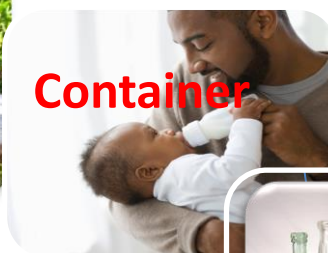




Container



**Building, Solar,
Transport**



Domestic



Special



Fibres



MARCH 2017

Newsletter N°339

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COMMUNITY NEWS

A. EU NEW LEGISLATION

No new legislation in relation to the glass industry this month.

B. TRADE POLICY

Commissioners Bieńkowska and Katainen Reject Any Protectionist Approach

In a column published in the media on 2 March during the European Industry Day, the European Commissioner for the Internal Market and Industry Elżbieta Bieńkowska and her counterpart responsible for Growth and Competitiveness, Jyrki Katainen, stated that, “We will never advocate a ‘buy European only’ policy. Closing the doors to foreign competition is a populist quick fix that might work for a short while. But in the long run, it will simply cut European industry out of global value chains and the cutting edge of technological development”.

They are both aware that the benefits of globalisation are not always fairly distributed and they called for a more robust approach to defending European jobs by applying anti-dumping measures to tackle unfair trade practices.

20372/Press Release – 2017.03.02

China’s Complaint on EU’s Antidumping Methodology

On 10 March, China requested the WTO set up a dispute settlement body (DSB) after the failure of its consultations with the EU at the end of January. The country would like the DSB to arbitrate in its complaint on the EU's current anti-dumping methodology (DS 516).

The very day after the expiry (on 11 December 2016) of certain provisions of China's accession protocol to the WTO, which allowed the other member countries of the organisation to treat China as a non-market economy in their anti-dumping calculation methods, China announced that it had brought a complaint to the WTO about the so-called substitute country method, used by the US and EU to calculate the anti-dumping duties to apply to Chinese exports.

When it joined the WTO in 2001, China agreed that it would not be considered as a market economy by the other member countries for a period of 15 years. During this time, these countries would be able to use the so-called substitute country method (known in EU terminology as the analogue country method) to draw comparisons with third countries in order to determine whether China was selling its products below market price, with the

practical consequence of being able to impose heavy anti-dumping duties on the grounds that the prices practised in China did not reflect the reality of the market.

China's request for a DSB to be set up will be assessed at the next DSB meeting on 21 March. Under WTO rules, the EU will then be able to block China's request but will not be able to oppose the country's second request for a DSB to be set up.

On the EU side, the European Commission proposed a new methodology in November 2016 for the anti-dumping calculation to settle the issue of how to treat China in the EU's anti-dumping investigations when the arrangements on this expired in China's WTO accession protocol.

Aegis Europe condemns China's divide and conquer strategy. Defending the interests of around 30 EU manufacturing associations, Aegis Europe condemned China's *"divide and conquer"* strategy, saying that China has requested a DSB to be set up only against the EU's anti-dumping methodology and not against that of the US, in contrast with what China had announced in December 2016.

"China now appears to be focusing on what it considers to be the weaker of the two parties, the EU. Hoping that the EU is not planning a robust defence [at the WTO] in Geneva, but already started changing its anti-dumping law, China is separating the EU from the US in the hope of paving the way for further challenges if successful in the EU case and improving its chances of winning against both Europe and the US at the WTO", Aegis Europe states.

"The EU must stand firm, aligning itself with the US and other major trading partners, or risk rendering its anti-dumping instrument entirely ineffective against non-market economies like China", Aegis Europe concludes.

20373/Press Release – 2017.03.14

Strong Support at Council for Setting Up a Multilateral Investment Court

Meeting in formally in Valetta on 3 March, EU trade ministers backed the proposal on the table from the European Commission and the Canadian government on establishing a multilateral investment dispute mechanism.

The Commission gave a detailed account of the work it is conducting together with the government of Canada to raise awareness amongst third countries of the necessity to reform investment dispute settlement by having a more transparent, efficient and permanent multilateral investment court system and member states encouraged the Commission to gain critical mass and support for this project and seek further technical work at Council level to progress further aiming towards establishment of a multilateral system for the investment disputes. There is very strong support from France and Germany and overall, it is very positive.

The EU will work to ensure the granting by 31 December 2017 of a negotiating mandate to the European Commission to hold formal talks. A diplomatic source says that only Hungary and Slovenia expressed doubts.

The proposal's aim is to create a single and permanent body responsible for settling investment disputes in future free-trade agreements, moving away from the ad hoc system for settling investor-country trade disputes, ISDS.

The proposal is based on the new model promoted by the EU for settling disputes between investors and countries, the investment court system (ICS) proposed by the Commission in September 2015, foreseen in the free-trade deals between the EU and Canada, Singapore and Vietnam, and proposed by the EU in all its new free-trade and investment agreements.

20374/Press Release – 2017.03.03

C. ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

Council Political Agreement on ETS Post 2020

The Council of the EU in Brussels managed to reach a qualified majority political agreement on reform of the European carbon market (Emissions Trading System, ETS) for 2021-2030 (the fourth carbon quota trading period) on 28 February.

European Environment ministers needed to make four attempts with a number of breaks but the Maltese Presidency's work finally paid off thanks to a final amendment to its draft agreement, based on a final compromise proposal concocted by the Czech Republic.

This theatrical achievement was immediately challenged by Poland which was sure that a blocking minority existed that had been ignored by the Presidency on a dossier of prime importance for the member states' economies. Hungary said that one is far from the consensus recommended by the European Summit in its conclusions document of October 2014, and Italy regretted the methods used to give a forceps birth to a text amended at the last minute.

Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Croatia and Cyprus did not support the compromise. There hadn't been a vote, but there wasn't a blocking minority either. Nineteen member states representing 71.4% of the population supported the text.

After more than nineteen months of talks and this fourth ministerial debate about reform of the ETS in the long-term, negotiations will now be able to begin with the European Parliament, which took a negotiating position on 15 February that is not so very different. The president of the Council welcomed the agreement in principle as important progress for achieving the EU's climate objectives for the planet and for future generations. The trilogue negotiations will be able to begin rapidly and the final agreement will then go to the Council of the EU for a vote.

EU Climate Action Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete immediately welcomed the agreement as laying the basis for a revised ETS that works, preserves industry's competitiveness while preserving the most vulnerable sectors from international competition and reducing carbon leakage by allocating more free quotas.

The reform aims to make the EU's main market instrument more effective with a view to achieving at the lowest cost the climate objectives for 2030 (reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% on the 1990 level), while protecting the energy-guzzling industries most at risk from carbon leakage and international competition. The reform covers 11,000 plants in industry and energy covered by the ETS which have to cut their emissions by 43% by 2030.

France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Sweden wanted any quotas in the market stability reserve (MSR) to be scrapped after five years once the MSR reaches 500 million tonnes of CO₂. They had the support of United Kingdom, Germany, Slovenia and Denmark. On the contrary, Cyprus totally opposed this idea of scrapping quotas in the MSR.

The Czech compromise that was agreed upon stipulates that from 2024 onwards, excess quotas (in other words the number in excess of the quotas put out to auction) will be scrapped on an annual basis.

Other amendments:

- In order to avoid applying an inter-sectoral correction factor (CSCE) that could penalise the best-performing high-energy consuming companies, the solution agreed upon was for 57% of quotas to be put out to auction (compared with 43% of free quotas). But if the CSCE were to be activated, it would be possible to reduce the proportion of quotas put out to auction by up to 2% to ensure there are enough free quotas throughout the period.
- In terms of compensation for indirect carbon costs, the agreement stipulates that countries cannot use more than 25% of income generated from the auctions for compensation for these indirect costs, in order to ensure healthy competition and proper functioning of the internal market. Italy, like Portugal, felt that the initial compromise did not provide any solution to the uneven playing field arising from compensation and wanted full harmonisation through a European fund.

From the start, many delegations (France, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Portugal) were open to flexibility in order to achieve an agreement that was felt to be urgent for implementing the Paris Climate Agreement.

A number of delegations (Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Poland and Romania) indicated from the start that they would not be joining the Presidency's initial compromise. Polish minister Jan Szyszko argued that the Paris Climate Agreement does not talk about decarbonisation, but rather of carbon neutrality, and Poland cannot support the EU's objective of reducing its emissions by at least 40% when the ETS only represents 4% of global emissions.

20375/Press Release – 2017.02.28

Member States Can Demand Return of Unused and Undue Emissions Quotas

In a case involving Arcelor Mittal, the Court of Justice of the EU held that a member state can demand the return of emissions quotas that have not been used or were not due under the European Trading Scheme (ETS). Therefore, when a company closes down operations in one of its plants at a date after the allocation of emissions quotas and omits to inform the

competent authority of this action in the necessary timeframe, the latter can order the return of the emissions quotas without compensation, in an effort to prevent any distortion to the market in allowances. The Court emphasised that despite what the company claimed in this case, this case did not involve any kind of expropriation.

20376/Press Release – 2017.03.08

Restricted Use of Mercury

On 14 March the European Parliament approved new rules to protect the environment and public health. These rules will significantly reduce the use of mercury in the EU, including its use in dental amalgams for people who are the most vulnerable to this highly toxic metal. The text was agreed by very large majority, with 663 votes in favour, 8 against and 28 abstentions. MEPs therefore endorse the provisional agreement reached in the first reading with the Council of the EU at the end of 2016 on the draft regulation that **will transpose the 2013 UN Minamata convention into the EU.**

The text includes a ban on importing mercury and its components from 30 December 2020 and the gradual phasing out of mercury in dentistry. This will begin with a ban on dental amalgams in July 2018 for children aged under 15, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women.

The compromise reached with the Council had the support of all the major groups (EPP, S&D, ALDE, ECR, Greens/EFA and the GUE/NGL). The GUE and Greens pointed out that they would have liked a total ban on mercury used in dentistry as from December 2022, which was initially called for by the European Parliament.

The rapporteur, Stefan Eck (GUE/NGL, Germany), emphasised, *“Mercury is acutely toxic and is one of the ten most damaging naturally occurring substances on this planet. Foetuses, new-borns and children are the most vulnerable group, since in the growth phase the brain and the nervous system react very sensitively to mercury”.*

The text also limits the maximum permitted period for temporary storage of waste mercury to five years, with a possible extension. It also stipulates that the European Commission will have to produce an inventory of contaminated sites within three years, based on the data provided by member states.

20377/Press Release – 2017.03.15

CIRCULAR ECONOMY: European Parliament Sets Sights High for Waste Recycling and Reducing Food Waste

Total success for Italian MEP Simona Bonafè (S&D), rapporteur on the revision of the 'Waste' directives, a key element of the 'Circular Economy' package of the EU. The European Parliament took a position, by a very large majority, in favour of far more ambitious waste recycling targets than the European Commission provided for in its proposal of December 2015. The EPP, S&D, ALDE, ECR, Greens/EFA and GUE/NGL groups pledged their support for a package that is a step in the right direction.

The vote at first reading on the 'Waste' legislative package brings in a raft of rules to encourage the recycling and reuse of resources and products, and also to reduce plastic waste and food waste (in the EU, 88 million tonnes of edible waste end up in the dustbin every year) and to prevent the production of waste.

MEPs took a position in favour of opening negotiations with the Council of the EU with a view to a first-reading agreement. The Council has still to agree on its position.

The following are concerned by the revision:

- the directive on end-of-life vehicles, the directive on batteries and accumulators and the directive on transfers of electrical and electronic waste (624 votes in favour, 67 against, 6 abstentions);
- the framework directive on waste (576 votes in favour, 95 against, 27 abstentions);
- the directive on landfill (583 votes in favour, 95 against, 85 abstentions);
- the directive on packaging and packaging waste (582 votes in favour, 88 against, 28 abstentions).

By following its committee on the environment, the Parliament has taken position in favour of a **compulsory rate of 70% for all municipal waste to be recycled or prepared for reuse by 2030.**

For packaging materials, such as paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, metal and wood, the recycling target will be 80% by 2030, with interim targets in 2025.

Parliament voted in favour of **limiting landfill**, considered the worst-case solution in the waste treatment hierarchy, **to a maximum of 5%**, although certain countries (from eastern Europe, but also others, such as certain regions of Italy) continue to put 80% of their waste into landfill. Derogations will be available to countries that are lagging a particularly long way behind.

The Parliament also voted for a **non-binding target of reducing food waste by 50%.** *“This target is non-binding, as there is no methodology to measure it. We ask the Commission for this methodology and to provide for a hierarchy”,* Bonafe told the press, reiterating that the EU's commitment to halve this waste has never before found a place in EU legislation.

In its vote, the Parliament is also calling on the Commission to take a **closer look at industrial and commercial waste and to set targets.**

D. SOCIAL ISSUES

Reprotoxic Substances in Examination of Workplace Substance Exposure

MEPs at the European Parliament employment and social affairs committee explained in a draft legislative resolution adopted on 28 February that the European Commission should also establish limits on exposure at work to reprotoxic substances.

Since 2004, the Commission has been working on value limits to restrict exposure to carcinogenic and mutagenic agents in the workplace, in keeping with its obligations set out in directive 2004/37/EC. Carcinogenic agents are those that lead to increases in cancer, whilst mutagenic agents cause genetic mutations. After 13 years of reflection and consultation, it presented a first package of value limits in May 2016 and the second package in January 2017.

The vote in Parliament's committee focused on the first package of proposals. In their draft resolution, **MEPs called for the introduction of strict limits for three of the substances examined: chromium (VI), wood dust and crystalline silica**, substances known to cause disease and cancers of the respiratory system.

They also recommended the **drawing up of exposure limits for reprotoxic substances** that are likely to have a damaging impact on reproduction and lead to declines in male and female fertility rates, as well as measures to ensure appropriate compulsory medical monitoring throughout workers' lives. MEPs said that every worker should be able to obtain decent medical monitoring throughout their lives either before exposure or at regular intervals during the period of exposure, as well as after exposure and when they retire.

Claude Rolin, the EPP shadow rapporteur explained, "We have been waiting for more than 10 years to have this proposal for a revision. New rules are needed urgently to ensure the efficient protection of workers from harmful substances that may cause cancer or lead to fertility problems. I think the consensus we have reached and adopted is a significant achievement".

The European Parliament committee, however, did not discuss the allegations of conflicts of interest at the Scientific Committee on Occupational Exposure Limits (SCOEL) in the context of professional exposure limits, even though MEPs had planned to pay "particular attention" to this issue. The rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs in charge of the second package are expected to be appointed sometime in March.

20379/Press Release – 2017.02.28

Unemployment Rates

The **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was **9.6%** in January 2017, stable compared to December 2016. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the euro area since May 2009. The **EU-28** unemployment rate was **8.1%** in January 2017, down from 8.2% in December. This is also the lowest rate recorded in the EU28 since January 2009.

Eurostat estimates that 19.969 million people in the EU28 were unemployed in January 2017, a decrease by 96,000 in the EU28 and by 56,000 in the euro area compared with December 2016.

Czechia	3.4%	Bulgaria	7.2%
Germany	3.8%	Slovenia	7.5%
Hungary (Dec.)	4.3%	Belgium	7.7%
Malta	4.4%	Lithuania	8.1%
UK (Nov.)	4.7%	Finland	8.7%
Netherlands	5.3%	Slovakia	8.6%
Romania	5.4%	Latvia	9.7%
Poland	5.4%	France	10.0%
Austria	5.7%	Portugal	10.2%
Luxembourg	6.1%	Croatia	11.3%
Denmark	6.2%	Italy	11.9%
Estonia (Dec.)	6.2%	Cyprus	14.1%
Ireland	6.7%	Spain	18.2%
Sweden	6.8%	Greece (Nov.)	23.0%

Elsewhere

USA	4.7%	Russia	5.6%
Canada	6.6%	Brazil	12.6%
Japan	3.0%	Australia	5.9%
Switzerland	3.6%	India	4.9%
Turkey	12.7%	China	4.02%

20380/Release Eurostat News Release – 2017.03.02

E. GENERAL ISSUES

EUROPEAN COUNCIL: Donald Tusk Renewed For a Second Mandate

With 27 votes in favour and one against, Donald Tusk has been re-elected for two and a half years as president of the European Council by the EU heads of state and government meeting in Brussels on 9 March. His re-election provoked Poland to obstruct the publication of the conclusions from this summit.

To the great dismay of the Polish government, the choice for the president of the European Council was made in 30 minutes. After an unfruitful attempt to change the agenda for the meeting, Poland's Prime Minister Beata Szydło was the only European leader to speak out



European Council

against the candidature of her compatriot Donald Tusk when Malta's Prime Minister Joseph Muscat asked if there was a consensus for this candidate.

After the vote, Tusk told the 28 member states that he would work "with everyone, without exception, because I am sincerely committed to working for a united Europe".

He also thanked the leaders for giving him their trust, especially in regard to these "unusual circumstances" surrounding the election, to use his own terms. Speaking to press, he promised "to protect the Polish government against any political isolation".

Not wanting to recognise her defeat, the Polish prime minister decided to give new form to these "unusual circumstances" by opposing the adoption of the conclusions by the European Council (a procedure which requires unanimity). From a legal point of view, this has no impact on Tusk's election. The way out was the publication of the conclusions in the form of a statement from the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU. The experts from the Council were unable to certify if this approach would delay the launch of enhanced cooperation on the European Public Prosecutor.

The Polish government does not intend to stop there, and after taking into account the possibility of walking out of the meeting, is now preparing to lead the battle for a deep "reform" of the EU, with the Rome summit at the end of March as the starting point.

20381/Press release 2016.03.09

Future of the European Union

1- Commission's White Paper



European Commission

All roads lead to Rome and Europe's route will inevitably pass through the Eternal City on Saturday 25 March, when Europeans - leaders and citizens alike - will commemorate, despite the likely absence of the British, the signing of the Treaty of the Rome instituting the European Economic Community 60 years earlier by the six founding countries.

This event in Rome will not be a birthday celebration, but "a birth moment of the EU27", said the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker on 1 March, presenting the members of the European Parliament with five options for the European institutions on how to organise communal life for 27 member states up to 2025, once the divorce with the UK goes through.

"Quo vadis Europa?", he asked, adding that the time had come to reflect again on new answers to questions as old as the European Union itself.

Presenting the Commission's five options, aspects of which may be combined, Juncker chose not to express his own preference, stating that the role of the European institution (Commission) was first and foremost to set the terms of the debate and launch a reflection that the governments, national parliaments and civil society should get involved in ahead of the European elections of 2019.

Not taking position will also allow the Commission to hold the member states to their responsibilities to decide what they want to do together in the future.

Five scenarios for a Europe of 27 in 2025

President Juncker kept his language realistic when he talked about the missions to be entrusted to Europe in an unstable world and with the British getting ready to officially notify their intention of leaving the EU. Our job is to show what Europe can and cannot do, he said, calling on his interlocutors not to pretend that Europe can put everything right on its own and solve all problems, such as unemployment.

To fuel the debate, the Commission is therefore proposing five options that already exist in the public debate and listing the possible missions that could be conferred upon the EU and the organisational models to achieve this:

(1) *the status quo*: the EU focuses on its core objectives (deepening the single market, fighting terrorism and climate change, defence, targeted trade agreements) on which it can genuinely add value, on the basis of the objectives laid down in the 'Declaration of Bratislava';

(2) *the single market and nothing but the single market*: the EU adopts the British standpoint, aiming to make Europe into a huge market stripped of its fundamental values, a scenario which – as the Commission freely admitted – would bring about the risk of a social and fiscal race to the bottom;

(3) *authorising vanguards*: member states wishing to do so may become increasingly integrated in areas such as defence, justice and home affairs, and tax harmonisation at Eurozone level in particular. This option of a variable-geometry Europe, which leaves the other states the option to join a vanguard later, is interesting, but is also more complicated to get across to the citizens and raises the question of homogeneity, Juncker said.

(4) *doing more with less*: the EU is capable of moving forward much more quickly in certain priority areas (innovation, managing migration, trade), but moves away from other sectorial policies such as State aid control, employment and social affairs, whilst the EU budget is redefined in line with these new priorities.

(5) *continuing down the road of European integration*: the EU decides to increasingly pool its fields of action (budgetary and defence unions). It adopts a commensurate budget and swifter mechanisms to make decisions and enforce the rules.

According to the Commission, the time is not yet right to talk about a possible revision of the treaties. Discourse on institutional reform is not of interest to the citizens, only to those installed in the comfort of the Brussels bubble, Juncker said, adding that it would happen when there is the collective will, which does not exist at the moment.

To support the White Paper on the future of the EU, the Commission announced that by the summer, it is to submit reflection documents on the following issues: - the social dimension (end of April); - accompanying globalisation (mid-May); - deepening economic and monetary union (end of May); - future of Defence Europe (early June); - future of the EU budget (end of June).

After the summer, in mid-September, Juncker will make the State of the Union speech of the President of the Commission, in which he will offer his own vision of the future of the EU.

The December European Council will provide the member states with the opportunity to take position.

However, the real moment of democratic choice will come with the next European elections, Juncker said. He called for the European citizens to be once again in a position to decide who will chair the Commission after 2019, as was the case in 2014 when he himself was made 'Spitzenkandidat' of the Christian Democrat family. "Believe me, I am neither tired nor running short of ideas; quite the reverse. And you'll see!", he said, in response to his detractors, who have accused him of announcing too early that he will be stepping down after the end of his first term in office.

20382/Press Release – 2017.03.01

Parliament's Political Groups Engage in Debate on Commission's Five Scenarios



No sooner was it presented than it was discussed. Immediately following the presentation of the White Paper on the future of Europe, the European Parliament's political groups positioned themselves on the various scenarios proposed.

To the question posed by Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, "*Quo vadis Europa?*", all the political groups immediately joined the fray in a plenary session debate in Brussels with reactions as diverse as the content of the White Paper. The call from Juncker for a wide-ranging debate was taken to heart, with some delving into the proposed scenarios and others seeking to show a degree of creativity.

Parliament President Antonio Tajani opined that making MEPs the first to hear the Commission's options was the right way to do things. He made the point that Parliament, too, had approved three texts setting out its vision for the future of Europe. In his view, the celebration in Rome at the end of March to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the Treaty of Rome must not be a festival of remembrance but must provide the opportunity to "*work for the future, by seeking to give our fellow citizens positive responses on the major choices that Europe has to make*".

Speaking on behalf of the **EPP Group**, Esteban Gonzalez Pons (Spain) welcomed Juncker's action without taking a position on any one of the options offered. He said that, taken in isolation, none of the scenarios responded to current needs. He suggested, therefore, a sixth scenario that would bring together the five set out which are not, he argued, mutually exclusive.

For the **S&D Group**, there is no need for any tinkering, since the scenario of closer integration in all areas and all 27 member states together (Scenario 5) is the only one possible. Nonetheless, group leader Gianni Pittella (Italy) said he was disappointed at the Commission's choice. This disappointment derives from the lack of a clear plan to strengthen the EU. Taking Juncker at his word that he was leading a resolutely political Commission, Pittella was critical of an approach worthy of a simple administration.

The **ECR Group** was clearly drawn to Scenario 4: "doing less more efficiently". The scenario that would reduce the Union to the single market, equally, was to its liking. Speaking on behalf of the group, Ulrike Trebesius (Germany) stated that the idea of focussing efforts at

EU level on selected areas for action, such as tackling terrorism or protecting borders, seems to be the best, even if a bigger dose of flexibility has to be delivered for the member states. Guy Verhofstadt argued that the debate had clearly to be reduced to two scenarios. Either the 27 member states decide to focus on key areas (Scenario 4) or they take the path of broader and more extended integration (Scenario 5). An inter-institutional conversation now has to be opened as there is a need for an offensive, arguing positively for the European project, he said, on behalf of the **ALDE Group**, suggesting that the basic problem is that the EU is still a “loose confederation”.

The **GUE/NGL Group** also called for a wide-ranging debate but would prefer it to be conducted among citizens, with the aim of bringing about a real change of direction, according to Patrick Le Hyaric (France).

A change of direction was also advocated by Philippe Lamberts (Belgium), for the **Greens/EFA Group**. Arguing that people’s mistrust of the EU is deeper than the White Paper suggests, he said that what was needed was a new approach and the courage to tell the “historic truth”, that is to say, that it is not possible to build a monetary union without political, social, tax and democratic union.

European Trade Unions Disappointed

On behalf of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), on the other hand, Luca Visentini criticised the attitude of the Commission, which he feels has “*given up any attempt at leadership*”. He went on to say that presenting options, albeit realistic ones, “*illustrates the level of division within the EU*”. He added: “*none of the scenarios contain what workers need, and trade unions and civil society want: a fairer, more sustainable, democratic and inclusive Europe*”.

20383/Press release – 2017.03.01

2- MEPs in Favour of Relaunch of Europe

In the debate on 15 March on the conclusions of the spring European Council and on the preparation of the Declaration of Rome that the 27 member states will adopt in Rome on Saturday 25 March to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding treaties of the EEC and the EAEC, **the main pro-European groups in the European Parliament said that they stood ready to support a relaunched 27-member European Union.**

The political groups do not necessarily share the same view, however, on where the EU should focus its energies in future, bringing differences between the left and the right once again to the fore:

- EPP Group: priority to defence and foreign policy,
- Liberals: border protection, creation of a euro area Treasury and a European intelligence capacity to better combat terrorism,
- S&D: direction towards a social Europe and a Eurozone governance, energy transition, protecting the EU’s external borders and clamping down on tax evasion.
- GUE/NGL: need for a strong signal to be sent from Rome for a “*more social Europe*”.
- Greens/EFA urge a “*change of direction*” and criticised “*fortress Europe*” that is doing everything possible to keep out migrants fleeing poverty or war.

- From among the Eurosceptics (ECR) and Europhobes (EFDD), some MEPs said the ship is sinking and the focus is on the speed of the sinking instead of the wave of rejection that is overwhelming it. They criticised the EU's lack of democratic legitimacy and was scathing of the lack of solidarity among member states in taking in refugees.

20384/Press release – 2017.03.13

3- EU Council Debate: Unity Among the 27 Before Differentiated Integration



European Council

European Council President Donald Tusk acknowledged that a multi-speed Europe would be one of the issues addressed in Rome at the end of March. *"Some expect systemic changes that would loosen intra-EU ties and strengthen the role of nations in relation to the community. Others, quite the opposite, are looking for new, deeper dimensions of integration, even if they would apply only to some member states",* he said. **Nonetheless, in his view, the conclusion of the European Council debate on the Declaration of Rome remains that "the unity of the 27 would be our most precious asset".** He added: *"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together".*

Starting point remains unity. According to a working document dated 3 March that will provide the basis for the leaders' discussions, the Rome Declaration will set out the principal successes to date of the European project (freedom of movement, the internal market, the single currency, etc.), the challenges facing the EU and the areas in which the leaders will pledge to make progress.

This is consistent with the message delivered by the working document put to European leaders: *"We are determined to make the EU stronger and more resilient; we need to show even greater unity and solidarity among EU Member States. Unity is a necessity, not an option. Taken individually, we would be side-lined by global dynamics. Standing together is our best chance to influence them, and to defend our common interests and values".*

Nonetheless, following the Versailles mini summit of the four main Eurozone economies (Germany, France, Italy & Spain), following on from the specific contribution from the Benelux countries, consideration of the **possibility of allowing vanguards in certain areas** would seem to be inevitable, while leaving the door open to states which would like to join the pioneer group at a later date.

All four of them spoke in favour of the idea of "differentiated cooperation", particularly in the fields of defence, the Eurozone and Economic and Monetary Union, but also, eventually, social and fiscal harmonisation. The four countries also reaffirmed their belief in the European project and stressed the need to make the EU both stronger in the world and more effective in its responses to the problems encountered by European citizens.

A few controversial topics, social policy and enlargement

In line with the Bratislava Declaration of September 2016, the Rome Declaration will mention a number of priority domains of action that will make Europe more prosperous, more sustainable, safer and capable of taking on board more international responsibilities. Germany and Luxembourg wanted the fight against climate change to be explicitly mentioned.

Two subjects remain controversial – social issues and reference to future EU enlargement, particularly the Western Balkans.

The future shape of the European Union will require reflection in the medium-term, for which the Rome Declaration will serve as the kick-off and which will be determined by the outcome of the elections this year in countries like the Netherlands, France and Germany.

In this regard, the leaders of the Benelux nations will be meeting first with their counterparts in the Visegrad (East Europe) group and then with the Baltic States. The Belgian prime minister, Charles Michel, appreciated the usefulness of holding discussions in small formats with countries that do not spontaneously share the same vision of the future of Europe.

20385/Press release – 2017.03.14

60th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome

In Rome, EU27 celebrated what unites them while taking a worried look at the future. The heads of state or government of 27 member states of the European Union and the presidents of the main European institutions all met in Rome on 25 March to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding treaties of the European adventure, but with the shared feeling that a profound uncertainty is affecting the future of the European project.

"My dear friends, we must be prouder of Europe". This theme – which was at the core of European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker's speech – also filtered, to varying degrees, into all the other speeches delivered in the Horatii and Curiatii Hall of the Capitol (the same hall in which the Rome Treaties were signed on Monday 25 March 1957, and where the Rome Declaration has just been adopted).

The look back to the past was naturally imprinted with a sense of pride, but also with the weight of History, for what has been achieved on this continent in 60 years, *"despite all the mistakes made"*, as European Parliament President Antonio Tajani said.

At some point, all the speakers also referred to a certain gravity of the situation, when their look turned from the past towards the current state of the Union and the future outlook with 27 member states.

Diagnosing the patient, Tajani said that *"our Union is still unfinished and it often seems remote from people's problems, divided, inefficient, overly bureaucratic"*.

For the host of the celebrations, Italy's Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni, this Union has fallen short by addressing too late the challenges brought by History.

An evaluation exercise has been started and the lessons of the past will be learned, Malta's Prime Minister Muscat and Italy's Prime Minister Gentiloni assured. The reason for this is that "we are at a turning point", in Muscat's opinion, which provides an opportunity "to restart" the European machine, and to give new impetus to revive the trust of citizens, in Gentiloni's view. This is a form of response to Pope Francis' call, who had said to the participants that they were "charged with discerning the paths of hope – identifying specific ways forward to ensure that the significant steps taken thus far have not been wasted, but serve as the pledge of a long and fruitful journey".

The Rome Declaration is part of a process of thematic reflection – social dimension, globalisation, economic and monetary union – on the future of the EU with 27 member states, which is expected to come to an end at the European elections in 2019.

The Rome Declaration can be consulted at: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/03/25-rome-declaration/>

20386/Press release – 2017.03.25

UNITED KINGDOM: Article 50 Triggered on 29 March for Official BREXIT

The divorce proceedings have begun. At midday on Wednesday 29 March, the British ambassador to the EU, Tim Barrow, gave the president of the European Council, Donald Tusk, the letter in which the United Kingdom activates Article 50 of the EU Treaty to formally request withdrawal from the European Union.

The six-page letter¹ has been awaited since the results of the 23 June 2016 referendum on the UK's membership of the EU. It was signed on the evening of the preceding day by the British prime minister, Theresa May.

Addressing British MPs, May said it was a historic event and there would be "*no turning back*". She said better days were to come and she wanted to build a strong and deep partnership with the 27 other member states.

In the letter, she highlighted her desire to negotiate the divorce from the EU at the same time as a future trading and economic relationship with the EU27 in the form of a free-trade deal. This request has already been rejected by the European Parliament, which wants the various stages to be respected – firstly a divorce, then negotiating a new relationship. The German chancellor, Angela Merkel, took this view saying that the terms of the divorce had to be settled before entering talks on future relations with London.

(*) available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/604079/Prime_Ministers_letter_to_European_Council_President_Donald_Tusk.pdf

In the Article 50 activation letter, May said it was in the UK's and EU's best interests to use the process to come to achieve these objectives fairly and in an orderly manner, with as little disruption as possible to either side. She said the UK wanted to ensure Europe remains strong and prosperous and is able to project its values, lead the world and defend itself against threats to security. She said she wanted the UK, via a new special and profound partnership with a strong European Union, to play a full role in the achievement of these objectives.

May was very clear about what London expects from the negotiations, namely achieving a special and profound partnership between the UK and the EU, taking account of economic cooperation and cooperation on security issues. She said they will need to discuss how to determine fair regulation for the UK's rights and duties as an exiting member state, in line with the law and in the spirit of continued UK-EU partnership.

¹ available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/604079/Prime_Ministers_letter_to_European_Council_President_Donald_Tusk.pdf

May said the EU and UK should work together to minimise disruptions and provide the greatest possible certainty. Investment, companies and citizens in the UK and the other 27 member states, and those of other countries around the world, want to be able to plan. Transition periods will be necessary in order to avoid confusion during the process of assessing the current and future partnerships.

People and companies in the UK and the EU, May said, would benefit from periods of implementation to adjust harmoniously to the new arrangements, and it would help the two sides to minimise unnecessary disruptions if the two sides agreed to this principle from the outset of the process. She said it would also be necessary to agree relatively quickly on the unique relationship between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

In Strasbourg on Wednesday 5 April, the **European Parliament** will adopt a highly political resolution laying out its principles and orientations in the framework of the negotiations on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, a two-year process which the British government has officially triggered on 29 March by formally notifying Article 50 for the country to leave the EU. The UK will now enter into a two-year negotiation period, after which it will cease to be a member of the bloc, regardless of whether a new trade deal is struck.

The resolution did not prove difficult to negotiate and was relatively consensual between the presidents of the principal pro-European political groups, said the co-chair of the Greens/EFA Group, Belgium's Philippe Lamberts.

The aim is for no amendments to be tabled by the principal pro-European groups, to allow the largest possible majority to be reached and to send out a strong signal to the negotiators, on both the British side and that of the EU27, with the latter party to agree on the guidelines to steer its negotiating position on Saturday 29 April.

20387/Press release – 2017.03.30

Inflation Rate

Latest Eurostat figures show that the annual inflation rate was **2.0% in February 2017 in the Euro area**, up from 1.8% in January. **The EU28** annual inflation was **1.9% in February**, up from 1.7% in January.

The largest upward impacts to euro area annual inflation came from fuels and transport (+ 0.6%), vegetables (+ 0.25%) and heating oil (+ 0.16%), while telecommunications (- 0.10%), garments (-0.07%), and gas (- 0.06%) had the biggest downward impacts.

Ireland	0.3%	U K	1.8%
Romania	0.5%	Poland	1.9%
Bulgaria	0.9%	Sweden	1.9%
Denmark	0.9%	Germany	2.2%
Malta	1.2%	Austria	2.4%
Slovakia	1.3%	Slovenia	2.5%
Greece	1.4%	Czech Republic	2.6%
France	1.4%	Luxembourg	2.7%
Croatia	1.4%	Hungary	2.9%
Cyprus	1.4%	Spain	3.0%
Finland	1.4%	Latvia	3.2%
Italy	1.6%	Lithuania	3.2%
Portugal	1.6%	Belgium	3.3%
Netherlands	1.7%	Estonia	3.4%

Elsewhere

USA	2.7%	Russia	4.6%
Canada	2.1%	Brazil	4.8%
Japan	0.4%	Australia	1.5%
Switzerland	0.6%	India	3.7%
Turkey	10.13%	China	0.8%

20388/Eurostat News Release – 2017.03.16

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GLASS NEWS

A. **FLAT GLASS**

Glass Companies

AGC

1. AGC Automotive Induver Morocco lays foundation stone for its automotive glass plant in Kenitra (Morocco)

The foundation stone for the new automotive glass production plant being built for AGC Automotive Induver Morocco was laid on 15 March in the presence of the Moroccan minister of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Moulay Hafid Elalamy, together with many other personalities from the worlds of politics, industry and the media.



From left to right : Gauthier Delmarre (Plant Manager AGC Automotive Induver Morocco), Hakim Abdelmoumen (General Manager Induver), Mohammed Boussaid (Minister of Finance, Morocco), Fouad M'Hamdi (Governor of Kenitra province) and Moulay Hafid Elalamy (Minister of Industry and Commerce, Morocco)

Joint venture between AGC Automotive Europe and Induver

The project for the new plant being built at Kenitra in the northern coastal region of the country is the result of a joint venture between AGC Automotive Europe and the Moroccan glass producer Induver (*). This initiative marks the AGC Group's first operations in Africa. AGC Automotive Induver Morocco will produce toughened glass for backlites and sidelites together with laminated glass for windscreens. The plant will have sufficient capacity to supply around 1,100,000 car sets per year and should be operational in 2019, employing around 600 people.

Plant promises local development

The new plant is ideally situated to meet the demand for automotive glass in North Africa and the South of Europe. It will also benefit from a free trade zone set up to attract companies operating in the automotive industry and so to develop a major industrial concentration in this sector. "Once the AGC culture of automotive excellence has been properly established here, our ambition is to see this plant managed 100% by a local team, in line with our policy in this area," declared Jean-Marc Meunier, General Manager of AGC Automotive Europe. Hakim Abdelmoumen, General Manager of Induver, for his part welcomed the prospect of producing the complete carset (windshields, backlites and sidelites) in large series for the first time in Morocco. "This wider offer will further raise the local content of vehicles built in Morocco and boost the added value created locally."

(*) **Induver** Founded in 1947, Induver is a family-owned company located in Casablanca, a leader in glass processing in Morocco. Induver is moreover specialized in production of automotive glazing for the aftermarket, of windows for para-automotive markets (cabs for tractors and earth movers, vehicles without licence, ...) and window glazing for architectural markets (www.induver.net).

20389/Press Release – 2017.03.16

2. AGC launches global sales of SURECO™, a High-Performance Fluorinated Coating

On March 8, 2017, AGC has launched global sales of a fluorinated coating product that has excellent anti-abrasive properties together with advantages of fluorine. Going forward, the company will explore needs around the world and add more products to the SURECO line-up to provide a wide range of functionality that will include moisture proofing, waterproofing, and rust prevention.



Antifouling coating example usage

Antifouling and mould-release coating agents resist adhesion of water, oil and other elements and they are widely used in materials such as glass, metal, and resin. However, conventional coatings have low abrasion resistance, which causes them to wear-off quickly from friction as they are used. This makes it necessary to apply overly thick coatings or reapply frequently to keep the desired effects. Further, some coating agents have no oil repellence, a drawback that makes them prone to build-up of sebum and other oils. AGC's new offering, SURECO, is an antifouling and mould-release coating agent that combines high abrasion resistance with the outstanding performance of fluorine.

Despite its thin coating, it provides superior abrasion resistance with almost no loss in performance. Fingerprints also wipe off with ease, making it an ideal product for coating

products like touch panel glass, lenses and mirrors. Including for metals and resins, SURECO imbues coated objects with abrasion resistance, antifouling properties, water and oil repellence, and even superior mould releasability. Taking advantage of these attributes, AGC plans to pioneer a wide variety of new applications that go beyond glass and lenses to introduce on a global scale.

20390/Press Release – 2017.03.14

3. AGC earns Cradle to Cradle Certified Bronze for insulating glass products

AGC Glass Europe continues to demonstrate its commitment to constantly improving the environmental performance of its products.



As the world's first and only glassmaker to have successfully obtained Cradle to Cradle Certified Bronze for its insulating glass products Thermobel and iplus/ipsaol, AGC now offers the broadest portfolio of certified products at Silver and Bronze level.

The Thermobel and iplus/ipsaol ranges clearly showcase AGC's expertise in producing insulating glass products. Today, such products are increasingly specified and used in homes and commercial buildings. Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Bronze certification for these two ranges is a logical extension of AGC's sustainable, environmental vision.

The “Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Products Program” evaluates a product's sustainability across its entire lifecycle. To obtain certification, the product must meet stringent criteria in five categories pertaining to health and environmental protection. The total score obtained for AGC's Thermobel and iplus/ipsaol ranges was Bronze, but reached Silver in two categories, Material Reutilisation and Water Stewardship, and Gold in Social Responsibility. By opting for Thermobel or iplus/ipsaol Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Bronze glazings, architects and specifiers can guarantee the sustainability of their projects and earn higher ratings in environmental certification programmes for buildings, such as LEED.

Cradle to Cradle Certified™ certification for an insulating glass product involves many more stakeholders than other glass products because it is not just the glass that is certified, but all

the components that go into its assembly into double or triple glazing, such as interlayers, adhesives, etc. AGC is the first glassmaker to have undergone this process, which includes dozens of suppliers and 40 AGC plants active in the manufacturing process. Each supplier was asked to detail the chemical composition of the materials used in Thermobel and iplus/ipasol insulating glass products, thus guaranteeing the sustainability of the finished product as required under the certification process of the "Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Product Program."

20391/Press Release – 2017.03.16

NSG



1. The NSG Group has announced it will restart a float glass furnace in Europe in FY2018.

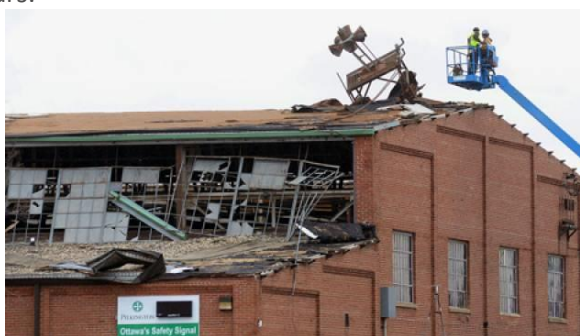
The Group plans to restart a suspended architectural glass float line at the site of its wholly-owned subsidiary in Venice, Italy ("Venice Line"), in the third quarter of FY2018.

With process modifications associated with the restart, the Venice Line will become capable of producing VA (value-added) products. By restarting the Venice Line, the NSG Group intends to ensure the stable supply of architectural glass in response to a robust market demand in Europe, in view of the planned cold repairs of the Group's operating float glass lines in Europe in the coming years, as well as to drive the Group's shift to a higher VA sales ratio.

20392/Press Release – 2017.03.16

2. PILKINGTON GLASS reports that its factory in Ottawa, Illinois USA sustained damage due to a tornado.

According to a My Web Times report, the tornado damaged the walls and roof of the factory as well as workers' cars.



The PILKINGTON GLASS plant manager, Chris Miller, stated, "It is very difficult to assess the damage at this point. We're making sure it's isolated." A new glass-manufacturing building in construction behind the factory held up well according to Miller.

20393/Press Release – 2017.03.14



Saint-Gobain Worldwide

For the second year in a row, Saint-Gobain has been certified Top Employer Global. It is one of 10 companies worldwide to have received this certification label. Saint-Gobain stood out, in particular, for the attention it pays to talent management and skills development. This year, 28 countries in which Saint-Gobain operates were labeled, seven more than in 2016. As in 2016, the Group was once again certified “Top Employer Europe”, “Top Employer North America” and “Top Employer Asia-Pacific”.



The Top Employers Institute, an independent organization based in the Netherlands, awards the Top Employer Global label to companies that it has certified in at least 20 countries and on several continents. Six hundred working condition practices and indicators have been audited for each of the 28 countries certified, namely: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom and United States.

“The Top Employer Global certification is great recognition of our human resources policy. It stimulates and unites all our managers who value the importance of continuing to develop the Saint-Gobain employer brand,” said Claire Pedini, Senior Vice President in charge of Human Resources, Saint-Gobain.

20394/Press Release – 2017.03.04

Guardian



1. Guardian Glass is spending **\$1.5 million for detailed engineering designs and site reviews for a potential second float glass facility in Poland**. This reflects company's confidence in the region and increasing demand for its glass products.

Guardian Glass currently operates a float glass plant in Czeszochowa (Poland) and is considering adding capacity with a second plant to meet its customers' growing demand for coated and fabricated glass products in both the commercial and residential sectors. This initial spend on the engineering design work is intended to accelerate the completion of a new plant that could become commercially available during the first quarter of 2019. The exact location is still under consideration.

A new facility would be expected to produce 1000 metric tons of float glass per day and include a technologically advanced magnetron sputter coating machine to produce high-performance, energy-efficient glass for customers in Poland and neighbouring countries.

Guardian Glass President and CEO Kevin Baird says that a potential investment in a second float glass facility in Poland is further demonstration of Guardian's confidence in both the region and the future of the glass industry: “The potential for a second plant in Poland would fit with our global strategy and our marketing considerations. We are confident we will find new opportunities and expanded channels for our glass products in Europe.”

“The increase in glass demand is driven by the general trend across Europe to increase natural light in residential and commercial buildings, as well as the conversion of more and more residential windows from double to triple glazing,” adds Guus Boekhoudt, Vice President of Guardian Glass in Europe. “With Poland being commonly recognized as the hub of European residential window manufacture, it would be a logical option for a new float glass facility.”

In addition to the Czystochowa plant, Guardian Glass also maintains facilities in Oroshaza, Hungary; Thalheim, Germany; and Ryazan and Rostov, Russia, among its 10 European locations.

20395/Press Release – 2017.03.13

2. Guardian Glass is to add a laminated glass production line at its plant in Oroshaza, Hungary

The new line will meet rising demand for laminated glass products. The line will also produce specialty products such as acoustic, thick and coloured laminated glass.

The rising demand for laminated glass is being driven by three long-term trends:

- Country-level regulations in Europe require the use of safety glass in an increasing number of fenestration and interior applications, for which laminated glass is the most effective solution.
- The desire for building to have more natural light is driving the trend towards larger, energy-efficient windows, which requires the use of laminated glass for higher mechanical resistance and security.
- A general rise in demand for noise reduction for both residential and commercial buildings has increased the use of acoustic laminated glass.

“The Oroshaza plant already has a coated glass production line and so the opening of a laminated glass line will also enable us to offer an optimal product mix to our customers, for residential and commercial segments, including low emissivity, solar control and other specialty laminated coated glass products such as anti-reflective Guardian Clarity™,” said Guus Boekhoudt, Vice President Guardian Glass Europe, and Managing Director Guardian Europe.



The new line is also a logical continuation of a change initiated at the plant by Guardian Glass in 2016, which saw a switch from standard float glass production to Guardian’s higher light transmission alternative, Guardian ExtraClear®, to meet the increased need for more natural daylight in buildings. Laminated glass production is expected to begin in Q1, 2018.

As a result of these changes and in response to continuing market trends and further advances in mirror technology, Guardian Glass has decided to discontinue production of mirror glass at Oroshaza. The mirror line will cease production at the end of March 2017. However, Guardian Glass will keep serving customers in Europe with its UltraMirror™ lead- and copper-free mirror glass produced at its Dudelange plant in Luxembourg.

20396/Press Release – 2017.03.15

3. Guardian Glass Porto Real, Brazil plant will increase capacity following repair project.

Guardian Glass will begin a major capital project to repair the float glass furnace and expand glass production at its Porto Real, Brazil float glass plant. The project will increase the plant's production capacity and enhance products and services to support its customers.

"This investment reinforces our commitment to create value for our customers and the communities we serve," says Rick Zoulek, vice president, Americas, Guardian Glass. "The project will expand Guardian's ability to service customers in Brazil and neighbouring countries with high quality glass." "Guardian first came to Brazil in 1994 when it opened a warehouse in Guarulhos, and we have continued to grow ever since," adds Ricardo Knecht, general manager, Guardian Glass South America. "This project demonstrates our confidence in Brazil, and it is aligned with our long-term growth strategy. Increasing production capacity will give Guardian Glass a strong competitive advantage in the region."

The Porto Real plant started operations in 1998 and in 2010 added an advanced magnetron sputter coater, allowing production of high performance Guardian Residence and Guardian SunGuard® low-E glass products for commercial and residential applications. The plant services window customers and commercial fabricators throughout Brazil.

Guardian Glass also operates a float glass plant in Tatuí, Brazil.

20397/Press Release – 2017.03.30

Vitro



Vitro, leading North American glass producer headquartered in Monterrey, Mexico, acquired Pittsburgh Glass Works' (PGW) automotive original equipment manufacturer (OEM) glass business from LKQ Corporation.

The acquisition completes the agreement announced last December for US\$310 million, free of cash and debt. The final acquisition price is subject to potential post-closing purchase price adjustments, which are typical for these types of transactions.

Headquartered in Pittsburgh, PGW operates seven manufacturing plants, two satellite facilities and two float glass furnaces in the U.S. It also has one manufacturing plant in Poland and owns an equity participation in two joint ventures, one each in Mexico and China.

The acquisition, combined with the purchase of PPG's former flat glass business completed last October, expands Vitro's float glass manufacturing and fabrication facilities. The transaction solidifies the company's position as the leading glass manufacturer in North America.

Adrian Sada Cueva, Chief Executive Officer of Vitro, said the addition of PGW's original equipment business will enable the company to serve a greater number of customers in the automotive glass business and increase its global coverage.

"The experience and state-of-the-art technology PGW brings to our business will enhance our technical, research and development capabilities," he explained. "It will further strengthen our company and create a business staffed by talented employees and strategically positioned for growth."

Joe Stas, Chief Executive Officer of PGW, said the transaction represents the beginning of an exciting new era for PGW associates and stakeholders.

"Vitro has a sterling reputation throughout the industry as a highly competent and capable glass manufacturer, based on more than a century of glass-making experience across the automotive, architectural and glass container industries.

By harnessing the strength of a newly expanded workforce and their technical capabilities, Vitro is committed to creating a next-generation auto glass company focused on innovation and world-class customer service."

The combined automotive glass business will unite its research and development capabilities with those of Vitro Architectural Glass, PPG's former flat glass business unit. The combined staff of engineers and scientists will work primarily at the Vitro Glass Technology Centre in Harmar Township, Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh.

20398/Press Release – 2017.03.02

LandGlass



LandGlass provides state-of-the-art technology for side window glass manufacturers.

Among the major manufacturers of safety glass for the high-speed railway industry are Jiangsu Tiemao Glass Co., Ltd., Qingdao Jinjing Co.,Ltd., Shanghai Yaohua Pilkington Glass Group Co. Ltd., and Jilin Liyuan Precision Manufacturing Co., accounting for 90% of the market share in this specialized glass application field.

The high-performance of high-speed railway glass is backed up by state-of-the-art technology. When you walk into the factories of these enterprises, you will find that every one of them is equipped with the glass tempering furnaces made by LandGlass.



LandGlass glass tempering furnace adopts a leading JetConvection heating approach, injecting high temperature heated air streams vertically to both upper and lower surface through convection blowers, a convection heating chamber, and an air circulating convection system. There, pieces of glass sheets are quickly and evenly heated to 600 to 700 degrees Celsius. One step in ensuring the high quality of the tempered glass is that any spot on both sides of the glass must receive even heating during this process. The glass then undergoes a cooling procedure called quenching. The equipment powered by LandGlass' unique cooling system and tempering technology will intelligently adjust the air pressure and duration of the blowing based on the needs of the glass for a desired effect. Eventually, an ordinary piece of glass has now become the tempered glass with least waviness, high degree of flatness, excellent optical properties, even stress, and strength many times better than its original version. It also means that a piece of regular glass has now been upgraded to safety glass that also looks impressive, is free of distortion, and boasts high impact resistance. After being tempered, the glass has to further undergo other corresponding procedures such as laminating and insulation before it can be used as high speed rail side window glass that we see today.

Comfortable, fast, clean, and bright. Today high-speed rail has become the number one choice for many travellers.

Currently, the high-speed trains in China run at a speed of 200 to 300 kmh. People who have the experience of looking out the train window often question why the scenery outside is still able to remain clear without causing dizziness at such a high speed and how the windscreen can safeguard passengers in an event of bird collision. They may also wonder what type of glass a high-tech train uses and how the glass is manufactured.

Generally, one may see distorted images when looking through glass due to optical distortion which affects all glass to some extent. Moreover, for an object moving at a high speed, the stacking velocity may lead to dizziness. To prevent this, the side window glass used by the Chinese high-speed rail system has minimized the permissible error in terms of thickness and flatness of the glass by homogenizing glass materials. When the uniformity of the refractive index is warranted, the image we see will be the same as it is. The glassless visual effect effectively eliminates the dizziness.

In addition to the visual effect, one important feature of the high-speed rail side window glass is its safety. The air pressure wave created by high speed trains moving in opposite directions will cause tremendous impact against the side window, a force large enough to possibly break the glass and result in safety concern to both passengers and the train operation. Therefore, the side window must have sufficient mechanical strength and resistance against such impact. In the event where the window does break under force, it is required that glass shatters into honeycomb shaped tiny granular chunks with no sharp edges. The outer layer should peel off free of debris while the inner layer remains intact, providing better protection to passengers against injuries for a safe trip.

20399/Press Release – 2017.03.30

Miscellaneous

GLASS-WRAP Launches "Ready-to-Use" and "Pay-per-Use"

GLASS-WRAP, together with its partners in Europe and the USA, announces the pre-launch of its Ready-to-Use and Pay-per-Use services to the flat glass industry.



'Ready-to-Use' when ordered, the GLASS-WRAP packaging is pre-fabricated to the exact dimensions required and delivered within 72 hours. The customized packaging, barcoded when required, ensures quick and simple packaging of the glass. Likewise, after delivery by GLASS-WRAP to the final customer, all is packed back into the carton for pre-paid pickup and return by GLASS-WRAP.

Ready-to-Use covers some 70% of the industries required glass sizes, with larger dimensions available upon request. GLASS-WRAP now offers a 4 in 1 solution for virtually all types and dimensions of flat glass.

The Ready-to-Use service is the result of two years of intense testing and trialing of the company's packaging as well as intimate interaction and information exchange with a number of medium and large companies in the flat glass industry. FEURER Febra GmbH from Brackenheim Germany, GLASS-WRAP's first exclusive partner, signed off on development of this GLASS-WRAP packaging version, which fulfills all logistical requirements.

Pay-per-Use in combination with GLASS-WRAP's proprietary packaging Ready-to-Use offers a fully integrated logistical service. Customers no longer pay for packaging but only get charged for one-time use. If selected, the customer will find that besides the convenient packaging, GLASS-WRAP or its exclusive partner will arrange delivery to the customer, transport and delivery to the end-user and pickup and return of the packaging from the end user to the nearest GLASS-WRAP distribution hub.

In addition GLASS-WRAP, together with its logistical partners, insures the product against damages. The company claims that the total cost savings compared to packaging, transport, insurance and packaging disposal cost considered normal by the industry today, have been proven to be as high as 60% or more.

GLASS-WRAP packaging is 100% recyclable and grants access to general cargo forwarders or even courier services, normally not available to the flat-glass industry. The minimized dimensions of the packaging and greatly reduced risk of damages in combination with a much higher loading grade, ensure that both packaging and transport are now available in the most environmentally friendly manner.

The Ready-to-Use and Pay-per-Use services are currently available in Germany, and will be extended into the other EU countries once sufficient demand and the required infrastructure are in place. In the USA the service will become available on a limited basis at the end of the first quarter 2017 and will be expanded in line with demand and the required infrastructure there. Other countries planned for this year are Japan and the United Kingdom.

20400/Press Release – 2017.03.14

Looking to the Future with AGC Asahi Glass

Japan Division General Manager at AGC Asahi Glass Group, Daikichi Arai, spoke to *Glass Worldwide* about the organisation's expectations for the future.

20401/Glass Worldwide – Issue 70 – 2017/04

Markets & Trends

Bulletproof Security Glass Market: US\$ 3972.5 Million by 2021

According to a new market report published by Persistence Market Research “Global Market Study on Bulletproof Security Glass Market – Middle East & Africa to Witness Highest Growth by 2021”, the global bulletproof security glass market was valued at USD 2,395.7million in 2015 and is expected to expand at a CAGR of 8.8% from 2015 to 2021, to reach USD 3972.5 million by 2021.

Bulletproof glass, also known as bullet-resistant glass, transparent armour and ballistic glass, is made up of transparent materials that can resist any damage from small projectiles and bullets. It is usually made with an arrangement of two or more types of glass, one hard and one soft.

The glass product is produced using ballistic materials such as polycarbonate, acrylic, glass-clad polycarbonate, and thermoplastic that can withstand any damage from small projectiles and bullets.



Conversely, proposed changes and regulative guidelines by green councils and energy cost involved in manufacturing processes for bulletproof security glass are perceived as minor growth restraints. In addition, rising cost of raw materials such as polycarbonate could pose a challenge to market growth in the near future.

Amongst various security systems, the bulletproof glass is a majorly demanded system in the recent time due to the increasing security concerns following the increasing terror attacks and crime rates. In order to fulfil the increasing security needs the market is expected to witness a significant increase in the next five to six years.

Growth of the bulletproof security glass market has been increasingly driven by growing automotive industry globally. Growing automotive industry coupled with increasing demand for value-added automobile products from tech-savvy consumers is expected to further boost the demand for bulletproof security glass in the automotive industry segment.

North America is expected to represent the largest market in 2015, accounting for 26.66% of the total market share. However, The Middle East & Africa is expected to record the highest growth during the forecast period due to increasing infrastructural development in the Middle East.

Asahi Glass co. Ltd, China Glass Holdings Limited, Nippon Sheet Glass, Saint-Gobain S.A., China Glass Specialty AG, PPG Industries Inc., Taiwan Glass Ind. Corp., Apogee Enterprises Corp., Sisecam, Guardian Industries are some of the leading players in the bulletproof security glass market. Other major players of the market include Qufu Shenglu Bulletproof Glass Engineering, Guangzhou Sky Tiger Tempered Glass, Nanjing Xinfurui Glass Industry, Jiangsu Yongxiang Glass etc.

www.persistencemarketresearch.com/samples/3701

20402/Press Release – 2017.02.28

Global Low-e Glass Market 2017

The Global LOW-E Glass Market 2017 report presents key insights into the market along with the latest up-to-date industry details and forthcoming industry trends, with a focus on product specification and end users driving the overall market revenue and profitability.

The main motive of the report on “Global LOW-E Glass Market 2017” is to study comprehensive details of the market investors, key industry players, which will enable them to make vital decisions in regards to growth opportunities and future investment scope.

This report highlights the prominent industry competitors and provides the deep analysis of the major factors influencing the market. The report also covers the forecasts market study related to industry trends, market volume, market share estimates and company profiles of top industry players, including: Saint-Gobain, NSG, PPG, AGC, Guardian Industries, Schott, Cardinal Glass, Padihamglass, CSG Holding, Xinyi Glass, Yaohua Pilkington Glass, Taiwan Glass, Blue Star Glass, Sanxin Glass, Qingdao Jinjing, Kibing Group, Huadong Coating Glass, Zhongli Holding.

This Report examines the global LOW-E Glass market concerning product type, application service, client and geography. The global LOW-E Glass market covers major continents.

Finally, the research study provides a comprehensive view of the global LOW-E Glass market, offering market size and estimates for the period from 2016 to 2021, keeping in mind the above mentioned factors.

<https://market.biz/report/2017-top-5-low-e-glass-market-lpi/42303/#requestforsample>

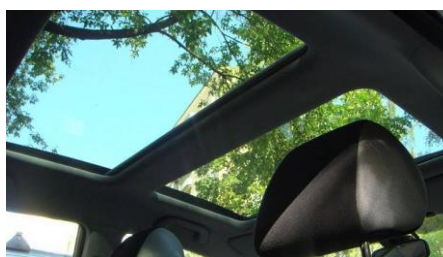
20403/Press Release – 2017.03.07

Automotive Sunroofs Market and Fibre Sunroof: Forecast to 2024

The automotive sunroofs market is anticipated to grow at a significant pace over the forecast period of 2016-2024, according to a new report by Reportlinker.

An automotive sunroof can be defined as a fixed or operable opening in the vehicle roof that permits the entry of light and air into the vehicle. The sunroofs are available in various shapes and styles and they are either motor driven or manually operated. The Nash Company was the first company to offer sunroofs in vehicles as a standard option. They were first introduced in wagons, SUVs, and Sedans.

Sunroofs are also sometimes marketed as moonroofs which are characterized by a tinted glass. Majority of the moonroof systems are electrically operated and either have combination pop-up/spoiler configuration or a pop-up/in-built configuration. A wide variety of sunroofs and moonroofs have become common in both after-market and factory-installed offerings, thereby creating a diverse range of choices and features.



In recent years, various automobile manufacturers have been offering either built-in or optional sunroof systems to mid or premium segment cars. Automobile sunroof market is becoming highly competitive with major technological innovations and breakthroughs in the leakage problems that turns out to be one of the major issues in sunroof openings. With the growing demand for comfort and safety systems in vehicles, the demand for sunroofs in automotive vehicles has increased significantly. Sunroofs provide better air circulation within vehicles and also offer superior brightness and illumination during daytime, which in turn increases the comfort level of the passengers. OEMs have also started offering built-in or optional sunroof systems to mid segment cars in addition to luxury or premium vehicles. For instance, Hyundai has extensively introduced the optional sunroof systems in their hatchback version of i10. Due to rapid economic improvement, growth in GDP, reduced inflation rate and downward trend in fuel prices, there is huge demand for premium vehicles globally. Growth in production of these vehicles in developing countries of Asia Pacific is mainly characterized by increasing domestic consumption, rise in disposable income, low ownership rates and presence of cheap labour in India and China among others. Moreover, recovery of macro-economic conditions in developed countries of North America and Europe post economic recession in 2010 is another factor responsible for the growth of the premium car segment. These factors are largely responsible for the expansion of the sunroof market as the growth of the sunroof systems is directly related to the advancement of the passenger vehicle segment.

High maintenance cost, incidences of crushing and shattering of sunroofs are some of the major restraining factors of this market. Moreover, the sunroof systems have holes and drains that can cause water clogging and leakage into the vehicle. This requires frequent maintenance and thus adds up to the maintenance cost.

Global Automotive Sunroofs Market: Scope of the Study

The global automotive sunroofs market has been segmented based on material type, glass sunroof and fibre sunroof. The glass sunroof type market has been further segmented into in-built, tilt and slide, panoramic, top-mount, pop-up, and solar glass sunroofs. The fibre sunroof type market has also been further segmented into foldable and removable fibre sunroofs. Glass is the most popular material employed for manufacturing sunroofs. Glass sunroofs offer better transparency, and an open and spacious atmosphere, resulting in high consumer interests in them and higher demand in the glass sunroof market. Pop-up, tilt and

slide, built-in, top-mount, removable and panoramic are the most commonly used sunroofs in automobiles. Pop-up sunroofs are one of the oldest sunroofs systems in use. They have a very basic construction with a vent in the rear and a removable glass panel. These sunroofs are manually operated.

This report highlights the current market synopsis of the automotive sunroofs market along with future anticipated market growth during the period from 2016 to 2024.

In addition, various political, economic, social and technological factors that are anticipated to affect the current and future demand of the market is also provided in this report.

Information related to key players operating in the market along with their market share and key strategies adopted to maintain their leading position is also provided in this report. The report also contains the present market size of automotive sunroof market in terms of revenue (USD Million) along with predictive forecast from 2016 to 2024.

The geographical segmentation includes the North America, Europe, Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa (MEA), and Latin America region. Europe holds the largest market share followed by Asia Pacific and North America. Asia Pacific is anticipated to grow with the fastest growth rate.

Some of the major players operating in the automotive sunroofs market include: Aisin Seiki Co. Ltd. (Japan), Inalfa Roof Systems Group B.V. (Netherlands), Inteva Products, LLC. (Troy), Valmet Automotive (Finland), Johnan America, Inc. (U.S.), and Mitsuba Corporation (Japan), among others.

20404/Press Release – 2017.03.02

B. CONTAINER GLASS

Glass Companies

Ardagh Group

Ardagh Group S.A. announced the pricing of its initial public offering of 16,200,000 Class A common shares at a price of US\$19.00 per share, for a total offering size of US\$307,800,000. In addition, Ardagh has granted the underwriters a 30-day option to purchase up to an additional 2,430,000 Class A common shares at the initial public offering price less the underwriting discount.

The shares trade on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "ARD". Citigroup, Deutsche Bank Securities, Goldman Sachs & Co, Barclays, Credit Suisse and J.P. Morgan are acting as joint book-running managers for the offering. Davy and Wells Fargo Securities are acting as co-managers for the offering.

20405/Press Release – 2017.03.23

Verallia



Verallia acquires decoration company **Saga Décor** (Société Charentaise de Décor, specialised in glass satin-finishing) via a Verallia group company with expertise in decorating glass food containers.

This acquisition allows Verallia to consolidate its decoration range to match market trends, while strengthening its presence in Charente, in the south-west of France.

Founded in 1973 and located in Gensac-la-Pallue (Charente), Société Charentaise de Décor decorates around 30 million bottles a year and has 28 employees. In 2015, its turnover was over €6m.

Verallia and Société Charentaise de Décor have a common customer base of major spirits brands, which represents the most dynamic market for glass bottle decoration.

With this acquisition, Saga Décor reinforces its industrial capabilities and affirms its know-how in satin-finishing. This announcement illustrates Saga Décor's willingness to invest in meeting new customer requirements, primarily demanding range variety and flexibility in decoration techniques. In this vein, in late 2016 Saga Décor started up a lacquering line on full bottles with drying by UV lamps and a hot-stamping machine at its Pont-Sainte-Maxence facility (Oise).

20406/Press Release – 2017.03.13

Everglass



Everglass, a subsidiary of the Verallia group and a leading recycler of glass containers, has invested more than Euro 7 million in modernizing its Rozet-Saint-Albin site. Emmanuel Auberger, CEO of Verallia France and chairman of Everglass, has inaugurated the new installations at the site of Rozet-Saint-Albin, specialized in the treatment of domestic glass. With this investment of more than Euro 7 million, the site is now equipped with state-of-the-art technologies to better sort collected glass, thus enabling greater cullet recycling in glassmaking furnaces.



Rozet-Saint-Albin site

The Euro 7 million invested has enabled the existing flint glass sorting machine to be equipped with laser technology, ensuring a higher recovery of optically-separated waste. An additional optical sorting unit has also been installed to optimize the sorting of infusible solids (porcelain, ceramics, etc.) and separate flint from coloured glass. In addition, the installation of an exchanger now makes it possible to recover the calories consumed by the waste compressors to preheat the dryer, the most energy-intensive stage in the process.

A subsidiary of the manufacturing group Verallia, Everglass treats over 20% of domestic glass collected in France at its two sites in Rozet-Saint-Albin (Aisne) and Châteaubernard (Charente). Modernizing installations at the Rozet-Saint-Albin site will optimize the quality of cullet produced – used especially in the production of glass containers – and in doing so reduce the glass sector's carbon footprint. Indeed, Everglass proposes to its glass manufacturing customers a cullet of quality that replaces natural raw materials and releases fewer greenhouse gas emissions during combustion in the furnace.

The Rozet-Saint-Albin site annually produces around 230 kgT of cullet and has 30 employees. "Through this investment, we are pursuing our mission as an engaged actor at the heart of the circular economy and confirming our efforts to improve our employees' safety and working conditions" stated Emmanuel Auberger, CEO of Verallia France and chairman of Everglass.

Everglass's Rozet-Saint-Albin site supplies cullet to Verallia's plants in Vauxrot (near Soissons in the Aisne department, 30km away) and Oiry (in the Marne, 80km from Rozet-Saint-Albin).

20407/Press Release – 2017.03.30

Vetropack Group



Vetropack Group generated net sales from goods and services of CHF 601.7 million in the 2016 fiscal year, 8% more than in 2015. Unit sales rose by 4.9% to 4.87 billion units of glass packaging.

These increases are attributable to the Group's newest subsidiary Vetropack Italia S.r.l., which was consolidated for a full year for the first time in 2016.

On the whole, the domestic markets, which now include Italy, accounted for 56.5% of unit sales, with the export markets making up 43.5%.

Consolidated EBIT came to CHF 49.3 million (2015: CHF 50.3 million). This slight fall was due to scheduled furnace repairs in Switzerland, Austria and Ukraine. The EBIT margin stood at 8.2%. The consolidated profit increased slightly to CHF 42.6 million (2015: CHF 42.1 million), while cash flow remained largely stable at CHF 105.1 million (2015: CHF 103.7 million). The cash flow margin amounted to 17.5% (2015: 18.6%). Net liquidity was CHF 16.9 million (2015: CHF 11.2 million).

Vetropack Group invested a total of CHF 95.8 million (2015: CHF 65.0 million) in 2016. This was focused on modernising the furnaces and production facilities in Austria and Ukraine, repairing the roof of the furnace in Switzerland, expanding the cullet processing plant in the Czech Republic and the new Group-wide training centre for production "specialists" at the Pöchlarn site in Austria.

At the end of the reporting year, Vetropack Group employed 3,243 members of staff. Moderate economic growth is on the horizon in the countries where Vetropack Group operates. In Ukraine, some indicators are suggesting that the long-awaited stabilisation of the economy is not far off. Whether this positive trend leads to an increase in demand as early as 2017 remains to be seen. One thing is however certain: prices will continue to be squeezed.

20408/Press Release – 2017.03.23

BA Vidro's Buyout Bid for Drujba Glassworks Suspended



1. The Bulgarian financial regulator has **temporarily suspended the buyout offer** by Bareck Overseas, a wholly owned subsidiary of Portugal's BA Vidro, for the remaining shares of Drujba Glassworks.

The Commission for Protection of Competition gave no further details in its notice of the suspension. In February, Drujba Glassworks stated that Bareck Overseas, based in Cyprus had launched a buyout bid for the stocks representing 0.76% of Drujba Glassworks' capital. It proposed paying 1.9 Euro per share. In October 2016, the Greece-based glassmaker Yioula agreed to sell its Bulgarian unit Drujba Glassworks to BA Vidro as part of a larger divestment plan that also includes the group's glass container business in Romania.

20409/Press Release – 2017.03.15

2. Bulgarian **Drujba Glassworks** announced recently that it has turned a **net profit of 16.1 million levs (\$8.7 million/8.2 million euro) in 2016**, from a net loss of 9.8 million levs in 2015. Sales revenues fell to 249.7 million levs in 2016, from 263.8 million levs a year earlier, Drujba Glassworks said in its annual financial report, filed with the Sofia bourse. Production costs dropped to 189.6 million levs, from 206.3 million levs in 2015. Other costs fell sharply to 7.1 million levs in 2016, compared to 24 million levs a year earlier. Drujba Glassworks has one plant in Sofia and one in Plovdiv.

20410/Press Release – 2017.03.02

Bormioli Luigi

BORMIOLI LUIGI
GLASSMAKER

PRESTIGE
PERFUMES

Successful start-up of new Fives all-electric furnace at Bormioli Luigi.

In 2015, Luigi Bormioli has contracted Fives for the enlargement of one of its existing electric-furnaces at its glass plant located in Parma, Italy.

The cosmetics glass segment is one of the most demanding in terms of glass quality requirement. Fives was in charge of the design, engineering and commissioning of the furnace.

This cold top all-electric furnace, Prium® E-melt CTVM, incorporates Fives latest design features that offer a specifically engineered furnace structure as well as a steelwork-integrated cooling system in order to improve glass melting/refining performances and reduce refractory wear rates.



This new design was developed following intensive mathematic modelling sessions performed in partnership with CelSian Glass & Solar BV, a leader in CFD (computational fluid dynamics) modelling for the glass industry. Fives successfully commissioned the all-electric furnace with a capacity of 80 tons per day in October 2016 making this furnace one of the deepest furnaces in the world (3.7m). The expected furnace lifetime will be 8 years. Furthermore, the cosmetics glass segment is one of the most demanding in terms of glass quality requirement.

20411/Press Release – 2017.03.03

Bormioli Rocco



Bormioli Rocco Pharma reestablishes its commitment to build on its position in the US Pharma market through intensive trade shows planning, including DCAT Week í17, PDA Annual Meeting, CPhI North America and Contract Pharma. Andrea Fulvi, Sales Director, briefly describes the underlying strategy. "This program supports a broader commercial strategy focused on the US market and aimed to strongly associate the company brand with the high quality of its borosilicate glass and its strong focus on business development. For the company the US represents a high value market with an expected steady growth in the demand for parenteral containers, mainly driven by biologics and biosimilar increased volumes. In addition, the regulatory environment is becoming more and more stringent, encouraging pharma companies to choose highly qualified packaging suppliers. In such a context, we believe that new interesting business opportunities will arise."

20412/Press Release – 2017.03.23

Zignago Vetro



Zignago Vetro approved its 2016 final budget that closed with a business deal of Euro 323 million, up 1.4%; Ebitda of approximately Euro 81 million, up 7.8%; and Ebit of Euro 47.4 million, up 12.8%. Net profit was Euro 31.2 million, up 7.4%. Net debt increased to 156.4 million from Euro 129 million at the end of 2015, compared to net assets of Euro 155.5 million (Euro 145.6 million in 2015).

These 2016 results put in evidence an increase in consolidated revenue and progress in operating margins. The positive trend in demand has persisted throughout 2016 in the Italian and European glass container markets for food and beverages. International perfume markets were also positive with differing developments in various geographical areas. In this context, the group closed 2016 with a 1.4% increase in profit of approximately Euro 323 million, sustained by the development of the domestic market, up 3.2% to Euro 192.4 million, while exports decreased 1.4% to Euro 126.1 million and margins increased to 25.1% (from 23.6% in 2015) with small offsets from costs of goods and services, which declined 2% to Euro 176 million.

The Group's balance sheet at the end of 2016 shows net debt up to Euro 156.4 million, compared to Euro 129 million at the end of 2015. Within the year, the group made technical investments of Euro 72 million, while the net cash flow generated by operations was over Euro 52 million.

Management states that demand within its various operating sectors in 2017 remains high.

20413/Press Release – 2017.03.28

Beatson Clark



1. An **Irish craft brewery** has chosen eye-catching beer bottles from Beatson Clark as the UK glass manufacturer continues to make inroads into overseas markets.

9 White Deer started brewing in County Cork in 2013. Its owners Gordon Lucey and Don O’Leary set up the brewery to try to introduce a greater range of quality beers to the Irish market.

The brewery now takes both a 500ml standard amber beer bottle from Beatson Clark for its own contract bottling line and an embossed standard beer bottle for its own range of beers. The contract was arranged through Dublin-based packaging specialists The Packaging Centre, who could see how Beatson Clark’s embossing options were a perfect fit for 9 White Deer.



9 White deer brews six different beers, from pale ales to a triple-hopped black IPA, and is about to launch a completely new range of gluten free beers – partly because Don himself has a gluten intolerance, including Stag Saor (saor is Irish for ‘free’), a German-style Kölsch, a pale ale, an Irish red ale, an India Pale Ale and a double chocolate stout.

“When we started out we were using another bottle manufacturer but we missed that close attention to clients’ needs that we’ve since found with Beatson Clark,” said Gordon.

“They’re very willing to talk about everything and they’re very helpful if you have any issues. Doing business with Beatson Clark is a fast and easy process, which is why we’re still with them.”

The customised version of the bottle has the brewery’s white stag logo embossed on the neck and the words ‘9 White Deer’ embossed around the shoulder.

Charlotte Taylor, Marketing Manager at Beatson Clark, commented: “Because the embossed bottle is a customised version of our standard 500ml BC beer bottle it fits on the brewery’s filling line with no need for change parts, saving both time and money.

“We can offer this service of customising standard bottles by adding embossing onto the finish moulds for production runs as low as 150,000 units. This reduces the cost of the moulds by more than half and gives the brewery a unique bottle design which really helps the brand to stand out on the shelf.”

Gordon is hoping the new bottles will help grow the 9 White Deer brand and introduce more variety into the Irish beer market. "It's very strange – craft beer in Ireland still accounts for less than 2% of the whole market," said Gordon. "People have got so used to having the same five taps in every bar in every town and every county. But things are changing: in 2012 there were 14 micro-breweries in Ireland and now there are nearly 70, so it's grown a lot. We're trying to undo some of the brainwashing that's been happening for the past 20 years!"

20414/Press Release – 2017.03.06

2. Beatson Clark has invested almost £3 million in the latest upgrade at its South Yorkshire glassworks.

The company has installed Bottero individual section (IS) machines on two of its manufacturing lines to improve production of glass bottles.

The IS machines form glass containers for well-known food brands such as English Provender and Mackays, as well as major UK retailers' own brand products like spice jars.

Individual gobs of molten glass are fed into the machines where they are formed into finished containers. The two machines operate 24/7 and produce on average 160 million white flint bottles and jars each year.



"These new eight-section double gob machines represent the latest generation in servo controlled equipment," said Graham Lax, Head of Project Management at Beatson Clark.

"This investment is part of our commitment to continuous improvement for the future and will ensure that we can improve our production processes while maintaining and enhancing quality." The new machines were installed by ECO Engineering of Brough in East Yorkshire while machine and mould cooling fans were installed by Integrated Air Systems Ltd.

20415/Press Release – 2017.03.07

3. Beatson Clark designs a greener, lighter bottle for Hendo's.

Two long-established South Yorkshire businesses have worked together to create a lighter, more environmentally friendly glass bottle for a famous food brand. Henderson's Relish, known locally as Hendo's, has been made in Sheffield since 1885, and now the family-owned firm has teamed up with Rotherham-based glass manufacturer Beatson Clark to update the product's packaging.

Victorian entrepreneur Henry Henderson used to encourage his customers to recycle their bottles by bringing them back to be refilled. The new bottle designed by Beatson Clark continues this environmentally friendly theme as it contains 30% recycled material, with up to 10% collected locally and processed in Beatson Clark's onsite recycling plant. The bottle has 'Henderson's Relish' embossed above its signature label and 'Henderson's Sheffield' on the base, a redesign that honours the memory of historic Henderson's bottles from the early years of the last century.



Beatson Clark's new bottle design

The embossing was created using Beatson Clark's state-of-the-art sculpting software. This allows the company to create complex designs and replicate them perfectly in the finish moulds, which results in a high-quality, well-defined and consistent embossing.

"We are always very pleased to work with local businesses and to design and manufacture a bespoke bottle for such a well-known local brand as Henderson's was a real pleasure," said Chris Palmer, Business Development Manager at Beatson Clark in Rotherham. "This is a great example of closed loop manufacturing because we recycle local domestic waste at our on-site recycling plant and re-use the glass to make new bottles and jars. "Henderson's has a long heritage and we think it's fitting that the new embossed bottle we designed pays tribute to the brand's history."

Henderson's Relish is still being blended to the original secret recipe of Henry Henderson. The recipe remains a secret only known to three family members. The new 284ml bottle of Henderson's Relish is now available in all stockists.

20416/Press Release – 2017.03.23

Ruscam



Ruscam is part of the Sisecam Group and produces approximately one million tonnes of glass packaging annually from five manufacturing plants in Russia.

They have standardised on the Heye Rotor Mechanism, equipping every feeder channel on all production lines with the technology.

The rotating movement of rotor segments within the Heye Rotor Mechanism provides homogeneity of the glass mass and optimal weight consistency.

The servo-driven design guarantees reliable functionality, a long lifetime and is suitable for mounting on various feeder types.

Via a rotating movement of the toothed ring, three paddles provide a stirring movement in the glass mass to keep it homogenous.

Variable speeds and a change of rotation direction are possible, together with manual height adjustment. The motion of the servo motor is controlled by Heye Simotion Servodrive.

Mechanisms have been fitted to production lines at the five Russian plants.

"We standardised the Heye Rotor Mechanism in all our glassworks, as this mechanism is an excellent solution with regard to weight consistency and homogeneity", says Ruscam's Forming Department.

20417/Press Release – 2017.03.24

Gerresheimer

GERRESHEIMER

1. Dr Christian Fischer will join the Management Board of Gerresheimer AG **as an ordinary member on August 1, 2017 before taking over as Chief Executive Officer on September 1, 2017.**

Dr Christian Fischer is currently President, Performance Chemicals, at BASF SE in Ludwigshafen, Germany. Uwe Röhrhoff, CEO of Gerresheimer AG, announced in November 2015 that he would not be available to serve on the Management Board beyond his current appointment. He will leave the company on August 31, 2017, continuing to support his successor in an advisory capacity for a further three months.

"With Dr Christian Fischer, we have gained an outstanding leader as CEO. He brings with him 24 years of industry experience and has demonstrated his entrepreneurial drive in various roles at BASF, both in Germany and abroad. Over the past few years, Gerresheimer has refined its strategic focus, made successful acquisitions and divestments, and established numerous operational initiatives – these will ensure a smooth and seamless transition," explained Dr Axel Herberg, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Gerresheimer AG.



Dr Christian Fischer

Dr Christian Fischer was born in Furth am Wald, Germany, in 1964. From 1984 to 1988 he studied chemistry at the University of Regensburg, where he gained his doctorate in 1991. He then studied business administration in Mannheim from 1993 to 1996. In 2014, he was appointed an honorary professor at the Technical University of Munich (TUM). Dr Fischer has worked at BASF since 1993. Having started his career as a laboratory team leader, he has held various positions at the company, including Deputy Division Manager, Global Marketing Director, Sales Director and Group Vice President in different divisions in Ludwigshafen and Hong Kong. He was President, Advanced Materials & Systems Research and currently serves as President, Performance Chemicals, at BASF SE in Ludwigshafen.

20418/Press Release – 2017.03.06

2. Gerresheimer complements its primary packaging portfolio introducing **ready-to-fill vials.**

Gerresheimer partners with Ompi, Stevanato Group, to offer standardized solutions to customers. Ready to fill packaging solutions for vials are based on Ompi EZ-fill packaging design. Ready to fill vials and cartridges Gx RTF will extend the broad Gerresheimer portfolio.

The new products will provide customers with more flexibility: either with small batches – initially at the clinical-trial stage – or with industrial production.

Vials are the standard primary packaging for parenteral drugs. Gerresheimer offers vials in all sizes corresponding to international standards and pharmacopoeia requirements. The

Gerresheimer offering includes solutions for biotech and other specialist pharma drugs. The new Gx RTF vial portfolio will be based on already established quality offerings for vials like PharmaPlus and Elite Glass. By adapting this knowledge to vials and combining it with the well-established Ompi EZ-fill packaging, this solution provides added value to customers, enabling them to source one identically packed vial from two suppliers.

Ready-to-fill vials are washed and sterilized solutions provided in trays or in nests and tubs. The pharmaceutical customer can immediately fill the ready-to-fill vials without any further process. Gerresheimer has been producing RTF glass syringes (ready to fill) for more than 15 years already and has recently launched RTF COP syringes produced in Europe.

20419/Press Release – 2017.03.13

GGP Glass (Algeria)



GGP GLASS

Horn Glass Industries has signed a contract with Arab Trading House to supply the engineering and equipment for a 70tpd recuperative cross fired furnace.

The furnace is part of a new project near Oran and will produce 70 tons of container and pharmacy glass in amber and flint per day.

Next to the entire supervision for the furnace construction, installation and commissioning, Horn will provide the equipment for the recuperative cross fired furnace, the distributor and forehearth, such as refractories, steel structure, combustion system, electric measuring and control equipment.

20420/Press Release – 2017.03.15

Miscellaneous

Verallia Global Glass Packaging Producer

Interview of Mr. Jean-Pierre Floris, Chairman and CEO of Verallia, on his four decades in the glass industry, career's highlights, the challenges faced by Verallia and the expectations for the global glass packaging producer.

20421/Glass WorldWide – Issue 70 – 2017/04

Focus on Japan

- Japanese Packaging Materials Review. Statistical data sourced from the Japan Glass Bottle Association (JGBA). Further info on www.glassbottle.org
- Toyo Glass has developed a standard printed bottle design called 'Kinuhari' to support the market expansion ambitions of Japan's specialist Sake microbrewers. www.toyo-glass.co.jp/english
- Japan's Daiichi Glass specialises in the production of small container glassware for local pharmaceutical, cosmetics and food customers. Interview of Production and Technical Director, Satoshi Ishikawa. www.daiichi-glass.co.jp/en/index.html

20422/Glass WorldWide – Issue 70 – 2017/04



Global Soft Drinks Packaging Market Growing

The global soft drink packaging market is estimated to grow at a CAGR of 4.6% in terms of the volume sales over the forecast period 2017 to 2022. Glass is the conventional method for packaging soft drinks, fruit juices, and waters. The advantage of glass packaging is that it is chemically inert and will not affect quality, odour or taste of the product. It is strong, rigid and 100% recyclable. PET is a popular choice for packaging because it is recyclable, lightweight and flexible. It can be used for both still and carbonated products. Aluminum and steel cans are mainly used for carbonated drinks. They are lightweight and 100% recyclable. Using recycled aluminum to make a new can save 95% of the energy that would be needed to make a can from virgin materials. Cartons are another major packaging format for still drinks and fruit juices.

They protect the freshness, flavours and nutritional qualities of both fresh and long-life drink products, enabling distribution at ambient temperatures or under refrigerated conditions.

The global soft drink packaging market is segmented on the basis of material (plastic, paper, metal, glass), soft drink product (juices, bottled water, energy drinks, ready-to-drink (RTD), carbonates, products (beverage cans, PET bottles, cartons and boxes), region (North America, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Middle East & Africa).

The Orbis Research report describes a detailed study of the Porter's five forces analysis of the market. All the five major factors in these markets have been quantified using the internal key parameters governing each of them. It also covers the market landscape of these players which includes the key growth strategies, geographical footprint, and competition analysis. The report also considers key trends that will impact the industry and profiles of leading suppliers of the soft drink packaging market. Some of the top companies mentioned in the report are Pactiv, Amcor, Genpak, Graham Packaging, Ball Corporation, SIG, Tetra Pak International, Placon, Toyo Seikan, Rock Tenn, Nuconic Packaging, The Scoular Company, Owens-Illinois, Crown Holdings, Rexam, Alcoa and others.

20423/Press Release – 2017.03.28

C. REINFORCEMENT GLASS FIBRES

Company

Johns Manville



1. Johns Manville (JM) presented recently the **MultiStar® 264 Roving for Sheet Molding Composites reinforcements** comply with Regulation (EC) No 10/2011 (plastics regulation) and is suitable for use in materials and articles intended to be used in contact with food. MultiStar® 264 Roving is used for low shrink and low profile SMC applications based on polyester resin where high mechanical performance is required.

SMC can be used in a broad range of applications in transportation, electrical and electronics, building, and construction applications. SMC composites are durable, recyclable and can save 30% to 50% of CO₂ emissions during the life-cycle compared to steel.

“The enhanced performance of MultiStar® 264 Roving for food contact applications allows SMC compounders to use a single reinforcement for multiple applications with improved productivity,” said Karin Demez, Global Marketing and Portfolio Leader in Engineered Products – Global Fibres. “This innovative product enhancement was made possible by JM’s investment in a state-of-the art laboratory scale SMC compounding line and by working closely with our customers.”

Johns Manville (JM) also introduced a **new chopped strand: ThermoFlow® 641 for reinforcement of polypropylenes**. ThermoFlow® 641 Chopped Strands are designed to provide superior as-molded mechanical performance in polypropylene as well as high detergent resistance.

ThermoFlow® 641 delivers exceptional composite mechanical properties in polypropylene and is designed to perform in detergent resistant applications, such as washing tubs in appliances. The improved colour performance and low yellowness enables compounders to further increase the use of polypropylene in general purpose consumer applications. The improved flow also yields more consistent properties in the final part.

20424/Press Release – 2017.03.12 & 13

2. Johns Manville is celebrating **50 years of continuous glass fibre production in Slovakia**. JM’s operation in Trnava, Slovakia, manufactures a balanced portfolio of engineered products for the composite reinforcement, engineered thermoplastic, building and construction markets.

“JM’s state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities and 50-year production experience in Europe help our products achieve best-in-class performance for our customers,” said Brian Sapp, Global Fibres Business Director for Engineered Products. “Our people have the expertise and collaborative spirit needed to deliver premium performance products in the global markets we serve and the positive and powerful experiences our customers deserve.”

20425/Press Release – 2017.03.14

D. SPECIAL GLASS

Glass Companies

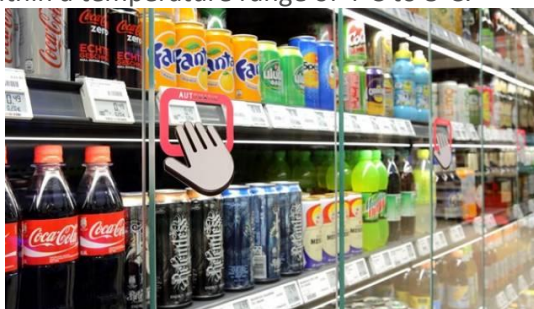
SCHOTT



SCHOTT Termofrost® Smart Access is the first door system that allows touchless opening of a closed refrigerated cabinet.

The ground-breaking glass door system makes product presentation more appealing and by that triggers impulse purchases of supermarket customers.

SCHOTT has developed the first refrigerated cabinet doors currently on the market that open automatically. The effect is achieved with an integrated sensor, which is activated by the shopper's motion towards the door. Without actually touching, the doors elegantly and quietly slide open to the side. A handle-free and frameless design allows for maximum visibility and an unhindered view to the products while the innovative opening mechanism ensures a barrier-free access for customers when taking their chosen goods. This cutting-edge technology can be included in new vertical refrigerated display units for supermarkets. The system is designed for the presentation of chilled products such as milk, meat, beverages or convenience food within a temperature range of 4°C to 8°C.



The clever design of the new door system is space-efficient: with the slide opening technology, the glass doors are not protruding into the aisle. Shoppers enjoy freedom of movement and thus can easily stop with their shopping cart in front of a multi-desk cabinet. Furthermore, by simply switching to the fixed-open mode, employees can easily refill or clean the cabinets. Overall, the touchless technology improves the hygiene standard in the cooling section as the comfort of automatic opening eliminates the need for shoppers to touch a handle. Besides, by closing open cabinets supermarket owners can save up to 60 percent in energy costs. A nice side benefit is that a closed cabinet also allows for a pleasant room temperature. Ideally, shoppers stay longer and buy more items under these more comfortable conditions.

More about the SCHOTT Termofrost® Smart Access at <http://microsites.schott.com/smartaccess/>

CORNING

CORNING

Corning Incorporated introduced the Corning Lab Reactor system as the newest product available in its Advanced Flow™ reactor (AFR) portfolio at the seventh Corning Reactor Technology Annual Conference in Changzhou, China, today through March 7.

The Lab Reactor is metal-free in all process fluid paths with a patented “heart-cell” channel design enabling high-chemical durability and outstanding mixing and heat exchange. The reactor’s fluidic module is made of Corning specialty glass, providing a transparent window for chemists to see what’s happening inside. In addition, its “plug and play” open system includes data monitoring and storage, and easily connects with process analytical technology (PAT).

“The Lab Reactor is a great solution for our customers in academia and research institutes,” said Dr. Yi Jiang, business director, Corning AFR Technologies. “It has a low internal volume, but with similar mixing and heat-transfer characteristics that enable a seamless scale-up with other AFR products such as the G1 reactor for lab and small production, and the G4 reactor for dedicated production. The reactor installs quickly and easily, and is ready to operate within a few minutes, helping researchers conduct their work in a more efficient manner.”

The Lab Reactor system has a photo reactor option that offers efficient light penetration with illumination on both sides of the glass fluidic module. The photo reactor also features a tunable LED irradiation source with six different wavelengths – with the LED lighting intensity higher than 100 mW/cm². The option also enables wireless control of wavelength selection and intensity.

“We designed an LED lighting source with a cooling mechanism that enables increased temperature accuracy during the photoreaction process,” said Olivier Lobet, global product engineer, Corning Reactor Technologies. “The extended photo-flow reactor option also helps expand the horizon of the chemistry with consistent control within the operating system.”

The systems are manufactured at Corning’s S.A.S. facility in France with quality after-sale services delivered by Corning’s regional technical and commercial teams around the world. Corning’s AFR technology enables the continuous processing of chemicals with a smaller footprint than conventional batch reactors. They are also specially designed to enable the conversion of batch chemical processes to continuous processes.

Compared with traditional batch reactors, Corning’s reactors can enable at least 100 times enhancement in mixing, 1,000 times improvement in heat transfer performance, and seamless, efficient scale-up from the lab to full-scale production of chemicals for the pharmaceutical, specialty, and fine chemical industries.

Miscellaneous

Lithium in Great Demand

The key raw material lithium is found not only in lithium-ion batteries but also as a component of CERAN cooktop panels and other products made of glass-ceramic that owe to it their special characteristics. According to the interview of Dr. Uta Neubauer (Schott AG), the fast-growing demand for lithium is causing the commodity price to climb.

20428/Press Release Glass WW – issue 70 - 2017

E. DOMESTIC TABLEWARE AND CRYSTAL GLASS

Glass Companies

Arc France



Arc announced in March a definitive plan to transform the operations of its flagship site in Arques, France through a collaborative partnership with unions and other stakeholders. The plan would result in the strengthening of the site's profitability through investments in plant and equipment which will ease work and improve productivity in the 200-year-old site, Tim Gollin, the Group CEO, said.

"As our glassmakers reach the age of retirement, we need a way to transmit their knowhow to the next generation," he said. "Through our transformation plan, we will pave the way for employees to pass on their knowhow to a new generation."

An apprentice program for 100 to 200 new employees per year will be a vital part of the plan, he added. "In our city of Arques, our company is an integral part of the community. We look forward to reviving the recruitment and development of new workers, which was for generations our tradition."

The plan calls for a new external investment, provided from Arc's shareholders and a group of sovereign wealth funds, in addition to approximately E100 million already invested in the site since its acquisition in 2015 by an investor group led by Peaked Hill Partners and customary annual investment of E35 million, which will continue, Gollin said. "We are delighted to continue the revitalization of the site and the region demonstrating that French industry, with its deep technical knowhow and engineering expertise, can deliver great products to our customers globally."

20429/Press Release – 2017.03.23

Libbey Inc.

- 1. Libbey Inc. reported results for the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2016.** Renewed focus on new product development, business simplification initiatives and customer relationships allows Libbey Inc. to win market share in core foodservice business.

Libbey®

Full-Year 2016 Highlights

- Net sales \$793.4 million, down 3.5 percent versus prior year, or down 1.1 percent in constant currency
- Net income \$10.1 million, down \$56.3 million versus prior year; 2015 included a non-repeating \$43.8 million tax benefit; 2016 net income margin of 1.3 percent
- Adjusted EBITDA \$109.8 million, down \$6.4 million versus prior year; 2016 Adjusted EBITDA margin of 13.8 percent
- Company estimates Toledo work stoppage negatively impacted net sales by \$7 million to \$9 million and pre-tax income by \$7 million to \$8 million
- During the year, the Company returned \$12.1 million to shareholders through a combination of share repurchases and dividends

2016 was an important year from an operational standpoint, as Libbey began to make proactive changes to ensure the business is adapting to shifts in consumer behaviours and addressing legacy issues of our business. New product development capabilities are improving, the product portfolio has been rationalized and streamlined, and they are taking new approaches to the ways in which we evaluate our manufacturing footprint to maximize profitability.

Outlook: The Company expects macroeconomic, industry and competitive trends to remain consistent year-over-year and thus projects the following outlook for full-year 2017:

- Net sales flat to slightly down on an as reported basis, compared to full-year 2016, as negative currency impacts offset projected growth.
- Adjusted EBITDA margin of 13 percent to 14 percent.
- Capital expenditures in the range of \$50 million to \$55 million.

20430/Press Release – 2017.02.28

2. Libbey Inc. appointed James C. Burmeister as Chief Financial Officer.

Libbey Inc. appointed James C. (Jim) Burmeister to the position of vice president, chief financial officer. Mr. Burmeister will join the company as an executive officer on March 30, 2017, and will have accountability for Libbey's worldwide finance organization and for implementing financial and operating strategies to support the Company's drive to improve its financial performance.

Mr. Burmeister joins Libbey from The Anderson's, Inc. in Maumee, Ohio, where he served as vice president, finance and treasurer, with responsibility for the treasury, investor relations, tax, sourcing, business development and continuous improvement organizations. Prior to joining The Andersons, Inc., he held roles of increasing responsibility in operations finance with Owens Corning, beginning in 2005 as director, finance of Owens Corning's cultured stone business and culminating in his role from 2013-

2014 as vice president, finance of Owens Corning's roofing and asphalt division. Earlier in his career, Mr. Burmeister served in a variety of roles with General Electric, including an assignment with GE's highly regarded Corporate Audit Staff, and with Rubbermaid in its supply chain function.

20431/Press Release – 2017.03.17

3. Praxair and Libbey receive 2.3 million euro grant for emissions reduction project in Europe.



Praxair, Inc. and its customer, Libbey Inc., have been awarded a 2.3-million-euro LIFE grant (LIFE15 CCM/NL/000121 – LIFE OPTIMELT) from the European Commission. The LIFE program is the European Union's financial instrument for supporting environmental, conservation and climate action projects. This grant is supporting the installation of Praxair's OPTIMELT®thermochemical regenerator (TCR) system at Libbey's glass melting facility in the Netherlands.

In April 2016, Praxair and Libbey decided to install the OPTIMELT TCR system as well as an on-site oxygen vacuum pressure swing adsorption (VPSA) plant at Libbey's facility. The system is designed to support a capacity realignment plan that reduces carbon dioxide (CO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions by approximately 45 to 60 percent and 30 to 40 percent respectively.

Through Praxair's proprietary OPTIMELT TCR system, incoming natural gas is heated and reacts with a portion of the flue gas to produce a hot syngas fuel that recovers the waste heat stored in regenerators for more efficient combustion in the furnace. Both the OPTIMELT TCR system and oxygen supply are scheduled to start up in 2017.

"At Praxair we are achieving our mission of making our planet more productive through the development of technologies that reduce emissions, save energy and lessen our reliance on natural resources," said Todd Skare, chief technology officer at Praxair. "Through our innovative OPTIMELT technology and VPSA oxygen supply system, we are improving air quality and helping Libbey to achieve its sustainability goals."

"Libbey is committed to minimizing its impact on the environment through the reduction and conservation of natural resources," said Terry Hartman, vice president, global engineering and manufacturing support, Libbey Inc.

"Reductions in global air pollution require innovative solutions that go beyond filters. In partnership with Praxair, we have constructed and launched the highest-efficiency glass melter in the industry at our Royal Leerdam facility in the Netherlands. This new furnace represents the type of collaboration and process innovation that enables us to help lead change as a responsible global company."

20432/Press Release – 2017.03.03

Global Table and Kitchen Glassware Market 2017



The Table and Kitchen Glassware Market 2017 Research Report investigates a thorough and complete study on global industry volume, market share, market trends, growth aspects, wide range of applications, utilization ratio, supply and demand analysis, manufacturing capacity, and price during the forecast period from 2017 to 2022.

The report concentrates on complete analysis of the present and past historical details of the market. The competitive landscape view of the Table and Kitchen Glassware industry is also covered.

Key Vendors include: Arc International, Libbey, Pasabahce, Bormioli Rocco, Riedel, EveryWare, Global, Tervis, Boelter, Waterford, Luigi Bormioli, BODUM, DeLi Huapeng.

The report organizes the market across the globe into distinct portion based on industry standards. It also distinguishes the market based on geographical regions. The report mainly throws light on dominant players in the regions of (United States, EU, China, and Japan). Other regions can be added accordingly.

Discrete aspects of the Table and Kitchen Glassware industry like value chain analysis, Table and Kitchen Glassware industry rules and policies, the factors driving the growth of the market and the constraints hampering the growth are explained.

In next section, the report mentions the products that are currently available in the market along with their cost structures, manufacturing volume, requirement and supply analysis, import/export scenario and their overall contribution to the market revenue globally.

Further, the report analyzes the feasibility of investment, investment return analysis and shows a complete picture of market development scope and business strategies followed by leading industry players along with their company profile, market share and contact information.

<https://market.biz/report/global-table-and-kitchen-glassware-sales-market-2017/53037/#inquiry>

20433/Press Release – 2017.03.03

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IN BRIEF

GLASS & SUPPLIERS

Sisecam Group FY 2016 Results



Sisecam Group reported consolidated net sales of TL 8.4 billion and a net profit of more than TL 1 billion for the full-year 2016. The Group's total investments reached TL 1.2 billion in the same period.

Sisecam Group, a global actor in business fields including all main areas of glass industry -flat glass, glassware, glass packaging and glass fibre - as well as soda and chromium chemicals increased its total consolidated net sales revenue by 13.5% year-over-year in 2016, exceeding TL 8.4 billion. The Group reported a net profit of more than TL 1 billion for the same period. In 2016, Sisecam, a group with manufacturing activities in 13 countries in three continents and sales in all over the world, produced more than 4.6 million tonnes of glass, more than 2.3 million tonnes of soda and more than 3.8 million tonnes of industrial raw materials.

"In 2016, our consolidated net sales have surpassed TL 8.4 billion. The share of our international sales representing the total amount of exports from Turkey and sales from overseas production is 54% in our consolidated sales. During the same period, international sales volume reached USD 1.5 billion. Thanks to ongoing efforts to optimize the cost structure and the geographical distribution of production activities, consolidated EBITDA reached TL 2.1 billion in the same period," Prof. Ahmet Kirman, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, said.

Sisecam Group reported total investments of TL 1.2 billion and continued to support the national economy with an export volume of USD 696 million in 2016. "Our aim is to further strengthen our financial structure by focusing on sustainability in such a way as to support our growth potential in the near future. Efforts to optimize production facilities and the cost structure will continue at an increasing pace, with a special emphasis on increased use of automated systems," Kirman noted.

20434/Press Release – 2017.03.28

Rondot SAS Announce TOM CAT



Rondot SAS has developed the first portable fast optical system, TOM CAT, for measuring the thickness of the hot-end treatment (HEC) on all shades of glass. At last, thanks to this appliance, operators are able to check immediately the thickness of the thin tin oxide layer of coating at the hot end, without waiting for lehr time or laboratory control. This system has been validated by Arkema's Glass Coating laboratory based in Vlissingen (NL) and its efficiency has been verified.

<http://www.groupe-rondot.com>

20435/Press Release – 2017.03.10

SEMINARS / CONFERENCES / WORKSHOPS

GlassTrend



GlassTrend organises a seminar on “Emissions from Glass Furnaces” on 25 & 26 April in Haarlem, The Netherlands.

Experts from the glass industry, including ICG TC 13 members, will exchange information in the field of gaseous and dust emissions, analysing further needs and driving forces. The current and future requirements imposed by international environment regulatory bodies will also be addressed.

The GlassTrend organisation is a consortium of worldwide operating industries and institutes working in the field of glass and glass production. The name GlassTrend is an acronym of **G**lass **T**echnology **R**esearch & **N**ew **D**evelopments and the association aims to co-ordinate research and development activities to improve the competitive strength of glass industries, its suppliers and customers.

More info at: <http://www.glasstrend.nl/about-GlassTrend.php>

20436/GlassTrend – 2017/03

Glass Focus Awards 2017



Royal Armouries
Leeds
15.06.2017

British Glass is delighted to announce that their Glass Focus Awards 2017 – supported by Glass Worldwide – will take place on **Thursday 15 June 2017**. The awards showcase the innovation and excellence in glass that underpin our industry’s contribution to the economy, to society and to customers, staff and stakeholders.

This year the award ceremony and dinner will be held at the Royal Armouries in Leeds – at the centre of our country’s great east-west glass manufacturing corridor, where nine out of ten of the UK’s largest glass manufacturers have production sites.

Everyone with a stake in glass is invited to be part of the Glass Focus Awards 2017. The awards themselves will cover areas including product design, sustainability, health and safety, workforce development and more.

The awards are open to everyone in the glass industry – whether you’re a British Glass member or not. However, British Glass members entering any category will also be put forward for the title of British Glass Company of the Year.

The categories for the Glass Focus Awards 2017 are:

- Design of the year
- Innovative solution
- Health and safety
- Sustainable practice
- Apprentice of the year

The deadline for entries is Wednesday 26 April 2017. Entries should focus on initiatives taking place since last year's awards closed – so between April 2016 and April 2017. You can submit more than one entry in any category, and may enter the same initiative for more than one category.

All info at:

http://www.britglass.org.uk/enter?utm_source=BG&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=savedate&utm_campaign=GFA2017

20437/British Glass Press Release – 2017.02.01

GPD: Face-Lift for 25th Anniversary



At the beginning of this year Glass Performance Days (GPD) announced significant changes and new initiatives for its upcoming **25th year Anniversary Conference 28-30 June, 2017**.



Plans are still being finalised, but it is already clear that the venue will be new, the format upgraded and the interactive mode fitted to our times. In this way the organizers aim at honouring traditions, facilitating a generation change and making use of today's advanced conference technologies. The number of confirmed speakers is around 140, and 800 attendants are expected come together at a new venue with exciting prospects. Special attention is also devoted to attracting the interest of start-up organizations that represent entirely new ideas for a traditional business.

Jorma Vitkala, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, says: "We are moving the Conference from its previous venue Tampere Hall to a new facility, Tähtiareena. The new venue utilizes the connection to the Tampere Trade Fair Complex. This enables us to stage the Conference in one open 5,000 square meter space divided into six seminar sections with their own respective presentation and audio units and yet in visual contact for all. This makes moving between sessions and presentations easy and efficient and the same is true for participant

networking. At the centre of the open space we will construct a special Expo Area accessible from all directions.

The scheme is ambitious but the technology as such is proven i.e. at information industry assemblies. Gone is the need to navigate between floors, corridors and closed doors.”

Two new Special Programs for a world-leading Conference

The conference program includes entirely new features compared with previous events. Two special conference modules are introduced:

1. The Step Change Program aims at introducing new ideas and services from start-up companies or universities that have emerging ideas but are not yet established in the market. The main purpose of the Step Concept is to provide investors and mentors and decision makers with focused opportunities to meet glass industry start-ups. Face-to-face-meetings can be arranged before or during the event through the Meeting Management Tool. A pitching contest for start-ups will be extended to all attendants at the GPD. This contest will showcase the start-ups to conference attendants, mentors, investors and the media.
2. The Mentoring and Ambassador Program focuses on linking talents within the industry. Solid connections between seasoned, perhaps retired professionals and the new generation of glass specialists are vital for the development of the industry and the building of sustainable networks. Special benefits and discounted prices are offered to experienced professional who register for the Ambassadorial Program. Investors and Mentors from the glass industry are especially welcome to sign up for new opportunities to learn about emerging technologies and potential partnering. An important goal for the GPD Mentor and Ambassadorial Program is to find, inform and finally to invite start-ups as well as emerging technology scouts to the GPD.

20438/British Glass Press Release – 2017.02.27

Vitrum Announces Innovations for 2017



New services that add value for exhibitors and seminars for trade professionals make the 20th edition of the glass industry trade show even more inviting.



Expectations are on the rise for Vitrum 2017, the international exhibition that will open its doors on **October 3rd**, attracting the world of glass processing to Fiera Milano Rho.

This year the show will focus specifically on the close connection between all the industry's players – foreign and Italian businesses, domestic and international glass industry associations, institutional stakeholders, research centres and trade press from around the

world. Vitrum stakes its claim as the “**House of Glass**”, the ideal setting for machinery manufacturers and operators, researchers, technicians, industry professionals and institutional stakeholders to meet and share ideas that drive product innovation and optimization, and stimulate growth of the industry.

Detailed information about all the promotional tools for exhibitors is now available on the Vitrum website at:

http://www.vitrum-milano.com/sito/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/PresentazioneServiziVitrum_GB.pdf

20439/British Glass Press Release – 2017.02.10

Şişecam Glass Symposium, Istanbul: Call for papers



The 2017 ICG Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with 32nd Şişecam Glass Symposium in **Istanbul, Turkey on October 22-25, 2017.**

Şişecam and ICG proudly invite visitors to Istanbul, the city which connects two continents, to share, discuss and connect knowledge about the latest developments on glass science and manufacturing technology.

Contributions are welcome on the topics given below, in technical program and students are especially encouraged to attend.

Abstracts (about 300 words) should be written in English, which is the official language of the event. Please find the instructions for abstract preparation at the web page: <http://www.icgistanbul2017.com>

Post-docs and students at national and international level, are especially encouraged to attend the ICG 2017 Istanbul, the registration fee for them will be half of the regular fee. Registration fee will include one set of conference materials, entrance to all conference sessions (lectures, posters), the welcome reception on Sunday evening, lunches, morning and afternoon refreshments.

All presenters must be registered to attend the 2017 ICG Annual Meeting. All abstracts must be submitted via the online system. Please note that abstracts sent by mail, fax or e-mail will not be accepted. All abstracts will be published on the Book of Abstracts. The papers and presentations will be uploaded on the web site upon the authorization of the author, after the conference.

Topics will include:

- Glass formation, transition, relaxation and modelling
- Glass properties
- Crystallization and glass ceramics
- Chemical durability and leaching
- Nuclear waste vitrification
- Surface properties and coatings
- Bioactive and sol-gel glasses
- Glass melting, forming
- Energy and environment
- Raw materials
- Refractories

Abstract Submission Deadline March 31, 2017

Abstract Evaluation Deadline May 1, 2017

Early Bird Registration July 31, 2017

INFO at: SCIENTIFIC SECRETARIAT: Şişecam STC

Tel: +90 850 206 0488

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For more information visit www.icqistanbul2017.com

20440/Press Release – 2016.06.08

GlassPrint 2017 – Solutions For Glass Decoration

Europe's only dedicated event for glass decoration, the seventh GlassPrint conference and exhibition returns to **Düsseldorf, Germany on 29-30 November 2017**.



Following an excellent response to the early-bird delegate and exhibitor registration offer that launched last month, the organisers anticipate the largest GlassPrint event yet, following on from GlassPrint 2015 that was deemed an outstanding success by a record audience of 200 glassmakers, decorators, end-users, suppliers and brand owners from 26 different countries in Europe, North America, Asia and the Middle East.

Taking place at the easily accessible Radisson Blu Scandinavia Hotel in Düsseldorf, GlassPrint 2017 delegates will benefit from an extensive conference programme that will see industry experts present detailed solutions for flat and hollow glass decoration, covering the latest advanced digital and screen technologies. Industry figureheads will provide keynote presentations and a specially selected panel of glass decoration experts will join together for the GlassPrint LIVE open forum to answer topical questions from the audience.

GlassPrint will be staged immediately after the Direct Container Print conference (www.dcp2017.org) that will introduce printers, packaging manufacturers and brand owners to the potential of direct to shape container decoration on plastics.

20441/Press Release – 2017.02.24