

## WELCOME TO EU GLASS INDUSTRIES NEWS



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## EU COMMUNITY NEWS

### NEW EU LEGISLATION

#### Communication

The Commission has communicated to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee on the **Commission General Report on the operation of REACH and review of certain elements**. The report includes the findings of the evaluation on the achievement of REACH objectives, Industry responsibility, Action by Member States and the Commission, ECHA, Potential for simplification and burden reduction), and suggests the following actions on:

- Knowledge and management of chemicals throughout the supply chain
- Enhanced risk management
- Coherence, enforcement and SMEs
- Fees and future of ECHA

Regarding the fees and the future of ECHA, as budgetary constraints will remain in the post 2020 Multiannual Financial Framework, the Commission will explore ways of guaranteeing ECHA mission and independence and to assess all possible options for financing in a context of projected reduced fee income, including by containing expenditure. ECHA is invited by 2019 to:

- ✓ reallocate staff to other areas of work following the completion of the registration process for phase-in substances to enhance the scientific and technical expertise related to the safety of chemicals as well as the evolving methodologies for their assessment;
- ✓ continue to identify efficiency gains and propose targets.

Given the constraints identified above, the Commission will carefully assess whether to assign further tasks to ECHA and the associated resources.

#### The report concludes:

The REACH Evaluation concludes overall that REACH is addressing today's citizens' concerns about chemical safety. REACH is effective but opportunities for further improvement, simplification and burden reduction have been identified, which can be achieved by delivering the actions outlined in the report. Those should be implemented in line with the renewed EU Industrial Policy Strategy, Circular Economy Action Plan and the 7<sup>th</sup> Environment Action Programme.

REACH is found to be generally coherent with other EU legislation concerning chemicals and delivers the international goals as intended.

Implementation is still ongoing in all areas, with some key milestones, such as the last registration deadline, still to be completed by June 2018. Many of the costs of REACH have been incurred and benefits are starting to materialise.

The REACH evaluation has concluded that the legal requirements and obligations are well tuned to achieving the needs and objectives pursued. While this communication has identified a number of actions that will further improve REACH, there is currently no need to change its enacting terms.

The Commission will further investigate information necessary to assess the affordability of additional information requirements for low tonnage substances or to identify relevant polymers that could be subject to registration, especially given the number of SMEs who might be affected.

Full Decision on page 1 at

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2018:116:FIN>

21075/COM (2018) 116 final - 2018.03.05

## TRADE POLICY

### **European Parliament to Strengthen Gender Equality in EU's Trade Agreements**

On 13 March, the European Commission adopted in Strasbourg (by 502 votes in favour to 107 against with 68 abstentions) the resolution put together by Swedish MEP Malin Björk and Italian MEP Eleonora Forenza, both from the GUE/NGL Group, aiming to include arrangements to strengthen gender equality and promote women's rights in EU trade agreements.

The draft resolution points out that an assessment of the EU's current trade agreements shows that only one agreement in five mentions women's rights, and only two in five contain references aiming to promote gender equality. The Parliament thus asks the Commission and Council to promote and support the inclusion of a chapter on gender in all the EU's future trade agreements, as well as arrangements aiming to ensure the respect of human rights (including gender equality).

The Parliament asks the EU to promote women's rights, gender equality and women's empowerment on the basis of international standards such as the UN's Beijing Platform for Action, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

The Parliament calls for trade policy to be used to improve women's living and working conditions, and especially to reduce the pay gap with men. It also wants specific measures to fight exploitation and to improve women's living and working conditions in export-oriented industries (clothing, textiles and the agricultural sector).

In addition, the MEPs suggest that the Commission cooperate more closely with relevant organisations and national statistics offices in order to improve the collection of data on the impact of trade on gender equality.

21076/Press Release - 2018.03.13

## EU / JAPAN

Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström announced that on 17 April the European Commission will adopt and send the Council of the EU and European Parliament the draft agreement for the EU/Japan economic partnership concluded last December, for signing and subsequent ratification.

The Commissioner said to the Parliament's international trade committee that for signing the agreement, *"There will be discussions about a summit with Japan but we do not have a date yet. The Council will require a little time, after we have sent it the text. It is up to the latter to decide when to sign the text"*.

Parliament's rapporteur on this dossier, Pedro Silva Pereira (S&D, Portugal) said that he hoped the text would be signed by the Council *"before the summer"* so that the international trade committee would be able to examine it *"after the summer"* according to the following calendar: submitting amendments, opinions from other Parliamentary committees and visit by Parliamentary delegation in September; committee vote at the end of October-beginning November and a plenary vote in December.

The EU and Japan are doing everything they can to ensure the entry into force of their economic partnership agreement by the beginning of 2019, ideally before the United Kingdom leaves the EU in March 2019.

Talks between the Commission and Japan are continuing on the chapter relating to investment protection, which is separate to the economic partnership agreement. The EU wants to negotiate on the basis of the Investment Court System (ICS) used to arbitrate on investment disputes, which is promoted in the free-trade agreement with Canada. Japan, however, favours an investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) inspired mechanism.

21077/Press Release - 2018.03.22

## EU / USA

On 22 March, US Trade Representative Robert Lightzier announced that the EU and several countries would, for the moment, be exempt from the taxes on imports of steel and aluminium into the USA. The taxes were enacted by US President Donald Trump on 8 March and were due to enter into force on 23 March.

During a hearing before the US Congress, Lightzier said that like the two countries of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) – Canada and Mexico – the EU would be exempt from these taxes, as would Australia, Argentina, Brazil and South Korea.

On 19 March, the US administration opened a procedure for applications for exemption from the customs duties of 25% on imports of steel and of 10% on imports of aluminium into the USA. The duties are motivated on the grounds of national security under Section 232 of the 1962 Trade Expansion Act.

As part of this procedure, the planned customs tariffs will be suspended for the countries that have applied for exemption as the examination of the applications is still ongoing, Lightzier told the US Congress.

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In Washington the previous day, European Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström and US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross had *"agreed to launch immediately a process of discussion with President Trump and the Trump Administration on trade issues of common concern, including steel and aluminium, with a view to identifying mutually acceptable outcomes as rapidly as possible"*.

*"We always said (Trump's) decision was not compatible with WTO rules. We constitute no threat to the national security of the United States. We have told the US clearly that we are not the cause of the problem. The problem is a problem of overcapacity and the EU has suffered from this greatly"*, she stated.

*"We have given the facts to the US, on the basis of criteria. We are saying that the EU as a whole must be exempt from this process"*, Malmström said.

The Commission and US administration *"have decided to create a working group to debate trade issues of common interest, like barriers to trade, investment protection and issues linked to overcapacity"*, she said.

Malmström also said that the EU had prepared a package of possible counter-measures, including an appeal at the WTO, safeguard measures and rebalancing measures, which it could trigger immediately if it should be hit by US taxes, thus running the risk of a trade war.

21078/Press Release – 2018.03.22

## **EU / Canada**

European Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström said to the European Parliament that the "next steps" of the full implementation of the comprehensive economic and trade agreement (CETA) are mapped out. CETA entered into force provisionally on 21 September 2017.

She stated that the European Commission and Canadian government are working on three areas: the establishment of the institutional framework provided for in CETA, the improvement of the effectiveness of the arrangements on sustainable development, and the establishment of the arbitration court for investment disputes (Ed: which is based on the new Investment Court System – ICS).

*"The ratification of the agreement on the national level is on track. It will be a long process. But this can be completed successfully if the member states see the advantages of this agreement"*, she added.

CETA will be fully applied when all the EU member states have ratified it in line with their respective constitutional obligations, paving the way for the implementation of the ICS. Currently, eight countries have notified the Council of the ratification of CETA by their national parliament: Latvia, Denmark, Malta, Croatia, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Spain and Portugal.

The first meeting of the EU-Canada ministerial committee assessed the progress of the provisional implementation of the political cooperation agreement – the strategic partnership agreement (SPA) – since 1 April 2017, and of CETA since 21 September.

21079/Press Release – 2018.03.22

## ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

### EU Emission Trading Scheme (ETS)

1. On 27 February, the Council of the EU formally approved the **reform of the EU emissions trading system (ETS) for the period after 2020**. This is the main EU market instrument for reducing greenhouse gas emissions at low-cost and implementing the Paris Climate Agreement.

This reform was first initiated in July 2015 as a means of increasing carbon prices on the market and allowing the ETS to act as an incentive for investment in low carbon technologies and renewable energies. It should help make the ETS become more predictable, targeted and efficient over the 2021-30 period by maintaining European industrial competitiveness.

The directive amending the ETS directive (2003/87/EC), as adopted, is the result of a bitterly negotiated compromise during the trilogue (Parliament / Council / Commission), which produced in November 2017 a compromise guaranteeing a balance between the need to absorb some of the excess CO<sub>2</sub> allowances on the market and the necessity of protecting heavy industry and preventing the risk of carbon leakage.

The Bulgarian Minister for the Environment and Water and currently Acting President of the Environment Council, Neno Dimov, stated, *"Reducing greenhouse gas emissions will not only contribute to the fight against climate change but it will also positively impact the improvement of the air quality"*. He also provided assurances that the Bulgarian Presidency, *"will work towards retaining the EU's leading role in the negotiations on the conclusion of the implementation rules of the Paris Agreement"* during the COP 24.

21080/Press Release – 2018.02.28

2. On 22 March the 28 heads of state and government made clear their determination on to press on with implementation of the Paris climate agreement beyond what had been expected. They called on the European Commission to help them by presenting a proposal for a **strategy for long-term EU greenhouse gas emissions reduction in accordance with the Paris Agreement**, taking into account the national plans *"by the first quarter of 2019"*, that is, sufficiently ahead of COP25 (11-22 November 2019).

The addition of this date in the summit conclusions sends a clear message, putting pressure on the Commission which has not yet scheduled this strategy that will take it to 2050.

The demand that the climate-energy plans of the various member states be taken into account satisfies countries, like Poland, which do not want the EU to make overly ambitious commitments without knowing what the other international partners will do. For the moment, within the EU, only France, Germany and the Czech Republic have long-term strategies.

21081/Press Release – 2018.03.23

### **Carbon Price in Electricity Sector**

In order to speed up decarbonisation of the energy sector, it is necessary to have a carbon floor price in the electricity sector, as a first stage, say all those taking part at the conference on a “carbon floor price in Europe”, in Brussels on Monday 5 March. The event, organised at the initiative of France, brought together a total of around 60 ministers and representatives of think-tanks, Eurelectric, and the Greens/EFA group at the European Parliament.

The aim of the conference, which was opened by the secretary of state for ecological and inclusive transition, Brune Poirson, was to use to advantage the experience gained by a group of countries that have already worked on a floor price to reflect and coordinate with a view to launching discussion, at European level, on carbon tariffs and improvement to the “price signal”.

The conference marked the launch of a common initiative by five Member States – Germany, France, Finland, the United Kingdom, Sweden and the Netherlands – to launch informal reflection on strengthening the carbon signal price.

The EU emissions trading system (ETS) was recently reformed for the period 2021-2030 in order to bring up the price of carbon per tonne, as it had already fallen to under €7. It currently stands at about €10 (compared with €30 as initially envisaged). This, however, is not enough, as everyone has said.

A floor price to complete ETS. As a complement to ETS, a floor price for the production of electricity in Europe would make it possible to rapidly reduce EU emissions in this sector of activity, given that electricity production accounts for 20% of total greenhouse gas emissions in the EU.

Brune Poirson said: “We are faced with a dual challenge: emissions are still too high in some sectors and prices are often too low to accelerate the low-carbon energy transition”.

France is keen on “a coordinated approach among a coalition of voluntary member states” in order to “create a mechanism that guarantees a €25-30 price per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>” to “transform the priorities of investors” - without having to wait until “2025, or even 2030”.

“We all know that ETS does not work. We did not wait for the rise in carbon prices to come about on its own. We intervened. We have shown political resolve. But the ETS only covers a small part of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions”, commented the Finnish minister for the environment, energy and housing, Kimmo Tillikainen.

“A strong signal price is needed if we want to comply with the Paris Agreement”, said the deputy secretary of state for the environment of the United Kingdom, Theresa Coffey, who called for a tax on fossil fuels and for coordination of the carbon price policy, despite Brexit.

A representative of the Sandbag think-tank presented the floor price virtuous circle and praised the case of the United Kingdom, a country where CO<sub>2</sub> emissions linked to coal have fallen 84% since the introduction of a carbon floor price.

Swedish Secretary of State Eva Svedling, for her part, stressed that 2020 will bring an opportunity to review ambitions upwards. She highlighted the importance of additional measures.



Germany's Director General for Climate Policy, Karsten Sach, commented that "in the current context, a floor price would be more to France's advantage than to Germany's, given that Germany has decided to turn away from nuclear energy and, for the time being, is dependent upon coal".

21082/Press Release – 2018.03.06

### REACH Regulation

The Commission proposed a series of measures to modernise REACH regulation, proposing several legislative amendments.

The aim was to: improve the quality of registration files submitted by companies and simplify the process of authorisation and the conditions of competition between EU companies and those of member states.

21083/Press Release – 2018.03.05

### EU Circular Economy

1. A further step was taken in Brussels on 27 February towards adoption of the waste legislative package, a key part of the EU's 2015 action plan to further the shift towards a circular economy. The European Parliament's environment committee approved the inter-institutional **agreement reached** in December of last year **on revising the four waste directives**: Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC, the packaging and packaging waste directive (PPD), the landfill directive and the electric and electronic waste directive (WEEE). The revision seeks to improve waste management and recycling in the EU by setting new targets for 2025, 2030 and 2035. Parliament will vote on the agreement during the April plenary session, the final stage before the Council formally adopts the revised rules.

21084/Press Release – 2018.02.27

### **2. EU plastics strategy**

The EU's first ever plastics strategy, which was presented by the European Commission in mid-January as a new pillar of the circular economy, was favourably welcomed by the Environment Council of 5 March. However, they also feel that the Commission could have been more specific.

This strategy, Environment Commissioner Karmenu Vella stressed, aims to ensure that by 2030, 100% of plastic packaging on the EU market is recyclable or reusable, particularly by promoting more sustainable methods of plastic production, from design onwards, and by making it more economically viable for businesses to recycle it. The ministerial discussion was focused on actions to promote a growing awareness of the use of recycled plastics on the one hand, and the safe exploitation of waste containing substances of concern to try to remove the obstacles to creating a single market for secondary raw materials, on the other hand.

### **Implementation measures and economic incentives**

According to the Bulgarian minister for the environment, Neno Dimov, a consensus has been reached on the need to: - adopt implementation measures for the recycling of plastic materials; - continue to raise awareness of the issues; - improve the quality of plastics.

*“The ministers also laid emphasis on ‘green’ public procurement, extending producers’ liability and other incentives for the private sector. The ministers also stressed the need for more information throughout the value chain in order to reduce the proportion of chemical substances in plastics. Some called for a harmonisation of the definition of the end of the status of waste”,* he told the press.

This preliminary guideline debate will be used by the Bulgarian Presidency to feed into draft conclusions, which will be adopted by the Environment Council in June.

As several countries already have national plastics strategies, the discussion on the first point mainly allowed the ministers to exchange their experiences on what works, such as the practice of deposits on plastic bottles, for instance.

21085/Press Release – 2018.03.05

## **SOCIAL ISSUES**

### **Informal Agreement on Posting (Secondment) of Workers**

Almost two years to the day after the initiative was presented, the triilogue (European Commission, European Parliament and Council of the EU) reached a final agreement on the 'posted workers' directive on 19 March, having made a few technical changes to the allowances and the terminology on the *lex specialis*.

The course is now set for the vote at the Parliament’s ‘employment and social affairs’ committee, plenary and Council.

Major political agreements are as follows:

- the introduction of allowances;
- a two-year transposition period with immediate implementation;
- coverage of ‘non-genuine posted workers’;
- extension to sectorial and local collective agreement;
- keeping a reference to a “*lex specialis*” for international road transport;
- a maximum posting period of 12 months, with the possibility of extending for six months.

Two points were still discussed: allowances and the “*lex specialis*”. On allowances, the Council called for a clarification stressing that allowances must be reimbursed under the rules of the country of origin.

The wording “*lex specialis*” is reported to have led to a succession of three different regimes for the road transport sector: firstly, the directive in its current version, then the revised version, then the *lex specialis* terms. Having consulted its legal services, the

Council called for “*entry into force*” to be replaced by “*implementation*”, to reduce the change of regime to two regimes, specifically the one governed by the 96-directive, then the *lex specialis* regime.

The EU Parliament’s expressed preference is for a plenary vote in either May or June.

The **European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)** is happy about a range of issues: the principle of equal pay for equal work has been enshrined in the rules and also introduced in collective bargaining at sector and regional level; the compulsory payment of amounts to cover travel and meals, posting for no more than 12 + 6 months, being fully covered by the law of the host country for ‘badly posted’ workers and amendments to the first article on the aim of the directive to ensure a stronger social dimension for the legislation.

**BusinessEurope up in arms.** The agreement seems to be much less satisfactory to the employers’ organisation, BusinessEurope, which described the agreement as a ‘*bad deal*’ that will damage the proper functioning of the synced market for services.

The organisation notes that long-term secondment is a ‘*common practice*’ in the manufacturing sector and with commercial services, and that restricting mobility will damage high-value-added activities and undermine the functioning of the single market in services. BusinessEurope concludes: ‘*Debates on posting of workers in the last few years largely ignored the realities of companies and of workers and were hijacked by artificial considerations of a political nature based on a very biased and misleading use of facts.*’

21086/Press Release – 2018.03.02 & 20

### **European Labour Authority**

European Commissioner for Social Affairs, Marianne Thyssen, presented a proposal for a European Labour Authority (ELA), with an annual budget of more than €50 million and 140 agents by 2023. This initiative is part of a range of measures in the social domain. The Commissioner asserted that, “*I think we can say the authority responds to growing concerns about inadequate compliance and enforcement of EU mobility rules. It will be the jewel in the crown of a well-functioning EU labour market*”.

On the same lines as the European pillar of social rights, the ELA is pursuing three major objectives:

- facilitating individuals and employers’ information about their rights and responsibilities;
- supporting intra-state cooperation in the implementation of European legislation, including joint inspection exercises and
- playing a mediating role in cross-border litigation cases between the respective national authorities.

The ELA will particularly focus on free movement and posted workers, as well as the coordination of social security systems. This latter point involves all EU citizens and not just workers.

**Many tasks to be reviewed every five years**

The idea of the ELA is based on that of other existing European agencies, particularly Europol and Eurojust, whose activities are significantly restricted by the subsidiarity principle. The ELA's field of activity will focus on: workers and employers' access to information about their rights and responsibilities and cross-border situations; cooperation and information exchanges between the national authorities to enhance implementation and respect for EU law; the coordination and support for control and inspection activities at the request of the member states in an effort to tackle irregularities and fraud; the elaboration of risk analyses focusing on cross-border workers' mobility; supporting member states in setting up areas of action (training and the promotion of good practices); mediation between the national authorities in litigation cases involving European legislation; cooperation between the different actors in the event of disruptions on the labour market (e.g., the restructuring of companies based in several different member states).

The ELA will be a permanent body that receives guidance from its management board where each member state will have a representative and the Commission will have two. This management board will have the authority over the ELA of an executive director. Once the authority is fully operational, the European Advisory Group will provide assistance by staying close on the ground. It will be chaired by the Commission and consist of European level social partners.

**140 agents and annual budget of €50 million**

According to the regulation, the Commission is planning on a budget that will gradually increase from €12 million to €56.5 million between 2019 and 2024. The number of agents will increase from 38 to 144 over the same period (69 European agents, 60 national experts and 15 agents on contract).

The European Commission is also planning to evaluate the mandate of the ELA every five years, with the possibility of extending its activities.

It should be pointed out that the number of mobile workers working in different member states is rising spectacularly: it doubled between 2007 and 2017 and has now reached 17 million people.

**5th agency in social arena**

The ELA will therefore not be the result of a merger of existing agencies (Cedefop for the development of Vocational Training, EU-OSHA, Eurofound or the European Training Foundation - ETF), as certain MEPs had expressed fears about during the presentation of the project by the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, in September 2017. The Commissioner acknowledged that a fifth agency would be created but that this would not be a duplication of other agencies and that the ELA's task was to focus on cross-border mobility situations.

With regard to the project's timeframe, the Commissioner expressed hope that adoption would occur as quickly as possible so that the ELA could be operational by 2019.

There is one point still pending: the location of the future agency.

**Unemployment Rates**

The **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was **8.6%** in **January 2018**, stable compared to December 2017. This is the lowest rate recorded in the euro area since December 2008. The **EU-28** unemployment rate was **7.3%** in January 2018, also stable compared to December 2017. This is also the lowest rate recorded in the EU28 since October 2008.

Eurostat estimates that 17.931 million people in the EU28 were unemployed in January 2018, a decrease by 19,000 in the EU28 and by 10,000 in the euro area compared with December 2017.

Czechia	2.4%	Ireland	6.1%
Malta	3.5%	Sweden	6.5%
Germany	3.6%	Belgium	6.6%
Hungary (Dec.)	3.8%	Lithuania	7.3%
Netherlands	4.2%	Slovakia	7.5%
UK (Nov.)	4.3%	Portugal	7.9%
Poland	4.5%	Latvia	8.3%
Romania	4.6%	Finland	8.5%
Denmark	5.2%	France	9.0%
Luxembourg	5.3%	Croatia	9.8%
Estonia (Dec.)	5.5%	Cyprus	9.8%
Austria	5.5%	Italy	11.1%
Bulgaria	5.9%	Spain	16.3%
Slovenia	5.9%	Greece (Nov.)	20.9%

**Elsewhere**

USA	4.1%	Russia	5.0%
Canada	5.8%	Brazil	12.2%
Japan	2.4%	Australia	5.6%
Switzerland	3.2%	India	3.46%
Turkey	10.4%	China	3.90%

## GENERAL ISSUES

### Global Industrial Strategy for 2030 and Beyond

At the Competitiveness Council on 12 March, the EU member states adopted conclusions, for the third time, calling on the European Commission to present a “global” industrial strategy for 2030 and beyond. The document also calls for a concrete action plan to be introduced. The Bulgarian Minister for the Economy, Emil Karanikolov, stated, “*this is the major success of today*”. The Commissioner for Industry and the Internal market, Elżbieta Bieńkowska, declared that the member states and European Commission now knew what direction to go in. The succession of conclusions follows the presentation of the European Commission’s “revised” industrial strategy in September 2017, which did not prove very convincing in Parliament or among the member states.

Full conclusions at: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/03/12/eu-industrial-policy-strategy-council-adopts-conclusions/>

21089/Press Release – 2018.03.12

### Future of the European Union

#### EP 2019: European Elections End of May 2019

The next European elections will take place over the period **between 23 and 26 May 2019**, the 'General Affairs' Council decided. Under EU electoral law, these elections were supposed to be held between 6 and 9 June 2019. After certain countries reported that it was impossible to hold the elections in early June 2019, the ministers for European Affairs had to change the timetable unanimously, on the basis of an opinion of the European Parliament. The decision will be formally adopted in June.

21090/Press Release – 2018.03.20

### BREXIT Developments

#### 1. EU Council Guidelines on Future EU/UK Relationship After 2020

The European Commission had issued on 28 February a **provisional draft of the final agreement**. Among the points highlighted are the EU27’s vision on a specific solution for the island of Ireland and issues yet to be negotiated with London, for example, Euratom and matters such as intellectual property.

The draft final agreement sets out in legal terms the EU’s “red lines” on the post-Brexit transition period, which will terminate at the end of 2020:



- no veto for the UK in the event of new European legislation adopted after March 2019 that may be against British interests;
- the same rights for EU citizens established in the UK before Brexit and those who settle there during the transition period.

The 27 EU heads of state and/or government **adopted guidelines** on 23 March on the future relationship between the European Union and the United Kingdom after the post-Brexit transition period. They also approved the terms of this transition period, which will run from 29 March 2019 to the end of 2020, and endorsed the progress made thus far in the UK's withdrawal agreement, particularly on the issue of citizens' rights and the financial settlement.

There is now reference to financial services in an appendix to the recent draft guidelines. The future free-trade agreement will include financial services, but these will be subjected to an 'enhanced equivalencies' mechanism.

Luxembourg called for the financial sector to be included, but France opposed this. The wording is therefore a compromise between these two extremes. For the EU, this means that a unilateral decision of the Twenty-Seven will make it possible to rule that British rules on financial services are equivalent to those in force in the EU.

This decision will provide a guarantee of the respect of the integrity of the single market and the EU's decision-making autonomy, the negotiator-in-chief of the EU, Michel Barnier, explained after the ministerial meeting. He also stressed that these equivalences work very well with the United States and Japan.

For the remainder, these guidelines reiterate that the EU hopes to have the deepest possible relationship with its neighbour, particularly on defence and security, but also on culture and education.

EU Ministers called, however, for caution and made clear that, in the absence of a **viable solution for the island of Ireland**, it would not be possible to approve the negotiations as a whole. Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed, they stated clearly in the conclusions they adopted.

The leaders did welcome the "*written assurances*" given by UK Prime Minister Theresa May on **Ireland and Northern Ireland**. London has agreed that, as a backstop solution, Northern Ireland would remain in regulatory alignment with the European Union in order to avoid the return of a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The Commission proposed in February a third option to avoid the return of a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland. This option provides for Northern Ireland full alignment with the rules of the customs union and the single market. Only if the issue of Ireland is not settled either as part of the future relationship (option 1) or through specific solutions proposed by the UK (option 2) will the third option come into play ("backstop solution").

The priority of the Commission, the EU27 and also the UK is to preserve the Good Friday agreement and economic cooperation across the Ireland-Northern Ireland border. Everyone wants to avoid a return to a hard border between the two, which could bring a return of the tensions and violence of the troubles that were finally brought to an end by this 1998 agreement.

The Commission, then, proposed a common regulatory area on the island of Ireland and identified relevant sectors (including animal health, phytosanitary standards and the environment) for which regulatory alignment with the internal market or the customs union would avoid checks at the border.

This solution, however, could result in displacement of the border and checks on imports and the creation of a separation between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK in the Irish Sea. Scotland, which voted to remain in the EU, would seek equivalent treatment.

European leaders also called for efforts to continue on the territorial application of the agreement, *“notably as regards Gibraltar”*, thus taking up the Spanish demands on this matter. Madrid wants to continue talks on areas of interest, such as transport and taxation.

On future relations, May spoke of a *“new dynamic in the negotiations”*, promising the commitment of her country to finding operational solutions for Ireland. She also repeated that a good free-trade agreement would be beneficial for both parties.

Still regretting the prospect of Brexit, Merkel stated that the 27 would not allow themselves to be divided in the second phase of negotiations that are opening. The *“guiding star”* for the EU is *“the integrity of the single market”*, said Macron.

*The text in English of the withdrawal agreement can be found at:*

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/draft\\_withdrawal\\_agreement.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/draft_withdrawal_agreement.pdf)

*The guidelines can be found at:* <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/33458/23-euco-art50-guidelines.pdf>

21091/Eurostat News Release – 2018.02.28 & 03. 23

## **2. European Parliament Resolution on post-Brexit Trade Relations**

In Strasbourg on 14 March, the European Parliament adopted, by a large majority (544 to 110 and 51 abstentions), a resolution calling on the EU27 to seal an association agreement with the United Kingdom based on four pillars:

- economic and trade relations via a free trade agreement;
- internal security;
- cooperation in the field of foreign affairs and defence and;
- thematic cooperation, for example on cross-border research and innovation projects.

The resolution prepared by the European Parliament steering group on Brexit underlines the unique nature of the *“European Union ecosystem, with its common binding rules, its common institutions, as well as its common mechanisms of control, execution and arbitration”*. Even closely aligned third countries with identical legislation will thus never be able to benefit from the same rights, advantages or market access as enjoyed by EU member states, it adds.

MEPs say that any future framework for EU-United Kingdom relations should respect the integrity of the internal market, customs union and the four freedoms, without allowing a sectoral approach (à la carte choice of European legislation).

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It should also safeguard the independent decision-making process and the legal order of the EU, including the role of the Court of Justice.

21092/Eurostat News Release – 2018.03.14

### **3. Latest Negotiations' Status**

The negotiators of the European Union and the United Kingdom on Brexit, Michel Barnier and David Davis, announced on 19 March that they have made decisive progress towards an orderly British withdrawal from the EU on 29 March 2019.

The two men announced an agreement on the terms of the post-Brexit transitional period. This will run until the end of 2020 and will allow London to prepare to become a third country once again.

Progress has also been noted on the terms of the separation, such as citizens' rights and the financial question. Concerning Ireland and the governance of the withdrawal agreement, there is still some work to be done, but Barnier said that the bulk has been completed in recent days, with the UK agreeing to the backstop option if no other solution to the Northern Ireland issue was forthcoming. London has accepted the principle of legally translating this default option, but the contents are still to be discussed.

Whereas the content of the protocol needs to be redefined, the idea of regulatory alignment between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and, therefore, with the EU, at least in certain areas of cooperation, has in any case been approved by the British side.

Davis explained that his aim was to create such a close future relationship between the EU in London that no specific solution would even be necessary to avoid a return to a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic.

#### **British concessions over the post-Brexit transitional period**

What exact progress has been made on the post-Brexit transitional period?

- 1) Firstly, London has agreed that this period will run only to 31 December 2020, or 21 months. This is close to the 24 months London was initially calling for.

During this period, London will have no right of veto on discussions between Europeans, that may be involved in discussions with its observer status.

- 2) Citizens' rights will be by and large the same as those secured in December in the provisional joint report for Europeans arriving in the UK before Brexit. This means that these European nationals and their families will have the same facilities as European citizens who settled before 29 March 2019, with the only difference being that they will have to apply for permanent resident status within three months. This status will give them the same guarantees as those arriving before 29 March 2019 and is expected to be easier to obtain than the general status available under the future immigration regime in the UK, in other words applicable to all foreign nationals arriving in the UK after Brexit.

On the other hand, European citizens settling in the UK after the end of the post-Brexit transitional period, in early 2021, will no longer have the same rights as their predecessors.

- 3) In London, the Brexit minister said that the country could negotiate and even sign free-trade deals with other countries during this transitional period, but these will not be able to enter into force without the authorisation of the EU.
- 4) During this period, London and EU could allow their new security and defence partnership to enter into force, if it is ready before the end of the transition.
- 5) And up to the end of 2020, a joint committee, as called for by London, will be responsible for resolving all manner of disputes that may arise between the two sides, either of which will be able to refer issues to it.

#### **A positive but cautious welcome in Parliament**

The European Parliament's steering group on Brexit welcomed the political agreement, in principle, on a transition period, but stresses that it has entered a scrutiny reservation. Like the European Council, the European Parliament will decide independently whether the final withdrawal agreement negotiated is acceptable or not, it warned.

The representatives in Parliament welcome the confirmation that EU citizens settling in the United Kingdom will enjoy the same rights as those who arrived before the beginning of the transition period to follow Brexit. They add that they welcome the fact the UK has confirmed that the default solution to avoid a return to a hard border in Ireland, as proposed by the Commission, will be included in the final withdrawal agreement.

Parliament also welcomes the fact that the EU has deleted article 32, which limits the right of British citizens to continue to move freely within the EU27.

21093/Eurostat News Release – 2018.03.19

#### **European Automobile Manufacturers Priorities for Brexit Negotiations**

In a policy paper dated 19 March, the European Automobile Manufacturers Association (ACEA) expressed its concerns about the Brexit negotiations between the EU and United Kingdom. The ACEA identifies three priorities that need to be tackled. First of all, it has called for greater clarity involving vehicle type approval certificates and mutual recognition when the United Kingdom leaves the EU. The ACEA also believes that the United Kingdom should be included in the calculations of average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which every manufacturer is due to respect by 2021. If this is not the case, the ACEA is requesting that the Commission revises the objectives. The organisation would also like emphasis to be placed on customs and in this connection calls for more resources, regulatory convergence and customs facilitation.

21094/Eurostat News Release – 2018.03.19

#### **Inflation Rate**

Latest Eurostat figures show that the annual inflation rate was **1.7% in February 2018 in the Euro area**, down from 1.4% in January 2017. **The EU28 annual inflation was 1.8% in February**, down from 1.7% in January.

The largest upward impacts to euro area annual inflation came from services (+ 0.56%), followed by food, alcohol & tobacco (+ 0.39%), energy (+ 0.22%) and non-energy industrial goods (+ 0.15%).

Cyprus	-1.5%	Netherlands	1.5%
Greece	0.2%	Sweden	1.6%
Ireland	0.3%	Poland	1.6%
Denmark	0.6%	Slovakia	1.7%
Spain	0.7%	Belgium	1.8%
Finland	0.8%	Austria	1.9%
Portugal	1.1%	Latvia	2.0%
Croatia	1.2%	Czech Republic	2.1%
Italy	1.2%	Hungary	2.1%
Malta	1.2%	Slovakia	2.6%
Bulgaria	1.3%	U K	3.0%
Germany	1.4%	Romania	3.4%
Luxembourg	1.3%	Lithuania	3.6%
France	1.5%	Estonia	3.6%

Elsewhere

USA	2.2%	Russia	2.2%
Canada	2.2%	Brazil	2.84%
Japan	1.5%	Australia	1.9%
Switzerland	0.6%	India	4.44%
Turkey	10.3%	China	2.9%

21095/Eurostat News Release – 2018.03.16

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## GLASS NEWS

### FLAT GLASS

#### Glass Companies

##### Saint-Gobain

**Saint-Gobain has acquired Logli Massimo**, a company specialized in systems and accessories for the fastening and assembly of glass partitions.



*Gianni Scotti, president and managing director of Saint-Gobain in Italy*

Just a few days after the announcement of the new glass wool line at the Saint-Gobain Isover production unit near Bergamo (*read article n°21130 on page 45 of this issue*), the Saint-Gobain group has carried out another important investment in Italy with the takeover of the Logli Massimo company based in Prato. Logli Massimo is specialized in systems and accessories for the fastening and assembly of glass partitions such as balustrades, shower enclosures, partition walls and internal and external doors. Founded in 1989 by Massimo Logli, the company has about 60 employees.

Becoming part of the Saint-Gobain group will enable Logli Massimo to increase its growth in European markets, offering architects and construction companies a full range of products. Already a leader in Italy, the company is also present in France, Benelux and a number of other European countries. Massimo Logli will continue to ensure development and management.

This most recent acquisition is part of Saint-Gobain's aim to increase its offer of complete added-value systems for indoor and outdoor environments.

"Saint-Gobain has invested almost EUR 250 million in Italy since 2011, which is a perfect testimony of the trust the group has in this country," said Gianni Scotti, president and managing director of Saint-Gobain in Italy. Our aim is to give the market a clear, positive signal of optimism. We have a simple idea regarding the future: continuous quality and innovation, above all in the construction sector, which will be the real driver for the start-up and growth of the entire Italian sector."

“With this acquisition,” underlined Scotti, “we are strengthening even more our glass division, with its historical fulcrum in Saint-Gobain Glass Pisa, with the development of interesting synergies to complete our product range.”

Saint-Gobain has been present in Italy since 1889, and currently has more than 2,100 employees, 23 production units, and reported EUR 700 million turnover in 2017.

21096/Press Release – 2018.03.20

## AGC



### **1. AGC patterned glass now Cradle to Cradle Certified Gold**

AGC Glass Europe’s patterned glass has received Cradle to Cradle certified™ Gold, making AGC the only manufacturer to offer such a wide portfolio of products under the Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Products Program.

AGC has already obtained Silver Cradle to Cradle Certified™ for its float glass and its magnetron coated glass, and Bronze for its range of decorative products (Mirox MNGE, Lacobel, Matelac, Lacobel T and Matelac T, and Matelux), its laminated glass (Stratobel and Stratophone) and its insulating glass (Thermobel and iplus/ipasol Insulating Glazing).



The Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Products Program recognises the overall sustainability of products throughout their life cycle. AGC patterned glass products (Imagin, Imagin Sandblasted, Imagin Wired and Oltreluce) have obtained Platinum standard for material health and Gold for the five other criteria taken into account in this certification.

This new accreditation is the latest step in AGC's policy of sustainable development, aimed at constantly raising the environmental performance of its products and of its production plant.

21097/Press Release – 2018.03.07

### **2. AGC previews Glassiled Uni, the latest innovation in LED-embedded glass solutions.**

Glassiled Uni is a double glazing unit that has monochrome or RGB LEDs embedded in the spacer, enabling to illuminate façades. Glassiled Uni also features monochrome or RGB LEDs embedded in the spacer that make it possible to illuminate any building façade with unprecedented uniformity and no restriction on colour or light temperature. The glass pane can measure up to an unparalleled 3m x 2m. This customised solution is compatible with most frames and is easy to install and maintain.



In addition to its original appearance, Glassiled Uni delivers full transparency when off and low power consumption.

In interior spaces, Glassiled Uni is the ideal solution for creating a unique look combining privacy and colourful effects.

The Glassiled range features two other products, Glassiled Motion and Glassiled Sign. **Glassiled Motion** incorporates individually controlled monochrome or RGB LEDs in a double glazing unit. This means that when night falls the glass can transform into a giant screen, a visual and interactive medium capable of faithfully displaying any animated design. Since the wiring is invisible the glass retains 99% of its transparency; there are no LED strips to distort the view through the glass or spoil the project design. The electronic components and LEDs are protected from moisture and atmospheric deterioration by the double glazing, which also automatically provides thermal insulation. Glassiled Motion is ideal for facade applications such as stadiums, shopping centres, leisure facilities, hotels, residential buildings, offices and more.

**Glassiled Sign** represents the first generation of Glassiled, featuring monochrome LEDs only. It is the ideal glass product for any interior or exterior application requiring a permanent design – such as a signature, logo, image, etc. – that blends in seamlessly with the façade or another glass medium. Once chosen, the design remains in place for years.

With these three products – offering 99-100% transparency and a uniform effect over multiple storeys (both vision glass and spandrels) – architects and designers have a variety of solutions they can deploy to brand or animate building facades and create innovative interior designs.

21098/Press Release – 2018.03.14

## Guardian

1. **‘La Casa del Desierto’** (the desert house) is one of Guardian Glass's most exclusive, demanding, risky, creative and efficient projects, involving a range of special glass types and a team of skilled professionals.

Guardian Glass's project ‘La Casa del Desierto’ (pictured) was recently completed in Spain with a clear objective: to demonstrate first hand and in situ across the four seasons of the year, the importance of glass in our daily life, and in one of the toughest environments you could ever imagine.



Challenging nature and designed to withstand the Gorafe Desert (Province of Granada, Spain), which is considered one of the most adverse and extreme environments in Europe, *La Casa del Desierto* stands on a wooden structure and is fully glazed with high performance, energy-efficient Guardian Glass. Covering only 20m<sup>2</sup>, the layout consists of three areas: bedroom, bathroom and living room. A large space directly overlooking the landscape, La Casa also has a water filtration system, an energy generation system and a set of photovoltaic panels.

The design is the result of the combined efforts of a large and experienced team of architects led by Spela Videcnik of OFIS Architects – together with Guardian Glass specialists and engineers and energy consultants from AKT II and Transsolar. The vision is to meet current and future challenges of architecture and construction, promoting environmentally friendly and energy efficient structures. A project where the glass type used to enclose each space has a direct impact, demonstrating that it is possible to transform the interior environment of a home by selecting the most appropriate glass for each situation.

The window glazing in a home helps save energy, improves the thermal and acoustic insulation of the inner spaces and can even increase the level of security against impact or attempted burglary. Ultimately, when selected according to the specific needs of each case, glazing ensures that a building is a practical and comfortable home regardless of where it is located. What's more, Guardian Glass, in addition to having the right product portfolios, has the tools to easily specify products, while providing advice and guidance along the way. With the help of high performance Guardian Glass glazing, architects and interior designers from around the world can design and enhance the great indoors.

Located in the northern part of the region of Guadix, in the province of Granada, Andalusia, the desert of Colorado de Gorafe owes its name to the shades of its red sandstone and to the diversity of rock formations in the area shaped by the peculiarities of the erosion system and the lack of vegetation.

21099/Press Release – 2018.03.08

## **2. Guardian Glass North America Publishes Environmental Product Declarations & Health Product Declaration**

Guardian Glass North America has published Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for flat glass and processed glass products manufactured at its seven North American float plants. Guardian Glass also has an updated Health Product Declaration (HPD) version 2.1 for flat and processed glass produced in North America. The Guardian Glass declarations are environmental product declarations in accordance with ISO 14025 and can help building projects earn up to two LEED® v4 credits.

“Guardian Glass is committed to the efficient use of natural resources while operating in a way that protects the safety, health and well-being of our employees, customers, the environment and society,” explains Rick Zoulek, Vice President – Americas, Guardian Glass. “To further that effort, we’re supporting architects and designers who strive to understand the sustainability profiles of the building they design through these EPDs and HPD. “It’s the goal of Guardian Glass to bring value to the building team by providing the information it needs to meet transparency and sustainability goals, as well as achieve credits in global green building rating systems.”

An EPD is a standardized way of quantifying the environmental impact of a product or system. EPDs are verified and registered documents that communicate transparent and comparable information about the life cycle environmental impact of a product. HPDs disclose the potential chemical concerns of products in accordance with the Health Product Declaration Standard, which provides a consistent reporting format to increase the quality and availability of product content and health information. The flat glass EPD from Guardian Glass covers unprocessed products such as Guardian UltraClear® low-iron glass, clear and tinted glass. The processed glass EPD covers coated, heat-treated and/or textured products from the Guardian SunGuard® and ClimaGuard® exterior glass product lines, and interior glass products such as ShowerGuard® coated glass. Each EPD and HPD contain a full list of the products it covers.

*The Guardian Glass EPDs and HPD are available on Guardian Glass’ website at:*

<https://www.guardianglass.com/commercial/ToolsandResources/Sustainability/SustainabilityandCertifications/index.htm>

21100/Press Release – 2018.03.28

## **Grodno Glassworks (Belarus)**

Russian trade company Triton in Moscow will invest \$1m to upgrade Grodno Glassworks pattern glass line in Belarus.

The agreement between the two companies was signed in the Belarusian Architecture and Construction Ministry on 7th March.

Yuri Skripko, Grodno Glassworks’ Director, said: “We are going to make improved-quality pattern glass. Triton will buy half of the output for the production of shower



booths in Russia. The contract allows the Russian company to consequently buy USD 9 million worth of glass.”



“We are going to sell the rest at home and abroad. “This glass is not only used for making shower booths but for making furniture, industrial glass panes and greenhouses.”

Oleg Kornoukhov, Glass Projects Supervisor at Triton, explained that the investment would help the company to increase its shower booth production by approximately one third.

Anatoly Cherny, Belarusian Architecture and Construction Minister, said: “Today the pattern glass line is not used. It had no future, but this project has given the pattern glass line a new lease of life.”

“Apart from shipments to the Russian Federation, the glass of the upgraded line will be used to close the domestic market against imports.”

Triton’s cooperation with Grodno Glassworks will not be limited to investments. Both companies will be expected to share the best practices for improving glass treatment technologies.

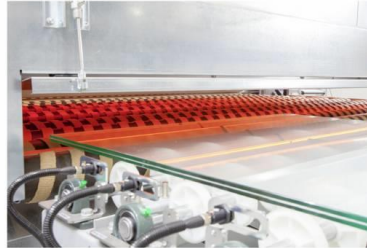
21101/Press Release – 2018.03.14

## LiSEC



LiSEC has announced the first delivery of a laminated glass line entirely developed and built in-house in Austria. Since September 2017, the LiSEC group's competence centre for laminating has been located as a business unit in Austria. And now, the Lower Austrian world market leader for systems and software for the processing of flat glass has delivered the first laminated glass line, developed and built in-house.

An internal acceptance procedure was carried out prior to shipping. This comprised multiple steps and covered all basic functions of each individual machine in the line function. Marco Bögler, Head of the Business Unit Laminated Glass, at LiSEC: "This glass laminating line, which was completely constructed in Austria, provides the starting signal for the next chapter in the business segment laminating. I am delighted and proud that the team here on the site have integrated this complex technology into the overall range in such a short time."



This laminated glass line, sold to the customer Al Hadi in Kuwait, is a U-shape solution for a maximum glass size of 2,600 x 5,000 millimetres including pre-lamination and full convection. The customer chose LiSEC due to the new technology which is tailored to their needs, and particularly due to the pre-lamination system with high-precision pressing force and full convection system.

More orders of this laminating technology are also expected for plants in Australia, Mexico, Vietnam, etc.

21102/Press Release – 2018.03.07

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Global Construction Glass Market Outlook to 2028**

The Global Construction Glass Market Outlook to 2028 examines the global construction glass market, assessing the construction glass market by taking into account various demand and supply dynamics.

The construction glass market has been showing some substantial demand growth on the back of increased use of glass in developing and emerging markets. Urbanisation is one of the major drivers behind the growth, particularly due to the increasing number of high rise buildings in large densely populated cities. Lack of space and rising land prices are pushing property developers towards high rise buildings. In mature markets, availability of skilled labour, as well as supplies of prefabricated glass windows and façade claddings, are some key supportive factors for the high usage of glass in the construction industry. However, developing markets are lagging behind in the race due to the inadequacy of such facilities.

The non-residential sector is expected to continue to account for the largest market share in the construction glass market. Hotels and shopping centres will be among the major subsectors which will keep the demand elevated.

Most developing markets, where alternative materials were previously used for durability and lower maintenance costs, are now switching towards glass panels for both aesthetics as well as prestige reasons.

However, among the key aspects requiring attention across commercial, residential and infrastructure construction are environmental and energy-saving. Intensive marketing will be required to influence the governments in policy making, strong coordination with

designers and structural engineers etc. Awareness, marketing, and a good technical team are also very important for furthering construction glass demand.

Rising costs and availability of cheap and durable alternative materials continue to remain a significant downside risk to the growing demand, particularly in the residential sector. Commodity Inside also believes that the tightening of monetary policy has a strong correlation with residential construction. The US Federal Reserve is expected to switch towards tighter monetary policy this year while other central banks including People's Bank of China are expected to keep the policy relatively tight. These measures The report provides insights on:

- Demand and supply analysis of the construction glass industry by leading markets
- Glass price forecasts
- Construction glass by major end-use sectors such as residential, commercial and infrastructure glass
- Detailed discussions on megatrends
- Glass usage in the context of alternative materials
- Tables, figures and charts

21103/Press Release – 2018.03.13

### **Surge in Modern Construction Projects in Myanmar**

MyanGlass 2018 will be taking place in conjunction with MyanBuild 2018 and is expected to attract over 7,000 trade visitors nationwide.

The use of glass is on the rise as Myanmar is undergoing extensive development in building and infrastructure, particularly in Yangon. Among the major projects that utilised glass include Sule's Centrepont Towers Hotel, Sakura Tower, and Myanmar's International Convention Centre. More and more upcoming construction projects in Myanmar are following modern trends which use greater quantities of glass, hence leading to a surge in demand.

Myanmar is expected to see more major projects to break ground as foreign direct investments has surged, with the current Fiscal Year (2017-2018) estimated at more than USD 3.5 billion in investments coming in from abroad. The value of the country's construction sector has expanded from USD 8.2 billion in 2015 to a projected USD 13.5 billion in 2020.

As more money is being pumped in, new projects will commence and it is imperative that industry players are able to keep up with the latest materials, technology and business trends. As the building and construction industry of Myanmar which includes industrial, residential and commercial projects are growing exponentially, this translates to numerous opportunities for the glass industry.

MyanGlass 2018 (in conjunction with MyanBuild 2018) is set to be held at the MEP Mindama, Yangon from 16 to 18 November 2018.

21104/Press Release – 2018.03.20

## CONTAINER GLASS

### Glass Companies

#### Ardagh



1. Ardagh Group has been recognised at the packaging industry's **Starpack Awards** held in London.



Ardagh's packaging designs for Claymore Whisky and Duerr's Citrus have been honoured, winning a bronze star award for engineering innovation, and a food and drink silver star and inclusive design award, respectively at the Starpack Awards.

Both containers were developed by Ardagh's in-house design team, using sculptured embossing technology to create real shelf stand-out. The technique enabled the Duerr's jar to look and feel like an orange, while the crest on the Claymore whisky bottle was taken from the printed label and replicated on the glass with intricate, detailed sculpting on multiple levels.

In arriving at their decision, judges commented on the Duerr's jar: "A delightful pack, high quality textured emboss. The shrink decoration is easily removed to allow secondary use."

Judges also commented that the Claymore bottle "...is a great design and the embossing detail is exceptional."

21105/Press Release – 2018.03.09

2. Ardagh Group's in-house design team developed the **new bottle for Tiche's Lithuanian mineral water**, which features the iconic Tiche crest, embossed with its ancient Nymph.

Tiche's Lithuanian mineral water bottle offers exceptional strength and attention to detail in its new 750ml bottle. Ardagh Group's in-house design team developed the new bottle profile in response to Tiche's detailed brief at their glass factory in Gostyn, Poland, where the bottle was also produced.



The new, larger 750ml bottle features the iconic Tiche crest, embossed with its ancient Nymph, carrying crystalline water straight from the heart of the Earth. This embossing has been optimised for the Narrow-Neck Press and Blow (NNPB) production method, which also reduces the weight of the glass packaging by 32%, helping to reduce environmental impact - an ongoing driver for Ardagh Group.

A key requirement was for the bottle to withstand a high carbonation pressure of 7g per litre, which was a challenge with the thin wall production method.

Barbara Macialczyk, Marketing Manager at Ardagh Group explains: "The combination of two critical requirements – thin glass walls and high durability - was achieved using Finite Element Analysis (FEA) technology. Working in close collaboration with the customer, our sales and design teams have achieved an elegant and curvaceous bottle with a tapered label panel. It features the symbol of the Tiche Nymph and is embossed with the number '689' on the opposite side, indicating the depth of the source from which the water is extracted.

21106/Press Release – 2018.03.12

### Vetropack Group



Vetropack Group reports growth for 2017, with unit sales glass packaging of rising by 4.0% to a new record high of 5.07 billion units.

Vetropack Group can report broad-based growth. It increased its net sales of goods and services by 5.0% to CHF 631.5 million, while unit sales rose by 4.0% to a new record high of 5.07 billion units of glass packaging. The Group grew consolidated EBIT by 30.0% year on year to CHF 64.1 million, which meant an improved EBIT margin of 10.1% (2016: 8.2%).

Financial key figures for 2017:

- Net sales: CHF 631.5 million (2016: CHF 601.7 million)
- EBIT: CHF 64.1 million (2016: CHF 49.3 million)
- EBIT margin: 10.1% (2016: 8.2%)
- Consolidated profit: CHF 57.0 million (2016: CHF 42.6 million)
- Net liquidity: CHF 68.3 million (2016: CHF 16.9 million)
- Cash flow: CHF 126.3 million (2016: CHF 105.1 million)
- Cash flow margin: 20.0% (2016: 17.5%)
- Equity ratio: 73.8% (2016: 72.0%)

At the end of the reporting year, Vetropack employed 3,257 members of staff. As things stand, the Board of Directors and Management Board expect the packaging industry to continue enjoying positive market conditions in 2018. Consumption and demand appear to be stabilising at a slightly higher level. In this market environment, Vetropack Group looks set to be able to utilise all its capacity to the full and increase slightly its net sales. It is anticipating an operating result on a par with last year due to higher expenses incurred on two furnace projects.

Vetropack Group includes subsidiaries in Switzerland, Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia, Ukraine and Italy.

21107/Press Release – 2018.03.22

### Verallia



1. Verallia achieved a **very good financial performance throughout the year 2017**, with revenue, at EUR 2,473.7 million, up 4.5% year-on-year (reported and at constant foreign exchange rates). Adjusted EBITDA was EUR 504.1 million, up 7.9% year-on-year (+8.2% at constant foreign exchange rates).

Adjusted EBITDA margin was 20.4%, up 70 bps compared to 2016. Strong Operating Cash-Flow generation totalled EUR 357.8million, up EUR 115.1 million compared to 2016.

Revenue increased by 4.5%, driven by higher volumes, a slightly better mix as well as prices improvement in South America.

- In Europe, the 3.7% increase was supported by higher volumes in most countries (notably France and Iberia) as well as a slightly better mix. Exchange rates had a positive impact on revenue of 0.4%. Adjusted EBITDA increased by 6.9%. At constant exchange rates, the robust 6.5% increase was driven by higher volumes and an improved manufacturing performance, which partly offset the production costs inflation. Sales prices were overall stable.
- In South America, reported revenue increased by 11.0%. The negative impact of the weakening of the Argentinean Peso against Euro was partially offset by the appreciation of the Brazilian real. At constant exchange rates, revenue grew by 14.0%, driven by a good level of activity in volumes (mainly beer in Brazil) as well as higher prices in a highly inflationary environment. Adjusted EBITDA was up 7.9% (8.2% at constant exchange rates), mainly supported by volumes, as well as improved manufacturing performance.

As far as outlook is concerned, the company said: “In 2018, our European markets should remain dynamic, driven by positive macroeconomics. The level of activity should be good in South America in a challenging context. Verallia anticipates a further growth in revenue and Adjusted EBITDA at constant foreign exchange rates. Recurring capex in 2018 will be around EUR 200 million (8% of revenue).”

21108/Press Release – 2018.03.05

## 2. Verallia teams up with Italian cola beverage chain

Verallia partners up with certified supply chain Molecola, the first ever 100% Italian cola beverage. The Italian glass manufacturer attended the conference at Fico Eataly World (Fabbrica Italiana Contadina), the world's largest agri-food park, in Bologna on March 13th 2018, where Verallia presented Molecola 90-60-90, a new glass bottle for the hotel, restaurant and catering sectors (HORECA). The presentation was named 'Molecola: A truly Italian cola – from dream to reality.'



Laura Miotto, Head of Marketing and International Clients at Verallia Italia, said: "We are proud to have been able to contribute to the bold and innovative Italian project that is Molecola. We have been innovating both technologically and in terms of design for many years, which paves the way to promote glass as the most beautiful, safe and sustainable packaging for food and beverages."

Verallia's mission with Molecola 90-60-90 was to translate and apply a design concept to glass, in order to create a new icon for Italy. This was done by emphasising the elegance of the bottle, through its sinuous shape, which was modelled on the curves of Italian cinema's 1950s divas. The bottle is also named after the measurements of the post-war divas and made of textured glass, which was developed to highlight the 'tailored' architecture of the product.

Luigi Rivarolli, Process and Development Engineer at Verallia Italia, explained: "To begin with, we worked on the project in the standard way, adapting moulds and the details from the graphic designer to production requirements. The biggest hurdle was to texture the glass. The solution came up with required many hours of work, mock-ups, brainstorming, and tailored techniques which required all the skills of specialised mould creators. Despite the extreme complexity of what we created, this texture has become one of the most distinctive parts of the bottle."

Verallia's goal was to adapt a creative idea to the characteristics of glass and its production processes, as well as closely reproduce the shape and distinctive features of the product in glass.

### 3. Verallia's Selective Line unveils its Stylebook for 2019

Creative trend bureau Carlin and glass producer Verallia's brand Selective Line collaborate to present design trend forecasts in a Stylebook for 2019.

The Stylebook was made with clients and design agencies in mind, in order to inspire future product development and keep at the forefront of packaging trends.



This year, the Stylebook includes three trends: Urbanites, Ultimate and Joyful. These trends have inspired new glass bottle shapes and decorations created by companies such as Saga Décor, the Société Charentaise de Décor in France and Verallia Polska in Poland.

The first theme, Urbanites, is described as 'everyday anti-standard enthusiasm in hybrid places'. The 33cl ebony bottle has a colour-blocking design.

The second theme, Ultimate, is described as 'balanced evening enthusiasm in symbolic places'. The bottle has a labyrinth design and includes a gold screen print with a hot image transfer.

The final theme, Joyful, is described as 'uninhibited weekend enthusiasm in intergenerational places'. The wine bottle has a stripy maritime decoration in a diamond-style cut. It also includes screen-printed luminescent ink, which reveals the diamonds glinting on the stripes under UV light.

21110/Press Release – 2018.03.26

### Vidrala:



Vidrala's 2017 sales were up compared to last year, a result of the development of the business in line with its strategic guidelines.

Vidrala has manufacturing plants in Spain, Portugal, Italy and UK.

Spanish container glassmaker Vidrala reported sales of EUR 822.7 million in 2017, a 5.1% increase from the previous year, with operating profit, EBITDA, was EUR 195.4 million, an increase of 14.5% over the figure reported last year.

According to Vidrala, this growth in sales was a result of the development of the business in line with its strategic guidelines as well as a positive contribution of the immediately accretive acquisition in October 2017 of Portuguese glassmaker Santos Barosa.

In its financial report for the year 2017 Vidrala stated there is a growing trend among consumers for glass as the packaging material of choice. As a consequence, the company expects earnings to grow in 2018, thanks also as well to management priorities that are focused on internal actions aimed at improving customer service, progressing in manufacturing efficiency and materialising the synergies expected from the recent acquisition.

21111/Press Release – 2018.03.05





### **BA Glass**

BA Glass will invest EUR 45 million in its production unit of Villafranca de los Barros in Spain, making it the group's largest upon completion of the investment, including the construction of a new furnace.

In addition to this investment, another €20 million will be added to modernise two existing furnaces. The site is located 150km north of Seville and its workforce will expand from 300 to 380.



BA Glass President, Sandra María Soares (*pictured, centre*), said it was a strategic investment that would allow the group to cover market demand, and at the same time, allow it to increase exports to countries such as Portugal, France, Belgium, and others in Europe or North Africa.

In the long-term the company plans to set up a glass training school at the site to 'have people very well prepared to work in any of the group's 12 plants', said Soares.

BA Glass manufactures 20 million glass containers a day across Europe.

21112/Press Release – 2018.03.20

### **Beatson Clark**

Glass packaging producer Beatson Clark has created a 8oz square jar for ready-made ingredients company Very Lazy.

Using the latest sculpting software, Beatson Clark's in-house design team has created an 8oz square jar with the Very Lazy logo embossed on two sides, which is due to hit the shelves in late March.

Emma Freeman, Brand Manager at Very Lazy, said: "The whole process of working with Beatson Clark is easy and painless."

"We've worked with Beatson Clark for a long time and their design team, headed up by Dean Arey, is very experienced."

Very Lazy provides a range of time-saving ingredients for busy cooks, including chopped garlic, ginger, smoked garlic and red chillies, which are all preserved in white wine vinegar.





Lynn Sidebottom, Sales and Marketing Director at Beatson Clark, explained: “This is a good example of how a little creative design and embossing can really help to reinforce a brand.”

“We have many years’ experience of working with the food industry and an in-house team of expert designers who have the skills and creativity to fulfil any brief.”

By using the latest sculpting software, designers have found that the results are better and the product is easier to manufacture.

21113/Press Release – 2018.03.26

### Wiegand-Glas

Glass container manufacturer Wiegand-Glas intends to invest more than €50 million in its Glaswerk Ernstthal plant in Thuringian, Germany over the next two years.

The investment will include a new melting furnace which will have a daily capacity of 360 t/d. Investments will also be made in production and inspection technology.



With new emission control technology, the glass plant will drop even further below new and strict emission limits. Two new halls will also be built. One building will be used as a warehouse for produced goods, which will reduce the transport to the current warehouse in Neuhaus.

The other hall is going to be built in three floors to accommodate packaging facilities as well as offices and social areas for employees. The project will be finished in the first half of 2019.

Wiegand-Glas said the investment means it will strengthen its market position and can react even more flexibly to customer requirements. In particular, small series and individual containers in high quality flint colour are produced.

The company forecast problems in being able to recruit new employees for the Thuringian locations in the future.

21114/Press Release – 2018.03.06

### Zignago



Zignago Vetro has reported positive 2017 financial results. Revenue came to EUR 346.4 million, up 7.3% compared to the previous year, with EUR 132.4 million coming from international markets – 38.5% of the company's entire revenue.

EBITDA increased to EUR 92.3 million compared to EUR 80.9 million in 2016. Gross operating profit (GOP) was 26.6% of the revenue compared to 25.1% in 2016. EBIT was EUR 53.4 million, 12.7% up from EUR 47.4 million in 2016, with an impact on revenue of 15.4%.

Net profit was EUR 39.9 million, an increase of 27.8% compared to EUR 31.2 million in 2016.

With regards to commercial dynamics, the Group highlights that, in 2017, the demand for glass containers from the Italian and European food and beverage markets maintained a positive trend. The global perfume sector confirmed the positive trend, while the cosmetics market continued to be affected by low sell-out levels.

President and CEO of the group – Paolo Giacobbo – said: “Based on the information available, we expect demand in the different sectors in which we work to maintain good levels.

21115/Press Release – 2018.03.19

### Soliver

The Lebanese glass container manufacturer Soliver will reopen its factory in Bchamoun in mid-2018. The project includes a \$32 million investment to upgrade the machines. The company will create around 350 new full-time jobs.

The company took the decision to shut down its factory last February and dismissed 250 employees after compensating them. The reason behind the closure, according to Omar Kaddoura, General Manager of Soliver, was because the company was losing its market share, due to the high cost of electricity. Soliver pays more than \$3 million annually to generate its own electricity.

According to Omar Kaddoura, the same glass products are imported to the market from Egypt and the Gulf at lower prices.

Izzat Kaddoura, Chairman, said: “The Ministries of Economy and Trade, and Industry encouraged us to reopen after promising us that they will work on imposing a ten to 15 percent custom fee on the imported glass to protect the industry,” he said.

Soliver's production capacity is 70,000 tons of glass containers per year. Production of coloured (green and brown) glass is around 10,000 tons per year. It provides its products to 15 local manufacturers such as Interbrand, Pepsi, and Kassatly Chtaura, among others.

21116/Press Release – 2018.03.13

### Nihon Yamamura Glass



The expansion of the joint venture between San Miguel Corp. (SMC) and Nihon Yamamura Glass has been approved by the Philippine government.

The Philippine government's industrial promotional arm has approved a USD 7.6 million expansion by the joint venture. The Board of Investments approved the construction of a second glass packaging manufacturing facility by San Miguel Yamamura Packaging Corp. The plant is to be built in Cavite province, south of Manila.

The expansion aims to address the increasing demand for glass packaging products in the country and export markets. 60% of the company's production is sold to local clients in the Philippine beverage industry.

The 32,000-square-meter facility is scheduled to begin operating in March 2019 and employ 138 people.

The new plant will be able to produce 92,517 metric tons per year of glass packaging, adding to the company's existing production capacity of 145,701 metric tons annually. Both plants will be capable of producing glass sizes ranging from 45ml to 1,250ml.

21117/Press Release – 2018.03.27

### Wheaton / Verescence



Brazilian glass packaging manufacturer Wheaton has agreed to purchase Verescence's Sao Paulo plant for R45 million. The merger will guarantee an increase of about 28% for Wheaton in Brazil, which will see its turnover rise to R\$1 billion.

The deal will make Wheaton one of the largest global packaging operations for the world's perfumery and cosmetic glass.



The sale of Verescence's Brazilian operation was expected. The land on which the company's plant is installed is mostly occupied by Verallia, which is to complete the construction of a new plant in Jacutinga, inland São Paulo, in 2019.

The acquisition will strengthen Wheaton's position in three of its key customers and expand its leadership in the domestic market.

With the operation, the moulds and all the machinery, including the bottle painting line and the Verescence moulds will be transferred to the Wheaton plant in São Bernardo do Campo.

The company also plans to build a new furnace in the short term.

Wheaton currently operates 24 production lines dedicated to the beauty market. Verescence operated six lines, but had been using only three of them, because of a problem with the furnace.

Now, in addition to Wheaton, the only company with production of glass bottles for perfumes and cosmetics in the country is also Brazilian glassmaker Anchieta, while the Mexican company Vitro, which has land in Bahia for the construction of a plant for at least two years, has not yet started construction.

Wheaton will also incorporate Verescence's pharmaceutical operation.

21118/Press Release – 2018.03.20

### Ambev Brazil

Ambev's glass container factory in Brazil has been the subject of a major €30 million investment in recent months and intends to double glass capacity.

Ambev's Rio de Janeiro site received first-class training for its production personnel, as well as advanced manufacturing know-how from one of the industry's main players.

Germany's Heye International was responsible for the co-ordination of the project, including the delivery of three 12-section triple gob IS machines to more than double the plant's manufacturing capacity.

The plant has one furnace of 350 tpd plus a second furnace also at 350 tpd but with more cavities, which improved its capacity utilisation.

The multi-zone central lubrication system in the machines helps to reduce the consumption of lubricants, keeping the machine cleaner. A diverse range of equipment was also supplied, from feeder mechanisms to lehr loaders.

The plant specialises in high volume production of beer bottles exclusively for its parent company.

21119/Press Release – 2018.03.26

### Gerresheimer

1. Gerresheimer presented **high-performance injection vials** at the PDA in Rome. Its **Gx Elite vials** set new standards for type I vials made from borosilicate glass. Most importantly, the vials prevent any glass-to-glass and glass-to-metal contact from when the tubular glass is made right through to final packaging. The chemical composition of the borosilicate glass is still the same.

"It is absolutely crucial for drugs to be packaged properly in order to ensure drug stability. The exceptional quality of our Gx Elite vials makes them the ideal container for parenteral drugs," says Jens Heymann, Senior Vice President Europe & Asia Tubular Glass at Gerresheimer, under-lining the major benefit that avoiding glass-

to-glass contact in the production process can have for vial quality. The highly shatter-resistant vials are extremely durable and free of cosmetic defects. They also boast an incredibly robust structure, while their resistance to delamination protects the drug inside. Simple handling and a range of packaging options ensure that Gx Elite vials can be supplied for end-to-end use on various filling lines. For customers, this means lower costs and higher quality.

21120/Press Release – 2018.02.28

2. Gerresheimer Medical Systems expands its **Wackersdorf Technical Competence Centre** for the development and industrialisation of glass products, such as syringes and (dental) carpules.



The company is creating 3,000 square meters of additional space. The task area of the Technical Competence Centre is thus being expanded beyond the previous area of focus of plastics to include the additional material of 'glass'. Construction began recently, and the project should be completed by the end of the year.

Gerresheimer AG offers pharmaceutical and medical technology products of plastics and glass in its Medical Systems business unit. The strategy of the company to merge its competence for both materials under one roof is now also being expanded to the development and industrialization areas.

The Technical Competence Center (TCC) in Wackersdorf was previously responsible for the development and industrialization of products made of plastics. Innovative glass products, such as pre-fillable syringes and cartridges will also be prepared for series production here in future. The establishing of glass competence in the TCC will expand the technology portfolio at the Wackersdorf location. Twenty-five new jobs will be created by 2020 for this purpose.

One focus of the expansion is the establishing of small batch production for pre-fillable glass syringes and cartridges. Here it is possible to produce pre-series modules from glass forming to ready-to-ship, washed, and siliconized ready-to-fill systems. The focus is on syringes and cartridges for especially sophisticated, biotechnologically manufactured medication, clinical samples for approval, or prototypes for process and technology development.

At the same time, glass competence is also being established in the Automation Systems area (special machine engineering) in order to develop innovative technologies for glass forming and automation. New generations of glass forming lines for syringe production will in future originate in a cooperation between the Bünde and Wackersdorf locations.

21121/Press Release – 2018.03.09

## DOMESTIC TABLEWARE AND CRYSTAL GLASS

### Glass Company

#### Libbey



#### **Libbey Full Year 2017 Results**

- Net sales for full-year 2017 were \$781.8 million, compared to \$793.4 million for full-year 2016, a decrease of 1.5 percent (or a decrease of 1.6 percent excluding the \$1.1 million currency impact).
- Net loss for full-year 2017 was \$93.4 million, compared to net income of \$10.1 million during full-year 2016; 2017 included a \$79.7 million non-cash goodwill impairment charge associated with the Latin America segment, and a \$6.7 million charge related to the revaluation of net deferred tax assets as a result of the latest U.S. tax reform.
- Adjusted EBITDA was \$70.6 million for full-year 2017, compared to \$111.6 million for full-year 2016.
- Net sales in the U.S. and Canada segment were lower due to lower price and mix of product sold, partially offset by increased volumes and a favourable currency impact.
- In Latin America, net sales declined as a result of lower net sales across the retail and business-to-business channels, specifically due to lower volume and unfavourable currency. The decline was partially offset by favourable price and mix.
- Net sales in the EMEA segment increased primarily as a result of favourable price and mix of product sold, partially offset by lower volumes and an unfavourable currency impact.
- Net sales in Other were down primarily as a result of lower sales in China.

#### **Outlook**

The Company is anticipating improved global macroeconomic conditions in 2018, as well as better industry and competitive trends. As such, outlook for full-year 2018 includes the following:

- Net sales increase in the low single digits, compared to the full-year 2017, on a reported basis
- Adjusted EBITDA margins of 10 percent to 11 percent
- Capital expenditures in the range of \$50 million to \$55 million
- Selling, general and administrative expense as a percent of net sales around 17 percent

21122/Press Release – 2018.02.27

## REINFORCEMENT GLASS FIBRES

### Glass Company

#### Johns Manville



Johns Manville (JM) has celebrated **160 years in business** at JEC World 2018 exhibition in Paris.

“Johns Manville has a rich history of innovation and leadership in the global markets we serve,” said Mary Rhinehart, President and CEO. “We manufacture premium products for use in many applications, while also delivering positive and powerful JM Experiences.”

JM started in 1858 as a roofing company after Henry Ward Johns created a roofing shingle in the basement of his New York City home. His company later merged with a company owned by Charles Manville. Today, JM holds leadership positions in the key markets it serves for thermal and acoustical insulation, waterproofing, filtration, flooring, drywall, wall coverings and glass fibre composites.

21123/Press Release – 2018.03.06

## SPECIAL GLASS

### Glass Companies

#### SCHOTT



SCHOTT announces **joint venture with Zhejiang Crystal-Optech and T.Best.**

Schott is strengthening its footprint in Asia with further investments. The new joint venture company – Zhejiang Crystal- Schott Optical Technology Co., Ltd. – connects Schott’s leadership in optical materials and thin glass with the outstanding processing and coating expertise of its Chinese partner Crystal-Optech and T.Best.

The joint venture company, Zhejiang Crystal- Schott Optical Technology Co., Ltd., will be part of **Schott’s Advanced Optics business unit**. After the approval from antitrust authorities, it will focus on developing and manufacturing high-end optical components for various applications.

Schott will supply its optical glass and thin glass products – the joint venture will assemble these materials into high-quality glass substrates and glass wafers with outstanding optical performances and optimized geometrical properties.



By enhancing its glass processing capacity and capabilities in China, Schott strengthens its overall position leveraging its worldwide market presence to be close to customers and application expertise.

The joint venture's production will be set up on Crystal-Optech's new production campus in Taizhou city, Zhejiang province. It is expected to quickly grow to several hundred employees.

21124/Press Release – 2018.03.12

### Jenoptik

Jenoptik closed the 2017 fiscal year with new record figures, particularly in revenue and earnings. On a regional level, growth came from the strategic target regions of the Americas and Asia/Pacific.



From right: Jenoptik President & CEO Dr. Stefan Traeger and CFO Hans-Dieter Schumacher

\* Revenue rises to EUR 747.9 million (+9.2%); EBIT grows even more strongly, to EUR 77.8 million (+17.6%), with growth seen in the Optics & Life Science and Mobility segments. Overall very good business performance was facilitated by greater demand for optical systems in the semiconductor equipment industry and for traffic safety technology. The Group also successfully completed its acquisitions of the British company ESSA Technology, in January 2017, and the US firm Five Lakes Automation, in August 2017. Both companies have already been integrated in the Mobility segment.

On a regional level, growth came from the strategic target regions of the Americas and Asia/Pacific. These two regions combined saw very positive development, with revenue rising to 38.1% of group revenue (prior year 34.4%). At EUR 525.3 million, Jenoptik generated 70.2% of revenue abroad (prior year EUR 458.2 million/66.9%).

Jenoptik also achieved new record EBIT and EBITDA figures. Due to mix effects, EBIT outperformed revenue, growing by 17.6% to EUR 77.8 million (prior year EUR 66.2 million), equivalent to an EBIT margin of 10.4% (prior year 9.7%). Thus the Group exceeded its target corridor of 9.5 to 10.0% in 2017 – despite one-off expenses for a traffic safety project and the impacts of the two acquisitions in the Mobility segment. In particular the Optics & Life Science segment made a considerably increased contribution to the improvement in earnings.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) increased steadily over the course of the year and also outperformed revenue, growing 12.5% to EUR 106.7 million (prior year EUR 94.7 million). The EBIT margin thus improved to 14.2% (prior year 13.8%).

The number of Jenoptik employees (incl. trainees) rose 4.0% (141 employees) to 3,680 as of 31 December 2017 (31/12/2016: 3,539 employees). As a consequence of the ongoing internationalization strategy and related acquisitions, the number of people employed abroad saw an increase of 16.9% to 802 employees (31/12/2016: 686 employees), bringing the total workforce abroad up to 22.6% (prior year 19.4%).

For 2018, the Executive Board is confirming its original growth target and aiming for revenue to be between EUR 790 and 810 million. The EBIT margin is projected to be in a range between 10.5 and 11.0% – higher than the former forecast of around 10.0%. By 2022, revenue is expected to increase in the mid- to high-single-digit percentage range per year on average. The EBITDA margin will also improve to around 16% by 2022.

The new strategy has a stronger focus on photonic technologies in all of the company's initiatives and developments: "In a nutshell, this is Jenoptik's strength and its core area of expertise. In this new stage of our development, internationalization and innovation are becoming ever more important. We want to increase our R+D output to around 10% of revenue by 2022. International diversity will also characterize Jenoptik more than ever before. That means international teams and also more local decision-making. Ultimately, at least one division will have its headquarters outside of Germany by the year 2022," summarizes Stefan Traeger.

As one of the first steps in implementing the new strategy under the headline of "More Light," we will develop the divisions' strategic roadmaps and implement an active portfolio management in 2018. Business in Asia will be reorganized in 2018, and the mechatronics business managed under an independent brand. A new corporate culture will form the basis for future success. Chief Financial Officer Hans-Dieter Schumacher: "Our business and reporting structures will accordingly change on 1 January 2019. Up until the end of 2018, Jenoptik will continue to report on the basis of its current segment structure."

21125/Press Release – 2018.03.26

## Miscellaneous

### Nokia

**Nokia 8 Sirocco** has a completely overhauled design consisting almost entirely of highly resistant glass - Gorilla Glass.

Nokia 8 Sirocco is a special edition of the Nokia 8 that is launched in summer 2018, but it is not just the same phone in a new colour. It has, in fact, a completely overhauled design consisting almost entirely of glass.

Where the Nokia 8 was splash-proof, the Sirocco edition has an IP67 water- and dust-proof rating. It now supports wireless charging and has slightly a bigger battery capacity of 3,260mAh. The cameras are different, with one 12MP wide-angle shooter and a 13MP camera with 2x optical zoom.

Despite the many changes to the spec sheet, design is the major differentiator here. The Nokia 8 was pretty standard fare: glass up front, aluminium unibody everywhere else. The Sirocco edition, however, is 95% Gorilla Glass 5. That other 5% is the stainless steel chassis that's only exposed to the air around the perimeter – 2mm.

Because the front pane of glass is now curved, there's also a new flexible display. The Nokia 8's 5.3-inch LCD display has been replaced by a 5.5-inch, bendy OLED screen with the same 2,560 x 1,440 resolution. The display follows the curvature of the glass as it rounds each side to meet the stainless-steel seam.

21126/Press Release – 2018.03.28

### Essilor / Luxottica

On 1<sup>st</sup> March, the European Commission approved the **merger between Essilor and Luxottica**, both companies operating in the optical sector, following an in-depth investigation that was launched on 26 September of last year.

At the time, the institution had concerns that the future transaction would create a competition distortion on the optical market, given the size of the companies involved, as Essilor is the world and European leading supplier of spectacle lenses, and Luxottica is the largest supplier in Europe and the world of eyewear articles, owning the brands Ray-Ban and Oakley, amongst others. The Commission was worried that once the merger was in place, Essilor's rival lens providers would be driven out of the market due to grouped sales or related sales with Luxottica's branded frames, given their position on the market.

However, the Commission noted that Luxottica's brands represented just 20% of the market share for frames in Europe and that many optical outlets in Europe did not sell these products. It also considered that both entities were not powerful enough to remove rival lens suppliers from the market, even if they did decide on a strategy of grouped or related sales.

The Commission therefore concluded that the merger was compatible with EU law.

21127/Press Release – 2018.03.01



## DIVERSE

### GLASS & SUPPLIERS

#### Sisecam Group Annual Financial Results 2017



Sisecam Group reported consolidated net sales of TL 11.3 billion and a net profit of TL 1.7 billion for the full-year 2017. The Group's total investments reached TL 1 billion in the same period.

Sisecam's net sales reached TL 11.3 billion with an 32% increase in 2017. The share of international sales reaches 60%, with international sales volume reaching TL 6.8 billion. In 2017, Sisecam Group produced 4.8 million tons of glass, 2.3 million tons of soda and 4.2 million tons of industrial raw materials.

Thanks to ongoing efforts to optimize the cost structure and the geographical distribution of production activities, consolidated EBITDA reached TL 3.1 billion in the same period," Prof. Ahmet Kirman, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, said.

Sisecam Group reported total investments of TL 1 billion and continued to support the national economy with an export volume of USD 748 million in 2017.

"Our goal is to further strengthen our financial structure to maintain the continuity of the Group's steady growth line and to support our growth in the upcoming periods. While continuing to increase the speed of our efforts to optimize our production facilities, we will continue to optimize our costs using all efficient methods, including increased use of automated systems. We are constantly realizing our evaluations of policies to be followed in the direction of our objectives of sustainable profitable growth and operational excellence, taking into consideration the conditions of the global economy," Kirman noted.

21128/Press Release – 2018.03.21

#### FunGlass evaluates its first year of activity



Researchers of the Alexander Dubcek University of Trencin research centre of excellence are working closely with leading European institutions in the field of glass science and technologies on the FunGlass project. The FunGlass project was launched 12 months ago. This project is the largest Slovak scientific-academic research project funded by the European Horizon 2020 Framework Program took place. The project is unique in the sense that it does not focus on solving a specific scientific task but its goal is a complex organizational transformation of an existing workplace into a research institute that within the European Union context meets criteria of an excellent research centre in the field of glass science and technologies.

This ambitious project is being realized by researchers of the Alexander Dubcek University of Trencin in close cooperation with consortium members of the project, namely leading European institutions in the field of glass science and technologies, such as German partners Friedrich – Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg and Friedrich-Schiller Universität Jena, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas in Spain and Università degli Studi di Padova in Italy. The first year of the project can be characterized by building the foundation for further activities of the Centre. The Centre substantially expanded its personnel capacities and established new organizational structures within Alexander Dubcek University of Trencin.

The unique management structure of the FunGlass Centre deserves special attention within the Slovak environment. The highest governing body includes all project partners' representatives, which guarantees direct participation of top European scientists in defining the strategy and directing the Centre activities. Achievement of such autonomy was reached mainly thanks to support and direct engagement of both the rector Jozef Habánik and the Academic Senate of the university.

Another critical and important point for its future is the fact that the Centre was able to attract personalities who are well recognized in the field of glass and ceramics research. They come from major academic institutions from all over the world (China, Brazil, US, Turkey); well established companies in the Slovak Republic (RONA, Vetropack Nemsová, Johns Manville Slovakia, AGC Trencin); and from within the European glass industry (Corning, Glass Service, Stevanato Group, Colorobbia Italia). They all accepted memberships in the Centre Advisory Bodies. As the Director of the Centre and the FunGlass Coordinator Dusan Galusek says, these all are prerequisites for opportunities leading to further successful development, however, at the same time they present a great amount of commitment and responsibility.

During its first year of existence, the Centre employed 39 employees at six research departments (Department of Biomaterials, Coating Technologies, Functional Glass, Glass Processing and Central Laboratories, as well as Vitrum Laugaricio – Joint Glass Centre). Newly created research positions, including positions of heads of departments, were staffed on the base of international hiring tenders. Successful and employed researchers included not only candidates from Slovakia but also those from Belgium, India, Iran, Spain, Egypt and China. As far as the accredited doctoral program in Inorganic technologies and non-metallic materials is considered, nowadays it is attended by 10 students from Slovakia and abroad.

The significant part of the EU financial support in total amount of EUR 15 million is intended for further training and support of professional growth of researchers and doctoral students. At the moment, two researchers are already undergoing research and training internships at international partner institutions and another ten are ready to leave for their one-year stays in the near future. Both scientists and students have access to tailor-made educational and training plans aimed to gain experience and 'research' know-how within the foreign scientific environment and their application upon return to the home Centre.

2018 is no less demanding for the Centre, and the goals ahead represent preconditions for its further growth and creation of the position of an internationally recognized research centre on a European scale. One of the factors that will fundamentally influence the expansion of the Centre is the obligatory co-financing of the FunGlass project by EUR 10 million provided through Operational Program Research and Innovation by Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic. National co-financing is a necessary prerequisite for further financial support of the FunGlass project from the European Union in the future. The funds that the Centre is expecting to receive this year will focus primarily on material support, renewal and expansion of research facilities, and the expansion of existing high-end experimental infrastructure by other unique equipment.

The results of the project and intentions of the FunGlass Centre for the upcoming period were topics of the meeting of the Scientific Board of the Centre for Functional and Surface Functionalized Glass held at the Alexander Dubcek University of Trencin 7-8 March 2018.

21129/Press Release – 2018.03.20

### **Saint-Gobain Isover**



A new production line for blown glass wool for the insulation market will soon be up and running at the production unit of Saint-Gobain Isover, near Bergamo, northern Italy. The installation of the new line is part of an overall plan to upgrade the insulation sector in Europe, and in which Saint-Gobain will invest EUR 45 million.

Other Saint-Gobain production units in Chemillé, near Angers, in the Loire valley, which will start up in mid-2019, and the factory in Azuqueca, near Madrid, which will start up this spring, are also included in these upgrades.

“We are really pleased to be increasing, once again, our production capacity. And in particular, a plant for materials used in thermal insulation. This demonstrates, once more, the constant commitment of Saint-Gobain towards to climate, as well as its active participation in the energy redevelopment plan for buildings,” said Gianni Scotti, President and Managing Director of the Saint-Gobain Group in Italy.

Saint-Gobain has invested more than EUR 200 million in Italy since 2011 to increase the productivity of its main production units. “This is a clear demonstration of our confidence in the potential of Italy, aiming at continuing to consolidate our position here in the country, where we have been present for more than 100 years,” concluded Scotti.

Saint-Gobain has been present in Italy since 1889, and currently has more than 2,100 employees, 23 production units, and reported turnover of EUR 700 million in 2017.

21130/Press Release – 2018.03.13

### **Knauf Insulation / Veolia Recycling Facility**

**Knauf Insulation and Veolia have opened a 60,000 tonnes/year glass recycling facility in St Helens, UK.**

Veolia's facility uses technology to sort and separate glass at a micro-level, delivering an ultra-pure glass cullet.

The machinery includes vibrating screens for size sorting, magnets to extract ferrous materials and eddy current separators for non-ferrous materials.

The facility enables Knauf Insulation to secure its glass supply and maximise the use of recycled materials instead of virgin minerals.

The proximity of the facility will save approximately 375,000 miles of road journeys.

The glass collected equates to over 350 million bottles thrown out yearly – which could otherwise end up in landfill or pollute the environment.

With a £10M investment and a decade long commitment from Knauf Insulation, both companies are demonstrating their dedication to sustainable and circular manufacturing.

John Sinfield, Managing Director at Knauf Insulation Northern Europe, said: "We have been using recycled glass in our manufacturing process for some time already. As well as securing our glass supply, the quality and consistency that we are getting now from the new facility will enable us to increase further the percentage of glass cullet we use in the manufacture of our glass mineral wool insulation solutions, taking us one step further in our sustainability journey".

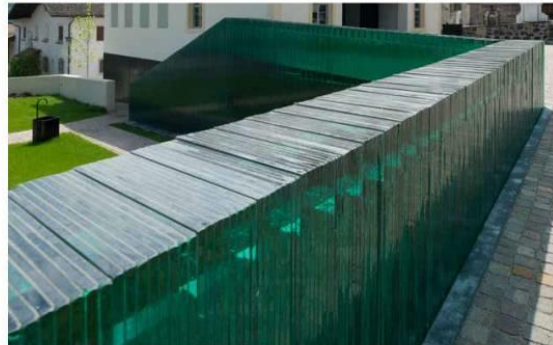
Estelle Brachlianoff, Senior Executive Vice-President at Veolia UK & Ireland, said: "To see our site officially open today is a vote of confidence in our technology and the quality of cullet we produce. By using a significant amount of this glass in its manufacturing process, Knauf Insulation is setting the standard for other manufacturers to follow – making use of recycled material mainstream rather than niche. We want to see this first-of-its kind partnership pave the way for others; where waste is seen as an indispensable commodity and given a completely new lease of life. It would be fantastic to see more key industry players follow Knauf Insulation and incorporate circular economy thinking into production."

1131/Press Release – 2018.03.22

### **Sametec srl. & Trosifol Glass Blocks**

The extension of the cemetery in the centre of Tisens (Italy) sets the scene for an entirely new symbolism of glass as a material, using PVB films from Trosifol to create special 'glass blocks' for an open area, no longer isolated from every-day life. Known in Italian as Tesimo, Tisens is a village with a population of about 2,000 in the Etsch valley, south of Meran, in Italy's South Tyrol.

In this project, it was decided from the outset that the cemetery and church would not be closed off to the village centre, but instead would be open, inviting locals and visitors to drop in or take a walk.



For the exterior glass wall, Sametec assembled 220 blocks of laminated safety glass, 20-50cm wide and 1.3-4.2m long and composed of eight panes.

With monumental components – yet with an overall design emphasizing lightness – the L-shaped glass wall derives its impact from the glass’s subtle transparency. This transparency is incorporated into the funeral parlour, where the interior glass wall benefits from a special quality of backlighting via the outer walls. In addition, the entire wall can be illuminated with LED lighting to suit certain occasions.

The glass wall is the work of Italian company Sametec srl (formerly Santoni Vetri snc), from Arco in northern Italy. The wall is in fact composed not of conventional glass blocks but of blocks comprising several panes of laminated safety glass containing 0.76mm thick Trosifol® UltraClear polyvinyl butyral (PVB) films. The glass plies were joined together using vacuum bags, a process that does away with the need for autoclaving.

Overall, the building consists of 3,200 sq.m. of 19mm float glass. For the interior of the funeral parlor, Sametec used this glass to produce 180 blocks of laminated safety glass 20cm wide and 3.21m long, each comprising 10 panes. Another 80 blocks of laminated safety glass comprised of 10 glass plies each were produced, also 20cm wide, but in lengths ranging from 20 to 370cm. For the exterior glass wall, Sametec assembled 220 laminated safety glass blocks, 20 to 50cm wide and 1.3 to 4.2m long and composed of eight panes. It also produced blocks of laminated glass varying in height from 1 to 4m.

Each of these laminated glass blocks comprise 10 to 12 panes with the associated PVB interlayers. The various blocks, indoors and outdoors, were bonded together with silicone.

The interior glass wall of the funeral parlour benefits from a special quality of backlighting via the transparent outer walls. The wall consists of several panes of laminated safety glass containing 0.76mm thick Trosifol® UltraClear Polyvinyl butyral (PVB) film. Sandro Santoni, Managing Director of Sametec explains: “Without Trosifol we probably wouldn’t have been able to realize the project at all. Because they were the only people to give us the technical support we needed to execute the project. Even if it initially sounds easy and even though we’ve got plenty of experience of laminated safety glass, we experienced a number of surprises with the thick glass blocks on site. And we only managed to successfully overcome these problems thanks to the support on site from Dr. Cengiz Ergün from Trosifol Technical Service.”

21132/Press Release – 2018.03.16



## SEMINARS / CONFERENCES / WORKSHOPS

### Challenging Glass Conference 6

The next edition of the Challenging Glass Conference will take place **17 and 18 May 2018 at TU Delft in the Netherlands.**

Challenging Glass is an international bi-annual conference that aims at gathering world class designers, engineers, researchers and industry partners to discuss on the architectural and structural use of glass.

Conference themes: Projects & Case studies, Joints & Fixings & Adhesives, Strength & Stability, Laminated Glass & Interlayer Properties, Hybrid & Composite Glass Components, Numerical Modelling & Experimental Validation, Curved & Bended Glass, Architectural Design, Geometries & Lighting, Structural Glass Design Philosophy & Structural Safety, Insulating Glass Units, Glass in Facades.

21133/Press Release – 2017.07.06



### ICCG12: 12th International Conference on Coatings

The 12th edition of the ICCG international scientific conference will take place in Würzburg (Germany) **on 12 June 2018** and will also include an accompanying exhibition, which will be a marketplace for innovation.

In 2018, participants in this biannual conference, technical exhibition and industry get-together, will *"Dive into the World of Coatings"* and will find this motto reflected on a number of very different levels which all serve to create an attractive meeting space for scientists, technologists, managers, and practitioners from research, teaching and industry. There will be opportunities to discuss all kind of topics in the field of large-area coatings on glass and plastics.

To foster the idea of networking and to offer a platform for future projects, the accompanying exhibition will be turned into a marketplace for innovation. Exhibitors will have the opportunity to give short presentations or to host innovation talks to introduce latest developments.

There will also be room for B2B meetings which may lead to follow-up contacts at a later stage. It is also seen that there is time available for in-depth discussions without having to miss out on a talk or skip a presentation.

The application of coatings onto glass and plastics is still of major importance to create high added value products. Large area deposition of inorganic materials under atmospheric or vacuum conditions has become the basis of energy savings, harvesting, and storage.

Optical thin films dominate the market in consumer electronics and communication networks. Emerging markets and new business opportunities for high volume products rely on coatings on flexible substrates generated either through plasma enhanced processes or wet chemical deposition techniques. Advanced materials and hybrid nanocomposites present further options to create multifunctional and even active surfaces contributing to the development of high-tech products and services. The 12th



ICCG will highlight these international market trends, discuss new relevant materials and deposition technologies. We will bring together experts from science and industry as well as other stakeholders defining the future of surfaces and coatings.

Prior to the conference, on Monday afternoon 11 June 2018, several short courses will be given by experts in the field of thin films and coatings. These educational lectures are intended to provide fundamental and technological background on specific conference topics.

**Conference program:** Introductory session followed by “Markets and business in the field on coatings on glass and plastics” - Chairmen: Dr. K. Suzuki, Mr. J. Vitkala

The conference will be organized in several sessions:

**Technical sessions**

1. Advanced vacuum processes - Chairmen: Prof. Dr. G. Bräuer, Dr. J. Strümpfel
2. Atmospheric pressure processes - Chairmen: Prof. Dr. K. Spee, Dr. J. Pütz
3. Film growth, metrology, process control, simulation - Chairmen: Mr. R. Shimshock, Dr. T. Kälber, Prof. Dr. B. Szyszka
4. Energy conversion, lighting, displays - Chairmen: Dr. M. Junghänel, Dr. D. Bernt
5. Optics, sensors, life sciences, packaging - Chairmen: Dr. G. Ockenfuss, Prof. Y. Shigesato
6. Architectural and automotive glazing - Chairmen: Prof. S. Oktik, Dr. R. Thielsch

**Panel discussion:** Electromobility and autonomous driving and its influence on coatings on glass and plastics

ICCG12 is organized by the International Organizing Committee of ICCG, Fraunhofer Institute for Silicate Research ISC and Vincentz Network.

21134/Press Release – 2017.11.21

### **15th PNCS / 14th European Society of Glass (ESG) Conferences**

The **International Conference on the Physics of Non-Crystalline Solids (PNCS)** and the **European Society of Glass (ESG)** conferences, which are both interested in glass with slightly different scientific or technologic emphases, will be held together in **Saint Malo, France, from 9 to 13 July 2018.**

- The 15th International Conference on the Physics of Non-Crystalline Solids is the continuation of a series of meetings started by Pr. V.D. Fréchette (USA), in 1958. 13 conferences have been organized subsequently, with the latest one organized by Pr. Cormack, from Alfred University (USA) in 2015. Continuing the tradition, PNCS XV will provide an international forum for the most recent developments on the physics of non-crystalline materials.
- The ESG Conference is the largest meeting organized by the European Society of Glass. The aim of this 14th conference is to present and discuss ways to improve the quality and the performance of glass products in their various applications. The conference will maintain the quality of the previous congresses while incorporating new features to learn about the latest developments in glass technology and European Regulations.

Topics of the conferences will include: Basic Glass Science, Special Glasses, Glass Application, Glass Properties, Melting Technology, and Heritage, History, Scholar.

For more information on this event, please go to: <http://www.ustverre.fr> or <https://pncs-esg-2018.sciencesconf.org>



21135/Press Release – 2018.01.16

### ICG 10<sup>th</sup> Workshop and Annual Meeting 2018

1) **The 10th ICG workshop** will be composed of two interwoven threads overviewing fundamentals in glass science and focusing on bioglasses and glasses for pharmaceutical packaging.

Taking place in **Montpellier, France, 2-6 July 2018**, it will be composed of two interwoven threads.

The first thread will overview fundamentals in glass science emphasising structure-property relationships, experimental techniques and material simulations.

Specific properties, their structural dependence and applications will be discussed e.g. optical behaviour, transport phenomena, nucleation and crystallisation, and strength.

The second thread this year will focus on bioglasses and glasses for pharmaceutical packaging. Attention will be given to the structure and properties of bioactive glasses, hybrids and composites, for the design of new materials for health applications. Compatibility with human body of prostheses and scaffolds, will be discussed. The interactions with drugs and molecules with glass, adsorption, delamination problems of glass containers for pharmaceutical products, will also be treated.

In the sessions where the two threads overlap, all participants will cross two bridges: one between science and application, the other between academia and industry. The lecturers will be world experts in their fields. A significant aspect of the workshop will be student-centred projects that will help participants to develop their understanding by applying what they know to specific issues.

Pre-registration: Deadline 15/04/2018 by email to: [verres2018@mycema.fr](mailto:verres2018@mycema.fr)

Registration deadline 15/05/2018.

Participants will be limited to 30 (Glass Science) and 20 (Glass Applications).

A more complete programme will appear soon on the ICG web site ([www.icglass.org](http://www.icglass.org)).

**2) The ICG Annual Meeting 2018 will be taking place 23-26 September in Japan, and is organized by the Ceramics Society of Japan (CerSJ).**

The 2018 annual meeting of the International Commission on Glass (ICG) will be held in Yokohama, Japan, 23-26 September 2018. ICG 2018 is organized by the Ceramics Society of Japan (CerSJ), in strong collaboration with the Glass Industry Conference of Japan (GIC).

Preparations are underway regarding the meeting to welcome many glass researchers, engineers and related professionals from all over the world.

A list of topics of papers can be found at:

<http://www.icg2018yokohama.com/program/index.html>

For more information, visit the ICG website at [www.icg2018yokohama.com](http://www.icg2018yokohama.com) .

21136/Press Release – 2018.01.08 & 18

**Call for Abstracts for the 79<sup>th</sup> Conference on Glass Problems**

The 79th Conference on Glass Problems (GPC) invites engineers, educators, students, and solutions providers working on various aspects of glass manufacturing to submit an abstract for an oral presentation at this premier industry conference. The 79th Conference on Glass Problems is organized by the Glass Manufacturing Industry Council and Alfred University, and endorsed by The American Ceramic Society.

Broad topics of interest include:

- Furnace design and reconstruction
- Physics and chemistry of the melting process
- Thermodynamics and reaction kinetics of oxide systems relevant to industrial glass melting
- Modeling of glass melting and processing
- Combustion and heat transfer
- Refractories
- Safety
- Raw materials: engineered, minerals, and chemicals, batching and recycling
- Forming
- Energy efficiency and management
- Environmental impact of glass
- Advanced process controls and sensors
- New topics (relevant to glass manufacturing)

79th GPC selected oral presentation authors are required to submit a paper for publication in the proceedings of the conference.

The 79th annual GPC will run **November 5-8, 2018**, once again at the Greater Columbus Convention Centre in Columbus, Ohio.

The conference is the largest glass manufacturing conference in North America, and attracts glass manufacturers and suppliers worldwide to exchange innovations and problem solutions. Co-organized by the Glass Manufacturing Industry Council and Alfred University, the conference provides expert lectures, panel discussions and focused

courses and symposia, along with exhibiting and networking opportunities. True to its tagline, GPC is the conference where glass manufacturers meet. Submit your abstract today to become a part of the technical program.

If you have questions about the 79th Conference on Glass Problems, please visit <http://glassproblemsconference.org>.

21137/Press Release – 2017.09.05

### **GPD Finland 2019**

The Glass Performance Days (GPD) event in 2019 will celebrate its 27th year of service to the glass industry and will address the challenges the industry faces today.

In 2019, the technical sessions of the conference and workshops of the Glass Performance Days (GPD) will be addressing the challenges the industry faces today regarding the ever-changing demands on City planning, building design, energy-efficiency and environmental fit. A special focus will be on the contribution of new glass technologies to these demands. The modular program of the event will consist of the following:

- \* 25-26 June 2019, Workshops
- \* 26-28 June 2019, Conference Part (six parallel technical sessions each day) and Exhibition Part, including Glass Expo section for the glass product exhibition and Step Change section for start-up companies.

More info at <https://gpd.fi/events/gpd-finland-2019/>.

21138/Press Release – 2017.12.19