



EuPR Newsletter

Noteworthy events to add to your calendar

- Next **PVC WG, PE-Film WG, REACH WG, Crates & Pallets WG, and PET WG meetings** will take place on **28 September** in **Cyprus!**
- **28 September 2006 EuPR 10th Anniversary and General Assembly in Pafos, Cyprus!**
- **EuPR Board Meeting** will be organized on **8 December 2006** in **EuPC offices, Brussels** in combination with **REACH conference!**
- **7 December 2006, REACH Conference** (Register now!) contact: bianka.nagy@eupr.org

LabelAgriWaste

LabelAgriWaste is an EU-funded project which started in January this year. The project is about developing standardised procedures and integrated methodologies to label the agricultural plastic waste streams in order to facilitate their routing to the best alternative processing and final disposal. Both EuPR and EuPC are involved in this project. The project, that will last 3 years and thus end in 2009, will aim at converting the agriculture plastic waste into a commodity. EuPR is involved mainly in: 1) analysing the waste disposal practices in EU, 2) in understanding the specification of agriculture plastic waste and 3) in the dissemination of the project and the results of the project.

The 6 month project meeting took place on 3-4 of July. The progress of each partner in the project was presented and the way forward was discussed. The meeting saw the participation of all the partners involved in the project, i.e. industry association representatives, universities and research centers. It was evident that a clear and an in-depth investigation of the current practices in the

EU 25 Member States, for what concerns the collection and the recycling of agriculture plastic waste, is the starting point in achieving the goals of the project. Many Member States have started or are just starting to acknowledge the fact that agriculture plastic must be perceived as a resource; but often, in the Member State, a gap exists between the farmer and the recycler. The 12 month project meeting will be organized in January 2007 in Bari, Italy.

Several deliverables of the project have their due date January 2007, and EuPC shall deliver a comprehensive report on technical and legal aspects of existing labeling schemes of plastics. To gather information for other deliverables a number of questionnaires have been sent out to EuPR member companies as well as EuPC member organizations and companies, in order to gather information relating to agricultural plastic products and plastic waste. Most of the input received so far is on data related to plastic waste and recycling. The next meeting organized by EuPC/EuPR on LabelAgriWaste will take place end of 2006. For more information contact Susan Strombom: susan.strombom@eupr.org

EuPR joins Recycling coalition in Brussels

On August 1 EuPR has joined the European Recycling coalition, a lobby group of associations based in Brussels, to promote recycling in the EP and Commission. As decided by the EuPR Management Committee on 15th May 2006 in Warsaw, more actions need to be undertaken to ensure plastics recycling remains in the focus of the EU legislator. The well established EU waste hierarchy is under threat and more and more focus is put on energy from waste or incineration to solve the plastics waste issue. For this reason several organisation launched the European Recycling Coalition as a temporary lobby group in Brussels to follow the revision of the waste directive and the thematic recycling and prevention strategy. More information: alexandre.dangis@eupc.org

EuPR PET WG meeting

Two PET WG meetings have been organized during May and June, the last one taking place in Frankfurt on 27 June. During the two meetings one of the main concerns was the urgent need for the European PET recyclers to put forward their issues in relation to input material qualities, quantities and prices.

For the standard input quality the idea of a European purchase tool came forward:

An independent organisation would purchase input material and the material price would hence get independent of the market price. The project Recovynyl is an excellent success story of such a purchase pool for PVC waste. Both for PVC and for PET the image of the raw material supplier is threatened. In the PVC case the purchaser of PVC material therefore gets subsidies from the raw material supplier, which could also be a possibility for a future PET purchase pool. More information: susan.strombom@eupr.org

Bio-plastic

The 'living' document between EuPC and Plastics Europe on bio-plastic is still to be finalized. The discussions between the two industrial representations are on going and the aim is to finalize the document by the end of summer.

Waste Framework Directive and Thematic Strategy on Prevention and Recycling of Waste:

The document expressing the position of EuPC and EuPR has been presented to the European Parliament. A meeting with MEP Blokland was organised (rapporteur for Waste Strategy) in the month of August participating from EuPR (Bernard Merx and Erik Schutjes).

EuPR decided to join forces with the so called "*recycling coalition*"; a coalition of different industrial representations that have decided to join forces not only to safeguard and protect the recycling industry in Europe, but also to make the European legislator aware of the many challenges that have their origin in European legislation (present and future). More information: paolo.bochicchio@eupc.org

European business awards for the environment

During Greenweek 2006 of the DG Environment, the European business awards for the environment were presented in 4 categories: products, processes, management, and international cooperation. The project RagBag®, received the award in international co-operation category. RagBag®, are bags and organizers made from recycled films, collected, sorted and washed by 'rag-pickers' in Delhi. Films are sorted by color, and, thanks to a special molding equipment, compression molded into sheets/plates used for the production of finished items. So far (June 2006), 60 jobs were created, for people from the poor districts of Delhi, granting them a reasonably acceptable income. RagBag products are designed by young European and Indian designers. The project is an international co-operation of Conserve, a Delhi based NGO and iD-L inspired innovations, an Amsterdam based design consultancy.

S Norton & Co in the UK to offer WEEE compliance through purchase of Axion Recycling

Metal Recycling company S Norton & Co has bought a majority share of plastics firm Axion Recycling in a bid to offer full compliance with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive.

The WEEE Directive will make electronics manufacturers responsible for recycling a proportion of their equipment when it is passed into UK law next year. This will mean that more than just the metal parts will need to be reprocessed, and Axion Polymers will separate waste plastics and extrude new polymers from them.

Interesting conferences for plastics recyclers

- **European Paper Recycling Conference, 25-26 September, Barcelona (Spain).**
- **International trade fair for waste management and environmental technology, 24-27 October, Cologne (Germany).**