

REGIONAL NEWSLINK CENTRAL REGION May 2012

Dear Colleagues,

Recently, I was in Berlin to take part in a panel discussion about the notorious Werner Boote movie Plastic Planet that was previously shown (see report in the communications section). Of course, some of the spectators there did not want to listen to me. They were not interested to hear that in reality, the plastics industry does not want to pollute the earth, and that quite on the contrary, “green” behaviour starts with using plastics. But remarkably, there were at least some willing to listen, prepared to discuss openly, to evaluate the arguments and even willing to change their way of thinking.

It was only a small crowd of maybe 100 listening to the panel discussion, and we certainly cannot change the world or the plastics image just by participating in such events. But still it was helpful to take part there. Not only because of the few I really reached that evening, but also to reassure me that there are people willing to listen and to understand. And in the end, this is what really counts: That we do not only possess good arguments, that we do not only discuss, but that we are really willing to convince people and to win the battle of truth against prejudice.

Best regards

Rüdiger Baunemann

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11. Further Topics

1. ETS

PL: Energy Road Map 2050 and ETS

Poland not change its position and will veto the Road Map 2050 proposal at June Council meeting announced Polish deputy Minister of Economy, Mr Tomczykiewicz and will present its own Road Map compatible with country's capacity to implement it.

Minister of Environment, Mr Korolec said during the meeting of EU environment ministers held in Denmark that Poland is against legislative changes aiming at the reduction of CO2 certificates on the market. PlasticsEurope welcomes this approach as it is in line plastics industry position.

Contact: Kazimierz Borkowski

2. Climate Protection & Energy Efficiency

DE: Germany votes „no“ on the ISO-draft standard for Product Carbon Footprint

The German mirror group to the ISO-standard 14067 for Product Carbon Footprint voted with „no“ on the latest draft. This is the German vote for the next international meeting in Bangkok. The draft allows to label a product with a single number showing the greenhouse gas emissions over the life cycle for the communication with the consumer. PlasticsEurope objects a numeric PCF and sticks to its message since the beginning of the negotiations.

Nevertheless, we expect the draft to be accepted in the next international meeting, because of the international majority that will probably vote with “yes”. The final standard is expected to be published in 2013.

Contact: Tina Buchholz

EU: Meeting of the product group biobased and biodegradable plastics

The meeting on 4 April 2012 in Frankfurt focused on the work plan for the present year. Beside the update of the position paper “PlasticsEurope's view on biobased and biodegradable plastics”, the participants discussed to commission a study and a fact sheet on the various pros and cons of oxodegradable and biodegradable plastics. The next meeting of the group will take place in July in Paris.

Contact: Sabine Lindner

3. Waste Framework Directive Transposition

DE: UBA study on recycling and recovery targets

The UBA, Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environment Agency), presented its new research study “Analysis and development of recovery targets for materials” to interested parties in Dessau. The study was commissioned to HTP engineering company and the Ökoinstitut Darmstadt. Key result of the study is that the concept of recycling and recovery targets shall be maintained and even sharpened, especially for plastics. The results will be followed by the Federal Government, when the future ordinances will be shaped under the new waste framework act.

Contact: Ingo Sartorius

4. Plastics Waste Management

DE: Raising awareness for knowledge transfer project with Poland in BMU

After Rüdiger Baunemann had discussed the Marine Litter issue with German MP Ingbert Liebing on 7 March, Liebing, the conservative rapporteur of marine issues had communicated PlasticsEurope's efforts for a knowledge transfer in waste management between Germany and Poland to his colleague State Secretary Ursula Heinen-Esser. Liebing communicated the idea of a participation of PED and PEP on the next Polish-German environment council which takes place in May 2012. BMU official Dr. Andreas Jaron (head of division WA II 3) also supported PED's and PEP's initiative after a meeting with Ingo Sartorius and Kazimierz Borkowski. As long as the Polish ministry of environment stays reluctant, however, we may only continue to demonstrate our willingness to contribute to a knowledge transfer in waste management and to an open dialogue between industry and politics in Europe.

Contact: Michael Hillenbrand

PL: Knowledge transfer in practice

Taking as a base the report of UK consulting agency WYG International (supported by PlasticsEurope, see http://www.wyg.com/recyclingreview/WYG_Report_-_Review_of_Kerbside_Recycling_Collection_Schemes_in_the_UK_in_2010-11.pdf) PlasticsEurope Polska prepared the argumentation on comingled collection of municipal waste. The document was distributed to all high level specialists and experts located at Polish voivodship offices (16 regions) who deal with waste management issues. Additionally the report reached public administration (Ministry of Environment) and key-decision makers in main cities as well as major consulting companies in waste management. Polish administration has to approve new Regional Waste Management Plans before end of June (according to new act of maintaining cleanliness and order in communities) and this PlasticsEurope action aims to share knowledge transfer on best practices in collection of waste.

Contact: Grzegorz P. Rękawek

5. Ecolabelling & Green Public Procurement

6. Packaging

SL: Seminar “Bioplastics” for Slovenian industry

The Slovenian Plasttechnics Cluster had together with The Centre of Excellence Polymer Materials and Technologies and with the National Institute of Chemistry in Slovenia organized a seminar titled “Bioplastics” in March 2012. The seminar was organized within the Central European programme project PLASTiCE (www.plastice.org). The Slovenian plastic packaging industry had been invited to attend this seminar, where three European companies, producers or suppliers of bioplastics, presented their products: Novamont from Italy, EcoCortec from Croatia and Eko Plastik from Slovenia. Besides, a lot of valuable information were also given by other speakers on the topics: what is bioplastics, future trends in bioplastics, environmental footprint, certification of bioplastics and its benefits etc.

The seminar was a success according to the responds of industrial participants, many B2B contacts were established. The seminar also gave representatives of industry a chance to discuss these issues with some of the leading Slovenian researchers in this field. In addition, the project PLASTiCE was presented to all participants and the project coordinator, Andrej Kržan, PhD, explained what Slovenian industry will gain from this project.

All presentations are publicly available on the project's web site and you can also see the video recordings of presentations on youtube (www.youtube.com/user/plasticeproject)

Contact: Janez Navodnik

7. Consumer Protection

CZ: Update BPA

The Association of Chemical Industry of the Czech Republic cooperates with the Czech authority and SYBA on support of unification attitude toward BPA. We are against different approaches in different EU countries.

Contact: František Svoboda

DE: Joint Committee Drinking Water Contact Materials explains industry's position to the UBA

On 19 April members of the Joint Committee Drinking Water Contact Materials of PlasticsEurope Deutschland met with executives from the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) to explain and discuss the European industry's position on harmonization and the 4-Member-State approach for materials in drinking water contact. Mainly, this was about questions in the assessment of substances which are (not yet) on the harmonized list of approved organic substances in drinking water contact. Another point was the discussion about a transitional recommendation elaborated by the UBA, regarding the hygienic assessment of TPE products in drinking water contact – which is to give the possibility to

manufacturers of products from certain TPEs (i.e. those for which data are available to the UBA) to obtain test certificates for their products. Now, a new version of the transitional recommendation also takes into account the products from TPEs that used to fall under the KTW Guideline for plastics (which is to be updated too); this new version entered into force on 1 May.

Contact: Sabine Lindner

DE: UBA: Reassessment of bisphenol A

Following France, where a ban of bisphenol-A (BPA) in food packaging is planned from 2014, also the Belgian Senate has adopted a bill for banning – from January 2013 – the use of BPA in containers of foodstuffs for infants up to 3 years old. The notification has started for this piece of legislation.

At the same time, the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA) is planning to reassess the environmental impacts of BPA – with this substance to undergo a closer examination under REACH. Many daily life products, e.g. thermal paper, blank CDs and casings of electrical equipment, contain BPA. UBA President Jochen Flasbarth: “The REACH evaluation is intended to evaluate the potentially harmful effect of bisphenol A on the hormone system and organisms in the environment – such as humans – and to get a more precise picture of the BPA release into the environment. Based on the findings, the environmental risk will then be reassessed.”

Contact: Sabine Lindner

EU: Re-evaluation of REACH restrictions for DINP and DIDP

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has published a re-evaluation of restrictions for the phthalates DINP and DIDP:

http://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13641/echa_review_dinp_and_didp_en.pdf

In this publication, ECHA concludes that the existing restrictions for DINP and DIDP in children's toys are justified and appropriate so that no need is seen for further risk reduction measures. Public commenting is possible up until 31 July 2012, directly on the ECHA website:

<http://bit.ly/KIVJRE>

The European Council for Plasticisers and Intermediates (ECPI) has already responded:

<http://www.plasticisers.org/media-resources/press-releases>

Contact: Sabine Lindner

Global: Material declaration for products of the electrical industry

The international standard IEC 62474 regarding the material declaration for products of the electrical industry is finalised and published. The norm specifies the procedure, content and form relating to material declaration. The document is available on:

<http://webstore.iec.ch>

Contact: Ingo Sartorius / Juan Ruiz

PL: BPA legislation - joint advocacy

PlasticsEurope Polska continues to advocate against BPA banning in food contact containers - the recent activity concerns protest against Belgian notification. We have adapted to Polish conditions industry position paper on that issue, we have also invited Polish food association and retailers association to join us in common advocacy action towards Polish government.

Contact: Kazimierz Borkowski

8. Communications

DE: Annual meeting 2012 in Augsburg

This year, the annual meeting of PlasticsEurope Deutschland e.V. took place in Augsburg, Bavaria. There was a meeting of the board as well as other meetings of different gremia of the association, and of course, the general assembly. New members of the board are Gerd Loebbert, Borealis and Dr. Joerg Schottek, Albis Plastics. New treasurer is member of the board Rainer Grasmueck, Baerlocher. He is the successor of Hans-Theodor Kutsch. In the

evening, the traditional reception took place. Some 100 people from business, politics, sports and arts met to eat and drink, chat and network. At this opportunity, the multiple Paralympics winner Wojtek Czyz thanked the sponsors of Team Kunststoff for its long-lasting commitment. An "intern spezial" in German language is currently under preparation.

Contact: Michael Herrmann

DE: Trade press conference 2012: Plastics production still growing

The past year 2011 was a good one for the plastics manufacturers. Both, production and turnover developed positive. The tonnage of plastics produced in Germany has increased in 2011 by 1.4 per cent to 20,7 million tons. Turnover increased by 7.5 per cent to 25,3 billion Euro. For 2012, the plastics manufacturers in Germany expect a plus in the amount of the gross domestic product, Dr. Wolfgang Hapke said. The chairman of the board of PlasticsEurope Deutschland e.V. gave the main speech during the press conference that was done in Augsburg as a part of the annual meeting.



Hapke stressed, that the increase in production went hand in hand with an employment growth by 3.1 per cent. 10 journalists were present at the event, including all the main publications from the specialised press. The whole press kit in German language is available in Frankfurt.

Contact: Michael Herrmann

DE: Annual Report is available

The 36-page document was presented in May at the annual meeting in Augsburg and, these days, some 600 copies are sent directly to member company representatives, Value Chain, economy, politicians, and trade press. It lists the most important facts and figures on plastics manufacturing in Germany 2011. The annual report from PlasticsEurope Deutschland e.V. is available in Frankfurt as a printed version, and for download from www.plasticseurope.org.

Contact: Michael Herrmann

DE: Three decades of plastics communication

After more than 30 years in the communication department of the association of plastics manufacturers in Germany, Kurt Stepping retired in April 2012. Thanks to his communication campaigns in the 80s and 90s, the image of plastics and the plastics industry improved a lot in the public opinion. In 1996, he was also one of the main driver for starting the sport sponsoring initiative Team Kunststoff, where the plastic industry proves its commitment and shows responsibility. The successor of Kurt Stepping is Michael Herrmann.

Contact: Michael Herrmann

DE: Health company B. Braun invites Kuno to family day

Science needs youth: Therefore, the big German health company B. Braun organised a family day in its headquarter. More than 1.500 visitors enjoyed and discovered scientific experiments in the town of Melsungen (Hesse). PlasticsEurope was present with a stand of its own, showing the five Kuno experiments. Many kids were fascinated by cleaning water from dirt or making a bouncy ball on their own. Even many employees of B. Braun visited the stand and took some time for talks and discussions.

Contact: Tanja Rühl

DE: New edition of the secondary school book about plastics

It is an ongoing success story: These days, PlasticsEurope Deutschland e.V. presents the 14th edition of the secondary school book "Kunststoffe – Werkstoffe unserer Zeit". For almost 30 years now, the book is an irreplaceable assistant in school, teaching pupils about the polymer world. From time to time, PlasticsEurope is revising its educational material to keep it up to date.

Contact: Tanja Rühl

DE: Heinrich Böll Stiftung discusses "Plastic Planet"

As part of the film series „Film ab“ the Green Party's Heinrich Böll Stiftung presented the film Plastic Planet earlier this May in Berlin and invited the audience to a panel discussion. Along with PlasticsEurope the German NGO BUND participated in the discussion with over 100 guests. There was a vivid exchange of views on potential health risks, about Marine Litter, and solutions for clean oceans. Positive developments within plastics industry and the commitment of the companies were acknowledged.

It was critical to the discussion that industry was represented with one voice in a local context.

Contact: Rüdiger Baunemann

Team Kunststoff on the path to the London 2012 Olympic Games

During this year's annual meeting, the canoe slalom European championships drew the attention of the world of sports to Augsburg, Bavaria. And the Team Kunststoff, the sponsoring



initiative of the German plastics manufacturers, finished the tournament with a tremendous success. The team celebrated five medals in the Olympic disciplines, including two European championship titles, and seven more medals in the non-Olympic races. Because the European championships being the last challenge before the start of this year's Olympic Summer Games, a lot of journalists from TV broadcasters and newspapers from all over Europe reported from the race

course, bringing the word "Kunststoff" to almost every home in Germany. And it was easy to do so: "Kunststoff" was visible on the boats and helmets of the German athletes as well as at the gates and the banner ad of the canoe track. During the whole competition, PlasticsEurope was present with a stand on its own, where original teambags of Team Kunststoff could be won during a quiz and children could pick up some smart Team Kunststoff-cubes.

A few weeks earlier, the flatwater and slalom canoeists already appeared prominent in the German media during the competitive qualifying races in Germany for the Olympic Games. A lot of pictures in high-ranking newspapers like "BILD" or "Leipziger Volksstimme" included the word "Kunststoff" in its centre. And the story is not finished yet: German athletes from Team Kunststoff are likely to win some medals at this year's Olympic Games – with more media coverage ahead.



The plastics industry is supporting water sports for more than 15 years. Team Kunststoff has 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: Michael Herrmann

PL: Directing the discussion on the right path...

PlasticsEurope Polska supported an educational the event of Basell Orlen Polyolefins.

Organized in Płock with cooperation with local authorities on the occasion of "Days of the Earth" the event finalized the competition "Good energy from polyolefins / plastics" conducted in local schools from Płock area. Around 30 participants of the competition on 20th of April run the debate, presenting their opinion on plastics and its role in modern world.

The debate was moderated by Anna Szałkowska, who had also the possibility to "live" comment the speeches and to correct the misleading information, directing also the discussion on "right" way. Such events are a good example of integration of local society as among 100 participants except students and teachers were also the broad representation of authorities, industry, NGOs and media.

Contact: Anna Kozera-Szałkowska

PL: Seminar for students on plastics as innovative material

PlasticsEurope Polska representative was invited for guest lecture on conference organized by student scientific society "Polimer" at Warsaw University of Technology. The role of plastics as innovative material of the future was presented and several promotional printed materials have been distributed during the conference. In the presentation special attention was given to plastics in sport, what raise a lot of interest among students, as well as academics.

Contact: Anna Kozera-Szałkowska

PL: On recycling and plastics recovery to youngsters

PlasticsEurope Polska actively participated in Warszawskie Dni Recyklingu (Warsaw Recycling Days) – an educational event organized by Warsaw authorities promoting rational use of energy and natural resources, pro-ecological and anti-littering behaviour, selective collection, recycling and recovery. PEP representatives gave a presentation (together with a quiz) on plastics' role in energy efficiency and on value of plastics waste during session 'Good energy for everybody' addressed to youngsters.

Contact: Anna Kozera-Szałkowska/Edyta Barry

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 showed decreasing tendencies, but now remains stable since November 2011. Also Plastics Products remains more or less stable since mid 2011. The Plastics Machinery sector grows further on at the beginning of 2012.

Sectors: Across sectors, developments in 2011 were somewhat uneven. Production quantities of Primary Plastics showed primarily decreasing tendencies in 2011, but now remain stable since November 2011. The Plastics Products sector further on remains more or less stable during the last months and the Plastics Machinery sector continues its growth.

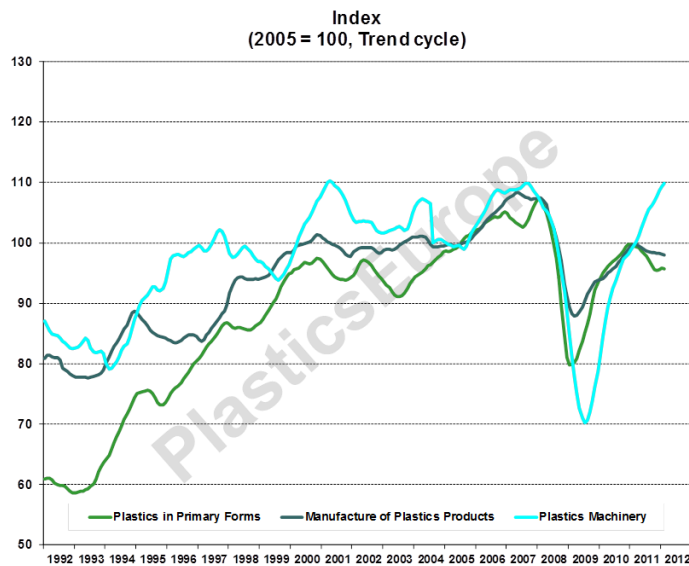
Plastics Industry producer prices develop quite differently at the end of 2011 and beginning of 2012. Prices for Primary Plastics show signs of a new increase in January and February 2012 after primarily decreasing tendencies at the end of 2011. Plastics Products prices remain on a stable level and Plastics Machinery prices continue to grow.

End use Industries: The Electrical Machinery Industry's production shows a sideway movement since mid 2011. The upward trend in the Automotive sector came to an end in mid 2011. Production figures for the construction industry grew slightly since the beginning of 2011 but show decreasing tendencies since third quarter of 2011 again. Production in the more crisis-resistant Food and Beverages sector further on with a more or less sideway movement.

External Trade: Total export quantities of Primary Plastics have reached its peak at the end of 2010. The first half of 2011 showed decreasing export tendencies, but since the second half year export quantities are increasing again. Exports of Plastics Products develop in a quite similar way: Decreasing tendencies in the first half of 2011 and constant to slightly increasing tendency since mid 2011. Total import quantities show a sideway movement for Primary Plastics and a primarily decreasing trend for Plastics Products.

Outlook: Plastics Machinery sector was a major driver in EU27 Plastics' Industry during recent months. The more or less stable development in production figures for both Primary Plastics and Plastics Products at the end of 2011 and beginning of 2012 as well as increasing producer prices after a longer period of stagnation for both sectors give slightly positive signals for the future.

European Union (EU27) Plastics Industry Production



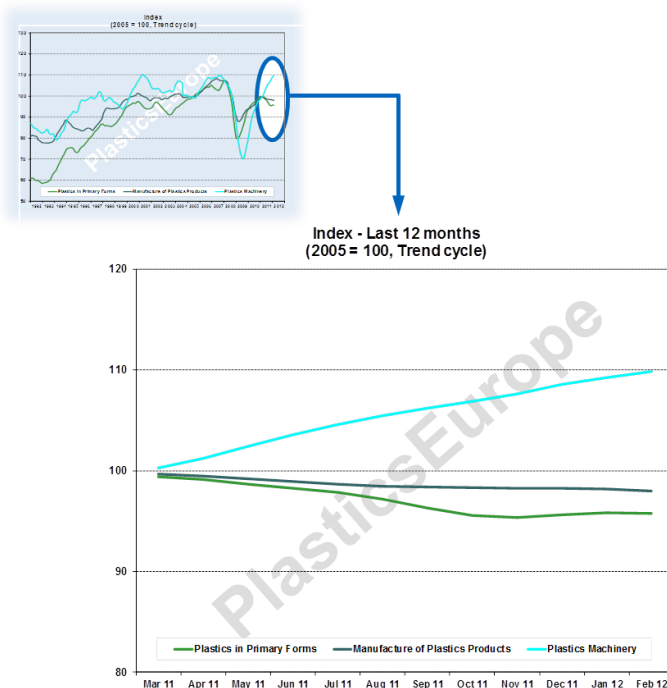
Plastics Industry Production by long term view (1992-2012):

- 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):

- Strong growth of Plastics Machinery sector still continues.
- The development of Plastics Products production shows a sideways movement during the last months.
- The decline in production figures for Plastics in Primary Forms seems to have stopped at the end of 2011.

Source: Eurostat / PlasticsEurope Market Research Group (PEMRG)

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European Union (EU27) Plastics Industry Production

Production Index (working day adjusted)

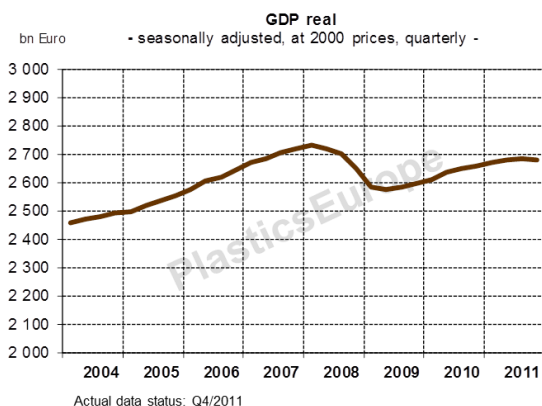
Sectors	Feb 12	Jan - Feb 12	Feb 12	Jan - Feb 12
	Index 2005 = 100		y-o-y (%)	
Primary Plastics	93.7	95.3	-2.6	-2.9
Plastics Products	94.6	94.9	-2.8	-1.7
Plastics Machinery	105.7	99.5	15.1	12.6

Production Index (Trend cycle)

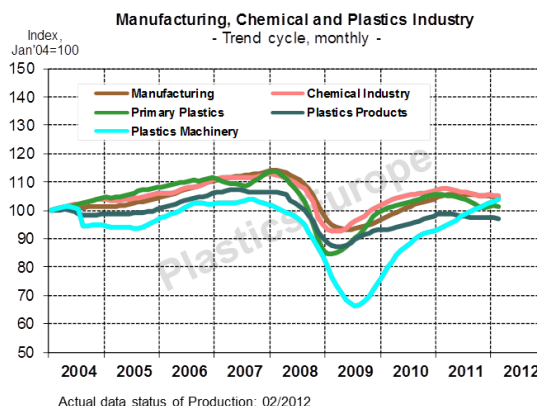
Sectors	Nov 11	Dec 11	Jan 12	Feb 12
	Change in % against previous month			
Primary Plastics	-0.2	0.3	0.2	-0.1
Plastics Products	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.2
Plastics Machinery	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.5

- The first to months of 2012 show increasing production figures compared to the same period in 2011 for the Plastics Machinery sector, which grew by 12.6%. Production of Primary Plastics (-2.9%) and Plastics Products (-1.7%) show a slight decrease.
- Plastics Machinery production with continuing upward trend in recent months.
- Production of Primary Plastics and Plastics Products with a more or less constant development in recent months.

European Union (EU27) GDP, Chemical and Plastics Industry



- EU27 GDP increased by 1.5% in 2011, compared to 2010.
- In the fourth quarter of 2011 the GDP decreased by 0.3% compared to third quarter.
- Actual estimations of Eurostat for EU27 GDP growth rates (year on year):
2012: +/-0%, 2013: +1.5%

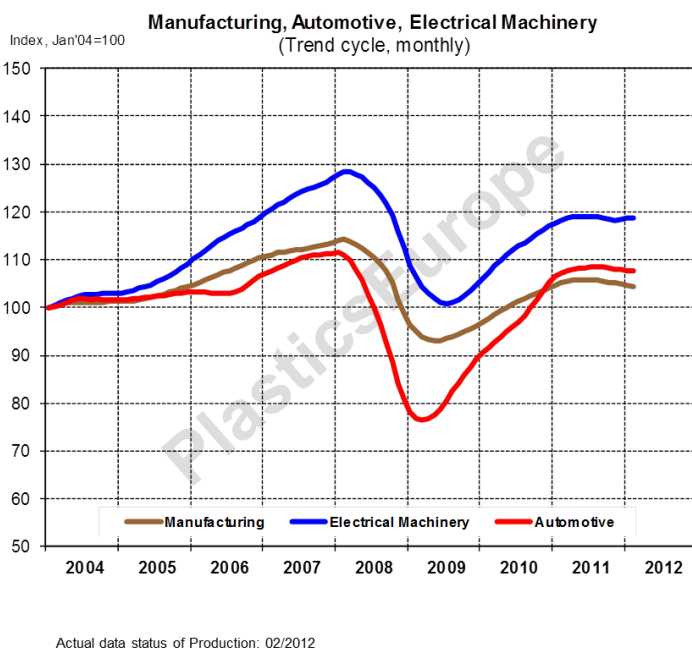


- Uptrend in the Chemical Industry as well as in Total Manufacturing has lasted until the first quarter of 2011. Since then, both with slightly decreasing tendencies and now constant tendencies since a couple of month.
- Also, slight downward trend since the beginning of 2011 for production of Primary Plastics and Plastics Products. Plastics Machinery still with continuing growth.

Source: Eurostat / PlasticsEurope Market Research Group (PEMRG)

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European Union (EU27) Plastics Customer Industries - Part I

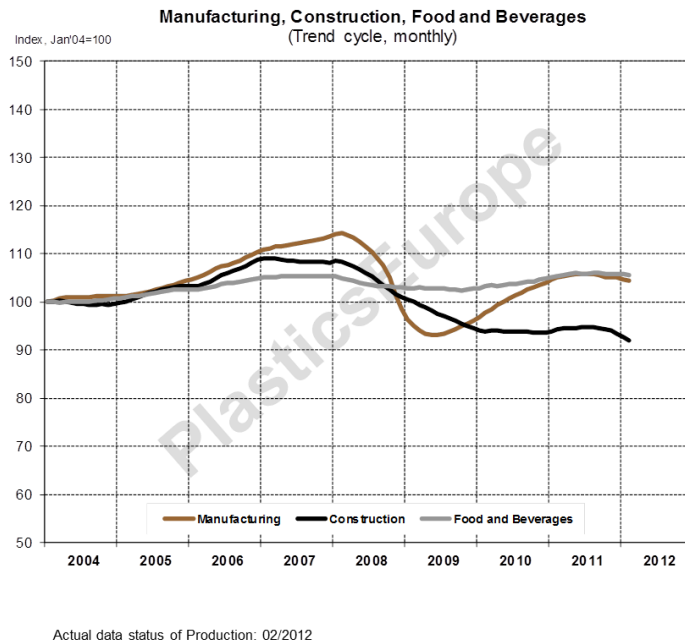


- Recovery in the EU27's Manufacturing Industry since 2009, but with slightly decreasing tendency since the second quarter of 2011 again.
- After strong growth especially in 2009 and 2010, the second half year 2011 showed first slightly decreasing tendencies in the Automotive industry.
- Sideway movement in the Electrical Machinery Industry since mid 2011.
- 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

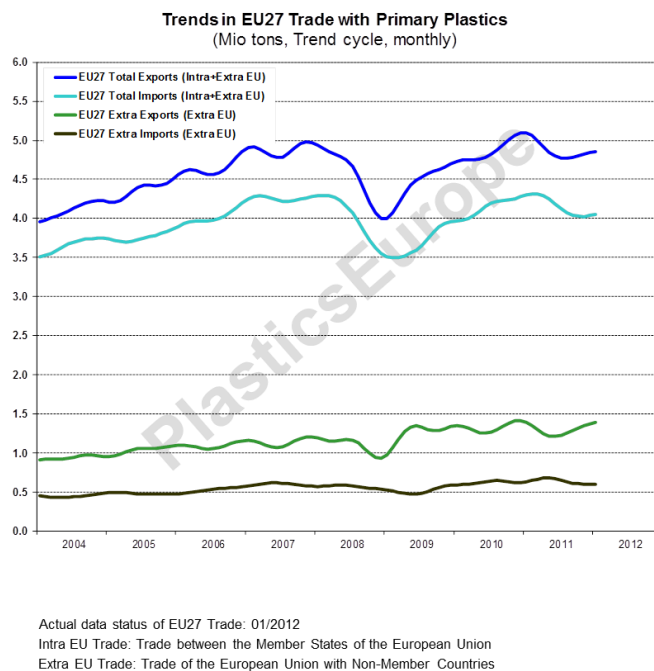


- Decreasing production trend in the Construction Industry since the third quarter of 2011.
- The Food and Beverages Industry was less hit by the recession than other industries.
- Slightly decreasing trend in production figures of the Manufacturing Industry since mid 2011.

Source: Eurostat / PlasticsEurope Market Research Group (PEMRG)

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European Union (EU27) Trade Primary Plastics



- Total EU27 Export quantity of Primary Plastics has reached its peak at the end of 2010. The same applies to EU27 Extra Exports.
- Import quantities from Extra EU27 showed a slightly decreasing trend in the 2nd half of 2011 as well as Total Imports.
- During the last years the Extra EU Import share grew to 15.3% in 2011. The Extra EU Export share in 2011 was slightly lower than in 2010 (26.5% in 2011 compared to 27.3% in 2010).

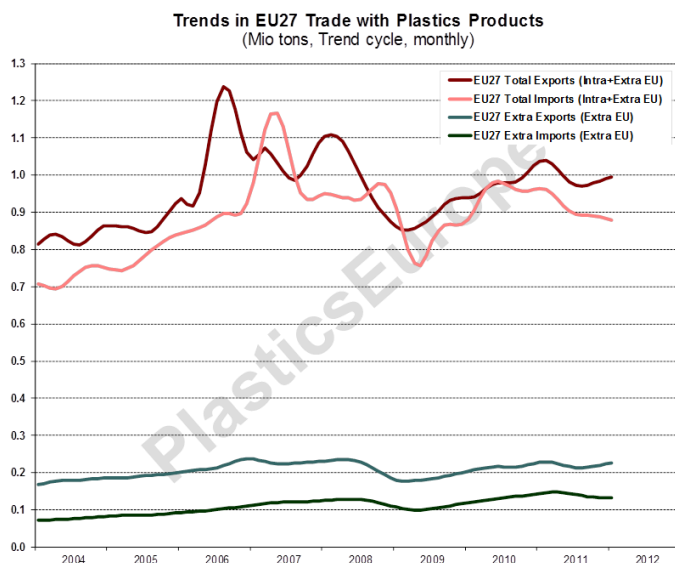
Extra EU Trade - Primary Plastics
Share in Total (%)

Year	Exports	Imports
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
2011	26.5	15.3
2012YTD 01	26.1	16.4

Source: Eurostat / PlasticsEurope Market Research Group (PEMRG)

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European Union (EU27) Trade Plastics Products



Actual data status of EU27 Trade: 01/2012
Intra EU Trade: Trade between the Member States of the European Union
Extra EU Trade: Trade of the European Union with Non-Member Countries

- After two years of Total Exports growth, quantities in 2011 showed primarily decreasing tendencies. Since September 2011 Total Exports grow again. Total Imports show a primarily decreasing trend since 2011.
- Extra EU Imports and Extra EU Exports increased in 2009 and 2010, but now show more or less constant tendencies.
- The share of Extra EU Imports and Extra EU Exports increased in recent years.

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

Year	Exports	Imports
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
2011	22.1	15.4
2012YTD 01	19.5	17.2

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)

PL: 4th European Economic Congress

Held in Katowice on May 14-16, the European Economic Congress has gathered major Polish business leaders and influential politicians including national and European Union officials. Condition and performance of Polish chemical industry was the topic of one of the sessions. The participants stressed that although recent results of the industry are satisfactory, Poland deepens its dependence on imported chemicals and plastics (in plastic resins ca. 50% of raw materials are imported to Poland in order to meet the demand from the converters. Another concern of Polish chemical and plastics industry is the high cost of energy with gas prices paid by big chemical companies being at the highest level in Europe as well as unsecure future of energy prices.

Another session of the congress was devoted to energy issues, where Polish industry experts and politicians expressed their concerns about Polish energy consuming industries (with chemicals and plastics production), resulting from the EU ambitious programs of energy consumption reduction. Polish industry is not yet prepared to carry such a burden and Poland will propose its own road map (see note above)

Contact: Kazimierz Borkowski

10. The Association

CZ: Conference about Bioplastics

The Association of Chemical Industry of the Czech Republic hold a conference with 35 participants about Bioplastics for food packaging together with SYBA (The Czech packaging association). The lecturers were from Institute of Chemical institute in Prague, Mandel's university from Brno, Invos and PE central. We tried to cover all topics from biodegradable

plastics. We explained the differences between Biodegradable, Biobase, Bioplastics, Recycle of biodegradable plastics, Market information about Bioplastics, Eu politics in this area and attitude of PE.

Contact: František Svoboda

DE: PED General Assembly 2012

The general assembly 2012 was held in Augsburg (the city of the Fuggers, a historic merchant dynasty), on the fringes of the European canoe slalom championships. The regulatory matters were dealt with as required; the annual accounts and the budget 2012 were adopted. Mr Gerd Löbbert (Borealis AG) and Dr Jörg Schottek (Albis Plastics GmbH) were elected to the Board. New treasurer is the Board member Rainer Grasmück (Baerlocher GmbH), who succeeds the departing treasurer Mr Hans-Theodor Kutsch in this function. Mr Hans-Joachim Fox (Vinnolit GmbH & Co. KG) and Dr Walter Reith (IKA Innovative Kunststoffaufbereitung GmbH & Co. KG) were elected internal financial controllers. The general assembly was harmonious. The event was rounded off by a talk by Mr Hans-Hermann Nacke (director of VCI, the German chemical industry association) who provided information about VCI activities in topical issues. This is another example of the excellent networking between VCI and PED.

Contact: Claus Simon

DE: PED Board meeting in May

In the run-up to the general assembly, the PED Board came together in Augsburg for its traditional May meeting. The participants discussed, inter alia, the annual accounts and audit report, changes in the executive management, and the activities of Steering Board and Leadership Team – giving much attention to the Kuratorium (board of trustees) and the further development of BKV (Beteiligungs- und Kunststoffverwertungsgesellschaft mbh) and tecpol (Technologieentwicklungs GmbH für ökoefiziente Polymerverwertung).

Contact: Rüdiger Baunemann / Claus Simon

DE: Meeting of PED Statistics and Market Research Group

The PED market researchers meet on 10 May in Augsburg, within the general assembly 2012. Their discussions included, amongst other subjects, the progress of the Consultic Study Germany, the Data Collection Team in Brussels, the PEMRG (PlasticsEurope Market and Research Group) meeting and Wirtschaftsvereinigung Kunststoff (WVK). Furthermore, details were given on the trade press day, the business press conference, and topical publications and lectures by the association.

Contact: Claus Simon

DE: Spring meeting of the group “Fachgemeinschaft Additive”

The spring meeting of the Fachgemeinschaft Additive was held on 9 May in Augsburg – for the first time together with the PED general assembly. The meeting was well-attended. The agenda included, inter alia, statistics, public relations work of the association, topical subjects relating to additives and, of course, to PVC.

Contact: Claus Simon

DE: Meeting of the Working Group Plastics and Environment

On the occasion of the German General Assembly, the Working Group Plastics and Environment met on 10 May in Augsburg. Key topics on the agenda were guest contributions of VDI on resource efficiency and of Fujitsu regarding product safety and eco-design. The next meeting will take place on 19 September 2012 in Frankfurt/M.

Contact: Ingo Sartorius

DE: PVC workshop on 27 June in Frankfurt/Main

Participants can learn new information about the well-known material PVC – at the next joint workshop “PVC and the environment” on 27 June in Frankfurt/Main. This event is organized together by the Working group PVC and environment e.V. (AgPU) and Plastics Europe.

Recognized experts will present topical reports and important subjects connected with PVC, such as:

- VinylPlus (the new European sustainability initiative)
- Saving energy and costs by using PVC products
- Marker systems for plastic products
- PVC Medical Campaign
- Development of a database-reliant NMR screening method for plasticisers in PVC
- Development of an internal PVC database "PVC-WIKI" ...

Please block the date in your diary.

Contact: Sabine Lindner

PL: New Managing Director at BASF Polska

Dr. Dirk Elvermann has been nominated to Managing Director of BASF Polska and has replaced Dr. Michael Hepp as from 1 May. On this occasion both managers have met PlasticsEurope Polska where we have presented our activity and plans for next future including Identiplast 2012 Conference to be held in Warsaw in November.

Contact: Kazimierz Borkowski

PL: Meeting with Retailers Association

PlasticsEurope Polska has arranged a meeting with Polish retailers association to discuss two issues: development of BPA European legislation and its consequences both for food and drink distribution and for plastics industry. Another topic was the update of plastics carrier bags situation in grocery retail in Poland with emphasis put on large and medium surface stores. PlasticsEurope Polska has proposed to enter into cooperation with the association or individual retailers in order to promote.

Contact: Kazimierz Borkowski

SK: AFEM Meeting Cefic in Bratislava

The Assembly of the Member Federations (AFEM) Meeting took place on 9-10 May in Bratislava.

Agenda:

ROUND TABLE - for discussion:

- How to optimize the added value of AFEM:
- Cefic / AFEM
- Advocacy / technical support to members
- Role of National Associations Board (NAB)
- Larger / smaller Associations
- Role of ChemCom
- Common projects
- SMEs

SUPPORT TO SMALLER ASSOCIATIONS

- Presentation of Mr. Roman Karlubík, President of ZCHFP SR

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 8-9 FEB IN BRUSSELS AND OF THE AGENDA

2. REACH

- Intermediates
- Latest topics to address:
 - Endocrine disruptors
 - Nanomaterials
 - Review 2012.

3. ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- Priorities:
 - Set aside CO2 allowances
 - Binding targets in energy efficiency

4. Energy Sectorial Roadmap

5. INDUSTRIAL POLICY

- Follow-up to the recommendations of the High Level Group on Competitiveness.
- Smarter regulation / competitiveness
- Bio-economy (including renewable)
- Innovation regional initiatives
- SMEs mapping.

There were 31 participants – representatives of Cefic and National chemical associations.
Contact: Silvia Surová

SK: Conference on the Top Issues of Chemical Industry in Bratislava

On 9 May the Conference on highlights of chemical industry was organized by ZCHFP SR. The Slovak chemical Association took the opportunity that the representatives of Cefic came to Bratislava to the AFEM meeting (Assembly of the Member Federations).

Agenda of the Conference:

- European Chemical Industry - Hubert Mandery, Director General of Cefic
- Cefic and his role in Advocacy - Jean Claude Lahaut, Secretary General of Cefic
- Innovation and European funds - Gernot Klotz, Executive Director for Innovation, František Doktor, Consultant, Cefic
- Discussion

There were 22 participants - representatives of Cefic, the Slovak Ministry of Environment, the Slovak Ministry of Economy, ZCHFP SR and member companies of ZCHFP SR.

Contact: Silvia Surová

SL: Slovenian Plasttechnics Cluster on the fair PLAST2012 in Milan

The Slovenian Plasttechnics Cluster had a booth at the fair PLAST2012 where we presented our members and also our current international research and development projects.

We have also organized a visit of the fair PLAST2012 for our members from Slovenian industry. A bus with more than 55 persons travelled together to Milan and visited one of the most important European plastic fairs. Bus ride was used for discussion on current situation of plastic industry in Slovenia and in Europe and its future aspects. Current situation is still fragile.

In two days on the fairground we hardly managed to see everything the fair and the exhibitors have offered. All our visitors were really satisfied with the exhibition and we all made several useful contacts.

Contact: Janez Navodnik

11. Further topics