

Minutes of the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee Meeting

26th April, 2022 - 14h00 : 15h30
Online Meeting

Attendees:

Ms. Laure Baillargeon	Policy Officer, European Commission, DG GROW
Mr Paulo Da Silva Lemos	European Commission – DG ENV
Ms Brigitte Dero	Managing Director, VinylPlus
Mr Armand De Wasch	Euro consumers
Mr. Jo Dewulf	University of Ghent
Mr. Zdenek Hruska	VinylPlus
Ms Nathalie Lukyova	Assistant to Mr Knotek, MEP
Mr Ettore Nanni	President, ESPA
Ms Olga Pozlevic	Policy Officer, European Commission, DG GROW
Mr Patrik Srba	Assistant to Mr Knotek, MEP
Mr Geoffroy Tillieux	Director, Technical Department, EuPC
Ms Noelle Tracey	Project Manager, VinylPlus
Ms Ingrid Verschueren	General Manager, Recovinyl

Excused:

Mr. Werner Bosmans	European Commission – DG ENV
Mr Ondrej Knotek	MEP
Mr Sylvain Lefebvre	Deputy General Secretary, IndustriAll European Trade Union
Ms Nathalie Lukyova	Assistant to Mr Knotek, MEP
Mr Nuno Mello	MEP, European Parliament
Ms Ana Miguel Pedro Soares	Parliamentary Advisor to MEP Nuno Melo, European Parliament

1. Welcome

Jo De Wulf welcomed all the participants

2. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved by all participants

3. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd December, 2021 was formally approved.

4. Date and venue of meetings in 2022

The date of the next meeting is confirmed on the 1st December, 2022 from 14h00 : 15h30
It was agreed to have a face2face meeting at the European Parliament.

Action: NT to contact Nathalie Lukyova to organise the logistics.

5. VinylPlus Progress Report 2022

The VinylPlus Progress Report 2022 was formally approved by the VinylPlus Monitoring Committee. Everyone thought it was extremely well presented and very professional.

6. VinylPlus New Programme 2030 – Update (Annex)

Following the detailed presentation that Zdenek Hruska gave at the last VinylPlus Monitoring Committee meeting of the 2nd December, 2021, Zdenek gave a short update on the progress so far

A new VinylPlus Environmental Committee has been created and had their first meeting on the 22nd April, 2022. Their mandate is to look at the different possibility to increase their carbon neutrality and to minimise the environmental footprint.

With regard to pathway 2 and specifically the first Action Area, it clearly recognizes the need for sustainable carbon management, in line with the European Commission’s Green Deal targets. The options include the use of renewable energy as well as sustainable feedstock sourcing – carbon coming from recyclates or bio-based origin. The Sustainable use of chemical substances is the key for product sustainability and future circularity considerations. The Additive Sustainability Footprint (ASF) is an important tool permitting to evaluate the sustainable use of additives in PVC applications.

7. VinylPlus Programme Implementation (Annex)

I. Verschueren presented the Recovinyl preliminary results for 2021. Despite the problems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, 807 568 tonnes of PVC waste were recycled within the Recovinyl framework, of which about 64 % was pre-consumer waste and 36 % post-consumer waste.

The recycling volumes are now reported via RecoTrace which collects data both from recyclers and converters. The RecoTrace data collection system is used for reporting recycling and recyclate uptake by converters for both VinylPlus and the Circular Plastic Alliance (CPA). PolyRec is the only system that will report on PVC recycling figures. There is no other data collector for the recycling activity concerning other plastics.

The preliminary target for 2022, subjected to the approval of Recovinyl board, is set at 825 kt.

8. Update on Danish EPA : Danish PVC Council DK / VinylPlus Partnership

In the context of the partnership with the DK EPA , PVC industry and China , the Chinese embassy in DK is willing to have PVC included in a “Science & Technology Festival” planned to take place late September or early October 2022 (online or live or where not decided). The festival will be organised by the Danish Ministry of Science and the Chinese Ministry of Science. Denmark has a long cooperation history with China when it comes to science and technology.

We were asked to prepare a draft programme for the PVC seminar.

Post meeting information: the Danish Environmental Protection Agency announced to be unable to continue our formal partnership on PVC and additives. The decision has been taken by the Ministry and have the backgrounds in the discussion about possible future restrictions on PVC.

9. The VinylPlus Sustainability Forum

Will be an online meeting on the 25th May, 2022. The theme for this year's event is "Embracing EU Green Deal Ambitions". The VinylPlus Monitoring Committee members are invited to join.

10 Wrap-Up

Jo Dewulf noted the following points

- Ingrid's presentation was very interesting - in place, an operational data collection system reporting recycling and recycle uptake by converters for both VinylPlus and the Circular Plastics Alliance (CPA)
- Progress report – was very well received and approved
- Activities with DK, VinylPlus and China
- Start-up of the 2030 programme under way. This topic will be put on the agenda of the next meeting in December. It will cover the first developments, how it is going, what needs to be worked out and what needs to be put into practice.
- VinylPlus Monitoring Committee meeting on the 1st December, 2022 is confirmed as a face2face at the European Parliament

Meeting ended at 15h15