

REGIONAL NEWSLINK CENTRAL REGION February 2012

Dear Colleagues,

This time, I would like to draw your attention to our day of information for the plastics press. It will take place here in our offices in Frankfurt/Germany on 28 March 2012 from 11 a.m. to approx. 3:30 p.m.

Although it will be held in German language, it is an event for the whole Central region, and I would very much appreciate if plastics journalists from as many countries as possible from our Central region would attend. Of course, they must speak German.

A more detailed plan for the day will be available by end of February.

Best regards

Rüdiger Baunemann

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1. ETS

PL: Consultation on Polish plastics industry with Ministry of Economy

PlasticsEurope Polska on the request of Polish Ministry of Economy has submitted a document commenting on current conditions of development of plastics industry in Poland. The position paper has been consulted with PlasticsEurope member companies and gave a resume on following items: R&D and access to financing, CO2 emission impact on the industry, access to resources (raw materials, energy), qualified staff, smart regulation.

Contact: Kazimierz Borkowski

2. Climate Protection & Energy Efficiency

AT: Thermal Improvement contd.

As a rule, construction and subsidies for private homes are a federal responsibility in Austria. However, since the economic slow-down of 2008, the ministries of environment and of economy have started a joint initiative on top of the existing schemes in order to support energy saving measures. Windows manufacturers and insulation industry have been benefitting most from those funds. Starting again on 20 Feb 2012, home owners may apply for "(thermal) improvement-cheques" of up to € 5,000 per project, adding up to a maximum of 70 million Euros for private homes plus another 30 million for commercial buildings.

Contact: Heinz Schratt

DE: Product group "Bio-based and bio-degradable plastics"

Members of the European product group "Bio-based and bio-degradable plastics" (BBP group) met on 10 January in Brussels. The meeting focused on ongoing standardization work, the mandated market study on bio-based plastics and bio-polymers, activities in 2012, and completion of the position paper "Plastics Industry's view on bio-based and bio-degradable plastics". The next meeting of the BBP Group will take place in April in Frankfurt.

Contact: Sabine Lindner

DE: Launch of "Market study on Bio-based Plastics in the World"

The first meeting of the advisory board of associations and companies participating in the worldwide market study was held on 19 January, at the invitation of the project implementer nova-Institute. Deliberations were about the concept and objective of the study, focusing on the expansion to bio-polymers and lists of raw materials, polymers and applications to be covered in the survey. The study will describe the situation in 2011 and give an outlook for 2020. Alongside PlasticsEurope (Brussels) further participants in the study include, inter alia, European Bioplastics (Berlin), Ontario BioAuto Council (Canada), Ford (USA/Germany), Omya (Switzerland/Germany), Bayer Material Science (Germany), DSM and PURAC (both The Netherlands), Roquette and Tereos Syral (both France), Borealis Polyolefine (Austria), the Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR; Germany) and its counterpart agency from Great Britain (NNFCC-National Non-Food Crops Centre). As soon as possible the nova-Institute will start surveying the some 400 polymer producers globally. The expert team will assess the replies prior to the next meeting of the advisory board in summer. Progress of the study can be followed on the internet at www.bio-based.eu/market_study.

Contact: Sabine Lindner

DE: Deadline for application for free emission certificates finished

The 23 January was the last day of the German 3-month period of electronic application for free certificates. Within this period there was the question for German polymerization units whether to apply or not. We offered to our members a law report on the question of the consequences of not applying. After this deadline there is now the question of so called "Feststellungsanträge" (request for a statement of the local authority whether a specific unit is in the ETS or not), which was also discussed in the law report. In addition to this an open question is the further procedure: Is the applicant being informed about the preliminary amount

of certificates the German authority reports to the commission. These questions are discussed now within our working groups.

Contact: Tina Buchholz

3. Waste Framework Directive Transposition

AT: End-of-Waste

Unless fundamentally changed, the Austrian Ministry of Environment's position on "End-of-Waste Plastic" would nearly result in "End-of-Recycling" for many plastics applications, and for PVC in particular. In ministry's view

- Only those plastics whose quality is comparable to new materials and therefore easily recyclable (!) should get end-of-waste status
- Plastic shredder scrap from facilities shredding EOL-vehicles and/or WEEE shall not be allowed as input
- Plastics from construction/demolition sector (unless packaging waste) should also be excluded as input material.

Obviously this position has not seriously been discussed with the recycling industry yet. PlasticsEurope Austria has alerted major stakeholders and works towards a strengthening of a more realistic view on plastic waste and recycling.

Contact: Heinz Schratt

DE: German Waste Act is final

Through the conciliation procedure, the German Waste Act has been agreed by both the German Bundestag and Bundesrat. The conciliation became necessary after disputes between the municipal and the private waste organisation. The new waste act shall be published until the end of the month and will be set into force three months later.

Contact: Ingo Sartorius

DE: Plastics industry position "End-of-Waste"

The German plastics industry, represented by producers, converters and plastics machinery on behalf of WVK (Wirtschaftsvereinigung Kunststoff) has delivered its position to the German Government about the "end-of-waste" status of plastics materials. Essentially, our industry refers to quality criteria according to existing standards. The English translation of the reference manual of the Federal Environmental Authority about an "Appropriate implementation of the REACH requirements for the operators of recycling plants" is expected soon.

Contact: Ingo Sartorius

PL: Consultation on regulation on MBT plants

Ministry of Environment has published a project of regulation regarding MBT plants and the conditions for their installation and operation that result from new law on tidiness in communities. Some existing MBT plants will have to undergo adaptation to new law during transitional period of 24 months. The regulation proposal introduces clarifications on different streams of treated waste and should help the waste industry to divert energy-rich waste (including plastics waste) from landfills to energy recovery.

MBT play a double role – preparing pre-sorted fractions for RDF production and reducing biodegradable waste. The latter is very important to Poland in order to meet EU requirements to substantially reduce landfilling of biodegradable waste. PlasticsEurope Polska will closely monitor this issue in order that this regulation is in line with plastics industry waste management strategy.

Contact: Kazimierz Borkowski

PL: Renewable energy

Following a project of a new law on Renewable Energy introducing limitations to subsidizing it that has been presented recently and has provoked a large number of negative comments from energy industry. For example RDF producers insist on introducing green incentives for

RDF incineration proportional to biogenic content. PlasticsEurope Polska will support this position through engagement in RDF's association (SPPA) works.

Contact: Kazimierz Borkowski

4. Plastics Waste Management

DE: Political dialogue on Resources Efficiency

On 9 February Ruediger Baunemann visited Reinhard Kaiser, Deputy Director- General in the German environment ministry, the author of the German resources efficiency program "ProgRess". The friendly dialogue helped to complement the draft with consultic and denkstatt figures and arguments as well as with a presentation of plastics industry's efforts in this field of action, encompassing knowledge transfer from Germany to Poland. Another meeting between Baunemann and MP Thomas Gebhart addressed the motion (Doc. 17/8575) supporting the "ProgRess" which the coalition plans to debate in Parliament beginning 29 February. A meeting with the Green group in German Parliament addressed the issue Marine Litter additionally to Resources Efficiency. Baunemann will be present in Hamburg on 24 March to publicly represent Plastics industry on a Green congress dedicated to the protection of the Seas.

Contact: Michael Hillenbrand

PL: Identiplast 2012 in Warsaw – block the date

Organized by PlasticsEurope and the international plastics value chain conference on plastics waste recycling and recovery IDENTIPLAST 2012 will take place in Warsaw on November 6 and 7. This year Identiplast will further develop the plastics industry's challenge "Zero landfill of plastics waste". The program will embrace different topics from legislative, environmental and economic aspects through collection systems, sorting & identification technologies, quality recycling and energy recovery. The special attention will be given to variety of plastics waste management systems in different European countries with focus on Central and Eastern Europe.

Contact: Grzegorz P. Rękawek

5. Ecolabelling & Green Public Procurement

AT: ÖGNI material discrimination

In sharp contrast to previous statements, the Austrian society for sustainable construction (ÖGNI) have adopted a new position, claiming that all halogenated organic compounds would be hazardous and should be avoided in sustainable buildings – clearly aiming at many flame retardants and at all types of PVC. PlasticsEurope Austria immediately issued a statement of protest, copying Germany based DGNB. The reaction was prompt: A meeting between DGNB, ÖGNI and PlasticsEurope will be co-ordinated as soon as possible.

Contact: Heinz Schratt

6. Packaging

AT: „Alles Trennt“ – Everyone is Separating (and collecting) Waste

An integrated communications campaign of ARA – the Austrian packaging recycling organisation – plays with words and with the visuals of a typical Vienna Ball. The widely known master of ceremonies of the Vienna Opera Ball lends his smiling face and his voice to the subjects of recycling. Every ball starts with the set wording: „Alles Walzer“ (waltz everyone), whereas the campaign says „Alles Trennt“ (separating, everyone!). The public posters and magazin ads have been complemented with a much acclaimed flash mob



Contact: Heinz Schratt

7. Consumer Protection

DE: New draft for German printing inks ordinance (Druckfarbenverordnung)

The Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV) sent us in early November 2011 an updated draft for the 21st ordinance amending the consumer goods ordinance (printing inks ordinance), status 31 October 2011. With support from our members, PlasticsEurope submitted relevant comments. The ordinance wants to lay down a list of substances permitted for use in printing inks in the production of food contact materials, with maximum thresholds for migration to foodstuffs (positive list). This positive list is to include only those substances for which a risk assessment or suitable and sufficient toxicological data are available. A hearing will take place on 5 March at the Ministry. PlasticsEurope Deutschland will attend.

Contact: Sabine Lindner

DE: Sub-working group of KTW-AG deliberates on new guidance

A sub-working group of the working group KTW AG (KTW = plastics and drinking water) at the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) met on 22 December 2011 to address the topic of “thermoplastic elastomers (TPEs) in drinking water contact”. On the one side, TPEs fall under plastics; on the other, they fall under elastomers – or they comprise properties and materials from both groups. There are first ideas for elaborating new guidance for TPEs, additionally to existing guidance for elastomers and guidance for plastics in drinking water contact. A number of questions need to be clarified for this purpose, e.g. which TPE types are used in drinking water contact? For which products? Which starting materials are used in manufacture? Which reaction products can form? etc. Both stakeholder associations (organization of German

manufacturers of tyres and technical elastomers/wdk) and PlasticsEurope) will jointly coordinate these activities.

Contact: Sabine Lindner

DE: 31st meeting of the KTW-AG of the Drinking Water Commission of the Federal Environment Agency (UBA)

The meeting on 18 January in Berlin was attended by some 40 members. The current status of all guidance documents was presented. The task of the newly formed sub-working group U-KTW-AG of the KTW-AG is to examine all guidance documents, as regards their review and necessary amendments. Furthermore, information was given on the elaboration by the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) of a new recommendation for catalysts and initiators, the status of activities in the 4 Member States, standardization work and the project for plastics in drinking water contact of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

Contact: Sabine Lindner

DE: Draft for a recommendation for catalysts and initiators

In late 2011 the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) sent us a first draft for a new "Recommendation for catalysts and initiators" for plastics intended for food contact (see Intern December 2011). Background: as European legislation progresses, more and more substances have been deleted from the BfR plastics recommendations where now essentially only polymerization aids remain. The new recommendation wants to summarize the remaining points in a simplified manner. The further course of action and open questions were discussed in an expert meeting on 17 January between delegates from industry and BfR.

Contact: Sabine Lindner

DE: VCI Project Group Endocrine Effects

Ongoing EU activities and the Community Strategy for Endocrine Disruptors were discussed in a conference call on 18 January. There are plans to develop an EU concept for a uniform assessment of substances suspected of being endocrine disruptors – for various regulatory processes such as REACH, biocides and in crop protection. In consequence of the current scientific debate on new human toxicity endpoints, the position paper "VCI overview on endocrine active substances" – covering issues such as epigenetics, adiposity, neurotoxicity and androgens as well as eco-toxicological questions – was adapted and updated. The paper (only available in English) was finalized by the project group and is available at:

<https://www.vci.de/Downloads/120130%20VCI%20Standortbestimmung%20EE.pdf>

Contact: Sabine Lindner

DE: VCI exchange on nanomaterials

An exchange between VCI nano-experts and delegates from the VCI's regional and sector associations took place on 25 January. Talks covered the present situation for many points relevant to nanomaterials, i.e. existing definition of nanomaterials in the regulatory context and its interpretation by the VCI as well as its implementation – in concrete terms, the development of a suitable measuring method for nanomaterials. Regulatory aspects focused on nanomaterials and the REACH Regulation, ideas for a nano-product inventory and a cadaster for plants where nanomaterials are either produced or processed.

Contact: Sabine Lindner

DE: Draft for an ordinance amending the consumer goods ordinance (Bedarfsgegenständeverordnung)

Regulation (EU) No. 10/2011 of 14 January 2011 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food merged European Union directives on plastic consumer goods into one regulation. The new German draft ordinance is intended to make adaptations to the consumer goods ordinance, as they become necessary with directly applicable EU legislation. Furthermore, for implementing Regulation (EU) No 284/2011 of 11 March 2011 laying down specific conditions and detailed procedures for the import of polyamide and melamine plastic kitchenware originating in or consigned from the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong

special administrative region, the new ordinance is to prescribe that such supplies of goods can be imported into Germany only via certain points of entry. Moreover, EU law on the traceability of food contact materials is underpinned by sanctions. Finally, notification and reporting requirements as they follow from various regulations and recommendations of the European Commission – in the fields of food contact materials, contaminants and pesticide residues – are now entrusted to the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL).

Contact: Sabine Lindner

DE: Exchange among toy experts

At the annual exchange of experiences among toy experts in late January in the run-up to the toy fair in Nuremberg, Joachim Geiß (Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology/ BMWi) described the implementation of national deviations from the Toy Directive. The European Directive on toy safety of 20 July 2009 was not precisely transposed in all points (1:1) in Germany, as own national values were set for some substances. According to Geiß, this fiercely discussed course of action is due to cross-portfolio coordination between the four ministries involved: transport, defense, environment and consumer protection. Up until now, the EU Commission has not yet communicated whether the Commission agrees with this specific national way. Further topics were materials management for the traceability of toys and the status of standards – especially regarding those on chemical elements – which need to be completed by the date of their applicability within the new Toy Safety Directive from 20 July 2013. Dr Bärbel Vieth of the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) presented the status of the German motion for REACH –PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) in toys and consumer goods. For a better protection of consumers against PAHs, the Federal Environment Ministry and the Consumer Protection Ministry – in close cooperation with each other – requested the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BAuA), the BfR and the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) to prepare a “restriction dossier” according to REACH. This dossier includes a comprehensive description of PAH burdens detected in a wide range of consumer goods, an estimation of potential consumer exposure, and health and environmental risks. More concretely, an EU-wide restriction of the use and marketing of PAH-burdened products was proposed. In early June 2010 the ministries submitted the dossier to the European Commission, asking to implement the restriction in a simplified procedure (according to Article 68(2) of the REACH Regulation). So far, the EU Commission has not yet made any final statement in this matter.

Contact: Sabine Lindner

DE: Position paper Red Phosphor

PlasticsEurope Deutschland has created a position paper about red phosphor as flame-retardant in electrical/electronic appliances (in German language). This paper enters both political discussions with the authorities and discussions with the value chain in the electrical sector. The position paper connects the integrated fire protection concept of the electrical industry with a modern production technology to safeguard product safety and liability.

Contact: Ingo Sartorius

EU: Experts discuss food contact materials in Brussels

Participants in the meeting on 15 December 2011 in Brussels of the European Food Contact Expert Group (experts from PlasticsEurope member companies and from the regions as well as delegates from CEFIC Food Contact Additives/CEFIC-FCA) discussed the progress of activities regarding guidance documents and the amendments planned for 2012 to the EU Regulation on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food (10/2011). The 3rd amending regulation in the 1st half 2012 is likely to be about new substances whilst the 4th amending regulation in the 2nd half 2012 is thought to address individual articles. Further topics were the publication of a comparison of earlier legislation on plastics (2002/72) with the existing Regulation (10/2011) on PlasticEurope’s website at “Plastics Industry”, “Our View”:

http://www.plasticseurope.org/documents/document/20111208094327-foodcontact_pim_explanatory_document_7_december_2011.pdf

and the completion of the GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) document on PlasticEurope's website at "Information Centre", Publications":

<http://www.plasticseurope.org/Document/guidelines-for-good-manufacturing-practice-for-plastic-materials-and-articles-intended-for-food-contact-applications.aspx?FolID=2>.

A position paper on oligomers is currently being elaborated. Dr Roland Franz (guest) presented first results from the project for studying migration of nanomaterials from packaging material; this study is mandated by PlasticsEurope.

Contact: Sabine Lindner

EU: Meeting of Drinking Water Regulatory Group in Brussels

The meeting of the European Drinking Water Regulatory Group on 16 December 2011 in Brussels focused on further activities for a "positive list" of organic materials in drinking water contact and the work on a technical paper for an assessment strategy for substances.

Moreover, information was given on activities in the 4 Member States cooperating in the field of drinking water contact materials (France, Germany, Great Britain, Netherlands) and also on national level activities (see item U-KTW-AG and KTW-AG in Germany).

Contact: Sabine Lindner

8. Communications

CZ: Project Eco – Profile GPPS and HIPS

On the project cooperates all relevant companies Styron, BASF, INEOS, Polimeri, Synthos, Total. Current status we made NDA issue and flow diagrams. Another step: All companies have 4 week time to complete the questionnaires. Dateline: 29th February.

Contact: František Svoboda

CZ: France´s ban the use of Bisphenol A

The Czech Republic rejected France´s law that would ban the use of Bisphenol A in all food packaging. The result was got through on the base cooperation between the Association of Chemical Industry and the Czech Packaging Association and was use information from PE. This information published CS Packaging News 2012- 01.

Contact: František Svoboda

DE: Team Kunststoff on the Boot trade fair

17 trade fair halls full of water sports and 250,000 visitors from over 60 countries, this is the „Boot“ in Düsseldorf. Right in the middle, close to the artificial cliffs and to the 90 metres long river, visitors seized the chance to explore the world of canoeing. Indeed, this was a perfect setting to present the new canoeing fleet of the Team Kunststoff. The president of the German canoeing federation Thomas Konietzko together with top athletes presented not only the new boats, but also dared to make a precise prediction. Konietzko says he believes nine Olympic medals are realistic. He expressedly thanked the plastics industry for the reliable support over more than a decade. Wojtek Czyz, triple world champion from Dubai 2011 and Paralympics triple gold medalist, was present too and spoke about his ambitions for London. "This will most probably be my last games", says Czyz, "a medal is the minimum target". The plastics industry is supporting water sports for more than 15 years. The Team Kunststoff today supports sailors, flat water and slalom canoeing, rowing and paralympics champion Wojtek Czyz, i.e. sports and athletes that are not in the daily spotlight. The team won numerous titles, be it in World championships, European championships or during the Olympics. The plastics industry proves with its sponsoring its commitment and shows responsibility



Contact: Kurt Stepping

DE: Sports picture of the year: award goes to Team Kunststoff-photographer

The jury consisted of German sports legends like Franz Beckenbauer, Birgit Fischer, Boris Becker, Sebastian Vettel, Dirk Nowitzki and other celebrities. The prize they gave is extremely prestigious, is worth 10.000 Euros and stirs enormous media echo, since German newspapers are eager to print the winning image. The winner was Eberhard Thonfeld, and the award-winning picture is well-known to the plastics community. It shows the Team Kunststoff canoeing four in full speed – of course with the strapline “Kunststoff”. The picture now appeared for example in the biggest German boulevard newspaper “Bild” with its 12 Million readers.



Contact: Kurt Stepping

EU: Youth Parliament debate: final in Rome

The prestigious Parlamentino in Rome will be the setting for the Youth Parliament Debate European final. Some 50 students from Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, Turkey and Croatia will debate on March 16 about plastics and the environment. All of the students are winners from their respective national competition in 2010/2011.

"This year's debate promises to be captivating," said Kurt Stepping, Communications Director at PlasticsEurope Deutschland. "All students have shown great debating skills during national events, as well as very different and thoughtful ideas on the role plastics play in key issues of today's society. The final should even go further, spicing up the debates with a mixture of different national perspectives".

The Youth Parliament Debate is a series of European national debates 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. An independent jury made of politicians, NGOs, media and industry leaders then selects the 10 best candidates from each country to participate to the pan-European final.

Contact: Kurt Stepping

PL: On marine litter and plastics bags in Polish media

On the request of Polish countrywide radio broadcast PlasticsEurope Polska Managing Director Kazimierz Borkowski commented the agency news on microplastics in marine environment coming from washing machines (based on Mark Browne's et. all research published end 2011). Involvement of our industry in the issue solving has been explained, pointing the engagement in GESAMP initiative, as well as other projects regarding marine litter. The plastics bag issue still raise a lot of interest and plastics press pick up the subject from time to time to deliver fact based arguments in this never-ending public discussion. For this reason PlasticsEurope Polska has been invited to an interview on industry view in plastics magazine "Reporter Chemiczny" in its recent issue mainly devoted to the plastic bags. Out of several articles published some of them were based on denkstatt report on packaging and UK Environment Agency report of LCA of carriers bag.

Contact: Anna Kozera-Szałkowska

PL: Plastek's competition first winners

The last year distribution of 100 Plastek experimental kits in different cities of Poland in cooperation with member companies (Płock, Włocławek, Tarnów and Oświęcim) resulted the first feedback on competition announced in Plastek pupil's book. The winners from school in Tarnów received Plastek T-shirts. Also the feedback from the teachers was very positive – they find the kit very useful and making the lessons more attractive. In 2012 we continue "Plastek" kit distribution to over 200 schools from Warsaw area, which is planned to be finished till end of May. We plan to extend the program in other regions (Poznań) in second half of the year.

Contact: Anna Szałkowska / Edyta Barry

SK: Potočník Interested in Slovak Environmental Burdens

The issue of Slovakia's environmental burdens was high on the agenda at the meeting of the Euro-Commissioner for the Environment Janez Potočník with the Slovak environment



Minister József Nagy on 20 January 2012 in Bratislava.

The Euro-Commissioner also visited a landfill in the Bratislava borough of Devínska Nová Ves. Such burdens are to be solved by a newly prepared legislation and euro-funds. As Potočník stated, the EU has set aside €3.5 billion for this purpose, from which €117 million is destined for Slovakia. As we informed in the previous Monthly Report, Mr. Potočník visited Slovakia on 19 and 20 January 2012.

Contact: Silvia Surová

(József Nagy, Minister of Environment of SK, Janez Potočník, Ján Figel, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of SK)

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 Primary Plastics shows decreasing tendencies, while Plastics Products now remain more or less stable in the last three months. The Plastics Machinery sector grew further on until August 2011, but also showed slightly decreasing tendencies in the previous months.

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 the Plastics Machinery sector now shows a first sign of a possible positive trend in November 2011 after a two month decline.

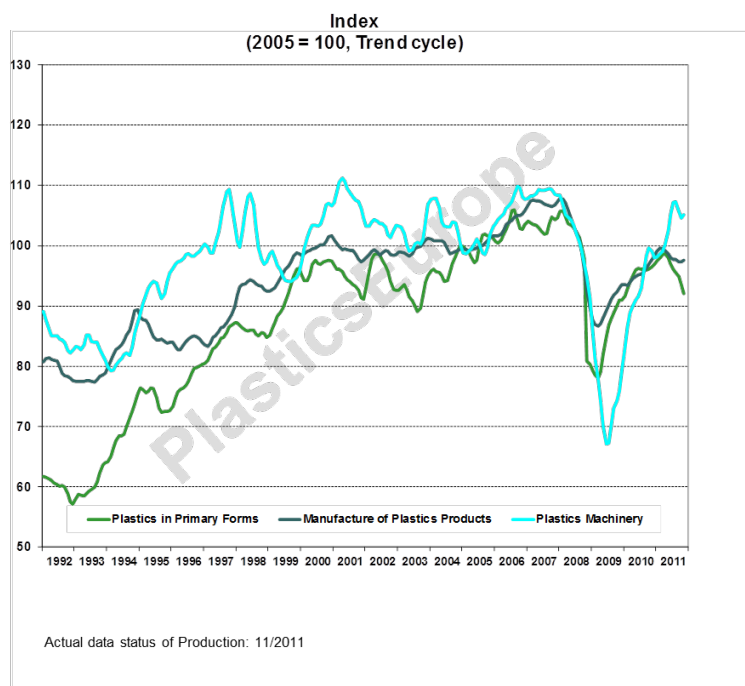
Plastics Industry producer prices clearly increased since the second half of 2010, especially for Primary Plastics. Latest figures for September and October 2011 indicate more or less constant price development for Plastics Products and Plastics Machinery and slightly decreasing prices for Primary Plastics.

End use Industries: The upward trend in the Electrical Machinery industry continued until August 2011, while 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 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 production indices for November 2011 show 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



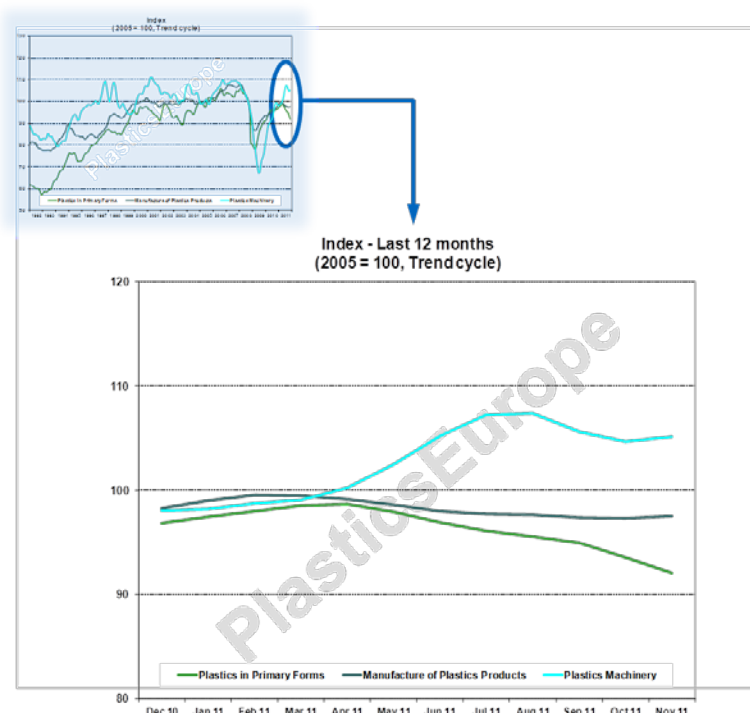
Plastics Industry Production by long term view (1992-2011):

- 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



Plastics Industry Production by short-term view (last 12 months):

- Growth of Plastics Machinery has stopped in August 2011. Anyhow, the downward trend did not continue in November.
- The development of Plastics Products production shows a sideways movement during the last three months.
- The decline in production figures for Plastics in Primary Forms continues. The negative trend now holds for the seventh consecutive month.

Source: Eurostat / PlasticsEurope Market Research Group (PEMRG)

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European Union (EU27) Plastics Industry Production

Production Index (working day adjusted)

Sectors	Nov 11	Jan - Nov 11	Nov 11	Jan - Nov 11
	Index 2005 = 100		y-o-y (%)	
Primary Plastics	88,3	97,7	-6,7	1,3
Plastics Products	100,9	100,2	-0,2	3,4
Plastics Machinery	110,7	101,2	4,4	10,9

Production Index (Trend cycle)

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

- Time period from January to November 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 +10,9%.

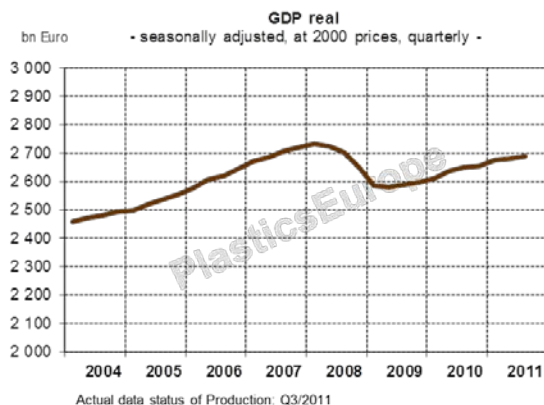
- Compared to previous month, Primary Plastics Production in November decreased again. Thus, the recent downward trend continues.

- After decreasing development in September and October, Plastics Products and Plastics Machinery show first signs of a possible recovery in November 2011.

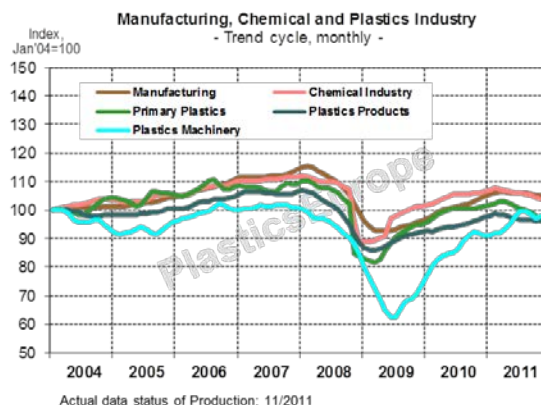
Source: Eurostat / PlasticsEurope Market Research Group (PEMRG)

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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%

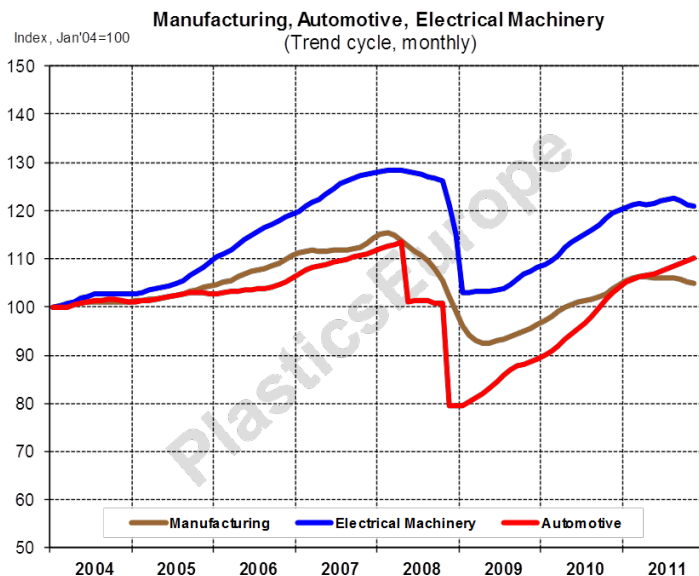


- Uptrend in the Chemical Industry as well as in Total Manufacturing has lasted until the first quarter of 2011. Since then, slightly decreasing tendencies can be observed.
- Also, slight downward trend in the production figures of Primary Plastics, Plastics Products and Plastics Machinery in the second half of 2011.

Source: Eurostat / PlasticsEurope Market Research Group (PEMRG)

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European Union (EU27) Plastics Customer Industries - Part I

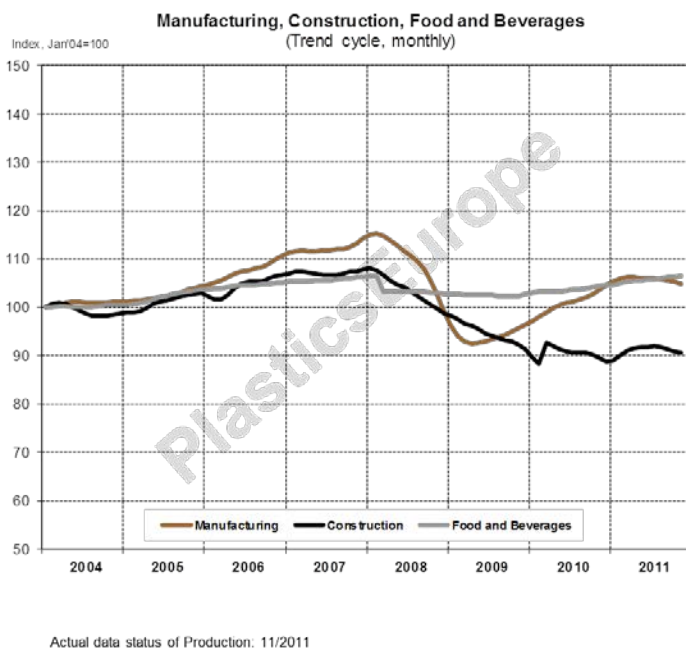


- Continuing recovery in the EU27's Manufacturing Industry since 2009, but with more sideway tendency since the second quarter of 2011.
- Recovery in the Automotive Industry is going on in 2011.
- Upward trend in the Electrical Machinery Industry continued until August 2011, but shows a slightly decreasing 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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European Union (EU27) Plastics Customer Industries - Part II

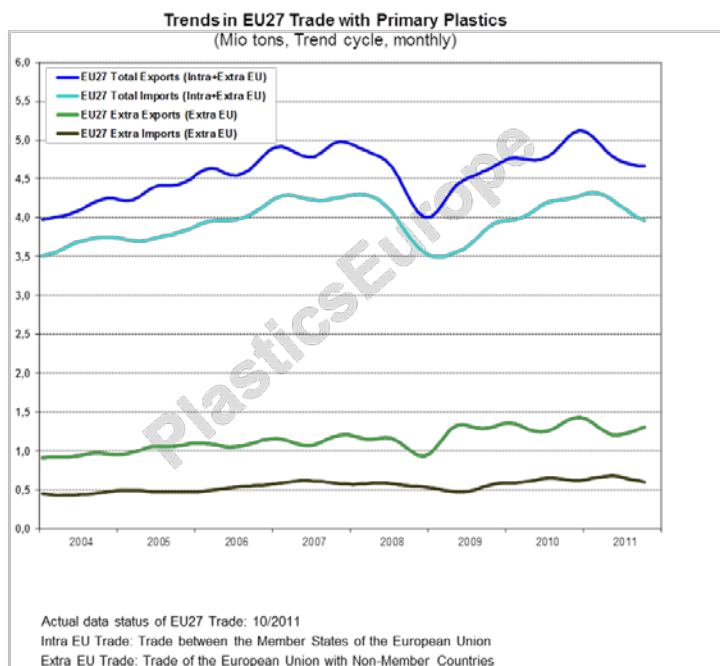


- After decreasing development in the construction industry since Q2 2010, production increased slightly at the beginning of 2011. Latest figures showed slightly decreasing tendencies again.
- The food and beverages industry was less hit by the recession than other industries.
- Total Manufacturing industry 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)

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European Union (EU27) Trade Primary Plastics



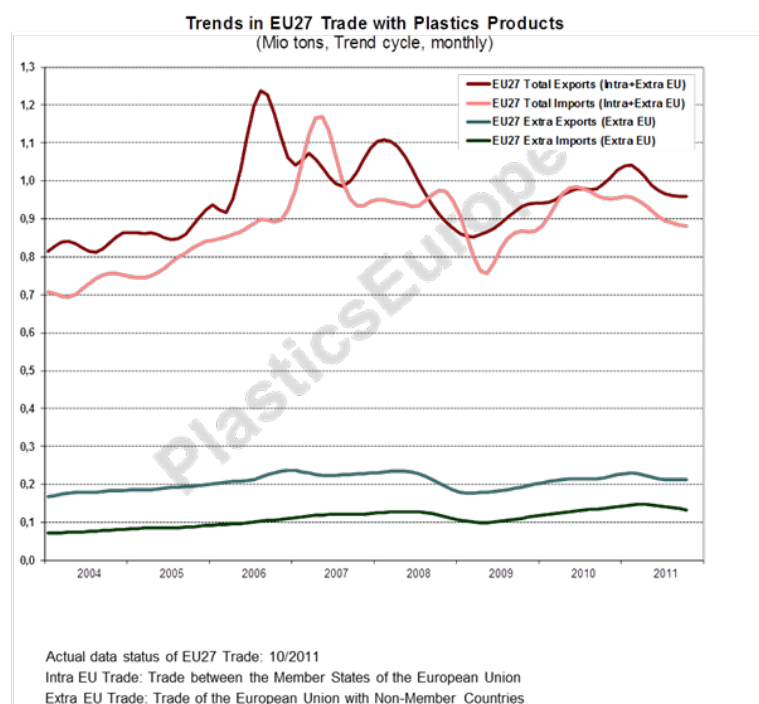
- Total EU27 export quantity of Primary Plastics seems to have reached its peak at the end of 2010. The same applies to EU27 Extra exports.
- Import quantities from Extra EU27 show a constant development, while total imports show a decreasing trend.
- During the last years the Extra EU import share grew to 15,1% in 2010. With 15,4%, January to October shows a slightly higher rate for 2011. The Extra EU export share is actually slightly lower than in 2010 (26,5% from January to October 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 10	26,5	15,4

Source: Eurostat / PlasticsEurope Market Research Group (PEMRG)

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European Union (EU27) Trade Plastics Products



- 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 10	21,9	15,7

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

DE: Resource efficiency

On behalf of the working committee Plastics and Environment, a brainstorming workshop of a sub-group was held in Frankfurt. The group analysed indicators and stakeholders in the value chain on the basis of both the European Resource Efficiency Roadmap and the German programme for resource efficiency, so called ProgRess. The result will be feeded back to the environmental committee on 8 March.

Contact: Ingo Sartorius

11. Further topics

CZ: Plastics Technology Platform (PTP)

The PTP arranged workshop on the topic of Biodegradable plastics for food contact in 19th January. The participants discussed about biodegradable plastics for food packaging, about possibility establish cluster, cooperation between chemical association, packaging association, university and small and middle enterprises. Results:

- We organize the conference on topic: Biodegradable plastics for food packaging in Prague 25th April 2012. (arrange: Packaging Association + Association of Chemical Industry)

- Inform the packaging companies

- Preparation of the lectures:

Main topics:

Definition of species (terms) for bioplastics

Legislation

Resources of raw materials

Technology for production

Properties of the final products (packaging)

Contact : František Svoboda

DE: New standardisation committee “printed electronics”

Member companies Bayer, Evonic and LyondellBasell participated the kick-off of a new standardisation committee at DKE about printed electronics. Its key task is to mirror the international standardisation activities of IEC TC 119. The following subjects are within the scope of the standardisation: materials, processes, characterisation, applications and health, safety and environmental protection. The work will start in July 2012.

Contact: Ingo Sartorius

SK: ENVIROFILM 2012 in Eight Slovak Cities

(Press release of Envirofilm n.o.)

Environmental hazards are the leitmotif of the International Environmental Film Festival ENVIROFILM, which will be held for the 18th time already from 14th to 19th May 2012 in eight Slovak cities: Košice, Poltár and Skalica join this year officially the festival cities Banská Bystrica, Zvolen, Banská Štiavnica, Kremnica and Krupina. The organiser of the festival is the Slovak Environmental Agency, which is one of the organisations of the Ministry of the Environment, and the non-profit organisation ENVIROFILM n. o. The organizers of the festival have been receiving these days film entries from filmmakers from all over the world. Deadline for film entries is 15th February. Subsequently, on 27th to 29th February the pre-selection committee will meet, which will select films for the main competition at ENVIROFILM 2012. Selected competing films will be screened during the festival week traditionally in all festival cities. The programme will also include non-competing film projection and film screenings for

schools. Also the accompanying programme of the festival will be interesting and varied. The theme of the contest of children's artistic creativity "Green World", which accompanies the festival for the seventeenth year already, is "My footprint on Planet Earth". Competing works for the Green World should be submitted no later than on 16th March 2012. The International Environmental Film Festival ENVIROFILM was established in 1995 and is held annually in May. The centre of festival events is Banská Bystrica. Last year, 156 films from 33 countries worldwide competed in the festival; 33 films were submitted by Slovak authors. During the seventeen years of the festival filmmakers from around the world sent more than 1,800 films. The Ministry of the Environment is the promulgator and the Slovak Environmental Agency and the non-profit organisation Envirofilm n. o. are the organisers of the festival. ENVIROFILM is the member of the International Association of Environmental Festivals ECOMOVE International.

Contact: Silvia Surová

SK: Meeting of Working Group for the Project NANOFORCE

On 19 January 2012 the meeting of the WG for NANOFORCE was held in Bratislava.

The main topics of the agenda:

- Information on the meeting with the representatives of the Slovak Bank Association regarding the possibilities of financing the future projects connected with nanotechnology
- Exchange of information and experiences between the representatives of entrepreneurial sector (ZCHFP SR), Slovak University of Technology, Slovak Academy of Science, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, in the field of nanomaterials and nanotechnology
- Summarization and evaluation of the questionnaire concerning the up to date level of knowledge and utilizing of nanomaterials and nanotechnology in Slovakia
- Setting new tasks for members of the working group for February – April 2012

Contact: Silvia Surová

