

REGIONAL NEWSLINK CENTRAL REGION January 2012

Dear Colleagues,

Hope you had a good start into 2012. It will certainly be a challenging year for the industry, the economy as a whole and for all of us. Just recently, the plastics industry has surprisingly fast overcome a severe crisis and found back on track. But now, again there are signs ahead that do not really make us feel confident. There are voices saying the global economy is already experiencing recession. The financial turmoil caused by the debt crisis and the Euro comes on top. In this situation, it is even more important that we share best practices and help one another. This newsletter is one of the means to enable this, as our regular contacts within the region in no matter what channel. I would like to encourage you today to continue this journey together with all of us.

Best regards
Rüdiger Baunemann

CONTENTS

1. ETS

[DE: New draft for Environmental State Aid Rules – Stakeholder consultation](#)

2. Climate Protection & Energy Efficiency

[AT: ÖGNI moves ahead full speed](#)

[AT: Heat Death \(A Focus on Entropy\)](#)

[DE: Advisory council for biopolymer network](#)

[DE: Biowaste ordinance in Federal Council](#)

[DE: Conciliation on insulation law](#)

3. Waste Framework Directive Transposition

[DE: Conciliation on German Waste Act](#)

[DE: German Waste Act comes into delay](#)

[EU: Political Agreement achieved on WEEE Recast](#)

4. Plastics Waste Management

[CZ: The new project for Plastics Waste Management in Central Europe](#)

[PL: Polish association of RDF's promotion \(SPPA\) attempts to consolidate industry manufacturers](#)

[PL: ENVICON](#)

[PL: On plastics recycling at POLEKO Fair](#)

[SL: First international PLASTICE conference successfully concluded](#)

5. Ecolabelling & Green Public Procurement

[AT: Braungart ante portas](#)

6. Packaging

[AT: Those bottles again](#)

CZ: Styrene advocacy and French notification 2011/529/F re BPA_PE
PL: PET bottles deposit
SL: Successful demonstration sessions – closing of the WHEYLAYER FP7 project

7. Consumer Protection

AT: ChemG-Novelle 2011
CZ: Project Eco-Profile GPPS and HIPS Meeting on 1 December
DE: Amended drinking water ordinance
DE: Meeting of Joint Committee Commodities
DE: Draft recommendation on catalysts and initiators
DE: German ministry for consumer protection inactive on BpA
EU: Publication on Official Journal of corrected version of Regulation (EU) No 10/2011
PL: BPA advocacy

8. Communications

CZ: 5-th Czech and Slovak packaging Congress
DE: Experiments for kids
DE: Math-science convention with 2.000 teachers
DE: Kuno in the field
DE: Talk by the fireplace
PL: Exhibition “Ideas on plastics waste”
PL: PlasticsEurope Polska in media
SK: ZCHFP SR – New Higher Level Collective Agreement 2012-2014
SK: Mr. Janez Potocnik on his visit to Slovakia

9. Economy and Trade

DE: PEMRG meeting
EU: Current business situation of the plastics industry in Europe (EU”/)

10. The Association

CZ: Entry about Plastics for Schp information 3/2011
DE: Board meeting of PlasticsEurope Deutschland
DE: Meeting of working PVC Knowledge
DE: Workshop “PVC and Environment”
DE: Working Committee Plastics and Environment
DE: Technical Committee of tecpol
DE: Annual Meeting of BDSV
DE: Fraunhofer Expert Forum
CH/DE: Converters conference
PL: PEP BoD meeting and Foundation Council Meeting
PL: On plastics with plastics value chain
SK: Mrs. Silvia Surová, Secretary General of ZCHFP SR
SK: Board Meeting of ZCHFP SR

11. Further Topics

DE: MEP Matthias Groote visits Baerlocher
DE: National transposition of Industry Emission Directive (IED)
DE: Comments on German Resource Efficiency Programme
SK: Joint Work Meeting of Working Group for REACH and Responsible Care Committee
SK: Project NANOFORCE

1. ETS

DE: New draft for Environmental State Aid Rules – Stakeholder consultation

The emission trading directives allows financial compensation for risen electricity prices due to the European Emission Trading System. To establish this compensation the European Environmental State Aid Rules have to be revised. In December the European Commission published a new draft of the State Aid Rules. The German Government published a position paper on the draft. PlasticsEurope Germany and VCI support the government's position, because only with the therein mentioned claims, polymers are surely eligible for compensation. The draft of the Commission is published for stakeholder consultation until end of January. VCI will take part.

Contact: Tina Buchholz

2. Climate Protection & Energy Efficiency

AT: ÖGNI moves ahead full speed

ÖGNI, the Austrian partner organization of the German Society for Sustainable Buildings (DGNB), is proud of their wide range of gold level certificates, ranging from office buildings to hotels, from kindergartens to private accommodation.

Find details on ÖGNI and their success story on www.ogni.at (automatic Google translation available on page) photo/graphics copyright ÖGNI, Marina Tower, Vienna):

Contact: Heinz Schratt



AT: Heat Death (A Focus on Entropy)

For years the head of the department for chemical policies, Dr. Thomas Jakl, has always favoured a rather fundamental approach to climate protection: entropy*. This year, "his" annual scientific congress will be focusing on that specific aspect of environmental protection.

*Among other principles, thermodynamics is dealing with the concept of entropy – meaning energy content of a given system.

Contact: Heinz Schratt

DE: Advisory council for biopolymer network

Building a biopolymer network at the Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR) was already mentioned back in 2009 in the federal government's national action plan for substance recovery from renewable raw materials. This network is intended to function as an information and communication platform for science, industry, politicians and the general public. Within first concrete activities and working towards long-term developments, there are now considerations to set up an advisory council which should meet as required – in order to evaluate and discuss progress in the building of the network and its activities in previously defined fields and to propose further focal topics. PlasticsEurope Deutschland has been invited to participate in the advisory council.

Contact: Sabine Lindner

DE: Biowaste ordinance in Federal Council

In late November the Federal Council (Bundesrat; the chamber of parliament representing the federal states) dealt with the amendment of the ordinance on the recovery of biowastes on soils used for agricultural, silvicultural and horticultural purposes (Bioabfallverordnung/BioAbfV). From our viewpoint, it is highly positive that a motion by North Rhine-Westphalia and Bremen – which would have quasi-banned the recovery of bio-degradable plastics as bio-waste on surface areas – was defeated. Instead of the above-mentioned motion, Rhineland Palatinate submitted a compromise motion to the plenary and that compromise was accepted. In consequence, existing major uses of biodegradable plastics (e.g. as bio-waste bag or protective and mulch films in agriculture) are now explicitly permitted for recovery purposes.

However, use as packaging is to be deleted from annex 1 to the cabinet draft for the biowaste ordinance. If necessary, this point needs to be brought back in the discussion in the next amendment of the biowaste ordinance.

Contact: Sabine Lindner

DE: Conciliation on insulation law

On 8th and 22nd November and on 14th December the conciliation committee of Bundestag (Parliament) and Bundesrat (regional chamber) parted without having reached an agreement on the insulation law which may be achieved in January 2012 unless the law fails.

Contact: Michael Hillenbrand

SL: Bilateral conference Slovenia - Croatia

Plasttechnics Cluster of Slovenia in the cooperation with University of Zagreb, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, Faculty for Architecture and The Centre of Technology Transfer organizes Bilateral conference CROATIA-SLOVENIA which will take place on 24th January 2012 in Zagreb, Croatia.

The purpose of this joint conference with title "Passive house" is to bring the key players about energy efficient construction from Slovenia, and Croatia together. Speakers from industry and science will present current technological achievements and their legislation overview.

Concept of passive house construction will be explained and supported with practical example of calculation of primary energy consumption in a passive house. Advanced materials and legislative provisions relating to them are an important factor in the construction of passive houses as well as computer programs to design passive houses. In the end, successful projects of construction in Croatia, passive solar home systems and applications as an intermediate step towards the construction of self-sufficient house will be presented. During the seminars, the exhibition of literature will be organized as well as professional exhibition of industrial attendees.

More info available at Plasttechnics Cluster of Slovenia (Mr. Navodnik, navodnik@giz-grozd-plasttehnika.si), and at The Centre of Technology Transfer (Prof. Dr. Šercer, msercer@fsb.hr).

Contact: Janez Navodnik

3. Waste Framework Directive Transposition

DE: Conciliation on German Waste Act

The conciliation committee on the German Waste Act which has been called on 25th November parted without a final agreement after a first reconciliation proposal submitted on 14th December 2011. Not before January 2012 the draft may be turned into German law.

Contact: Michael Hillenbrand

DE: German Waste Act comes into delay

After the second and the third reading of the revised German Waste Act in the Bundestag, the final legislative proposal did not pass the Bundesrat. The reason is that the Bundesländer are afraid of negative impact towards the public waste operators (predominantly municipalities) at the point of waste collection. For this reason, the federal conciliation procedure will start in February 2012. Bundesrat and Bundestag have to agree so that the finalization can be expected by summer 2012.

Contact: Ingo Sartorius

EU: Political Agreement achieved on WEEE Recast

The WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Directive concretises the producer responsibility of the Waste Framework Directive in the electrical industry sector. After prolonged negotiations, the Commission, the Parliament and the Council achieved political agreement during the Polish Presidency end of December. The European Parliament is expected to vote on the compromise text on 18 and 19 January 2012 in its second reading.

The recast is primarily intended to increase collection and recycling/recovery targets for electrical waste and to limit illegal exports. Manufacturers and importers will benefit from considerable streamlining of the European registration procedure which is required prior to placing electronic equipment on the market. The Directive will be transposed into national law across Europe, asap the recast is finalised and the new WEEE Directive set into force.
Contact: Ingo Sartorius

4. Plastics Waste Management

CZ: The new project for Plastics Waste Management in Central Europe

Project: Plastics Waste management in Central Europe – Countries' Case Studies and Exchange of Experiences

Current status: We sent Letter of intent

Cooperation between PE Polska (initiator of this project), Association of chemical Industry of the Czech Republic and Association of chemical Industry of the Slovak Republic

Contact: František Svoboda

PL: Polish association of RDF's promotion (SPPA) attempts to consolidate industry manufacturers

SPPA organized on 15th December the seminar on "Quality of RDF" as another initiative aimed at promotion of RDF and further consolidation of industry. Fifty participants of seminar attended lectures on incineration of RDF in cement industry and the need to establish quality standards for RDF. Representative of PlasticsEurope Polska took part in the general assembly of members of the association and as a new member of SPPA intends to actively promote RDF in Poland.

Contact: Grzegorz P. Rękawek

PL: ENVICON

XV International Congress of Environmental Protection Ecology ENVICON took place in Poznań, along with the POLEKO Fair, exhibitions and several side sessions. This year's event organized under the auspices of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2011 was supported also by Polish Minister of Environment, Polish Minister of Economy and Polish Minister of Infrastructure, as well as by President of European Parliament Jerzy Buzek and European Commissioner for Environment Janez Potocnik. PlasticsEurope Polska was one of 3 partners listed and presented during opening ceremony and main sessions.

The Congress gathered some 500 participants, who discussed legal and financial issues of waste management, recycling and recovery, waste water and sewerage management, during 5 basic sessions of the congress. PlasticsEurope Polska representative in the session on investments in waste management gave the presentation entitled "European strategy of diverting plastics waste from landfill. Is it possible in Poland?" Several promotional materials on value of plastics waste was distributed among participants of the congress. The special presentation with key messages and data from plastics waste management area was constantly displayed on promotional screen and our logo was presented several hundred times during the sessions, supported by roll-ups.

Contact: Kazimierz Borkowski

PL: On plastics recycling at POLEKO Fair

The "Recycling Exhibition" – one of POLEKO Fair's special expositions – covers different issues of recycling in series of seminars. At the seminar session dedicated to collection, recycling and recovery of waste, PlasticsEurope Polska representative gave the presentation on recycling and recovery options of plastics waste, The printed materials with facts and figures about plastics waste in Poland and in Europe were distributed during the seminar.

Contact: Grzegorz P. Rękawek

SL: First international PLASTiCE conference successfully concluded

The first PLASTiCE international conference, which also counted as the project launch conference, was successfully concluded on October 25 with a round table discussion. The two-day conference (October 24-25) held in Bologna, Italy under the working title: Europe for sustainable plastics, was attended by more than 70 participants from twelve countries. The conference was opened by the head of the Research Office at the University of Bologna Dr. Giuseppe Conti, the representative of the Emilia-Romagna region territorial cooperation office Ms. Antonella Liberatore, and the coordinator of the PLASTiCE project dr. Andrej Kržan. The speakers stressed the importance of research contributing to the development of new sustainable solutions for a better future of next generations, the importance of international cooperation programs, and the wider role of the PLASTiCE project. The introductory lecture gave a critical overview of past European activities in the area of biodegradable plastics. Through the following presentations of European projects dealing with the wider area of sustainable plastics the conference gave an overview of on-going activities in the field of plastic sustainability particularly those funded from European sources. During more than 25 presentations of the current state of the art the conference provided a much needed snapshot of the current situation and a de- facto overview of the developing trends in bio plastics and other modern, sustainable plastic materials and solutions. Beside the project overviews, the conference also hosted the Italian bioplastics association Assobioplastiche, and several important industry representatives (from companies Novamont, Telles, Ecocortec), who gave a view of sustainable plastics solutions from a different angle and presented their current situation and expectations. The conference was closed with a round table where conclusions and recommendations were given.

»Instead of just explaining what we are doing and why our project is important, we wanted to do this conference in a slightly different way. We convened representatives of European and national projects and let them introduce their projects in the sustainable plastics area. Our goal was to get a first-hand insight of the real situation, to understand what is in the pipeline and what obstacles the projects are encountering in their efforts to promote and commercialize new sustainable plastics solutions. Judging by the responses of participants and by the conclusions and recommendations of the round table, we believe that we succeeded to offer a conference format that is missing from the otherwise rich conference circuit«, said Andrej Kržan the PLASTiCE project coordinator.

More information about the conference, the presented projects presentations, abstracts and other information can be found on www.plastice.org

Contact: Janez Navodnik

SK: Program of Waste Management of the Slovak Republic Postponed

During 2011 the Program of Waste Management of the Slovak Republic for 2012 – 2015 had been prepared by the Ministry of Environment. According to the Program, for instance, at least 45 % of the wastes of plastic packaging should be recycled yearly in the period of 2012 – 2015.

The Program has not been adopted yet due to the agreement of the parliament political parties that no significant legislation should be approved before the premature general election on 10 March 2012 (originally planned for 2014).

Contact: Silvia Surová

5. Ecolabelling & Green Public Procurement

AT: Braungart ante portas

Definitely NO eco-label but extremely active and proficient in PR matters, Dr. Michael Braungart promotes his “cradle to cradle” or C2C philosophy vigorously. In Austria he has managed to team up with a regional consultant M.O.O.CON and ÖGNI and will dominate this year’s annual “Bauherren-Kongress” of ÖGNI in Linz.

Braungart stands aside from most science and all conventional concepts of sustainability. Instead he positions himself as a prophet of “new thinking”, thereby blurring existing definitions

and using metaphors (abundantly blossoming cherry trees, meat munching ants...) in order to illustrate his dogma of "intelligent waste" being a nutrient in nature as well as in (C2C certified) technosphere.

Admittedly, it sounds good to hear that we need not reduce our consumption or the level of comfort in order to save the world. However, Braungart is concentrating not on environmental parameters but on material cycles only. To his followers he supplies consulting and C2C labeling. Both do not contribute much to the environment or sustainability. C2C is a tempting marketing asset and a threat to serious discussions.

Dr. Michael Braungart: "We do not want sustainability, because that is not enough. We want real quality."

Contact: *Heinz Schratt*

6. Packaging

AT: Those bottles again

The Austrian Greens and the Socialist Party of Vienna have again been pushing for quotas on re-fillable beverage bottles the last year. In response, the Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Labour have compiled a common strategy for the food chains to promote re-fillables on a voluntary basis.

This strategy has been endorsed by the Ministry of Environment. Consequently two motions from the Greens in the **parliamentary** committee – proposing a quota on re-fillable bottles with a bonus/malus-system for the large distributors – have been declined by the other parties.

The City of Vienna (coalition of Socialist and Green parties), however, is still pushing for quota. A congress together with Deutsche Umwelthilfe is planned for 18 Jan.

Contact: *Heinz Schratt*

CZ: Styrene advocacy and French notification 2011/529/F re BPA _PE

We cooperated between Chemical Association, Ministry of the Environmental, Ministry of Industry and Synthos during whole process styrene advocacy. The Czech authority supported our request "no classification" of styrene monomer in category 1B. We hand over information about French notification 2011/529/F re BPA_PE and another the relevant information pertinent to issue our partners.

Contact: *František Svoboda*

PL: PET bottles deposit

The Polish Plastics Converters Association has urged in a few press contacts that a deposit system for PET bottles should be established in Poland. This would raise plastics recovery and recycling rates in Poland which are today among the lowest in Europe. Ministry of Environment commented however that Polish administration envisage this solution as Poland meets EU requirements for plastic packaging recycling targets (19% in 2011) and the introduction of a deposit system in Poland would be very complicated in terms of legal and technical aspects and would require a lot of money.

Contact: *Kazimierz Borkowski*

SL: Successful demonstration sessions – closing of the WHEYLAYER FP7 project

In the final months of the WHEYLAYER project, consortium members have organized four demonstration sessions and workshops around Europe to present projects achievements and results. Events were organized in Slovenia, Spain, Italy and Hungary with altogether, almost 100 attendees from 13 European countries. Most of them were from packaging industry but also from research institutions, food, cosmetic, machinery and automotive industry as well as from recycling industry.

Project consortium members presented all important findings and achievements of the WHEYLAYER project. The demonstration sessions were oriented to presenting the development of the new material and its production process as well as the material's potential, benefits and possible ways of use. The WHEYLAYER project prototype machine built during

the project was demonstrated to coat PET films at semi-industrial speed. Workshops also presented the recyclability of the laminated WHEYLAYER material in water bath with addition of enzymes and the possibility of scaling up recycling process to meet industrial requirements. Participants acknowledged the interest of the information provided and the invaluable assets of new material especially for the cosmetic and food industries.

More info available at www.wheylayer.eu

Contact: Janez Navodnik

7. Consumer Protection

AT: ChemG- Novelle 2011

The last changes in the proposed amendments to the Chemical Law (ChemG – Novelle 2011) have passed the environmental committee on 11 Jan. Changes primarily refer to implement CLP and REACH.

Download: http://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/VHG/XXIV/II_01638/fname_240589.pdf

Contact: Heinz Schratt

CZ: Project Eco – Profile GPPS and HIPS Meeting on 1 December

On the project cooperates all relevant companies Styron, BASF, INEOS, Polimeri, Synthos, Total. Current status we made NDA issue.

Contact: František Svoboda

DE: Amended drinking water ordinance

The 1st ordinance amending the drinking water ordinance (Trinkwasserverordnung/TrinkwV) became effective on 1 November, after promulgation on 11 May in the official journal (Bundesgesetzblatt). The drinking water ordinance regulates the quality of water for human use. Changes to the drinking water ordinance – which has been in force since 2001 – take into account new scientific findings in the fields of drinking water hygiene and consumer protection. The text of the amended ordinance (in German language) can be accessed at

http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/trinkwv_2001/BJNR095910001.html

Contact: Sabine Lindner

DE: Meeting of Joint Committee Commodities

The Joint Committee on Commodities met on 29 November in Frankfurt. Discussions focused on current developments in European legislation on plastics in food contact, ongoing legislative and standardization activities regarding toys, the 2nd draft for the German printing ink ordinance, bisphenol A-related activities (especially in France), and further deletions from the plastics recommendations of the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR). Other points of information and discussion were current developments for materials in contact with drinking water (4 Member State approach) and German and Dutch guidance for drinking water contact materials. Reports were given on ongoing projects, e.g. FACET and concerning xeno-hormones and migration of nanomaterials from packaging materials. Ms Nena Kasprik (guest; doctoral candidate at the Institute of Food Chemistry of TU Dresden) presented a screening method for extractable substances, by way of quantitative nuclear spin magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy.

Contact: Sabine Lindner

DE: Draft recommendation on catalysts and initiators

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) sent us a draft for a new “Recommendation for catalysts and initiators” for plastics intended for food contact – against the backdrop of substances for the manufacture of plastic materials intended to come into contact with food meanwhile being governed by Regulation (EU) No 10/2011. As European legislation progresses, more and more substances have been deleted from the BfR plastics recommendations where essentially only polymerization aids remain. The new recommend-

ation wants to summarize those recommendations in a simplified manner. The draft will be the subject of an expert meeting in mid-January 2012 with delegates from industry and BfR.
Contact: Sabine Lindner

DE: German ministry for consumer protection inactive on BpA

Tony Van Osselaer, Bayer Material Science, and Gerd Romanowski, VCI, had visited Stefan Kloos, State Secretary of the German ministry of consumer protection (BMELV) on 29th November, and Katherina Reiche, CDU, State Secretary of the German ministry of environment on 15th December 2011. Industry's representatives argued for a sound science approach on Bisphenol A and asked for support in the notification process 2011/529/F (directive 98/34/EG) concerning a French proposal for a widened ban of BpA. Walther Quasigroch from BMELV explained on 13th January 2012 why BMELV would remain inactive: Germany and France would agree upon scientific uncertainties.

Contact: Michael Hillenbrand

EU: Publication in Official Journal of corrected version of Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 (in German language)

A corrected version (in German language) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food (PIM) was published on 25 October in the Official Journal:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:278:0013:0101:DE:PDF>

Contact: Sabine Lindner

PL: BPA advocacy

Following press releases from BPA/Polycarbonate group in PlasticsEurope, PlasticsEurope Polska together with Polish Chamber of Chemical Industry has prepared two position papers in Polish and addressed them to key persons and experts in Polish administration asking Polish government to oppose the unjustified ban of the use of BPA-based food contact materials. The distribution of the paper was also coordinated with Polish Federation of Food Producers and communicated to Polish Chamber of Retailers.

Contact: Kazimierz Borkowski

8. Communications

CZ: 5-th Czech and Slovak packaging Congress

TOPIC: Safe packaging for food news and trends in packaging and packaging materials, packaging and sustainable development, bio-degradable packaging versus oxo.

Date: 23rd – 24th November, Organizer: SYBA: Czech Packaging Association / Czech Packaging Institute SYBA

Contact: František Svoboda

DE: Experiments for kids

For the third time, kids and youths were invited to experience the fascination of science and technic at the exhibition FORSCHA Munich. PlasticsEurope participated with "Kunos coole Kunststoffkiste" in various ways: In two workshops, organized by the Bavarian chemistry association, teachers were trained in the use of Kuno. At a stand of its own, PlasticsEurope offered kids and youths to try some of the Kuno experiments. In addition, all stand visitors could take a look into the PlasticsEurope teaching materials.

Contact: Tanja Rühl

DE: Math-science convention with 2.000 teachers

The same procedure as every year: the German convention of math-scientific teachers traditionally took place in Bremerhaven (Bremen) – last year with almost 2.000 participants.

PlasticsEurope contributed to the programme with a well-frequented stand, and explained teachers in a specific workshop how to use the five Kuno experiments.

Contact: *Tanja Rühl*

DE: Kuno in the field

1) Whole lotta joy: a class of the Regenbogen school in Münsterappel won the first prize at the autumn contest for “Kunos coole Kunststoffkiste”. All pupils received one of the sweet Kuno shirts. The fairy tale contest about a plastics princess is still very popular among school kids: every year, numerous collages, paintings and comics are sent to PlasticsEurope, making the contest an ongoing success story.

2) Whole lotta thanks: last year, the high-ranked University of Regensburg (Bavaria) established a new teach-the-teacher-laboratory, giving PlasticsEurope the opportunity to donate “Kunos coole Kunststoffkiste” and some teaching material at the inauguration. The university was quite happy about the support and wrote a very thankful message to our Kuno experts.

Contact: *Tanja Rühl*

DE: Talk by the fireplace

Among the German plastics press, an invitation to the “Lämmerspieler Abend” is seen as a big privilege. This evening takes place once a year in a little village near Frankfurt and aims at building trust and a common understanding. End of the last year, 12 of the most important journalists from the German plastics press were present. The chairman of PlasticsEurope Deutschland’s board Wolfgang Hapke as well as Rüdiger Baunemann gave topical information during this evening by the fireplace that lasted long – until 2 o’clock in the morning!

Contact: *Michael Herrmann*

PL: Exhibition “Ideas on plastics waste”

PlasticsEurope Polska was a sole partner of unique exhibition of up-cycled plastics products organized at POLEKO Fair 2011. Over 30 designer products presented, such as clock from old vinyl records, handbags from plastic labels, pencils from CD or armchair from plastic barrel, raised a lot of visitors interest. They could also read about plastics and its ecological benefits in promotional folder available at the stand. All products shown at the exhibition are commercialized.

Contact: *Anna Szałkowska*



PL: PlasticsEurope Polska in media

Several articles, covering plastics industry messages, and written or initiated by PlasticsEurope Polska were published recently in Polish press, plastics and daily, among others listed below:

- an article on plastics recycling versus plastics recovery in Poland (Recycling” 11/2011)
- an article on plastics role in energy efficiency and climate protection (*based on Denkstattt study, Przemysł i zarządzanie 11-12/2011*)
- Relations from Identiplast conference (Rzeczpospolita 10/2012, Recykling 12/2012, Polimery 11-12/2011)
- three articles based on recent Plastics the facts (PlastNews 11/2011, Chemia i biznes 6/2011, Recykling 1/2012)
- an article based on Denkstattt packaging study (Chemia i biznes 1/2012)

Contact: *Anna Kozera-Szałkowska*

SK: ZCHFP SR - New Higher Level Collective Agreement 2012-2014

On 17 January, after the collective bargaining lasting from September 2011 to January 2012, the Higher Level Collective Agreement for 2012-2014 was signed among the Energo-Chemical Trade Union Organization (ECHOZ) and the Association of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industry of Slovak Republic (ZCHFP SR).

Contact: *Silvia Surová*

SK: Mr. JANEZ POTOČNIK on his visit to Slovakia

On the basis of an invitation of Mr. Jozsef Nagy, the Minister of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, Mr. JANEZ POTOČNIK, Commissioner for Environment, will visit Slovakia on 19 and 20 January.

Agenda:

19 January

- Meeting with NGO representatives
- Meeting with Non-state forests owners

20 January

- Meeting with the chairman of two parliamentary committees: Committee on EU Affairs and Committee on Environment
- Meeting with Mr. Ján Figel, 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport, Construction and Regional Development, and József Nagy, Minister of Environment
- Bilateral meeting with József Nagy, Minister of Environment, followed by a joint press conference.

Contact: *Silvia Surová*

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

DE: PEMRG meeting

The **PlasticsEuropeMarketResearchGroup** (PEMRG) met on 02./03. December in Frankfurt. Meantime 18 member companies are working within the market group (total participants 26). There was also an organisational change in the core competences within PlasticsEurope. Ramon Gil, director of PlasticsEurope Iberica, nominated as new coordinator for “Facts & Figures”. Claus Simon, PE-Deutschland, is still secretary and Frank Schnieders, Bayer MaterialScience, is still chairman of the working group. In the year-end meeting of PEMRG the results of the statistic work was presented and discussed. The statistic products like the “Business Data and Charts”, the “Monthly Monitoring”, the Waste and Recovery Statistics, but also the Eurostat Database are meanwhile highly accepted in the press, in the politics and also by the members themselves. It was decided to continue the work in 2012 and to invest a budget of 180 k€ for the needed projects. The plastics demand data collection by the independent consultant Consultic will be also continued but with a new systematic. The work will be audited in 2012 by an antitrust lawyer again.

Contact: *Claus Simon*

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 Primary Plastics and Plastics Products show decreasing tendencies. The Plastics Machinery sector grew further on until August 2011, but now also shows signs of a possibly decreasing tendency.

Sectors: Across sectors, the pace of recovery was somewhat uneven since the second half 2010. Production quantities of Primary Plastics and Plastics Products grew until the beginning of 2011, but show primarily decreasing tendencies since the 2nd quarter of 2011. The strong growth of production in the Plastics Machinery sector has stopped by now in September 2011.

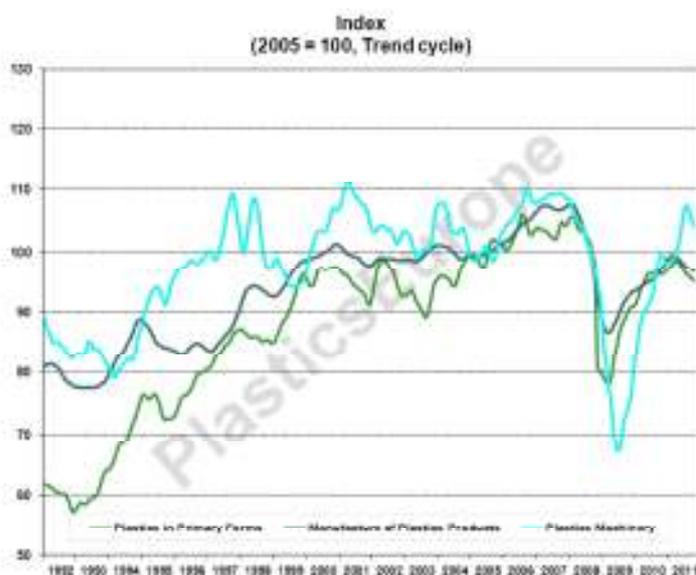
Plastics Industry producer prices clearly increased since the second half of 2010, especially for Primary Plastics. Latest figures for September and October 2011 indicate more or less constant price development for Plastics Products and Plastics Machinery and slightly decreasing prices for Primary Plastics.

End use Industries: The upward trend in the Electrical Machinery industry continued until August 2011, while September and October showed first 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 now show signs of a decreasing tendency again. 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 decreasing tendencies in the last months.

Outlook: Latest developments show signs of decreasing tendencies in the key-sectors of the EU27 Plastics Industry for the following months. Also the Plastics Machinery sector – which showed a strong growth until August 2011 – recorded another decrease in October. Positive signals come from the price indices for Plastics Products and Plastics Machinery which remain stable since July 2011, while Primary Plastics prices decreased slightly in the last months.

European Union (EU27) Plastics Industry Production



Actual data status of Production: 10/2011

- Economic recovery since mid 2009 in all the three segments: Plastics in Primary Forms, Plastics Products and Plastics Machinery.
- Growth of Plastics Machinery has stopped in September 2011. Latest figures now show signs of a decreasing trend over the last two months.
- Latest figure for Plastics Products further on shows a decreasing trend in October 2011.
- Also the production figure for Plastics in Primary Forms decreases for the third successive time.

European Union (EU27) Plastics Industry Production

Production Index (working day adjusted)

Sectors	Okt 11	Jan - Okt 11	Okt 11	Jan - Okt 11
	Index 2005 = 100		y-o-y (%)	
Primary Plastics	95,3	98,7	-2,1	2,1
Plastics Products	104,6	100,2	-0,3	3,7
Plastics Machinery	102,2	100,5	0,4	11,9

Production Index (Trend cycle)

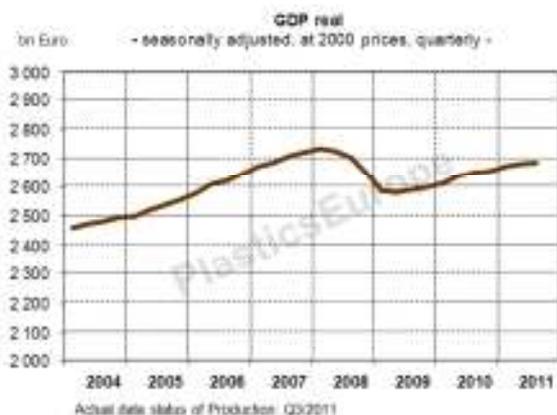
Sectors	Jul 11	Aug 11	Sep 11	Okt 11
	Change in % against previous month			
Primary Plastics	-0,7	-0,4	-0,4	-0,5
Plastics Products	-0,4	-0,3	-0,3	-0,3
Plastics Machinery	1,9	0,1	-1,6	-1,3

- Time period from January to October 2011 showed increasing production figures compared to the same period in 2010. The strongest increase by far was recorded for the Plastics Machinery sector with +11,9%.
- In comparison to September latest figures for October 2011 show signs of a decreasing trend in all the three segments.
- After strong growth until July 2011 the Plastics Machinery sector decreases in September and October.
- Also Primary Plastics and Plastics Products show a slightly decreasing trend in this time period.

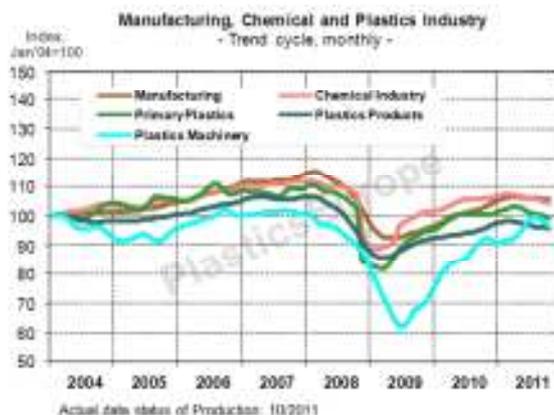
Source: Eurostat / PlasticsEurope Market Research Group (PEMRG)

Issue December 20, 2011 / Expiration 2012-01-15 / Slide 5

European Union (EU27) GDP, Chemical and Plastics Industry



- 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%

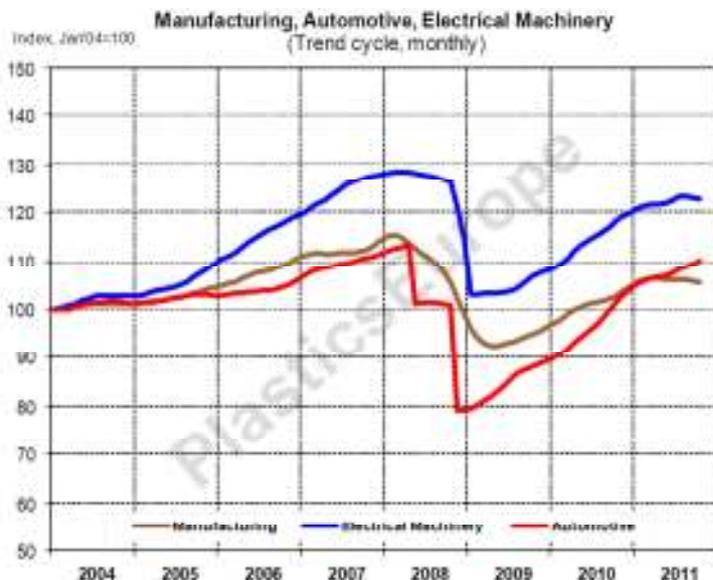


- Uptrend in the Chemical Industry has lasted until the first quarter of 2011.
- Total Manufacturing shows slightly decreasing tendencies in the second half of 2011. The same applies to Chemical Industry.
- Also latest figures for Primary Plastics, Plastics Products and Plastics Machinery show decreasing tendencies.

Source: Eurostat / PlasticsEurope Market Research Group (PEMRG)

Issue December 20, 2011 / Expiration 2012-01-15 / Slide 8

European Union (EU27) Plastics Customer Industries - Part I



- 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. September and October showed a slightly decreasing tendency.
- Industrial production activity in the EU27 is still below the pre-crisis level.

Source: Eurostat / PlasticsEurope Market Research Group (PEMRG)

Issue December 20, 2011 / Expiration 2012-01-15 / Slide 9

European Union (EU27) Plastics Customer Industries - Part II

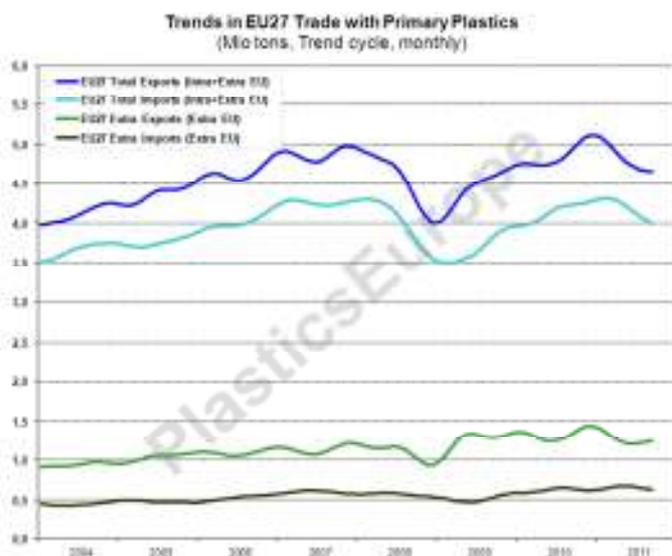


- After decreasing development in the construction industry since Q2 2010, production increased slightly at the beginning of 2011. Latest figures showed slightly decreasing tendencies again.
- The food and beverages industry was less hit by the recession than other industries.
- Total Manufacturing industry showed an uptrend since the 2nd quarter of 2009 and a slightly decreasing development since the second half of 2011.

Source: Eurostat / PlasticsEurope Market Research Group (PEMRG)

Issue December 20, 2011 / Expiration 2012-01-15 / Slide 10

European Union (EU27) Trade Primary Plastics



Actual date status of EU27 Trade: 09/2011
Intra EU Trade: Trade between the Member States of the European Union
Extra EU Trade: Trade of the European Union with Non-Member Countries

- Total EU27 export quantity of Primary Plastics seems to have reached its peak at the end of 2010. The same applies to EU27 Extra exports.
- Import quantities from Extra EU27 show a constant development, while total imports show a decreasing trend.
- During the last years the Extra EU import share grew to 15,1% in 2010. With 15,6%, January to September shows a slightly higher rate for 2011. The Extra EU export share is actually slightly lower than in 2010 (26,4% from January to September 2011 compared to 27,3% in 2010).

Extra EU Trade - Primary Plastics
Share in Total (%)

Year	Exports	Imports
2004	23,0	12,2
2005	23,8	13,0
2006	23,5	13,2
2007	23,2	14,2
2008	24,1	14,2
2009	28,4	14,1
2010	27,3	15,1
2011YTD 09	26,4	15,6

Source: Eurostat / PlasticsEurope Market Research Group (PEMRG)

Issue December 20, 2011 / Expiration 2012-01-15 / Slide 11

European Union (EU27) Trade Plastics Products



Actual date status of EU27 Trade: 09/2011
Intra EU Trade: Trade between the Member States of the European Union
Extra EU Trade: Trade of the European Union with Non-Member Countries

- Recovery of export development with Plastics Products during 2009 and 2010, but figures for 2011 show a decreasing trend. Also total imports show decreasing tendencies in 2011.
- Extra EU imports increased in 2009 and 2010, but now show slightly decreasing tendencies. The same applies to Extra EU exports.
- Increasing share of Extra EU imports over the last years. Corresponding Extra EU export share has also increased in 2010.

Extra EU Trade - Plastics Products
Share in Total (%)

Year	Exports	Imports
2004	21,5	10,6
2005	22,1	11,1
2006	20,0	11,4
2007	21,9	11,5
2008	22,0	12,9
2009	20,8	12,9
2010	22,0	13,7
2011YTD 09	21,9	15,0

Source: Eurostat / PlasticsEurope Market Research Group (PEMRG)

Issue December 20, 2011 / Expiration 2012-01-15 / Slide 12

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

CZ: Entry about Plastics for Schp information 3/2011

- Statistics date for plastics
- Legislation
- PlasticsEurope activity
- TPP

Contact : *František Svoboda*

DE: Board meeting of PlasticsEurope Deutschland

The board of PlasticsEurope Deutschland met on 30 November in Frankfurt. As in the years before, the management of the several departments of PlasticsEurope Deutschland reported the results and efforts of their work in the passing year with an outlook for 2012. Main targets are climate/energy, resource and consumer protection, emission trading, food contact, Bisphenol-A and drinking water regulation. As well the statics products were presented and the communications activities like “Kuno”, the education projects, the several press events and publications but also the sport sponsoring etc. and last but not least the advocacy work in 2011 in Germany. Mr. Gerd Löbber, Borealis Austria, was co-opted as new board member.

Contact: *Claus Simon*

DE: Meeting of working party PVC Knowledge

The working party PVC Knowledge – a joint working party of Working group PVC and Environment e.V. and PlasticsEurope Deutschland – met on 6 December. Topical reports were given from PVC- and plastics associations in Europe, Switzerland, Austria and Germany (ECVM, PVCH, API, AgPU, PlasticsEurope). Further items of discussion were the work on an expert and knowledge system as well as the new voluntary commitment “VinylPlus”. Working party members elaborated a brochure on all aspects of PVC from production to recycling (“Alles über PVC – von der Herstellung bis zum Recycling”; in German language). This brochure was presented and is now available in electronic and print versions: http://www.pvc-partner.com/fileadmin/user_upload/downloads/Produktinformationen/produktinfo_28112011.pdf

Contact: *Sabine Lindner*

DE: Workshop “PVC and Environment”

Much information was given on 7 December at the workshop PVC and Environment. This traditional joint event of PlasticsEurope Deutschland and Working group PVC and Environment in Frankfurt attracted some 60 participants. Designated experts presented



manifold topics connected with PVC, such as the amendment of waste legislation and discussions about a resource bin, VinylPlus (the new European sustainability initiative of the PVC sector), a recent study by the European Council of Vinyl Manufacturers (ECVM) on cost benefits through the use of PVC

building products, sector-specific environmental product declaration (EPD) for plastic windows, and software-supported knowledge management systems. It is planned to continue this successful workshop series next year with two events in Frankfurt on 27 June 2012 and 11 December 2012, respectively.

Contact: Sabine Lindner

DE: Working Committee Plastics and Environment

The Committee Plastics and Environment met end of November in Speyer. Concrete projects and key topics about resource efficiency, energy and climate protection as well as consumer protection were on the agenda. The working program for 2012 was agreed. The next meeting is scheduled for March.

Contact: Ingo Sartorius

DE: Technical Committee of tecpol

The Technical Committee of tecpol has discussed and agreed about technical projects for plastics waste management, resource efficiency and the impact of the new Greenhouse Gas Law on power stations feeded with solid covered fuel.

Contact: Ingo Sartorius

DE: Annual meeting of BDSV

The German Association of Steel Producers (BDSV) held its annual meeting in Mainz. Within the programme, a workshop about future recycling of electro mobiles took place. Studies of Ökoinstitut Darmstadt and steel producers for future light weight vehicles versus recycling found resonance with about 100 participants.

Contact: Ingo Sartorius

DE: Fraunhofer Expert Forum

In December, the final workshop of the Fraunhofer Expert Forum took place in Stuttgart. About 100 participants from electrical industry, supplier industry, research and academia, politics and administration discussed about environmental and consumer protection issues.

PlasticsEurope Deutschland will contribute to this important stakeholder network in 2012 again.

Contact: Ingo Sartorius

CH/DE: Converters conference

The injection and blow molders of the Swiss Plastics Association KVS dedicated their autumn symposium to the subject of plastics waste management. PlasticsEurope Germany supported with a contribution about waste management in Europe and Switzerland.

Contact: Ingo Sartorius

PL: PEP BoD meeting and Foundation Council Meeting has taken place in Warsaw on November 25. The Board and the Council have accepted admittance of two new members of the Foundation: Krakchemia and Brenntag – two biggest plastics distributors in Poland. Both the Board and the Council approved the activity of the Foundation during 2011 and its engagement in various projects (Knowledge Transfer on Waste Management, Consumer Protection and Climate protection) as well as networking activity including project of extension of PlasticsEurope activity in Baltic states.

Contact: Kazimierz Borkowski

PL: On plastics with plastics value chain

Representative of PlasticsEurope Polska has been invited to present the issue of plastics contribution to energy saving and CO2 emission reduction. The presentation was done during a yearly conference of Polish Association of Plastic Pipes Producers (Polish member of TEPPFA), their customers and administration representatives and has contributed well to the discussions on positive value of plastics among conference participants.

Contact: Kazimierz Borkowski

SK: Mrs. Silvia Surová, Secretary General of ZCHFP SR

Mr. Štefan Petkanič, the Secretary General of ZCHFP SR, retired on 31 December 2011. He was with the Association for seven years and we would like to thank him for his very good contribution to the successful development of our Association.

Mrs. Silvia Surová was appointed as General Secretary of the Association of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industry of the Slovak Republic as of 1 January 2012.

Contact: Silvia Surová

SK: Board Meeting of ZCHFP SR

On 2 December 2011 the Board Meeting of ZCHFP SR was held in Hotel Relax Inn in Šoporňa (South-West Slovakia)

Agenda:

- Finance budget of ZCHFP SR 2011 and 2012
- The Plan of Activities of ZCHFP SR for 2012
- Information on the activities of ZCHFP SR in the frame of IYC 2011
- CHEMLOG and NANOFORCE Projects – what is new
- Appointment of Mrs. Silvia Surová as General Secretary of ZCHFP SR as of 1 January 2012.

Contact: Silvia Surová

11. Further topics

DE: MEP Matthias Groote visits Baerlocher

On 14th December MEP Matthias Groote visited member company Baerlocher at their production site in Lingen. The designated chairman of the influential environment committee of the European Parliament discussed with owner Dr. Michael Rosenthal, CEO Arne Schulle, PlasticsEurope's board member Rainer Grasmück and Rüdiger Baunemann energy policy or REACH in the context of industrial policy. Groote proposed to review the results of REACH in his committee.

Contact: Michael Hillenbrand

DE: National transposition of Industry Emission Directive (IED)

The Federal Ministry of Environment has launched a first working draft for the transposition of the European Industry Emission Directive (IED) into national law. As a consequence, the following regulations will be revised, inter alia:

Federal Emission Protection Law (Bundes-Immissionsschutzgesetz), Water Law (Wasserhaushaltsgesetz), Waste Act and further environmental protection regulations. The hearing is scheduled for January 2012. PlasticsEurope Deutschland closely cooperates with VCI.

Contact: Ingo Sartorius

DE: Comments on German Resource Efficiency Programme

PlasticsEurope Deutschland has commented on the German Resource Efficiency Programme, see Monthly Report, edition November 2011. The comment paper supplements the position of VCI with individual aspects about plastics. This affects saving potentials of plastic products during the use phase as well as fact based comments about plastics waste management.

Contact: Ingo Sartorius

SK: Joint Work Meeting of Working Group for REACH and Responsible Care Committee

On 15 December a joint working meeting of the WGs for REACH and Responsible Care (RC) was held in the seat of ZCHFP SR in Bratislava.

Main topics:

- The Year 2012 – RC evaluation and renewal of certificates

- Process Safety Indicators – The Impact Study by Sloveca Sasol Company
- Global Product Strategy – The impact study presentation
- Authorization in the frame of REACH legislation
- What is new in the European Chemical Agency
- REACH – obligations of downstream users and registrants by 2013.



Contact: Silvia Surová

SK: Project NANOFORCE

On 11 January a working meeting of the representatives of ZCHFP SR and Slovak Bank Association (SBA) was held in the seat of ZCHFP SR in Bratislava. The aim of the meeting was to inform banks and other finance institutions on the Project NANOFORCE. Mr. Roman Karlubík, the President and Mrs. Silvia Surová, the Secretary General on behalf of ZCHFP SR, Mr. Ladislav Unčovský, the Executive Director of the Slovak Bank Association as well as representatives of the most significant Slovak banks were present.

Agenda:

- State of the art of the legislation determining nano-particle and nanotechnology
- Presentation of NANOFORCE - the Central Europe Program co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund
- Presentation of the material "Questionnaire for Financial Institutions" the objective of which is to inform banks and other financial institutions on the nano issues and to outline the future investment possibilities in this field.

Contact: Silvia Surová