

WELCOME TO EU GLASS INDUSTRIES NEWS



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EU COMMUNITY NEWS

NEW EU LEGISLATION

Commission Decision

N° (EU) 2019/1741 of 23 September 2019

This Commission Implementing Decision establishes the format and frequency of data to be made available by the Member States for the purposes of reporting under Regulation (EC) No 166/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the establishment of a **European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (EPTR)** and amending Council Directives 91/689/EEC (Hazardous Waste Directive) and 96/61/EC (IPPC Directive).

The current practices and information technology used for reporting aim at ensuring the high quality of data included in both national pollutant release and transfer registers and in the E-PRTR. The objective of making E-PRTR information available earlier to the public should further promote the reporting of high-quality information. Since this objective requires the implementation of a stepwise approach and careful preparation, including the testing of new reporting methods and the development of new reporting tools, notably for the purpose of validation and quality control of reported data, the reporting deadlines should be reviewed in light of progress in information technology, the results of pilot testing and Member State best practices.

The information set out in the Annex shall be first submitted for the reporting year 2019, by 30 September 2020 at the latest.

Full text on page 3 at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2019:267:TOC>

22106/O.J. L267 – 2019.10.21

EU Court of Justice

In a judgment delivered on 24 October (Case C-636/18), the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) has censured France for failing to fulfil its obligations under the EU's Air Quality Directive (2008/50). This means that, with this decision, the CJEU upheld the action brought against France in 2015 by the European Commission as a result of the number of occasions on which the annual nitrogen dioxide limit values were observed to have been exceeded in numerous areas of France after 1 January 2010.

Although France acknowledged the continued existence of these exceedances, it challenged their supposedly systematic nature.

However, in the Court's opinion, exceeding the limit values for nitrogen dioxide in ambient air is in itself sufficient to establish a breach of the obligations under the Air Quality Directive.

The CJEU also points out that the fact that a Member State exceeds the limit values for nitrogen dioxide in ambient air is not sufficient in itself to deem that it has failed to establish air quality plans in order to achieve the limit values. Nevertheless, the Court adds, according to the Directive, if Member States have a certain margin of discretion in determining the measures to be adopted, they must allow the period for exceeding the limit values to be as short as possible.

However, noting that systematic and ongoing exceedances of the nitrogen dioxide limit values have been observed in France for seven consecutive years, the Court deems that France has not adopted appropriate and effective measures to ensure that the period of exceedance is as short as possible.

22107/CJEU Press Release – 2019.10.24

TRADE POLICY

EU Greener Trade Policy Promised by New Commissioner for Trade

Phil Hogan, Commissioner-designate for Trade, confirmed to the MEPs the movement, initiated by the Juncker Commission, that is gradually shifting the core activity of the Directorate-General for Trade from the negotiation of new free trade agreements (FTAs) to their **effective implementation**, in order to “ensure that economic prosperity can continue to be generated to the benefit of all our citizens”.

“Full” compliance with these agreements could be understood as a reference to the provisions of their chapters on **sustainable development**, in line with another commitment by Mr. Hogan: **to ‘green’ the EU's trade policy**.

The implementation of FTAs will be assisted by the forthcoming appointment of a Chief Trade Enforcement Officer (CTEO), whom, we are told, will also be Deputy Director-General for Trade. This person will be in charge to ensure the implementation of trade policy, and thus to contribute to the Commission's effectiveness on the issues at the heart of the debates with the Member States.

As for ‘greening’ trade policy, apart from his collaboration in developing a carbon tax at the borders, Mr Hogan remains relatively vague about the concrete means he plans to use.

On **compliance with EU health standards**, Mr Hogan said that there was no question of lowering them, as any product that did not meet the standards could not circulate on the market. *“Everybody has to raise their standards to the EU standards, not the other way round”*, he added.

Recognizing the challenges facing trade policy and the intensification of synergies with “geopolitical and security” issues, Mr. Hogan pledged to “preserve a stable and predictable international trading environment based on clear and enforceable rules”. Thus, the right-wing commissioner wants to pursue a “new deal” for the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**, with **new rules and a level playing field, notably by launching a “broad initiative” at the end of 2020 for a comprehensive agreement in 2022.**

The ‘**level playing field**’ is also at issue when Mr. Hogan expresses his determination to protect the EU from “unfair competition” through trade defence instruments, but also on public procurement and by working, along with Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager, on ways to remedy the effects of distortions abroad, on the EU's single market. Among the “new tools” that the Irishman promises to introduce to improve conditions for European operators, the improvement of the EU implementing regulation should enable it to suspend tariff concessions in the face of illegal measures.

Mr. Hogan also expressed his readiness to strengthen work on a **foreign investment screening mechanism**, in particular by harmonising the approaches of Member States that are also part of the ‘17+1’ (cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European States).

In addition, he will contribute to the development of an instrument to limit the impact of foreign support on the single market.

On **transatlantic relations** (mainly with the United-States), Phil Hogan recalled the willingness of President-elect Ursula von der Leyen to continue working on a positive agenda with Washington. But “*it takes two to tango*”, he also conceded.

This is also the case with the WTO and its reform, where there are many mutually beneficial issues when it comes to creating a level playing field for China, which has failed to meet its commitments, he stressed.

However, in the absence of a response from Washington, the EU must put in place its “*plan B*”, strengthening its own instruments to defend itself against unfair competition.

Finally, the Irishman committed to maintaining a **sustained dialogue with Members**, in particular before and after each round of negotiations, **and to treat the European Parliament on an equal footing with the EU Council.**

Mr. Hogan expects the European Parliament to use its right of initiative on subjects that Members consider relevant to submit to it, in line with the political guidelines presented by the President-elect. This could apply, for example, to a “mandatory due diligence” initiative on global value chains, or an initiative on due diligence requirements in the textile sector.

22108/Press Release – 2019.09.30

EU Annual Report on the Implementation of Trade Agreements in 2018

Despite the difficult global economic climate, European companies have continued to make good use of the opportunities created by the European Union's trade network - the largest in the world. In 2018 this network covered 31% of Europe's trade exchanges, a figure that is set to rise significantly (to almost 40%) as more trade agreements enter into force, according to the European Commission's annual report on the

implementation of trade agreements released on 14 October. Overall, trade accounts for 35% of the EU's gross domestic product (GDP).

In 2018 EU exports to and imports from trade agreement partners showed positive developments, with a continued growth of 2% and 4.6% respectively, with a strong performance of EU agri-food exports. The EU's growing network of trade agreements is creating economic opportunities for workers across Europe, with over 36 million jobs being supported by exports to outside of the EU. The EU recorded a surplus of €84.6 billion in trade in goods with its trade agreement partners, compared to its overall trade deficit with the rest of the world of about €24.6 billion.

Commenting on the report, Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström said: "Trade agreements create opportunities for European businesses to grow and hire more people. Today's report shows that overall trade is up, and more of our global trade is covered by preferential deals than ever before. Our food and drink exports in particular are flourishing thanks to lower tariffs and legal protection abroad for artisanal EU products like Champagne and Feta. The report also provides evidence of how our focus on trade and sustainable development is bearing fruit. Furthermore, we have taken a number of unprecedented steps to enforce the commitments made by our trade partners in the last year, including notably on workers' rights. There is still work to be done, of course. But by opening up this data to the wider public we hope to launch a wider discussion about how to make sure trade agreements benefit as many citizens as possible."

Looking at specific sectors across agreements, the 2018 report shows:

- EU agri-food exports to trade partners continued to grow with an overall increase of 2.2% compared to the previous year. Exports of agri-food products to South Korea also gained 4.8 %. Also noteworthy are agri-food exports to Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, which grew by 11% compared to 2017;
- EU industrial goods exports also increased overall by 2%, with stronger growth among others for chemicals (2.5 %), mineral products (6 %) and base metals (4.4 %).

Looking for instance at one of the recent trade agreements, the report shows that in the first full calendar year (2018) of the EU-Canada trade agreement implementation:

- bilateral trade in goods grew by 10.3% and the EU's trade surplus with Canada increased by 60%;
- EU goods exports to Canada rose by 15% (or €36 billion in extra export revenue), especially for sectors where import duties were previously high such as pharmaceuticals (up 29%), machinery (up 16%) or organic chemicals (up 77 %);
- EU Agri-food exports to Canada (accounting for 9% of total EU exports) rose by 7%.

Moreover, following intensive discussions in the joint committees created under the different trade agreements, several partner countries lifted barriers to trade, thus allowing more EU companies to benefit fully from the opportunities these agreements offer. Danish and Dutch farmers, for example, will be able to export beef to South Korea, while Poland and Spain will be able to export poultry meat to South Africa.

The report investigates also the impact of the provisions included in the dedicated 'Trade and Sustainable Development' (TSD) chapters, which are part of all modern EU trade agreements. These chapters aim at engaging with trade partners to implement international rules on labour and the environment, as incorporated in multilateral environmental agreements or International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions. Recent achievements ahead of the entry into force of the respective agreements include the ratification by Mexico and Vietnam of ILO Convention 98 on the rights to organise and collective bargaining. Additionally, the agreements with Vietnam, Japan, Singapore, Mercosur and Mexico include reinforced commitments to effectively implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

In 2018 and 2019, the EU also took several enforcement actions under its trade agreements, including in relation to labour standards. Among other examples, the EU requested a panel following South Korea's failure to ratify ILO Conventions on workers' rights, notably freedom of association and collective bargaining.

However, the report also highlights the need to increase efforts – together with Member States and stakeholders - to raise awareness of the opportunities trade agreements offer, as well as stepping up enforcement action so the agreements deliver the intended results.

The report will now be subject to discussion with the European Parliament and Member States' representatives in the Council.

Background

At present, the EU has in place the largest trade network in the world, with 41 trade agreements covering 72 countries. Types of EU trade agreements include:

- "first generation" agreements, negotiated before 2006, that focus on tariff elimination;
- "second generation" agreements, that extend to new areas, including intellectual property rights, services and sustainable development;
- Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTA) that create stronger economic links between the EU and its neighbouring countries;
- Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) focusing on development needs of African, Caribbean and Pacific regions.

Key Facts: https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2019/october/tradoc_158388.pdf

Report: https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2019/october/tradoc_158387.pdf

22109/Press Release – 2019.10.14

Airbus Case, Europeans Ready to Retaliate in Event of US Tariff Sanctions

Washington decided on 18 October to impose tariff sanctions on the 6.7 billion euros worth of imports of European products, authorised by the WTO in the dispute against the European aircraft manufacturer AIRBUS. Tariffs amount to 10% on aircraft and 25% on certain German and British industrial products, as well as on French, Spanish and Italian food products (wine, cheese, olive oil).

US finally chose tariffs over talks, refusing a common solution to a common problem. The EU is ready to respond. The agri-food sector is primarily targeted by these sanctions - in particular the wine, cheese and olive oil sectors.

The Commission will monitor the impact (...) on the European products concerned, notably in the agricultural sector", promised Commissioner Malmström.

In April, the EU published its list of US products eligible for tariff sanctions in the *Boeing* case (DS 353) that could enter into force in Spring 2020.

If the outcome of this long-running dispute, which began more than 15 years ago, is therefore particularly negative for the EU, it is also negative for multilateral trade.

In view of the Chinese disruptive factor, it could be possible to expect the two economic powers to cooperate in order to guarantee their economic operators a level playing field, in particular as regards the terms of the support that could be granted to aircraft manufacturers. It is therefore above all a statement of failure for transatlantic diplomacy.

This step leaves the EU no alternative but to follow through in due course with their own tariffs in the Boeing case, where the U.S. has been found in breach of WTO rules.

Imposing tariffs on each other serves nobody's long term interest. It will inflict very significant damage to the highly integrated supply chain of the aircraft sectors in the U.S. and the EU and will result in collateral damage to many other sectors already suffering under the current trade tensions.

The EU and U.S. have both been found in breach of WTO rules. As the world's largest aircraft manufacturers, the EU and the U.S. have a joint responsibility to sit down and negotiate a settlement that is balanced and compliant with the WTO.

On the same lines, the European aircraft manufacturer insisted on the damage that this trade war would cause to the American economy. *"Close to 40 percent of Airbus's aircraft-related procurement comes from US aerospace suppliers. This US supply chain supports 275,000 American jobs in 40 states through spending that has totalled \$50 billion in the last three years alone,"* Airbus said in a statement.

The EU has shared concrete proposals with the U.S. on clearly identified existing aircraft subsidies and on future support to their respective aircraft sectors. This offer remains on the table.

The Commission will monitor the impact of the announced U.S. countermeasures on the European products concerned, notably in the agricultural sector.

The European Commission is committed to defending European companies, farmers and consumers.

EU / Norway: Appeal Arbitration Arrangement

The EU and Norway notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO) their interim appeal arbitration arrangement in wake of the WTO Appellate Body blockage.

In this way, the EU and Norway secure an effective and binding dispute settlement for any potential trade disputes that might oppose them under the WTO law, in case the existing WTO Appellate Body stops being operational.

The EU's foremost priority remains to ensure an effective functioning of the existing WTO Appellate Body. The interim arrangement has however become necessary as a contingency measure given the long-standing blockage in the appointments of the Appellate Body members.

The EU and other WTO countries have made formal proposals and are now discussing ways to resolve the situation. In the meantime, an interim solution that mirrors the existing WTO appeal process can be put in place between interested WTO members.

This agreement with Norway is the EU's second interim appeal arrangement, the first being the one agreed between the EU and Canada on 25 July 2019.

22111/Press Release – 2019.10.21

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

Frans Timmermans: First Executive Vice-President of the New Commission, in Charge of European Green Deal and Climate Portfolio

The Dutchman Frans Timmermans - First Executive Vice-President of the Commission, will pilot the **European 'Green Deal'** and the **Climate portfolio** - and as such, a number of Commissioners involved in the fight against climate change.

He juggled throughout his entire hearing before MEPs, from one emergency to another, from one concept to another, from one language to another, without ever being caught in trouble or put in a difficult spot.

His introductory speech, "*inspiring*", according to Bas Eickhout (Greens/EFA, the Netherlands), was much applauded. His answers to the multitude of questions on climate, more specific than on 'zero pollution' or sustainable food, seemed to seduce a majority of MEPs, even if the EPP and ECR groups were more reserved than the Social Democrats, *Renew Europe* and the Greens/EFA.

The Dutch Social Democrat seemed to have made a successful presentation to the European Parliament's Committees on the Environment (ENVI), Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and Transport (TRAN).

Helping Ursula von der Leyen to achieve results by piloting the '*European Green Deal*', which is the 'hallmark' of the future Commission, with the climate set as a priority, is Mr Timmermans' stated intention.

He spoke of ‘*Transformational Mechanics*’ that requires rationalising and improving policies for the future of our children and grandchildren. *“We can’t afford to fail. We know the problems, the consequences for the inhabitants, the future. Young people want us to act now”*, he said, pleading for action that is equal to the challenge and that takes into account the reality of the challenges: *“bread, heating, school for children, making ends meet”*. Their world will only be a success if everyone succeeds.

He called for aid for the renovation of social housing, aid for motorists (not a world without cars, but a world without polluting cars), aid for coal-mining regions, so that no one is left behind in a movement of profound transformation of European society, which will have to involve everyone.

“I am ready to work with you for a brighter future”, he told MEPs. *“I will introduce, within 100 days of 1 November, a climate law to anchor climate neutrality in legislation”*, he announced.

When asked why he was considering a two-step procedure by 2021 – a 50% reduction in emissions, or even 55%, as a 2030 target – Mr Timmermans replied that a prior analysis was needed, but that he would *“not be surprised”* if the analysis concluded at 55%. *“We do not want an empty shell, but to allow room for manoeuvre for Member States. I want to introduce myself with a climate bill that says where we want to be in 2050, but with intermediate objectives”*, he justified.

No questions were asked about the difficulties that could result from the size of his portfolio. But, by his own admission, the one who will lead a team of eight Commissioners and will have to orchestrate the integration of the *Green Deal* into all relevant sectoral policies, has repeatedly stated that policy coherence will be the most difficult task.

“Should we not change the tax rules and exclude green investments from the rules on the public deficit, from the calculation of the debt?”, asked Eleonora Evi (Italy, unregistered). Mr Timmermans replied that the economic situation of all countries must be taken into account, which contributes to sustainability. However, he does not *“propose a sui generis exclusion from the fiscal rules”* and referred to the indications given on the same day by the Vice-President-designate, Valdis Dombroskis, and the Commissioner-designate, Paolo Gentiloni.

ETS. According to Mr Timmermans, it is necessary to either convince non-Member States to do the same thing as the EU or impose a border adjustment tax. It is *“an interesting proposal, in line with WTO rules”*, to create a level playing field with countries that are less virtuous in terms of climate protection.

Nils Torvalds (*Renew Europe*, Finland) asked him whether to wait for an impact assessment or take the opportunity in 2030 to impose stricter emission standards or expand the ETS. In Mr Timmermans’ opinion, there is no choice between one or the other: *“ETS should be extended to aviation and maritime transport, not excluding the possibility of stricter standards in European legislation”*, with the IPCC report on 1.5°C showing that much more needs to be done.

Betting on hydrogen. On the energy side, a key aspect of the climate transition, Frans Timmermans has repeatedly highlighted the potential of hydrogen, expressing his intention to work on a *“hydrogen strategy”* and to make Europe a world leader in this field.

“In my dreams, I would create a partnership with Africa, especially North Africa, and we would help build huge solar energy capacities in Africa and turn that energy into hydrogen, and then transport that hydrogen to other parts of the world and Europe, through the existing means we already have”, he also said.

Responding to Marie Toussaint (Greens/EFA, France), who asked him when he intended to end direct and indirect subsidies to fossil fuels, including gas, the Dutchman acknowledged that these energy sources should be quickly abandoned and that this would require, once again, coherence in European policies.

Nevertheless, in his view, although gas is not a sustainable source of energy, it *“will be part of the transition to sustainable energy”*.

According to him, investments in gas infrastructure could even prove useful. In the near future, he hopes that these can be transformed to be used for the transport of hydrogen, an energy source he described as *“absolutely sustainable”*.

Responding to Silvia Modig (GUE/NGL, Finland), he also stated that he supported the move from unanimity to qualified majority voting in the field of energy taxation, through the use of bridging clauses, a proposal already made by the Commission in early April.

Industry. Asked by his Dutch compatriot Esther de Lange (EPP) how he planned to meet the EU's climate objectives while maintaining a strong European industry, Mr Timmermans acknowledged that this was a **huge challenge**.

In response, he stressed not only the need to work hand in hand with the entire College of Commissioners in order to maintain coherence – in particular with the potential future Vice-Presidents for Competition and Economy, Margrethe Vestager and Valdis Dombrovskis respectively – but also to support the regions most dependent on fossil industries.

To this end, he stressed the importance of setting up coherent plans for financing the market sector, through *InvestEU*, for example, but also the non-market sector, such as training, in order to redirect minors in particular.

In his view, the new Commission's task towards countries such as Poland, Slovakia, Greece, Spain and Germany will be to provide them with a clear perspective and show them the opportunities offered by the transition so that they can engage in a new economy.

Lead by example internationally. Many MEPs have asked him how he intends to convince countries like China, India or the United States, which are major contributors to global emissions, while the EU contributes only 9% of emissions. Frans Timmermans said he was confident that he could convince China *“whose cities are suffocating”*. For the United States, it comes down to the federated states.

Above all, however, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs wants the EU to set an example. *"We have a unique opportunity to lead the world towards a better and more sustainable future. If we succeed in our European Green Deal, it will have an impact on the rest of the world."* The same goes for the global fight against biodiversity loss (COP15 in China).

Circular economy/Sustainable food supply. For Roberta Metsola (EPP, Malta), reducing single-use plastics is only a first step in addressing the limits of recycling for hazardous products. Mr Timmermans agreed with her.

With regard to the farm-to-fork strategy for sustainable food, Mr Timmermans stressed that consumers *"want to know what is on their table. I want to tell them that what is on their plate did not cause deforestation. 80% of deforestation is due to the search for arable land for food or fodder. We need to regulate"*.

22112/Press Release – 2019.10.08

Profound Change in Economy Towards a European Green Deal

The **future European Commissioner for Employment**, Nicolas Schmit, described the European Green Deal as a "major project for economic and social transformation", stressing its fundamentally political and profoundly economic nature.

"The economic system as it works today, as it is based on the short term, will not help us solve the problem of climate change", said Mr. Schmit. And he added: "It is not those who watch the stock market every morning who will help us take effective action against climate change".

In addition, while he said he was proud to be part of a Commission that, with the Green Deal, "has set itself a major objective", the Luxembourger stressed above all that this ambitious programme can only be achieved if the European Union provides the financial resources. "In the end, what matters are the means we come up with", he said.

MEP Pierre Larroustourou (Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament) had no shortage of ideas on how to finance the Green Deal. Recalling that, according to a report by the European Court of Auditors published on 20 September 2017, Member States should collectively invest €1,115 billion per year between 2021 and 2030 to achieve their greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, the Frenchman presented a package of three proposals:

1. adopting a "climate law" that would prohibit banks and private and public insurance companies from investing in fossil fuels, in order to redirect investments towards renewable energies,
2. creation of a European Climate Bank that would provide €300 billion in loans each year exclusively for climate change.
3. establishment of an annual "climate budget" of 100 billion managed by the European Union. The latter would be separate from the current EU budget and would be financed by creating a new European tax that would only apply to the profits of large and medium-sized companies.

22113/Press Release – 2019.10.17

Commissioner for Environment and Oceans: Virginijus Sinkevicius

Biodiversity, circular economy, fight against microplastics and blue economy are the responsibility of Virginijus Sinkevicius, **new Environment Commissioner** from Lithuania of 28 years old.

Health, quality of life and wellbeing for all will be his guiding principles. His ecological spirit and his experience as Minister of Economy and Innovation will serve his mission and make him a young asset in Ursula von der Leyen's Commission.

"I will put forward a new Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, looking at everything from Natura 2000, deforestation, land degradation, protected species and habitats and sustainable seas and oceans. I will also lead on delivering on our common 'zero-pollution' ambition, which will require a wide-ranging approach looking at air and water quality, hazardous chemicals, pollutants' emissions, pesticides and endocrine disruptors", says the youngest member of the future team.

The fight against water pollution, for example, will focus on nutrients, microplastics and medicines. This will be done on the basis of sound science because "well designed, policies based on a sound understanding of science and environmental, economic and social impacts will be easier to implement".

Reducing dependence on pesticides is, in his opinion, a necessity. "Our 'zero-pollution' ambition will not be successful if we do not tackle the use of pesticides", he warns. Determined to "act firmly against intentionally added microplastics", he will identify plastic applications that could be replaced by biodegradable applications and establish a clear regulatory framework.

For the new action plan on the circular economy to be developed, it is in line with this, announcing its intention to "explore options for tackling other resource-intensive sectors such as food or information and communication technologies, in addition to textiles and construction".

On the legislative measures he is said ready to propose to ensure that EU imports do not contribute to deforestation, he did not come forward, announcing "the continuation of the measures provided for in the new framework for action".

22114/Press Release – 2019.09.30

COP 25, Environment Council Fails to Commit to 2020 Increase of EU's 2030 Target

Following the New York Climate Summit, European Environment ministers, meeting on 4 October in Luxembourg, expressed deep concern at the increasingly negative impacts of climate change and acknowledged the urgent calls for action and ambition from civil society and young people.

The conclusions they adopted for the 25th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Santiago, Chile, 2-13 December)

highlight the importance of strengthening global climate action and set out the EU's priorities and objectives for this international meeting.

"We want to send a strong and balanced message to the rest of the world about our climate actions and climate ambitions so that COP25 is a success and leads to concrete results", said Finnish Minister for Environment and Climate Krista Mikkonen, who chaired the session.

The wording of a paragraph on how the EU will formulate its contribution to be transmitted to the UN in 2020 mobilised ministers throughout the day.

Several compromise attempts were necessary to finally decide that the EU will update its 2030 target (currently a reduction in emissions of at least 40% compared to 1990) and communicate it to the UNFCCC in 2020.

A hard battle had taken place, a battle that was lost by the most ambitious countries (Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom), who absolutely wanted the conclusions to speak of enhancing the target. Ten countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania and Croatia) were uncompromising.

They wanted to strictly adhere to the provisions of the Paris Agreement and to the European Council conclusions of 20 June without prejudging the outcome of the ongoing discussions about how to engage on climate neutrality.

For the Czech Republic, raising the 2030 target would require an EU Council decision that has never been taken, and "it is not even known if 40% will be achieved, since Member States are in the process of finalising their national plans".

The text mentions the importance of basing global efforts on science and finally mentions the IPCC report on the target of restricting global warming to 1.5°. It wasn't easy. France and Sweden (supported by Belgium) also wanted to include a reference to a common five-year timetable for the implementation of the NDCs. This was not accepted.

With regard to Article 6.2 on credit transfers, the EU Council stresses the need for robust rules. Several delegations expressed strong opposition to the transfer of unused Kyoto Protocol credits for use after 2020.

"I don't see why we should have joint time horizons. Future discussions should not be prejudged. The NDCs (nationally determined contributions) are compatible with the five-year cycles of the Paris Agreement", said Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete during the debate. On the other hand, he agreed with France and the Netherlands on Article 6. "NDCs must prohibit any use of the Kyoto Protocol's surplus credits. We need to be clear with Australia", he said.

The EU Council called on the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to rapidly implement its initial strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from ships, which was adopted in 2018. Belgium had wanted to refer to short-term measures to reduce emissions by 2023, to the great displeasure of Greece and Malta.

22115/Press Release – 2019.10.04

Climate Neutrality, Ministerial Considerations Developing on Measures and Incentives to Support the Just Transition

The third debate held by European Environment Ministers on the EU's long-term climate strategy on 4 October in Luxembourg was an opportunity to measure the progress made by Member States in identifying ways to support the fundamental transformation of the European economy, to ensure a just and equitable transition for all - countries, regions and populations - towards climate neutrality.

The announcement of Estonia's alignment with this target for 2050, made the previous day, was the most salient and encouraging news, since the number of countries that signing up for the climate neutrality target by this deadline broadens the number of Member States now ready, in principle, to 25.

Taking stock of the discussions so far, the President of the Council, the Finnish Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Krista Mikkonen, highlighted four main trends:

- climate neutrality by 2050 is a widely shared objective;
- transformation requires policy coherence;
- transition must be inclusive, just and socially acceptable;
- instruments to generate investment are essential.

Suggestions range from the future budget framework 2021-2027 for the modernised EU (focusing on cohesion funds, climate, research, development policy and innovation) to financial support for regions heavily dependent on coal, as well as training for the least specialised workers to give them access to skills.

As for the measures and actions to be strengthened in the short and medium term to make a decisive contribution to climate neutrality, ministers have often mentioned, following Denmark's example, the future 'European Green Deal' to promote the green transition in all sectors (energy, transport, industry, agriculture, circular economy).

For countries such as Germany, this transition requires an energy system based on renewables, investment in the storage of renewables, the abandonment of coal, but also the integration of transport and heating into the ETS and a minimum carbon price. Measures to encourage digital technologies to increase demand for goods and services, as well as the policy of green mobility through vehicle sharing, were also mentioned.

The Finnish Presidency will continue to work intensively, in the firm hope that the discussion, which is reaching its concluding stages, will lead to an agreement in December.

Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete expressed his hope that the EU would be able to submit the long-term strategy to the UNFCCC secretariat in early 2020. "The year 2020 will be used to provide a European approach and ensure that other international partners submit their plans by the end of 2020, as provided for in the Paris Agreement", he said.

And he highlighted that at the New York summit, 77 countries committed themselves to carbon neutrality by 2050. "In the short term, we are ready to implement our 2030 target," he added.

Use of Nuclear and Coal to Achieve Climate Neutrality Divides Member States

Differences over nuclear and coal

For the Polish Energy Minister, Krzysztof Tchórzewski, it is impossible to achieve a climate-neutral Europe based solely on renewable energies and without the use of nuclear power. He then stressed the importance of implementing a fair and equitable transition, so that regions that are heavily dependent on coal are not unfairly penalised. It should be noted that Poland is the second largest coal producer in the EU after Germany and that about 80% of Poland's electricity comes from this energy.

Bulgarian and Hungarian Ministers Zhecho Stankov and Péter Kaderják, respectively, have both expressed a rather similar position. For the second, not only must nuclear energy be an essential part of the EU's energy mix, but the climate impact of renewable technologies must also be questioned. In his view, there is currently a political divide in the EU on what constitutes a truly sustainable energy source.

Mr Stankov, for his part, stressed Bulgaria's desire to continue to use lignite in line with European standards, with 46% of Bulgaria's energy being generated by coal. Like his Hungarian, Polish and Czech counterparts, he called for respect for national specificities and the right of each Member State to determine its energy mix.

In contrast, other countries such as Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, Denmark, France, Greece and Portugal have called for a gradual and total elimination of either nuclear or coal or both.

While Germany, like Poland, is heavily dependent on coal, its Secretary of State for Energy, Andreas Feicht, recalled Berlin's intention to phase it out by 2038. To this end, Germany intends to develop renewable energies in parallel and focus on energy efficiency.

For his part, Austria's Deputy Permanent Representative Gregor Schusterschitz regretted that the Commission was not proposing a target of 100% renewable energy by 2050. Responding to the argument that national energy sovereignty should be respected, he considered that such a scenario would not interfere with the choice of each Member State to develop its energy mix as it sees fit. According to him, by promoting a 100% renewable energy target, the Commission would instead show Member States what options are available without the use of nuclear power.

Points of convergence

Apart from the thorny issue of nuclear and coal, the Member States agreed on several points. The vast majority of them thus insisted on the need to develop new technologies, in particular with the aim of making greater use of hydrogen and storing electricity produced by renewable energies more efficiently. Some countries such as Germany, France and Belgium have also highlighted the importance of improving energy efficiency and therefore the insulation of buildings.

Finally, several Member States highlighted the potential of offshore wind turbines and the need to promote cross-border cooperation in this field. Germany has therefore called on the von der Leyen Commission to issue a legislative proposal along these lines as soon as possible, in order to facilitate the development of innovative projects at sea.

Circular Economy

1. Circular Economy Still In Its Infancy, According to European Environment Agency

A circular economy holds promise for saving resources, minimising waste, and protecting climate and biodiversity, but it is still in its infancy in Europe, according to a new report by the European Environment Agency, *'Insights on status and potentials'*, published on 2 October. To develop its potential, a circular economy requires more investment in innovation, but also in monitoring progress by filling gaps in relevant data, particularly in national statistics.

The report shows that European companies are increasingly adopting circular business models focusing mainly on operational efficiency and waste reduction. Moving from product-based to service-based models is a promising development, but it faces barriers such as corporate culture, market factors and system complexity.

According to the EEA, 21 of the 32 European Economic Area member countries surveyed support circular economy initiatives. Countries use regulations and market instruments for recycling, energy recovery and waste management, while eco-design, consumption and reuse are promoted by more flexible instruments such as information campaigns and labels.

The report also highlights that circular economy policies and initiatives need to be better integrated into bio-economy and climate policies.

22118/Press Release – 2019.10.03

2. EU Environment Ministers want EU to move up a gear

Ambitious and further efforts are needed to harness the potential of the circular economy to combat biodiversity loss and climate change and accelerate the EU's transition to a truly circular economy, EU Environment Ministers stressed on Friday 4 October in Luxembourg.

The conclusions adopted by the EU Council encourage the Commission and Member States to complete the implementation of the 2015 Action Plan and urge the Commission to continue its work on the interface between EU legislation on chemical substances, products and waste. The EU Council stresses the importance of infrastructure investments to stimulate innovation, the creation of markets for quality secondary materials and circular service-oriented business models.

The EU Council supports the work of the *Circular Alliance on Plastics* and welcomes its recent statement on voluntary commitments to use ten million tonnes of recycled plastic each year to manufacture new products by 2025. It calls on the Commission to present an ambitious long-term strategic framework for the circular economy, with a common vision, policy instruments and a monitoring framework. It hopes that the Commission will adopt a new action plan without delay, in close cooperation with the various stakeholders, establishing clear links with climate change, biodiversity, the bio-economy, digitalisation and industrial policy.

The EU Council identifies the construction and infrastructure, food, textiles and transport sectors as the next priority areas for action. It urges the Commission to support the circularity of construction products, possibly by amending the regulation on them, and calls for an EU strategy on textiles.

The EU Council also calls for the full implementation of the plastics strategy and its extension to the packaging, construction, automation, electronics, textiles and agriculture sectors.

22119/Press Release – 2019.10.02

EU Commission 8th Environmental Action Programme

For the European Environment Ministers, there is no doubt that an 8th Environmental Action Programme (EAP) is needed, given the added value of such a programme in achieving the EU's environmental and climate objectives. They made this clear in conclusions on 4 October in Luxembourg.

According to them, this 8th EAP will require a high level of ambition and tangible results through a monitoring mechanism.

The EU Council welcomes the fact that the evaluation of the **7th EAP (2014-2020)** shows that it has led to better coordination of actions at European and national level.

It asks the Commission to present, from the beginning of 2020, a new proposal for an action plan to avoid any interruption at the end of the 7th EAP.

The 8th EAP would enter into force at the beginning of 2021. The EU Council is committed to working intensively on this programme once the proposal has been tabled.

The 8th EAP should contribute to the achievement of the universal sustainable development agenda by 2030.

The conclusions, which have the value of political guidance, stress the cooperative nature of the programme and in particular the role of cities. The EU Council wants the 8th EAP to be consistent with the Paris Agreement's 1.5 °C average global warming target and the EU's future long-term climate strategy. The EU Council requests the Commission to respond to the challenges identified by the IPBES report on the unprecedented decline in biodiversity.

Commissioner Cañete (representing an ill Mr Vella) recalled that the President-elect, Ursula von der Leyen, had announced a new 'European Green Deal' that would be ambitious. He was pleased that it "corresponds to the challenges identified" by the ministers. "We must avoid duplicating them", he warned. He expressed confidence that the 8th EAP will allow the new Commission to take over in a flexible way. "We will ask the next Commission to take note of the conclusions and consult all stakeholders on the evaluation of the 7th EAP", he said.

22120/Press Release – 2019.10.04

REACH: EP Opposed to the Use of Chromium Trioxide

For reasons of public health, the European Parliament opposed the European Commission's proposal to grant authorisation for the use of chromium trioxide, a carcinogenic chemical substance, to the company Cromomend SA and to others who have made the same request with it.

The objection was narrowly adopted (301 votes in favour, 295 against, 45 abstentions). Since 2010, chromium trioxide has been included in the list of chemical substances of very high concern in the European REACH Regulation on the registration, evaluation and limited authorisation of chemicals, due to its classification as a carcinogen and mutagen. For the same reason, it has been included in Annex XIV to that Regulation since 2013. With its vote, the European Parliament asks the Commission to review its copy to present a new draft authorisation limited to specifically defined uses for which there is no appropriate alternative, in full compliance with the REACH Regulation. The many MEPs who voted against the objection, particularly in the EPP Group, considered that, in the absence of an alternative solution, a ban on this chemical in the EU would lead to the import of products containing it.

22121/Press Release – 2019.10.24

EU Drinking Water Directive

Some progress was made at the second meeting of inter-institutional negotiations on the **recast of the 1998 Drinking Water Directive, which aims to improve the safety of tap water in order to ensure access to safe water for all citizens, in response to the European Citizens' Initiative Right2water.**

Negotiators in the European Parliament and the EU Council have not concluded their work on the rewriting of the Drinking Water Directive (1998 Directive on the quality of water intended for human consumption), although the second meeting for interinstitutional negotiations took place in a constructive atmosphere.

The national ambassadors to the EU, meeting in Coreper, were briefed on 25 October and approved the planned next steps to make progress on the revision of a text aimed at providing access to clean and safe water for all, in response to the '*Right2water*' European citizens' initiative.

This second trilogue, devoted solely to water quality parameters, was not conclusive, particularly with regard to endocrine disrupters and microplastics, as well as the monitoring of these parameters.

The next trilogue has been confirmed for 19 November, but by then, a lot of work will have to be done at the technical level, which will require at least two meetings of the Environmental Working Group to accelerate progress.

The EU Council wishes to stick to international recommendations. WHO (World Health Organisation) does not consider endocrine disrupters to be a factor that must be monitored for tap water quality, given the absence of scientific certainty, at this stage, on the danger they pose to humans. It recommends that they be added to a *watch list*, which would be regularly reviewed by the Commission on the basis of scientific data demonstrating the need or recommendation for monitoring.

Parliament, for its part, wishes not only to tighten the threshold values for certain endocrine disrupters (bisphenol A and beta-estradiol), but also to add them to the list of substances subject to monitoring as of now.

22122/Press Release – 2019.10.23, 25

Energy Issues

1. Joint Research Centre says converting 1% of land to solar farms would be enough to meet EU's electricity needs

A report published on 30 September by the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the European Commission's internal scientific service, reveals that converting only 1% of land to solar farms would be enough to meet the European Union's electricity needs.

Carried out using a new EU-28 dataset on the potential of wind, solar, and biomass energy, this study shows that none of the Member States are currently exploiting their full potential in terms of renewable energy production.

However, according to JRC researcher Pablo Ruiz, the data analysed also indicate *"that there are many regions in Eastern Europe—for instance Lithuania, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Poland—that have large areas of released or abandoned arable land, which could be used for fast-growing energy crops"*.

The JRC report also reveals that the EU's total demand, not just for electricity but for energy, could be met exclusively with renewable sources by using 3% of land for solar farms and up to 15% of land for wind energy.

For more information, please visit:

<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/converting-just-1-land-renewable-energy-production-can-provide-eus-electricity-consumption>

22123/Press Release – 2019.10.01

2. Commission helps EU countries to achieve 32.5% energy efficiency target

On 25 September, the European Commission adopted three recommendations for EU countries on the **implementation of Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency**.

- i. The first recommendation concerns Article 7 of the Directive, which requires European countries to achieve annual energy savings. According to the Commission, this obligation is sufficient to achieve more than half of the way to the 2030 target of 32.5% for the EU.
- ii. The second concerns the information that heating and cooling users will need,
- iii. and the third recommendation details how States should assess the potential for energy efficiency in this sector. Countries must send this assessment to the Commission before the end of 2020. The gap between the EU's ambition and the objectives set by the Member States in their national energy and climate plans is 6.2 percentage points for primary energy consumption, the Commission recalled at the EU Energy Council on 24 September.

22124/Press Release – 2019.09.26

SOCIAL ISSUES

Unemployment Rates

The euro area seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was **7.4%** in **August 2019**, down from 7.5% in July 2019. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the euro area since May 2008. The EU-28 unemployment rate was **6.2%** in August 2019, down from 6.3% in July 2019. This is also the lowest rate recorded in the EU28 since January 2000.

Eurostat estimates that 15.432 million people in the EU28 were unemployed in August 2019, a decrease by 111,000 in the EU28 and by 115,000 in the euro area compared with July 2019.

Czechia	2.0%	Belgium	5.5%
Germany	3.1%	Slovakia	5.5%
Malta	3.3%	Luxembourg	5.7%
Poland	3.3%	Portugal	6.2%
Hungary (July)	3.4%	Latvia	6.4%
Netherlands	3.5%	Lithuania	6.6%
Romania	3.8%	Cyprus	6.8%
UK (June)	3.8%	Finland	6.8%
Bulgaria	4.0%	Croatia	6.9%
Estonia (July)	4.2%	Sweden	7.1%
Slovenia	4.2%	France	8.5%
Austria	4.5%	Italy	9.5%
Denmark	5.0%	Spain	13.8%
Ireland	5.2%	Greece (June)	17.0%

Elsewhere

USA	3.5%	Russia	4.5%
Canada	5.5%	Brazil	11.8%
Japan	2.2%	Australia	5.2%
Switzerland	2.1%	India	6.0%
Turkey	13.9%	China	3.0%

GENERAL ISSUES

Future of the European Union

Audit of Proposed New Commissioners

According to Parliament's Rules of Procedure, the President of the European Assembly, David Sassoli, wrote a letter to the President-elect of the Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, informing her of Parliament's official position on the proposed new Commissioners. They confirmed that Romania's Rovana Plumb, Hungary's László Trócsányi and France's Sylvie Goulard were unsuitable as European Commissioners.

Mrs von der Leyen approved end of October the two new candidates for Commissioners from France and Hungary, Thierry Breton and Oliver Varhelyi respectively, while the new Romanian government still has to appoint a new representative.

22126/Press Release – 2019.10.04 & 29

BREXIT Developments

After a final straight line of negotiations that began on 14 October, negotiators from the European Union and the United Kingdom managed, on the morning of 17 October, to tie up a **new agreement** for the United Kingdom's orderly withdrawal from the EU. An agreement that the Twenty-Seven then endorsed in the evening.

The compromise on Northern Ireland – which will remain in the UK's customs union but mimic EU customs rules – has yet to be fully worked out, and has the possibility of being overturned every four years.

What does the agreement contain? The discussions in recent weeks have focused on Northern Ireland and in particular on the protocol on Northern Ireland.

European negotiators abandoned the backstop proposed in 2017 and 2018 in order to keep Northern Ireland in the Single Market and Customs Union and, in a second version, to keep the whole United Kingdom in a single Customs Union with the EU in order to avoid any return of border controls between the two Irelands.

To this end, Boris Johnson's government has therefore agreed that these customs controls should be carried out between Great Britain and Northern Ireland or at the point of entry into Northern Ireland, but under no circumstances on the island's territory and even less near the border with the Republic of Ireland.

Secondly, the British customs authorities will follow two sets of rules: apply the United Kingdom's rules and tariffs for any product from Great Britain or third countries not destined for the European market and apply the EU's rules and tariffs for any other product destined for the single market. It is the British authorities that would also collect the customs duties on behalf of the EU and transfer them to it.



How do we know that a product not destined for the single market will not end up entering it in one way or another? “There is a risk”, Michel Barnier acknowledged on Thursday morning, but this will require the expertise of competent officers. Specific criteria will be defined by a joint committee and each shipment will have to be carefully examined by the UK authorities according to its final destination, the negotiator explained.

For other necessary controls, such as plant health checks and compliance checks, for example on live animals, the United Kingdom has already promised to align its regulations with EU standards. The customs issue therefore had to be resolved.

Another step forward is the **agreement on consent – or veto power – given to the Northern Ireland Assembly**. It was agreed that the Stormont Assembly (when it is reinstated) will be able to decide on the fate of this new system, 4 years after its entry into force (i.e., after the end of the transition period after Brexit which should end, in theory, at the end of 2020).

A positive double majority vote would mean that these rules are renewed for 8 years, explained Michel Barnier. A positive simple majority vote would mean extending this system for another 4 years. This is a way to reassure the Irish Prime Minister, Leo Varadkar, who needed long-term security. If the vote is negative, there would then be an exit period from this new regime spread over 2 years.

VAT rules were the last sticking point. Negotiators have agreed that EU VAT rules will continue to apply in Northern Ireland, which will however remain part of the United Kingdom's VAT area, with the UK authorities remaining responsible for the application of VAT legislation, including the collection of VAT and the setting of VAT rates. The United Kingdom will retain the revenue generated by this tax.

VAT exemptions and reduced rates applied in Ireland may also be applied in Northern Ireland, in order to avoid distorting a level playing field on the island.

A guaranteed ‘level playing field’ after Brexit? The Twenty-Seven wanted to avoid social dumping and unfair competition from the United Kingdom that would undermine their environmental, tax or social standards. Both sides agreed to work towards a common set of rules to be followed.

The United Kingdom, on the other hand, has not moved and continues to demand only a free trade agreement.

See revised Protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland included in the Withdrawal Agreement: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/revised_withdrawal_agreement_including_protocol_on_ireland_and_northern_ireland.pdf

See revised Political Declaration: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/revised_political_declaration.pdf

See European Council (article 50) conclusions on Brexit: [https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/41087/17-10-euco-art50-conclusions-en.pdf?utm_source=dsms-auto&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=European+Council+\(Art.+50\)+conclusions,+17+October+2019](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/41087/17-10-euco-art50-conclusions-en.pdf?utm_source=dsms-auto&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=European+Council+(Art.+50)+conclusions,+17+October+2019)

Without taking a direct position on the substance of the new agreement for an orderly withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union as negotiated between Boris Johnson's government and the EU, **British MPs from the House of Commons agreed in a first floor vote on the draft agreement** on 21 October, indicating that they could approve this text. With this first vote (329 in favour, 299 against), the British government won a small but significant victory in that it can be considered as implicit support for the new withdrawal agreement.

But in the aftermath, MPs rejected the timetable recommended by the British government, which would have required finalising legislative work on the withdrawal agreement in the next 3 days (322 against, 308 in favour).

In the absence of timely ratification by the British Parliament of this new agreement to allow an orderly Brexit on 31 October, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson called for early parliamentary elections in the United Kingdom.

22127/Press Release – 2019.10.17, 22, 24 & 28

Third Extension of Brexit Deadline / UK Commissioner

After extending the **Brexit deadline** from 29 March to 10 April and then from 10 April to 31 October, the Twenty-Seven again showed flexibility towards London on 28 October by agreeing in principle on a **further extension until 31 January 2020** of the period provided for in Article 50 of the Treaty.

By giving the green light, Coreper has once again set its conditions. It stipulates that no reopening of the agreement leading to an orderly Brexit would be allowed within three months. The United Kingdom is also required, as a Member State, to appoint a European Commissioner. France, which was still being the spoilsport until this weekend, finally accepted this new extension after asking for assurances that the United Kingdom would not in any way disrupt the proper functioning of the EU. London will therefore again be asked to remain discreet during the meetings of the Twenty-Seven.

The EU Commission President-elect, Ursula von der Leyen, will meet with London to ensure that the Commissioner-designate is appointed by the time the College takes office. The Treaties provide that the Commission shall be composed of one European Commissioner per Member State.

Council Decision (EU) 2019/1810 at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content / EN / TXT / ?uri=uriserv:OJ.LI.2019.278.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2019:278:TOC>

22128/Press Release – 2019.10.24 & 28
OJ L278I – 2019.10.30

Early Parliamentary Elections in the UK

Labour party ended its opposition to the early election proposed by the Prime Minister, so the Members of the British House of Commons voted on 29 October on the precise date of the election: **12 December 2019**.

From the EU's perspective, this means that nothing will happen with regard to Westminster's ratification of the agreement before the election, as the British Parliament will need to be suspended for the election.

22129/Press Release – 2019.10.30

Future Working Group on United Kingdom Post-Brexit Relationship

The European Commission set up a **Working Group for Relations with the United Kingdom (UKTF)** on 22 October. **Michel Barnier**, the EU's chief negotiator for the United Kingdom's withdrawal deal, **will take the lead**. The UKTF will include the current TF50 ('Task Force for the Preparation and Conduct of the Negotiations with the United Kingdom under Article 50 TEU') and the Brexit Preparation Unit of the General Secretariat of the EU Council. It will coordinate all the Commission's work on all strategic, operational, legal and financial issues related to Brexit and will be responsible for finalising the negotiations under Article 50, as well as the preparations for future relations with the United Kingdom. The decision will take effect on 16 November 2019, regardless of developments in the United Kingdom, the Commission stresses.

22130/Press Release – 2019.10.23

Council of Europe (COE)



A number of challenges await Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić.

During her first speech to the Parliamentary Assembly as Secretary General of the Council of Europe (COE), in Strasbourg on 2 October, Marija Pejčinović Burić seemed determined.

"I am taking office at a difficult time for the COE. I have no illusions: my term in office will not be easy", said the Secretary General, who, to everyone's surprise, was elected at the end of June ahead of her opponent, the Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders. The work that awaits her is considerable. First of all, she will need to maintain the dialogue and cooperation that are characteristic of the organisation.

The extent to which this has not been achieved can be seen in the Russian crisis, where Moscow and the PACE have found themselves stuck in almost irreconcilable positions. And this week, the new Ukrainian delegation, appalled by the return of Russian parliamentarians, did not present its credentials for validation by the European Parliament. Along with the Baltic States and Georgia, it has avoided the ceremonies marking the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe.

Ms Pejčinović Burić hopes that the new mechanism for dealing with breaches of the COE's position, developed jointly by the PACE and the Committee of Ministers (CM), will provide a solid basis for a fresh start: responding to violations of the rule of law, human rights and democracy (as with annexation of the Crimea), but by means of graduated measures that maintain a constructive dialogue.

Discussions are ongoing this week, under the French presidency of the Committee of Ministers. The discussions will continue, with everyone hoping that this joint mechanism will be in place in January, when Georgia, which is likely to be less ready to facilitate discussions, takes over the presidency of the MC.

Alongside these reflections on the distinct role of the Council of Europe is a financial aspect that was extensively mentioned by the new Secretary General.

The Russian crisis has clearly shown how dependent the COE is on the contributions made by its member states. If a country of Russia's magnitude withdraws, as was the case following the sanctions imposed by the PACE, the whole organisation wobbles. "The Russian slate has now almost been wiped clean", said the Secretary General, but "we need to find a way to stabilise and sustain the long-term funding of the COE". She mentioned potential additional recourse to "innovative funding sources and arrangements", without saying any more. For the time being, she plans to submit the organisation to an external audit.

The General Secretary could not avoid mentioning the new challenges facing the COE. Some are emerging within the 47 Member States themselves, such as the tendency to slow down - or even block - implementation of the judgments from the European Court of Human Rights. This is a dangerous state of affairs that needs to be sorted out, just as it will be necessary to tackle head-on any attacks on the judicial system and the press as they increase in a Europe where corruption and violence against women both still continue.

With poverty on the increase, Ms Pejčinović Burić intends to promote the European Social Charter and get to grips with the issue of new technologies that impact on employment.

Cooperation with the European Union, including through its accession to the European Convention on Human Rights, will also be increased "as soon as possible".

She announced in a press conference that she will be meeting the President-elect of the incoming European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, "in the next few months". "That will be one of the issues we address", she promised.

22131/Press Release – 2019.10.02

Inflation Rate

Latest Eurostat figures show that the annual inflation rate was **0.8% in September 2019 in the Euro area**, down from 1.0% in August. **The EU28 annual inflation was 1.2% in September**, down from 1.4% in August.

The largest contribution to the annual euro area inflation rate came from services (+0.66%), followed by food, alcohol & tobacco (+0.29%), non-energy industrial goods (+0.06%) and energy (-0.18%).

Cyprus	-0.5%	Sweden	1.3%
Portugal	-0.3%	Bulgaria	1.6%
Greece	0.2%	Malta	1.6%
Spain	0.2%	Slovenia	1.7%
Italy	0.2%	U K	1.7%
Denmark	0.4%	Lithuania	2.0%
Belgium	0.6%	Estonia	2.2%
Ireland	0.6%	Latvia	2.3%
Croatia	0.6%	Poland	2.4%
Germany	0.9%	Czechia	2.6%
Finland	1.0%	Netherlands	2.7%
France	1.1%	Hungary	2.9%
Luxembourg	1.1%	Slovakia	3.0%
Austria	1.2%	Romania	3.5%

Elsewhere

USA	1.7%	Russia	4.0%
Canada	1.9%	Brazil	2.89%
Japan	0.3%	Australia	1.6%
Switzerland	0.1%	India	3.9%
Turkey	9.3%	China	3.6%

22132/Eurostat News Release – 2019.10.16

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GLASS NEWS

FLAT GLASS

Glass Companies

Saint-Gobain



Saint-Gobain to sell its construction glass arm in South Korea

Saint-Gobain has reached an agreement to sell its construction glass activity in South Korea. **Hankuk Glass Industries** will be sold to Glenwood Private Equity, an investment management company in Korea specialised in industrial activities and the construction sector.

The transaction should close at the end of 2019 once approval of the competition authorities has been granted.

It will be based on an enterprise value of around €240 million.

In 2018 Hankuk Glass Industries generated revenues of around €200 million and operating income of €10 million. The company employs 310 people and consists principally of two flat glass production units and a transformation line.

22133/Press Release – 2019.10.14

AGC



1. AGC offers the most high-performance insulating glass technology

For the best thermal and acoustic insulation, the only choice used to be triple glazing. But it's a compromise: triple glazing makes for extremely thick glass, noticeably reducing light transmission.

AGC is committed to developing products with better environmental performance in order to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and homes. It would be revolutionary to have glass with the comfort and performance of triple glazing, but that is as thin and light as single glazing.

AGC had been exploring and researching vacuum-glazing innovations for several years, but the real momentum began after joining forces with Panasonic to combine their plasma screen technology for consumer electronics with AGC's glazing expertise. Using the Panasonic technology for producing insulating glass meant AGC needed to design a production line with entirely tailor-made machines and integrate this equipment into a continuous production flow, meeting the requirements of the glass industry in terms of automation and reliability.

Thanks to a three-way collaboration between Panasonic and the AGC teams from the Technovation Centre and the Lodelinsart plant (the Belgian AGC plant which houses the new production line) this unique production line was designed, constructed within 6 months' time and is now fully operational.

The final result is a double glazing made up of two sheets of glass of 3mm thick, including one coated with a super-insulating layer, separated by a vacuum space of just 0.1mm. Small cylindrical pillars, spread throughout this vacuum space and practically invisible, prevent the two sheets from touching as a result of external pressure.

This vacuum glazing, named **Fineo**, delivers the same energy performance as triple glazing with no compromise on style. By comparison with triple-glazing, a same-sized Fineo pane is 4 to 5 times thinner, and a third of the weight. With its thin profile it can integrate seamlessly into renovation projects or new constructions alike. Unlike other vacuum glazing technologies, Fineo – exclusive to AGC – has no visible evacuation port and features very slim edge seals, giving you the most unobstructed view possible.

Sustainability highlight

Fineo vacuum-insulated glass has the slim profile of single glazing, but the acoustic and thermal insulation power of triple glazing. It can easily be installed in existing frames designed for single glazing. It is a significant step towards improving energy efficiency in buildings. In addition, Fineo's unique composition makes it fully and easily recyclable – unlike traditional double or triple glazing which includes elements like spacers and glues.

Innovation highlight

The new production technology involved for Fineo meant AGC needed completely tailor-made machinery, able to operate in a continuous flow for an efficient production line, and in accordance with the glass industry's requirements for automation and reliability. With Fineo vacuum insulating glazing, AGC introduces a new generation of thin lightweight ultra-high performance glazing with unrivalled insulation power and very good light transmission. It can be combined with the existing range of AGC multifunctional glass (for solar control, security, acoustic insulation etc.) and is aimed at the market for new construction (housing and non-residential) and renovation.

22134/Press Release – 2019.10.01

2. AGC Launches Two New Solar Coatings

With a view to responding to ongoing market developments, meeting customer expectations and delivering the best high-performance products, AGC is bringing two new solar control coatings to market this autumn: Stopray Ultra-70 on Clearvision and Stopray Titanium 34T.



Stopray products feature a superb coating that ensures optimal solar control in the summer while their exceptionally low Ug value prevents heat loss in the winter.

Stopray Ultra-70 on Clearvision

This new, high-performance soft-coated glass product features a triple silver coating that maximises light transmission while significantly reducing solar heat gain. Sought after by architects for its low interior and exterior light reflection, this new coating is also a natural choice for glass processors because of its flexible processing options.

Stopray Ultra-70 on Clearvision delivers a light transmission rating of 70 percent, a solar factor of 33 and a selectivity of 2.10, with low internal and external light reflection.

This product is mainly used in office building facades.

Stopray Titanium 34T

Stopray Titanium 34T is a unique heat-treatable magnetron-coated glass product. There is nothing else like it on the market. Its high solar protection rating and superb light and energy performance make it the perfect choice for hot climates. Featuring body-tinted grey glass, this product is highly prized for its low interior and exterior light reflection and delightful aesthetics, giving processors and architects plenty of leeway to play with the look of a building.

22135/Press Release – 2019.10.11

3. AGC Europe Furnace Repair at Moustier Plant

After 18 years of uninterrupted production, one of the four float glass furnaces at AGC Glass Europe in Moustier, Belgium will be shut down to carry out a cold repair.

This line produces float glass that is destined mainly for transformation into laminated, coated, silvered, varnished and acid-etched glass products and also serves AGC's processing and distribution network.

The float line will be refurbished with advanced technologies. AGC said it would substantially improve performance to meet the highest standards in terms of safety, quality and environment.

The design improvements will reduce its energy consumption by 20%, 25% less CO₂ (carbon dioxide) and 40% less NO_x (nitrogen oxides).

The cold repair is also aimed at an increase of productivity and cost competitiveness of the site.

The float line is planned to shut down in the last quarter of 2019 and is expected to restart production in the last quarter of 2020.

“At that time, this refurbished facility will fully support our policy aimed at providing high-performance products and improving customer service, while contributing to a sustainable future,” says Philippe Bastien, Regional President - Building & Industrial Glass Europe.

The Moustier plant was the first to introduce the float process in continental Europe in 1965. It now houses four float lines, one of which is on hold.

It produces clear, coloured and pyrolytic float glass for the building and automotive sectors. It also has a downstream facility for producing laminated glass in large dimensions for building applications. It employs around 700 people.

22136/Press Release – 2019.10.13

Guardian

Guardian Glass to shut down its plant in Millbury



Guardian Glass, a subsidiary of Guardian Industries, filed a WARN notice with the state of Ohio, USA, stating that it intends to close its Millbury fabrication plant on State Rt. 795 and will start eliminating the jobs of its 100 employees on or about November 20. Closing the plant will result in job losses for 77 hourly and 23 salaried employees who work at the plant, located at 24145 W. Moline Martin Rd. near Woodville Road in Millbury, OH, USA.

The plant makes consolidated glass, mirrored glass, and vacuum insulated glass.

The company said it will work closely with affected employees to minimize the impact of its decision.

The Millbury glass fabricating plant was constructed in 1959 at a cost of 250,000 USD and opened in the spring of 1960.

22137/Press Release – 2019.10.02

Şişecam



The Bulgarian energy ministry announced that two Bulgarian plants of Turkish glass manufacturing group Şişecam are planning to boost their production of automotive windows and glassware, respectively.

To support Şişecam Automotive Bulgaria's and Paşabahçe Bulgaria's plants the Electricity System Operator is currently investing 3 million BGN in the expansion of the power substation near the two companies' plants in Targovishte, announced the energy ministry. The power substation expansion is expected to be completed in March 2020. In addition, gas transmission network operator Bulgartransgaz is building a 17.6-kilometre gas pipeline to the production facilities, in order to ensure extra quantities of natural gas. The project is expected to be wrapped up in July 2020.

The road infrastructure near the production facilities will also be improved.

22138/Press Release – 2019.10.24

Ukraine to build its first float glass factory

In a first for the country, a float glass factory will be built in Ukraine.

The factory will be built in Borodyanka in the Kiev region, with the total investment amounting to €300 million.

Production capacity is planned to be at 600 tonnes per day and will create 300 jobs.

Currently, glass is not produced in Ukraine, and the country's economy is completely dependent on products that are imported from Europe and Russia.

Agromat is carrying out the project together with an American technical partner, where 600-700 people will participate in the construction.

The main products of the plant will be energy-saving glasses of all types.

It will also manufacture architectural glass, glasses for solar panels, self-cleaning glasses, glasses for household appliances, ultra-clean glasses for electronics, automotive, tinted, laminated and tempered glasses.

It is believed that the plant will almost completely cover Ukraine's needs for glass and send some of the products for export.

According to preliminary calculations, the export of the plant's products will be at least 30% of the total production.

22139/Press Release – 2019.10.14

CONTAINER GLASS

Glass Companies

O-I



1. The engineering group responsible for the construction of the **O-I Gironcourt** plant in France, Chovet-Db2i, is responsible for the engineering, procurement and construction management (EPCM) of a new furnace at the Gironcourt site. Once completed the €60 million investment will increase the number of furnaces at the plant to three, with nine production lines. It means O-I can produce 1.9 billion beer bottles a year compared to the current 1.3 billion. The project should be completed by March 2020.

22140/Press Release – 2019.10.08

O-I plots \$1 billion **sale of Asia-Pacific glass business**. O-I is considering the AU\$1 billion (US\$675.1 million) sale of its Asia-Pacific container glassmaking business.

It has appointed investment bank Goldman Sachs to negotiate the sale of its Asia-Pacific segment, which generated about 10% of its global sales last year.

O-I Asia-Pacific manufacturing operations consist of four glass manufacturing plants in Australia, two in China and one each in Indonesia and New Zealand.

It also has joint venture operations in Vietnam, Malaysia and China.

In its 2018 full-year earnings it said glass container shipments in Asia-Pacific had fallen by 3% compared to the year before.

O-I's Kate Hobson said: "As previously disclosed, as part of our stated goal of reducing debt and maximizing shareholder value, O-I is conducting a strategic review of its business portfolio."

22141/Press Release – 2019.10.10

2. O-I acquires \$225 million **Sustainable improvement loan**. Owens-Illinois (O-I) is furthering its commitment to sustainability by securing a \$225 million bank loan, with a sustainability-linked pricing mechanism.

The loan will be issued to OI European Group BV, a wholly owned subsidiary, and proceeds will be used to retire existing bank debt.

The Bank of America, who will also serve as Sustainability Coordinator for this transaction, will provide funding.

The bank loan is one of the first sustainable improvement loans in the Food and Packaging Industry.

John Haudrich, Chief Financial Officer at O-I said: “Sustainability is key to our Company, investors, customers and consumers. This financing reinforces our commitment to sustainability by linking the rate structure of the loan to an independent assessment of our continued efforts to improve and advance the Company’s sustainability practices.”

“We are extremely proud of the product we make, and we believe the environmental and health benefits of glass packaging are an important component to the Company’s overall success. We have made significant progress, but the journey continues. Glass packaging is healthy, safe and 100% recyclable. We take great pride knowing the food and beverages that you consume are being provided in a product that is kind to our planet,” said Jim Nordmeyer, VP, Global Sustainability.

22142/Press Release – 2019.10.16

Ardagh



Ardagh Group, Glass North America, has partnered with **Founders Brewing Co.** to produce 12oz specially-designed glass bottles for its Solid Gold premium lager and Canadian Breakfast Stout (CBS).



Solid Gold was originally released in cans in February 2018 and is now available for the first time in 12oz glass bottles, sold in 12-pack cases in select markets across the U.S. The barrel-aged champ CBS, previously released exclusively in 750ml glass bottles, is scheduled for release November 1 in 12oz glass bottles for the very first time. CBS is the fifth and final release in Founders’ 2019 barrel-aged series.

Both Solid Gold and CBS are packaged in a customised 12oz Heritage bottle, designed and manufactured in the U.S. by Ardagh. Using 100 percent and endlessly recyclable amber glass, the bottles feature the words ‘Founders Brewing Co.’ embossed on the neck.

“There’s a perception of higher quality when beer is packaged in glass,” said Brad Stevenson, Chief Production Officer at Founders Brewing Co. “Every drinking occasion is different and the vessel the product comes in should complement the experience. Founders is pleased to work with Ardagh Group in offering beers like Solid Gold and CBS in custom glass bottles.”

Glass bottles are the most commonly used packaging format for the craft beer industry. According to the Brewers Association, glass bottles represent 59% of the total volume of craft beer packaged in the U.S. in 2018.

With the absolute volume of craft beer bottles still increasing, the 12oz glass beer bottle continues to dominate the glass market. Craft brewers like Founders Brewing Co. are launching new products in 12oz glass bottles for its premium, sustainable appeal.

“Ardagh Group enjoys collaborating with brands to create glass packaging that showcases and protects the integrity of our customers’ products,” said John T. Shaddox, Chief Commercial Officer for Ardagh Group’s North American Glass division. “We’ve worked closely with Founders Brewing Co. for the past four years and were thrilled when they asked us to help launch Solid Gold and CBS in 12oz glass bottles.”

22143/Press Release – 2018.09.30

1. Ardagh Group introduces three new glass food jars

Ardagh Group, Glass – North America, a division of Ardagh Group, has introduced three new glass food jars for craft food producers on its BOB™ site.



The new food containers include a 5oz hot sauce bottle, a 9oz refrigerator jar and a 12oz mayo/salsa jar, all manufactured in the United States out of high-quality, traditional flint (clear) glass.

In 2017, Ardagh Group launched the BOB for food site (food.buyyourbottles.com) to reflect the growing demand for specialty food. The market continues to increase, hitting 148.7 billion USD in sales last year, which is a 9.8 percent jump in total sales between 2016 and 2018, according to the “State of the Specialty Food Industry” annual report released by the Specialty Food Association.

“These three new popular glass food containers provide an important expansion to BOB’s portfolio, offering craft food producers increased flexibility for their offerings,” said John T Shaddox, Chief Commercial Officer for Ardagh Group’s North American Glass division. “The BOB for food site is the first and only website where craft food producers can buy 100 percent recyclable glass food jars by the pallet, direct from the manufacturer, with a credit card or PayPal account.”

The BOB portfolio now includes nine unique craft food jars available for purchase in 12-pack cases, by the pallet, including a 12oz mayo/salsa jar, 16oz and 32oz mayo jars, 16oz and 26oz mason jars, a 12oz ring neck sauce bottle, a 17oz BBQ sauce bottle, a 5oz hot sauce bottle and a 9oz refrigerator jar.

22144/Press Release – 2018.10.11

Verallia Group



1. Verallia partners with project to regenerate area surrounding Seville and Cognac sites.

The Verallia group has teamed up with PUR Project to introduce a program aimed at integrating its sites into their local surroundings through landscaping projects with a social and environmental impact.

On the occasion of its annual internal day dedicated to EHS (Environment, Health and Safety) on 10th October, Verallia unveiled its first two projects involving its plants in Seville, Spain and Cognac, France.

The concept of the programme is to help regenerate local ecosystems by planting endemic species and creating "corridors" of biodiversity while better integrating the Verallia sites into the local landscape by reducing visual pollution.

In Seville, the available green spaces have been redesigned to increase the site's plant biodiversity to better integrate it into the local landscape.

With one furnace and 150 employees manufacturing up to one million bottles a day, the Seville plant serves the markets of spirits, olives and oils, sodas and sauces.

In Cognac, several projects were proposed to local teams to redesign the green spaces surrounding the entrance, the refectory, the commercial offices and the warehouse areas. With three furnaces and 350 employees manufacturing up to 2 million bottles a day, Verallia's Cognac site mainly meets the demand of three markets: still wines, some sparkling wines, and cognacs and spirits.

22145/Press Release – 2019.10.17

2. Verallia celebrates French furnace investment

Verallia has celebrated the reconstruction of one of its two furnaces at its Lagnieu, France site.

The company invested €24million to rebuild the furnace and modernise the production lines, which specialises in the manufacture of glass food containers.

The new glass furnace, which produces about 2 million jars per day, has been completely rebuilt and the five production lines it supplies have been modernised.

The reconstruction provided an opportunity to use the latest technologies and more modern materials, in particular to improve the energy performance and environmental impact of the facilities, in line with the group's environmental commitments.

For example, this new furnace has a new combustion control system that promotes its homogeneity and therefore reduces hot spots, which emit nitrogen oxides.

This modernization also improves the reliability of the installations, the quality of the production and contributes to improving the working conditions of employees.

The work also provided an opportunity to deploy an ambitious training program of more than 1,000 hours, organized around the use of modernized machines, occupational safety, production quality and industrial excellence, one of Verallia's priorities.

Olivier Rousseau, General Manager of Verallia France, gathered customers at the Lagnieu plant to celebrate the reconstruction.

At the inauguration, Michel Giannuzzi, Chairman and CEO of Verallia, said: "This modernisation illustrates our sustained investment policy, which allows us to maintain the operational excellence of our production facilities. This project is fully in line with our objective to establish ourselves as the preferred supplier of glass packaging."

22146/Press Release – 2019.10.21

Paşabahçe

The Bulgarian energy ministry announced that two Bulgarian plants of Turkish glass manufacturing group Şişecam are planning to boost their production of automotive windows and glassware, respectively.

To support Şişecam Automotive Bulgaria's and Paşabahçe Bulgaria's plants the Electricity System Operator is currently investing 3 million BGN in the expansion of the power substation near the two companies' plants in Targovishte, announced the energy ministry. The power substation expansion is expected to be completed in March 2020. In addition, gas transmission network operator Bulgartransgaz is building a 17.6-kilometre gas pipeline to the production facilities, in order to ensure extra quantities of natural gas. The project is expected to be wrapped up in July 2020.

The road infrastructure near the production facilities will also be improved.

22147/Press Release – 2019.10.24



Vidrala

Vidrala **offers to sell the MD Verre plant to Saverglass**. Saverglass Group's Management has expressed its interest in this offer.

The Executive Management of Saverglass Group has acknowledged an unilateral offer from the Spanish glass manufacturing Group Vidrala for the sale of 100 percent of shares in its Belgian subsidiary MD Verre.

The MD Verre factory is located in Ghlin, near Mons in Belgium and was acquired by the Vidrala Group in 2017. It operates two furnaces and produces 155,000 tons of glass a year, employing 257 people.

Saverglass Group's Management has expressed its interest in this offer which could quickly reinforce the production capacity of its current plants, enabling them to better respond to the growing demand for high-end bottles for Wine and Spirit — their area of expertise.

As of today, the Management has begun a process of consultation with the Group's Staff Representative Bodies concerning the interest expressed in this project.

22148/Press Release – 2019.10.14



Gerresheimer



1. Pharmaceutical and packaging glass manufacturer Gerresheimer has opened an innovation and technology centre in the USA.

Company CEO Dietmar Siemssen opened the centre located in Vineland, New Jersey, USA at a customer event with more than 100 participants.

The company said it will intensify glass innovations as well as optimise all its processes to enable its global network of plants to make pharmaceutical glass of the highest quality.

The team will work on new products, further digitisation, process capabilities and camera inspection systems.

It said there were clear benefits to pooling development capacity at a single site.

There, 25 experts and engineers who specialise in glass technology will work together on innovation in a setting conducive to collaboration thanks to an open-plan office, project and meeting rooms, allowing interactive co-working with customers onsite.

The centre is the first of its kind for Gerresheimer Primary Packaging Glass and was built next to the tubular glass converting plant in Vineland.

It means the centre can develop new products and processes very close to a production site, involving the operational expertise of the engineers at that plant.

22149/Press Release – 2019.10.07

2. Gerresheimer: growth and technology projects in third quarter

Gerresheimer increased revenues by 1.4 percent to 358.6 million EUR in the third quarter of the financial year 2019, up from 353.7 million EUR in the prior-year quarter. The syringe business performed well in the third quarter of 2019. Revenues with primary pharmaceutical plastic packaging also grew. Additionally, the medical plastic systems business did well, notably due to engineering and tooling revenues.

Revenues from glass primary packaging once again showed healthy growth in Asia. In Europe they were stable. The positive market trend in North America continues. Demand from a major customer there has temporarily decreased due to his operational problems.

In the cosmetics packaging business, the Company is increasingly targeting sustainable solutions, primarily through increased use of recycled glass and recycled plastic resin.

In figures, capital expenditure of 45.5 million EUR was incurred in the third quarter of 2019. This was mainly directed at the continued expansion of inhaler production capacity at the Horsovsy Tyn plant in the Czech Republic coupled with further additions to production capacity and to the product portfolio. Other capital expenditure in the quarter under review related to the planned furnace overhaul in Essen, Germany, as well as production line upgrading and automation at various plants.

Outlook

Gerresheimer's expectations for the financial year 2019 remain unchanged. Revenues are expected to be in the range of approximately 1.4 billion EUR to 1.45 billion EUR in the financial year 2019.

For adjusted EBITDA, the Company expects a figure of approximately 295 million EUR in the financial year 2019 (plus or minus 5 million EUR), versus a comparative figure of 289.1 million EUR in the financial year 2018. This does not include 118.5 million EUR in other operating income already recognized in the first half of 2019 due to derecognition of contingent purchase price components from the Sensile Medical acquisition. Capital expenditure as a percentage of revenues will be approximately 12 percent in 2019.

22150/Press Release – 2019.10.11

3. Gerresheimer completes Essen furnace rebuild

Gerresheimer has completed a furnace rebuild at its Essen, Germany site. The facility produces millions of glass containers for the pharmaceutical industry every year.

It said the routine renovation of the furnace means it will use less energy and is much more sustainable than its predecessor. It means new capacity is available with immediate effect to satisfy the high demand for the production of injection and infusion bottles from type II glass for parenteral solutions.

The renovation was used as an opportunity to fundamentally modernise the plant in all areas. New furnace technology, the further enlargement of the clean room as well as the automatisisation of the testing and packaging systems safeguards the company's position.

"We want to make production more environmentally friendly while remaining an efficient partner for our customers," says Dr. Jürgen Unruh, CEO of Gerresheimer Essen, adding that the investment will also help to secure approximately 400 jobs at the plant. Enlargements will be made to the production hall and the clean room will be increased in size, while testing and packaging technology will be further automated and brought up to date with the latest technology.

By using new technology, the energy efficiency of the new white glass tank can be improved while at the same time reducing specific CO2 emissions.

For example, it has installed a candle filter that reduces nitrogen oxide (NOx) content. The new construction will also improve the noise protection for the plant's neighbours. As the Centre of Excellence for the production of type II glass, the Essen plant will in future also be able to offer parenteral solutions.

In doing this, Gerresheimer can fall back on a variety of hardening and tempering methods which allow the smallest bottles for injections as well as typical infusion bottles with larger volumes to be produced.

Guaranteeing glass quality and hydrolytic resistance in line with type II glass is a priority.

22151/Press Release – 2019.10.28

Bormioli Pharma



Bormioli Pharma unveiled its renovated plant in San Vito al Tagliamento, in North-Eastern Italy. The plant expansion features a brand new furnace and two new production lines, significantly increasing its operating capacity. As a result of an investment of over 20 million euros, the plant expansion has been designed to ensure a high operational flexibility and to allow to operate with different formats and production technologies

The ceremony has been attended, among others, by Sergio Emilio Bini, Councillor to Productive Activities and Tourism of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region, and Antonio Di Bisceglie, Mayor of San Vito al Tagliamento municipality (pictured).



The investment will allow, when fully operational, the increase of the production capacity from 30 tons/day to 110 tons/day, with the possibility of adding a third production line to extend the plant's maximum capacity to up to 150 tons/day.



The new plant, featuring cutting-edge technologies in different areas, has been designed to ensure a high operational flexibility and to allow to operate with different formats and production technologies. In addition to high standards of energy efficiency, the plant now features a system of prevention and safety as well as an emission control mechanism of absolute excellence.

To support the investment in the production site, Bormioli Pharma has implemented a substantial plan to hire new resources, which has resulted in an increase of about 50 percent in the workforce. This enabled the company to hire about 50 workers, who have already been involved in training sessions.

“The decision to invest in the renovation and development of our plant in San Vito responds to the company’s growth plans and the need to improve our level of service, further reducing lead times and ensuring product availability even during periods of periodic maintenance of our production site in Bergantino. The construction of this plant further confirms the company’s ability to improve continuously, through the integration and development of its technological skills on production processes,” said Andrea Lodetti, CEO of Bormioli Pharma.

“With the inauguration of the new plant, we have strengthened our position, further establishing the company as a partner of excellence in the global pharmaceutical industry.”

22152/Press Release – 2019.10.30



Nampak Glass To Be Sold

South African packaging manufacturer Nampak has sold its glass business to Isanti Glass 1 for approximately 1.5 billion ZAR. Isanti Glass 1 is 60% owned by Kwande Capital and 40% owned by an AB InBev subsidiary, South African Breweries (SABSA).

Nampak representatives have previously stated that selling the glass business would enable the company to focus on the metals business, which generates more than 60 percent of the company’s trading profit.

In its 2018 annual report, Nampak announced their decision to dispose of the glass business to improve the company’s financial performance. Other steps included reducing overhead costs and consolidating plastic plants.

The transaction is subject to various conditions including the approval of SA competition authorities, but company representatives said, “It is not anticipated that the suspensive conditions will have been met before the Nampak 30 September 2019 year-end.”

Nampak Glass operates three furnaces at its manufacturing facility in Roodekop, Gauteng. It has a sales and marketing presence in the Western Cape, with a market share of South Africa estimated at 25%. The division serves a broad market of local and multinational customers in the beverage and food industries. It also operates its own cullet sorting and processing plant on site.

22153/Press Release – 2019.10.03

Angola’s Embalvidro Plant

A new greenfield container glass plant in Angola lighted its furnace on October 29.

The Embalvidro glass manufacturing facility will primarily produce beer bottles in amber and emerald green colours. Early next year it will begin to also produce soft drinks bottles in flint glass.

The site, based on the outskirts of the capital Luanda, fired up its 180t/day Sorg furnace with the first glass bottles expected to be produced in the middle of November.

The furnace is connected to three Emhart 10-section forming lines each double gob.



Other technology suppliers include EME (batch house), Vidromecanica (annealing and cullet return), Icebel (production lines and palletizing equipment), Tiama (inspection equipment) and Thimon (shrink wrapping equipment).

Embalvidro Director, Antonio Ruivo, who has worked for BA Glass and for Egypt's MEG in the past, said he was extremely proud of his team.

"The construction of a greenfield glass plant does not happen every day in the industry so I feel really proud to lead and work with this team."

22154/Press Release – 2019.10.29

Piramal Glass



India's Piramal Glass has invested €15 million to add three new Premium Perfume Bottle manufacturing lines to provide an additional capacity of 50 million pieces.

All the three manufacturing lines are expected to be ready by May 2020.

It has also invested €15 million to modernise and expand its decoration facility in Kosamba, India by doubling its current capacity with the addition of new automated printing and colour coating lines.

Piramal Glass has two glass-manufacturing facilities in India, one in the USA and one in Sri Lanka, as well as offices and warehouse facilities in India, USA, France, Germany, Brazil, UAE, UK, China, and Sri Lanka, with an overall capacity of 1375 tonnes per day.

During the 2019 fiscal year the company sold around 2 billion pieces of nail polish bottles, around 550 million pieces of perfume bottles, and around 60 million pieces of skin care jars.

22155/Press Release – 2019.10.01

Miscellaneous

Record Collection of Glass Containers for Recycling Hits 76% in the EU

This represents a growth of more than 1% compared to 2016 performance. A strong proofpoint of the well performing EU glass packaging circular economy. However, more needs to be done to bring the remaining 24% of glass back into the loop.

Latest industry data – published by the European Container Glass Federation (FEVE) – show that the EU28 average collection for recycling rate for glass packaging grew to the record rate of 76% in 2017.

Most of the 30 billion collected containers go back into the batch of one of the 160 plants in Europe and make the glass packaging manufacturing industry an authentic and well-functioning Circular Economy.

According to FEVE Secretary General, Adeline Farrelly: *“The high glass collection for recycling rate of 76% shows that the glass packaging circular economy works very well. Glass is a permanent material that can be endlessly recycled into new packaging, always maintaining its safety characteristics no matter how many times it’s recycled.”*

Used glass is the most important resource for the bottle-to-bottle production. It results in major environmental, social and economic benefits for the value chain, for our customers, and for the end consumer. Glass recycling enables the container glass industry to dramatically reduce its environmental footprint by saving energy and raw materials, and it helps to maintain 125,000 stable and local jobs in the EU. Glass plants deliver more than half of their products within 300km and more than 70% of raw materials travel less than 300km.

However, the 76% collection for recycling rate is the average across Europe and masks quite a diverse situation. Top performers are Sweden, Belgium, Denmark, Austria, Switzerland, Slovenia with over 90% glass collection rates and just behind are other high achievers like Germany, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands and Luxembourg with well beyond 80% rates.

More needs to be done though in countries like Poland, United Kingdom, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary and Portugal where there is a potential for growth. Each country will need its own focused and tailored strategy to ensure more and better recycling.

“We are proud that recycled glass is today our most important ingredient in glass packaging for food and beverages. In future we’d like to offer our customers even higher rates to ensure they can in turn continue to offer their customers sustainably produced products.” says Adeline Farrelly.

22156/Press Release – 2019.10.29

Low Carbon Expansion for Addis Glass

Ethiopian glass container manufacturer Addis Ababa Glass and Bottle Share Company (Addis Glass) is seeking to triple its container glass manufacturing capacity from 80 tons per day to 240 tons per day by 2022.

The total project is estimated at \$40m with the IFC considering providing total financing of \$25m alongside an East African based Private Equity firm specialising in growth, buyout and recapitalisation of medium-sized companies, who is considering an equity investment in the business.

As part of their diligence process, the Private Equity player approached the UK based glass specialists, Glass Technology Services, to provide their assessment of the project and offer technical advice on the company and project.



In developing the proposal, **Glass Technology Services' consultancy team** reviewed existing production facilities and the proposal for the additional 160 tonnes/day production lines. Following initial audit and due diligence, the experts in glass assisted Addis Glass to refine their proposal and strengthen its ability to secure financing.

Addis Glass is one of the leading manufacturers of container glass packaging products utilising electric melting technology, where they benefit from Ethiopia's very competitive electricity prices. Given a significant proportion of total power in Ethiopia is generated from hydro-electric sources, which would be boosted by the commissioning of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam hydro project coming onstream soon, Addis Glass is well positioned as one of the leaders in low CO2 glass production.

Dr Nick Kirk, Glass Technology Services Technical Director explains, "In order to achieve the additional production output, investment will be required in all stages of production including raw materials processing, batch storage and mixing, furnaces, forming, inspection and packaging.

"Infrastructure investments extend beyond production - including roads, warehousing and electrical supply. This is a complex project which is why we were asked to develop the investment schedule for the investors".

The project is now at the design and implementation stage and Glass Technology Services will continue to support Addis Glass.

The project team are currently seeking further external project management support and senior technical resources to assist with the implementation of the project.

Interested candidates, with experience of glass production facilities, infrastructure and project management should contact Glass Technology Services to express their interest.

For more information please visit www.glass-ts.com, email enquiries@glass-ts.com, telephone +44 (0) 114 290 1801

22157/Press Release – 2019.10.29

Environmental Chemist Launches Reusable Glass Bottle Resistant to Breaking

Environmental chemist turned entrepreneur Walt Himmelstein has created **ShatterSafe**, a reusable glass bottle coated in a plastic resin produced to combat the worldwide single use plastics problem.

The ShatterSafe glass bottle allows for consumption of hot or cold beverages on the go and is also dishwasher safe.



The bottle's interior is pure glass and the exterior is coated with a safe, permanently adhered, impact-resistant plastic resin.

If the interior glass breaks, it can be recycled and the coating will vaporise in the glass recycling process.

Mr Himmelstein has launched a Kickstarter crowdfunding campaign in order to gather enough interested parties to come forward and back the campaign along with being the first to know when ShatterSafe is released.

Through the Kickstarter campaign, "backers" will receive a free reusable and biodegradable bamboo straw, and cleaning brush with any ShatterSafe Reusable Glass Bottle order.

Mr Himmelstein said: "While glass is the healthiest alternative to plastic, metal and aluminium reusable drinking bottles, it's also the most breakable, creating the potential for dangerous situations. Our reusable glass bottles are the first on the market to not leave a dangerous mess if dropped. Glass allows consumers to drink without the taste of unwanted chemicals, metals or other unsafe alternatives."

Mr Himmelstein hopes to start the KickStarters campaign early in the new year.

22158/Press Release – 2019.10.25

DOMESTIC TABLEWARE AND CRYSTAL GLASS

Glass Companies

Val Saint-Lambert

It's a bit of a renaissance for the Val Saint-Lambert Crystal Works in Seraing (Belgium). They have just acquired a new oven that will allow the creation of new original pieces. Since the bankruptcy in 2013, the Val workers only worked on old parts. A period now gone.

"It's a pot furnace, there's a little crucible inside, which makes it possible to merge nearly a half-ton of crystal, which the glassmakers will pick inside, then shape with the cane, by blowing and by hand. The small ovens placed around the big one still need to be finished. These little ovens are used to warm the room during the shaping, because during the working time, the shape cools slowly, so each time we have to bring back heat so that it is malleable again. At present, the oven is at 1130 degrees but it climbed up to 1400 degrees to cook the sandstone pot, "explains Constant Beerden, head of Val Saint-Lambert workshop.

"Now, we will be able to make new parts, new product lines, thanks to this oven," he explains.

The Val Saint-Lambert has a dozen blowers and six people for finishing parts. All from the old crystal factory.

22159/Press Release – 2019.10.06



Libbey



Results of third-quarter 2019 (ended September 30, 2019) show net sales growth and improved operating cash flows that drove solid third-quarter performance.

Libbey Inc. reported financial and operating highlights for the third quarter of 2019.

Net sales were \$192.4 million, an increase of 0.9 percent, or an increase of 2.0 percent in constant currency versus the prior-year period.

Selling, general and administrative expense was reduced by \$2.4 million versus the prior year.

Net loss improved to (\$3.5) million, compared to net loss of (\$5.0) million in the third quarter of 2018, while adjusted Income from Operations increased 2.8 percent to \$6.4 million, and adjusted EBITDA increased 1.5 percent versus the prior year to \$16.3 million.

2019 Outlook

Performance in the core U.S. & Canada segment is growing; however, given headwinds in EMEA and Latin American markets, in addition to unfavourable currency impacts, 2019 full-year net sales are now expected to be flat to slightly down from prior year.

The Company continues to focus on cash flow and expects to manage inventories down versus prior year by approximately \$10 million.

This focus, which includes taking discretionary downtime, is expected to result in Adjusted EBITDA margins between 8.5 percent and 9 percent, near the low end of the previously guided range.

Capital expenditures and ERP capital are expected to be near \$35 million, at the low end of the previously guided range.

The Company projects further spending discipline leading to adjusted selling, general and administrative margin of approximately 15.5 percent, down from the previously guided 16 percent.

22160/Press Release – 2019.10.28

Arc



After recent difficult years, the Arc glass group (488 million euros in sales last year and 5200 employees for Arc France) is working to modernize its industrial tool, and tries to dust off its ranges of consumer products. In addition to its historical brands Luminarc, Arcopal or Cristal d'Arques, the group launches this autumn a new label, "**Le verre français**" ("French Glass"), a series of four pieces made in Arques (Pas-de-Calais), in his French factory. The group wants to sell 1 million pieces in 2020.

In order to stand out from the competition, the glass giant strongly emphasizes the manufacture in France of its products. The Made in France is anchored in the title of the brand with a tricolour logo and the name of products referring to History: "Louis the Royalist" or "Antoinette the provocative", the entire collection representing 100,000 pieces a day.

Other projects are underway including the entry on the market of culinary glass and the development of a lighter and stronger glass to replace plastic packaging.

22161/Press Release – 2019.10.01

REINFORCEMENT GLASS FIBRES

Glass Companies



Owens Corning

1. Owens Corning is pleased to announce **2030 sustainability goals** that are its most comprehensive and ambitious to date.

These goals represent the company's third set of long-term goals and are designed to expand the company's business impact through sustainability, continuing its commitment to incorporate material environmental, social and economic initiatives into its global practices and operations.

"These goals advance our business priorities by pushing us to discover increasingly more sustainable solutions, which is becoming more important to our customers and other key stakeholders," Chief Executive Officer Brian Chambers said. "Our employees are energized by the challenge to use their creativity and dedication to achieve these ambitious goals."

Chief Sustainability Officer Frank O'Brien-Bernini added, "The scope and ambition of our sustainability goals have evolved over the years, from an initial focus on reducing our environmental footprint, to our current 2030 aspirations to double the positive impact of our products, halve the negative impact of our operations, eliminate injuries, improve the quality of life for our employees and their families, advance inclusion and diversity, and have a positive impact on our communities."

A few examples of Owens Corning's 2030 sustainability goals include:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50%, in line with guidance to hold global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. This goal was approved by the Science Based Target Initiative.
- Sourcing 100% renewable electricity to reduce product embodied carbon.
- Maximizing product sustainability, including circular economy strategies for reduced consumption of virgin materials and increased end-of-life reuse and recycling.
- Building and supporting inclusive and diverse teams that reflect the communities in which we live, work, and serve.

Owens Corning ranked No. 1 on Corporate Responsibility Magazine's 100 Best Corporate Citizens list for 2019 and recently became the first U.S. industrial company

to issue a green bond. It was also just named Industry Leader for the DJSI World Building Products group, for the seventh straight year.

22162/Press Release – 2019.10.11

2. Owens Corning reported consolidated net sales of \$1.9 billion in **third-quarter 2019**, compared with \$1.8 billion in third-quarter 2018, an increase of 4%. Third-quarter 2019 net earnings attributable to Owens Corning were \$150 million, or \$1.36 per diluted share, compared with \$161 million, or \$1.45 per diluted share, in third-quarter 2018. Third-quarter 2019 adjusted earnings were \$179 million, or \$1.63 per diluted share, compared with \$174 million, or \$1.57 per diluted share, during the same period one year ago. Adjusted earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) in third-quarter 2019 were \$277 million, compared with \$267 million in 2018.

Highlights in the quarter include:

- Roofing improved EBIT by \$16 million to \$143 million on volume strength
- Insulation delivered \$84 million of EBIT, with continued strong performance in the technical and other building insulation businesses
- Composites generated 13% EBIT margins on continued good operational and commercial execution
- Produced strong operating cash flow of \$596 million and free cash flow of \$282 million year-to-date.

For 2019 outlook, the company continues to expect growth in the glass fibre market (composites), although at a lower rate than its previous outlook.

The company expects volume growth and improved operating performance to largely offset inflation.

22163/Press Release – 2019.10.23

NEG – Nippon Electric Glass



1. Nippon Electric Glass Co., Ltd. has established the **joint venture LTCC Materials Co., Ltd.** with Yokowo Co., Ltd. aiming to the manufacturing and distribution of Low Temperature Co-fired Ceramics (LTCC). LTCC products are highly valued for their excellent electric characteristics and their capability to realise multilayer and high-density wiring. They are used in various applications such as LED packages, communication modules and probe cards, as well as a wide range of fields including automobiles, communication devices and semiconductor processes. NEG has been providing the market with high-quality powder glass and green sheets (unfired sheets composed of powder glass and ceramic powder, which are formed with organic binder) for LTCC.

22164/Press Release – 2019.10.01

2. NEG has successfully developed a **new type of substrate glass** that has the world's highest refractive index and internal transmittance as substrate glass for augmented reality (AR) and mixed reality (MR) **smart glasses**.

The market for smart glasses is expected to grow widely as a next-generation communication device. The new glass developed by NEG achieved a refractive index of 2.0 and an internal transmittance of 98%, which enable the creation of wider field of view as well as the display of brighter images.

22165/Press Release – 2019.10.01

SPECIAL GLASS

Glass Companies

SCHOTT



With the launch of vivo's latest NEX 3 smartphone, SCHOTT is bringing its most innovative **cover glass Xensation® Up** in vivo's high-end smartphone.

SCHOTT has successfully developed this new high-performing cover glass that increases the likelihood of a phone surviving drops. The recently unveiled Xensation® Up has been recognized as one of the most durable and reliable glass cover types currently available worldwide. Tests of the new cover glass demonstrate superior set drop performance, which means that high-end, premium range smartphones can survive drops from twice the height as those protected by the most commonly used lithium aluminosilicate glass (LAS glass) cover glasses in the market.

Xensation® Up is the latest premium material in SCHOTT's Xensation® portfolio, establishing a leading lineup of smartphone cover glass options. The portfolio matches "Made in Germany" technical innovation with the processing power of today's leading manufacturers.

Most recently, vivo launched its range of premium smartphones vivo V17 Pro and vivo Z1X in India, which use the Xensation® Up and Xensation® 3D cover glasses respectively.

22166/Press Release – 2019.10.15

Corning



Corning Has FDA Approval of Valor® Glass for Packaging of Marketed Drug Product

Corning Incorporated announced that a leading pharmaceutical manufacturer has received FDA approval of Corning Valor® Glass for use as a primary package for a marketed drug product.

Valor® Glass has been specifically designed for pharmaceutical applications, and this approval makes Valor® Glass the first and only fundamentally new glass composition to be approved by the FDA since the advent of borosilicate glass more than 100 years ago. This innovative glass packaging solution has been designed to enable superior chemical durability and improve resistance to breakage, damage, and particulate contamination.

These attributes can help enhance manufacturing productivity by enabling increased throughput and quality assurance for pharmaceutical manufacturers.

“We believe that Valor® Glass is the future of parenteral glass packaging for manufacturers. This FDA approval is an important first step on our journey to create a new standard in pharmaceutical glass packaging. It’s great news for patients, for the industry, and for Corning,” said Ronald Verkleeren, vice president and general manager, Corning Pharmaceutical Technologies.

22167/Press Release – 2019.10.25

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DIVERSE

GLASS & SUPPLIERS

Glass Person of the Year Alicia Duran Accepts Phoenix Award

This year’s Phoenix award Person of the Year winner spoke of her passion for glass during an acceptance speech.

Prof Alicia Duran, of the Institute of Ceramics and Glass of the Spanish Research Council (CSIC) and President of the ICG, accepted the Phoenix bird sculpture during a glittering ceremony in Madrid, Spain.

She was named the Phoenix Committee’s 49th Glass Person of the Year for her services to the glass industry during her 42-year career.

In her acceptance speech she praised the Institute of Ceramics and Glass of the Spanish Research Council (CSIC) in Madrid. The institute had welcomed her when she arrived from her native Argentina after completing her degree at the University of Cordoba.

“One month before leaving, I received the offer of a PhD fellowship in Stanford but I decided to come to Spain. My friends and professors thought I was crazy but I never regretted having made that decision,” she told the audience.

She has remained at the institute ever since.





Prof Duran (pictured), has worked on research projects with a number of glassmakers including Verallia, Vidrala, Vicrila, Saint-Gobain and Guardian.

"This is a clear example that it's possible to combine collaboration within competition, between companies and countries, between academia and industry, between glass producers and glass end-users. Cooperation/collaboration are key words in my life."

She thanked those who have played a contribution in her career including her first glass teacher Prof. Fernández Navarro; Rosa Menéndez, President of CSIC, Prof John Parker of the ICG and Glass International columnist, and Fabio Nicoletti, 'my so loved friend in glass.'

Alicia Durán is the second woman to be elected ICG President and the second to receive the Phoenix Award. The first, Alev Yaraman, was present in Madrid to support her long-time friend.

Mrs Yaraman was one of five previous Phoenix Award winners in the audience, the other's being Surasak Decharin, Javier Gutierrez, James O'Callaghan and Helmut Schaeffer.

Prof Duran concluded: "Last but not least, I have to deeply thank the Phoenix Award Committee, and particularly to Jean-Luc Logel and Erik Muijsenberg, for this unexpected and superb gift."

Phoenix Chairman Jean-Luc Logel said: "The Phoenix Award Committee has selected Professor Duran to receive this year's prestigious Phoenix Award in recognition of her extensive work in the furtherance of glass, glass-ceramics and sol-gel materials research."

The Phoenix Award Committee comprises of glass technology suppliers, which nominate their glass person of the year. The banquet is attended by glass suppliers, past winners, glass manufacturers and the winner's invited guests.

22168/Press Release – 2019.10.10

Celsian



Dutch process optimisation consultancy group Celsian Glass & Solar has entered into a global process measurement partnership with SGS.

SGS is a global inspection, verification, testing and certification company, and recognised as the global benchmark for quality and integrity. It has more than 97,000 employees and operates a network of more than 2,600 offices and laboratories around the world. Through this partnership Celsian can rely on SGS' operational capacity around the world for process measurements, while SGS has taken over the emission measurement activities from Celsian in The Netherlands.

"This is a win-win for both parties involved", said Business Manager Marc van Ryckeghem of SGS. "We expand our emission business in the Netherlands into the glass industry that was dominated by Celsian for a very long time".

Harmen Kielstra, Celsian's Managing Director, said: "Celsian is very pleased with the partnership, as it connects Celsian knowledge and expertise with the global scope and reach of SGS. It means we can serve our customers better and faster around the world. Process measurement execution will be done by the experts from SGS anywhere in the world, whereas the data analysis and reporting remain the key tasks of Celsian in this cooperation. It is an important step in the development of Celsian, with an increasing focus on software, training and R&D dedicated to the glass industry".

22169/Press Release – 2019.09.30

Soda Ash

1. Glass consumes more than half of soda ash production

Glass manufacturers consumed more than half of all the soda ash produced in the past year. The glassmaking industry used 53% of the 60 million tonnes of soda ash produced in the last year. The flat glass sector consumed 29%, the container industry 19% and other glass segments 5%.

Delegates at the IHS World Soda Ash Conference in Cannes were told the flat glass sector is single largest end user for soda ash.

Construction is the largest driver for flat glass demand so any investment growth in construction has an impact on flat glass. In 2019 this has positively impacted on China but was slower elsewhere.

In a 30-minute opening presentation Marguerite Morrin (pictured below), Executive Director, Chemicals at IHS Markit, gave a global overview of the soda ash industry.

She told the 325 delegates that the soda ash industry is currently a mixture of conflicting dynamics in each region.

"In the USA we see low levels of recycling and see container glass production in decline year on year despite the Arglass site coming on stream next year. Mexico is enjoying fast growth in container glass production and demand."





Construction growth in the US has declined by 7.5% decline this year due to a combination of factors. Between 2007 and 2014 there were 11 float plant closures in the USA.

But there are signs of positive growth - NSG's Pilkington brand plans to open a new float plant in Ohio in 2020, while a new float plant is planned in Mexico in 2021.

"So long term there is some positive growth for construction in in the region," she said. Soda ash is a key raw material and is used as an additive in the glassmaking process. It is used in the glass industry for the production of flat, container, fibre, and other speciality glass.

There have been a number of soda ash production site expansions in recent months, with two announced the same week as the IHS Markit conference.

Solvay said it would add 600,000 tonnes of production capacity at its Green River, Wyoming, USA facility to meet long- term global demand growth from sectors such as glass. Genesis Alkali also announced a 750,000 short tonnes expansion at its Granger bed, also in Green River.

The two-day conference included 16 papers from a variety of soda ash manufacturers, such as Turkey's Eti Soda and various analysts. It also included a paper from Jim Nordmeyer, Vice President of Global Sustainability at O-I with a paper titled "Container Glass: A View Outside In".

22170/Press Release – 2019.09.27



2. Solvay increases glassmaking raw material capacity

Soda ash producer Solvay will increase its soda ash production capacity by 600 kilotonnes at its trona-based Green River site in Wyoming, USA.

It said the capacity expansion will meet long-term global demand growth in various applications.

Solvay will also expand its sodium bicarbonate capacity by 200 kilotonnes in its Devnya plant in Bulgaria, to address global demand growth for flue gas treatments which improve air quality.

The combined investments total €185 million, spread over the next three years.

Global soda ash demand is forecast to grow by 10 million tonnes, excluding China, between 2018 and 2030 – with 4 million tonnes between now and 2023.

Demand is driven by export markets such as South East Asia, Brazil, the Middle East and Africa for the manufacturing of flat and container glass, and Latin America for the extraction of lithium.

The 600 kilotonnes investment will leverage on the existing infrastructure and is spread over the next three years, with production starting to ramp up by the end of 2021.

Solvay's sodium bicarbonate capacity expansion by 200 kilotonnes in Devnya, Bulgaria is part of the existing 75/25 joint operation with Sisecam. The new production line is expected to be operational by the end of 2020.

22171/Press Release – 2019.09.30

3. Genesis to increase soda ash capacity at Granger operation

Genesis Energy will invest \$300 million to increase its soda ash glassmaking raw material facility. The US company said it will expand its Granger production facility, at Green River, Wyoming (USA), to increase soda ash production by 750 kilotons a year.

The construction of the expansion is scheduled to begin in Q4 this year (2019). The increased production is anticipated to be available for sale in Q2 2022.

During the construction of the expansion, the Granger facility will continue to produce soda ash at current rates.

22172/Press Release – 2019.09.30

Fosbel Becomes SmartMelter Partner

Furnace refractory maintenance provider Fosbel is to enhance its audit and inspection services to include SmartMelter radar technology. Fosbel will be the first company to join the SmartMelter Certified Partner programme.

Fosbel has been a maintenance and audit firm for several decades. Adding them to our certified partner list is a testament to our commitment to deliver not only the best technology to our customers, but also an integrated inspection solution from a respected partner. The new service will be called SmartAudit.

The Certified Partner Program allows furnace audit and repair providers to incorporate SmartMelter radar technology into their audit, inspection and maintenance programmes, combining visual, thermal, endoscopy and radar scans in a SmartAudit.

This improves visibility of furnace health, as SmartMelter has been proven to detect vulnerabilities one to three years before visual and thermal indications. The programme enhances risk management by providing deterministic data for furnace maintenance decisions.

Bob Chambers, Fosbel Managing Director, Americas, said: "This partnership allows glass manufacturers to obtain full furnace diagnosis through non-destructive technologies measuring glass containment refractories. This technology, added to our service portfolio, facilitates risk management and actionable maintenance activities.

Fosbel will begin offering SmartAudit services from January 2020.

22173/Press Release – 2019.10.28



SEMINARS / CONFERENCES / WORKSHOPS



Şişecam International Glass Conference

Şişecam announced that the “Şişecam International Glass Conference combined with the 34th Şişecam Glass Symposium” with the main theme of “Glass in the Sustainable Future: Achieving What is Possible”, will be held at the Crowne Plaza Istanbul Asia Hotel & Convention Center in Istanbul, Turkey **on November 21-22, 2019.**



Being the premier glass science and technology platform in Turkey, Şişecam Glass Symposiums have been growing steadily and strongly for the last 33 years and three times in the past had the pleasure of hosting joint meetings with the International Commission on Glass (ICG). From this year on, the company decided to transform Şişecam Glass Symposium into a two-day biennial “International Conference” that will attract researchers and industry professionals from all around the world.

This year, the Conference will feature select sub-sessions and expert training offered by leading technology companies in the glass industry such as CelSian, Glass Service, Eurotherm, AMETEK Land, RHI-Magnesita and SEFPRO.

[Registration and Abstract Submission](http://www.glassconference-sisecam.com) for the Conference is now available at the conference web site: www.glassconference-sisecam.com.

22174/Press Release – 2019.07.10

ICCG13: March 23-26, 2020 in Braunschweig



The aim of the **International Conference on Coatings on Glass and Plastics (ICCG)** is to identify significant trends early on and to discuss possible implementation in new technologies and products guided by market requirements.

Energy conversion, saving, storage as well as architectural and automotive glazing and other interesting topics in the field of “Advanced Coatings on Glass and Plastics for Large-Area or High-Volume Products” will be paramount at the ICCG 13 in Braunschweig from March 23 to 26, 2020.

By registering before 1st December 2019, the early bird fee is 850 EUR for the full conference, including lunch and all social events. The short courses fee is 280 EUR, including the short courses book.

Latest information about the conference on the website: <https://13.iccg.eu/en/home>

22175/Press Release – 2019.07.10

Challenging Glass Conference



Challenging Glass is an international bi-annual conference that aims at gathering world class designers, engineers, researchers and industry partners to discuss on the architectural and structural use of glass. The next edition of Challenging Glass is planned for 18 & 19 June 2020 at the Ghent University (Belgium) and is organised by Jan Belis (UGent), Freek Bos (TU Eindhoven) and Christian Louter (TU Dresden).

More info at: <http://www.challengingglass.com/>

22176/Press Release – 2019.09.05
