of litter in the North Sea originate from ships, thereof one third fishing nets and another third plastic packaging from ships' galleys. 97% of fulmars contain ca. 0.4 g of plastic per animal. Proposed measures: EU-wide deposit fee for consumer goods, eliminate motivation for littering, e.g. ban of bio-plastics, and binding proper waste disposal from ships in coastal and sea ports. Francesca Aulenta (BASF) and Ingo Sartorius presented the activities of PlasticsEurope, including the global declaration, individual projects and the plastic waste strategy.

Contact: *Ingo Sartorius*

DE: Decision on resource efficiency programme “ProgRess”

The German Federal Government has finalized the resource efficiency programme “ProgRess”. This is the first national programme in Europe which is commonly adopted by the full Government. Programmes presented so far in the Netherlands (2010) and in Austria (2012) stem exclusively from the respective environmental departments. PlasticsEurope Deutschland succeeded to illustrate the positive conditions of plastics on behalf of our industry in the Programme, where the effective contribution to resource efficiency from the use of plastics – e.g. through light weight and fuel-saving transport, insulation of buildings, or

protecting food from spoilage – is recognised. Meanwhile, the Federal Parliament (Bundestag) has approved the motion for a resolution by the Government Coalition Parties. Next, the programme will be further developed and measures identified.

Contact: Michael Hillenbrand, Ingo Sartorius

DE: New DIN Committee Resource Protection (“Ressourcenschutz”)

Against the background of ongoing political work at EU level (EU Roadmap and CEN/CLC activities) and the Federal Programme ProgRess a new committee was established at DIN. Essential tasks of the group include, inter alia: mirror of European and international standardization activities, coordination with other committees and expert groups, deal with concrete projects e.g. in construction or IT sectors. Professor Seifert of the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) was nominated as committee chair.

Contact: Ingo Sartorius

SK: Seminar on Seveso III Directive



On 1 March the Workshop Seveso III Directive: Control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances was held in the seat of ZCHFP SR in Bratislava.

There were 17 participants from 9 member companies of ZCHFP SR.

The main goals:

- to inform the participants on new obligation arising from the Seveso III Directive
- to create new Working Group for Industrial Accidents Prevention in the frame of ZCHFP SR structure
- to prepare the Action plan of the WG for 2012.

Contact: Silvia Surová

SL: Bilateral project Slovenia-Austria PolyRegion successfully launched

PolyRegion is a project, which is funded in the frame of European Territorial Cooperation, the Operational Programme Slovenia-Austria 2007-2013 and started in January 2012. The objective of the project is improving the cooperation of key organisations in the area of polymer materials and technologies in the cross-border area Carinthia, Styria and Slovenia to raise the potentials especially from SMEs, to achieve synergies among them and to enhance their visible internationality in the PolyRegion. The main result of the project will be formation of an internationally recognized and successful PolyRegion in the cross-border area Slovenia-Austria by combining R&D and industrial capacities especially SME's in the area of polymer technologies with the aim of upgrading knowledge base, infrastructure and competitiveness.

The project partners are :

- Montanuniversität Leoben, Austria;
- Materials Cluster Styria in Leoben, Austria;
- Polymer Technology College (college of higher education for polymer technologies – lead partner of project) in Slovenj Gradec, Slovenia;
- Tecos (slovenian tool and die development centre) in Celje, Slovenia, and
- GIZ Grozd Plasttehnika (Slovenian Plasttechnics Cluster) in Celje, Slovenia.

Planned procedure:

- Get in contact with all relevant companies and institutions in the field of polymers in Carinthia, Styria and Slovenia;
- Elevation of basic data of the companies and institutions to develop a competence map with these informations on the website of PolyRegion (will be in use in May/June);
- Organisation of seminars, events, B2B Meetings and Business Events for networking and for exchange of experiences within the PolyRegion companies and institutions;

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- Accomplishment of cross-border network- and development projects to raise the competitive capacity for interested companies and institutions.

Contact: Janez Navodnik