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WELCOME TO EU GLASS INDUSTRIES NEWS

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EU COMMUNITY NEWS

NEW EU LEGISLATION

COMMISSION REGULATION

N° (EU) 2018/16881of 3 December 2018

The European Commission revised several annexes to the REACH Regulation to clarify the provisions for the **registration of nanoform substances**. Nanomaterials can be used in many products (such as catalysts, electronics, solar panels, batteries) as well as in many scientific and biomedical applications, for example.
This Regulation amends Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (**REACH**) as regards **Annexes I, III, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, and XII to address nanoforms of substances.**
By way of derogation from the second paragraph of Article 3, manufacturers and importers registering substances with nanoforms either as non-phase-in or phase-in substances pursuant to Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 as well as downstream users generating chemical safety reports may comply with this Regulation before 1 January 2020.
Nanoforms may have specific toxicological profiles and exposure patterns and may therefore require specific risk assessment and adequate sets of risk management measures. Without the minimum standard information in the technical dossier and the chemical safety report specifically addressing nanoforms, it is not possible to ascertain whether the potential risks have been adequately assessed. Clarifications to requirements for the registration of substances with nanoforms and related downstream user obligations should be included in the Annexes I, III and VI to XII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006. This should ensure a clear and effective implementation with proportionate costs, guaranteeing a high level of protection of human health and the environment without adversely affecting innovation and competitiveness. The adopted changes for nanoforms should be without prejudice to the performance and documentation of risk assessment of other forms of the registered substance, unless it has implicitly included nanoforms in the assessment.
Candidate companies will have a better understanding of what information to provide on the basic characteristics and uses of these substances "*on how to handle them safely, on the potential risks they pose to the environment and health and on how to adequately control these risks*", says the Commission in a statement. According to the Commission, the new requirements will also make it possible to know which nanomaterials are placed on the market and in what quantities.

All details on page1 at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2018:308:TOC

21576/O.J. L308 – 2018.12.04

TRADE POLICY

G20 Leaders Endorse Need to Reform WTO

The G20 leaders' declaration, the result of intense negotiations, which met in Buenos Aires on 30 November and 1 December, confirms the need to reform the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

In the declaration, the same goes for the trade aspect as the rest: the European Union has implemented what it knows best, namely to facilitate the identification of the lowest common denominator between sometimes antagonistic players. The final compromise, if not ambitious, identifies concrete meeting points between the positions of the twenty major world economies.

The reference to **protectionism**, although included in previous statements, will not have found its way back into the text, as the United States formally opposes it.

Leaders are therefore content to "*note current trade issues*", while avoiding tabling them. But the United States, on the other hand, has given way on the reference to a "*rules-based international order*". Recognising the "*contribution that the multilateral trading system has made*" to growth and development, the Twenty "*support the necessary reform of the WTO to improve its functioning*" and undertake to review this reform at the next summit, at the end of June in Osaka, Japan.

In a long-awaited bilateral meeting on Saturday, 1 December, the Chinese and American presidents also reached a truce to stop the escalation of trade sanctions between the two countries. President Xi Jinping has pledged to increase Chinese purchases of US products in order to somewhat rebalance the large deficit in the US trade balance with China.

In the **financial sector**, the G20 calls for a "*full and timely*" implementation of reform of the financial system. In particular, it undertakes to regulate cryptocurrencies for the purpose of combating money laundering and financing of terrorism.

Climate. As in Hamburg in June 2017, nineteen leaders reaffirm their commitment to "*fully implement*" the Paris Climate Agreement, calling it "*irreversible*".

The United States reiterates its decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement by referring only to the use of all available energy sources "*while protecting the environment*".

On the **migration challenge**, the world's twenty largest powers consider massive refugee movements to be "*a global concern with economic, social, political and humanitarian consequences*". They highlight the importance of shared actions to address the root causes of these movements of people.

In addition to the United States and Australia, several European countries refuse to sign a non-binding text reaffirming certain principles and intended to promote international cooperation in this field based on good practice.

In 2019, the G20 summit will be held in Osaka, Japan, and in 2020, in Saudi Arabia.

21577/Press Release – 2018.12.03

WTO Sides With the EU in Appeal on Brazil's Industrial Tax Measures

The WTO Appellate Body confirmed the initial ruling of August 2017 that numerous Brazilian tax programmes are not in line with WTO rules as they favour domestic products. The programmes disadvantage EU automotive, and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) products by granting tax advantages based on the local content embedded in products. According to the ruling such measures are incompatible with WTO law.
As a consequence of the ruling, Brazil will now have to bring its tax programmes in compliance with WTO rules and remove the prohibited measures without delay.

Brazil is an important trade partner for the EU. The EU is Brazil's second biggest trading partner accounting for more than 18% of its total trade. For many sectors of the Brazilian economy, the EU is the biggest foreign investor. Machinery and appliances, chemical products and transport equipment make up the bulk of EU exports to Brazil. However, Brazil's restrictive trade policies have resulted in a decline in EU exports of goods to Brazil, from a peak of €40 billion in 2013 to €32.2 billion in 2017.
The EU initiated the WTO dispute in December 2013. In July 2015, Japan launched a parallel dispute against the same Brazilian programmes and the two cases were joined. The reports issued in both cases are substantially the same.

21578/Press Release – 2018.12.14

EU / Korea

EU steps up engagement with Republic of Korea over labour commitments under the trade agreement. **The EU has requested formal consultations with the government of the Republic of Korea regarding the implementation of the sustainable development commitments under the EU-Korea trade agreement.**
The aim is to open a dedicated channel of communication to find an amicable and mutually satisfactory solution to the EU's concerns, specifically on labour rights.
This is the first time the EU activates such an instrument in the framework of a trade agreement. The EU's objective is a solution acceptable to both sides.

The EU has two key longstanding concerns with regard to Korea's implementation of the commitments on trade and sustainable development:

- the respect for the International Labour Organisation (ILO) fundamental principles of freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining
- the outstanding ratification by Korea of four fundamental ILO Conventions: two concerning freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining and two concerning forced labour.

Both issues are closely interrelated and require a number of labour reforms in Korea.
The EU-Republic of Korea trade agreement is now in its eighth year of implementation and the EU considers it is time that progress is made and therefore supports the efforts of President Moon to move forward to ratification and legislative changes in this field.

The European Commission closely monitors the implementation of trade commitments by EU partners and takes action, as necessary, to ensure that these commitments are respected. This also applies to commitments taken under the trade and sustainable development chapters in EU trade agreements.
Following the debate on trade and sustainable development chapters in trade agreements, the EU has recently reinforced its monitoring and implementation efforts.
The EU-Republic of Korea trade agreement, in place since 2011, was the first of the “new generation” comprehensive trade agreements that include a trade and sustainable development chapter, with a number of labour and environmental commitments based on multilateral standards and agreements.

21579/Press Release – 2018.12.17

State of Negotiations with Australia, New Zealand and Indonesia

On 13 December, the European Commission posted its latest progress reports online, as well as new textual proposals put on the table during its latest rounds of talks with Australia, New Zealand and Indonesia.

Australia: The European Commission has published the progress report on the second round of free trade agreement talks with Australia, which took place from 19 to 23 November 2018 in Canberra. Also available are the latest EU textual proposals covering six negotiating areas: capital movements, digital trade, good regulatory practices, services and investment, sanitary and phytosanitary issues and transparency. According to the Commission, these talks were "*constructive*", with substantive discussions on the various negotiating chapters.

New Zealand: the progress report and six proposals for negotiations with New Zealand are also disclosed. The second round of talks between the EU and Wellington took place in the New Zealand capital from 8 to 12 October, covering all areas except small and medium-sized enterprises and digital commerce. Six EU textual proposals are available: capital movements, digital trade, good regulatory practices, services and investment, sanitary and phytosanitary issues and transparency. The next negotiations will take place in February 2019 in Brussels.

Indonesia: The sixth round of talks, which took place from 15 to 19 October in Palembang, made progress on issues such as customs, health standards and technical barriers to trade. Two new Commission text proposals, on transparency and good regulatory practices - including a reference to the precautionary principle - are now available. Next round is planned for 11 to 15 March 2019 in Brussels.

21580/Press Release – 2018.12.17

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

COP 24 – Katowice (Poland) Climate Change Conference, 3 to 14 December 2018

The Katowice Climate Change Conference included the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 24) to the UNFCCC (United Nations Climate Change Conference).
The EU is pleased that COP 24 has at least saved the Paris Agreement by adopting multilateral implementation rules
Three years after its conclusion, the Paris Climate Agreement now has rules making it operational, though everything still remains to be done. **Due to its lack of political ambition, COP 24,** which ended on 16 December more than 24 hours later than expected, **is disappointing due to its lack of sufficient measurement of the climate emergency so that it may be translated into an increase in level of commitment of various countries**. To say that dramatic and irreversible climate change is not close to being avoided is an understatement.
However, EU negotiators chose to see the glass half full, welcoming the adoption of rules and guidelines for the implementation of this universal agreement to which the United States has turned its back.
In view of the disappointment of developing countries and small island states, the most vulnerable to climate change, and even IPCC experts, who had sounded the alarm, this is the challenge stemming from the ambition that COP 25 will have to face in Chile in January 2020.
Even though the adoption of the Agreement's implementation manual ('*The Paris Rulebook*') was achieved, it is the lowest common denominator upon which the parties can eventually agree.

Multilateral rules to turn the test into action.
The political phase of the Talanoa dialogue - an international collective conversation on how to increase the ambition level - which was to send a strong message to the world to relaunch the dynamics of climate action, has produced a mouse. All parties have, of course, reported their results and progress in terms of their nationally determined contribution (NDC). However, the international community is far from achieving this: current commitments lead to an average global warming of 3 degrees C by 2100 - far from the goal of 1.5 degrees, while the IPCC report of 8 October stressed that 1.5 degrees (the most ambitious goal of the Paris Agreement) is an achievable target, though rapid action is required to achieve negative emissions in the second half of the century.
No EU country has taken the necessary measures to meet its commitments under the Paris Agreement so far. However, 26 parties to the Agreement (out of 195), including 11 EU Member States - Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the European Commission - as well as China, have joined the most ambitious coalition.

Instead of a target for reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2030 compared to 1990, the Commission announced, through its Vice-President for Energy, Maroš Šefčovič, that "*by the end of the next decade, the reduction will be at least 45%* (if all Energy/Climate legislation is implemented). It will also submit in 2020 a 2050 strategy that will take into account the results of COP 24.

In the opinion of the European Parliament delegation present in Katowice, the outcome of COP 24 is far from the required ambition, though this COP has provided "*essential elements for the implementation of the Paris Agreement*": clear implementation rules. Saudi Arabia, Russia and Poland are not ready to leave fossil fuels behind.

No rules yet on the function of carbon markets after 2020. The major issue on the function of post-2020 carbon markets (Article 6) has been postponed until COP 25. Parties failed to agree on rules that would avoid accounting loopholes (such as double counting emission reductions) by imposing transparency obligations on credit transfers under the rules of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM after 2020).

Brazil refused to accept the rules that would require the application of corresponding adjustments for transferred credits. "*Without these adjustments, a country may claim to have made emission reductions and sell these reductions to another country. If we add that there is no limit to the use of these markets, it means that countries could meet their commitments without reducing their emissions by even one tonne of carbon,*" warns the NGO *Carbon Market Watch*.

Greens/EFA's disappointment. *The Greens/EFA, such as Germany's Rebecca Harms, say that they are "extremely disappointed".* "*EU governments have once again failed to take the lead*", she deplored, pointing out "*the huge gap between the government hesitation on the one hand and the expectations of scientists and citizens on the other*". According to her, while scientists and the financial world are calling for more climate protection, the vast majority of governments are still relying on fossil fuels of the past and are missing a great opportunity for innovation.

"*EU governments bear a heavy responsibility for these poor results because, after the US's renunciation, the European Union should be at the forefront of international climate protection*", she said in a statement.

21581/Press Release – 2018.12.17

COP24: Cities and Regions Request Official Role in Paris Agreement

As major actors in the fight against climate change, local authorities, who are responsible for more than 70% of the measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and 90% of adaptation actions, called on COP 24 in Katowice to take a formal role in global climate governance and the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) has joined this request from local governments and municipal authorities (LGMAs) worldwide to demand that this request be included in the COP 24 conclusions.

Cor Lamers, Mayor of Schiedam, who chairs the CoR's Environment Commission, also called on "all parties of the Paris Agreement to include determined contributions at regional and local levels in the national level determined contributions".

The EU's 2013 strategy on adaptation to climate change aimed to make Europe more climate-resilient, focusing on three key objectives: promoting action by Member States, 'climate-proofing' action at EU level and supporting better-informed decision-making.
The evaluation shows that the strategy has delivered on its objectives, with progress recorded against each of its eight individual actions, such as the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the development of the online platform Climate-ADAPT and the climate-proofing of key EU policies. The report, nevertheless, outlines how Europe is still vulnerable to climate impacts within and outside its borders. The Commission's PESETA III project has identified a range of those impacts in Europe and provided some insights into socio-economic consequences and adaptation options.

21582/Press Release – 2018.12.13

Clean Energy For All Package: EU Directive Imposing a 32% Renewable Energy Tax by 2030

The EU Council adopted three legislative acts from the **clean energy package**. By 2030, the EU will have to get 32% of its energy from renewable sources and reach an energy efficiency headline target of 32.5%. Conventional biofuels that pose a high risk of indirect land use change will be phased out by 2030. **The new targets are set out in revised directives on energy efficiency and renewable energy which were also adopted in parallel by the Council.**

The Czech Republic voted against the directive on the promotion of the **use of energy from renewable sources**, while Belgium, Hungary and Slovakia abstained.
The Commission will assess the 32% target, keeping in mind the goal of presenting a legislative proposal by 2023 to increase it *"in the event of a further significant reduction in the costs of renewable energy production, if necessary to meet the Union's international decarbonisation commitments, or if a significant reduction in energy consumption in the Union justifies this increase"*.
Energy efficiency. The adopted Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the promotion of energy efficiency in the Union with a view to achieving the Union's main objectives of improving energy efficiency by 20% by 2020 and by at least 32.5% by 2030, and paves the way for further energy efficiency improvements beyond these dates.
Member States will have to achieve a cumulative energy savings target of at least equivalent to: - further annual savings, from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020, corresponding to 1.5%, by volume, of annual energy sales to end customers; - further annual savings, from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2030, corresponding to 0.8% of final energy consumption.

The Council also signed off on the so-called governance regulation, which sets out the **framework for the governance of the Energy Union and climate action**. The three pieces of legislation are to be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* on 21 December.

The energy efficiency and renewable energy directives will enter into force 20 days after the date they are published and the governance regulation will enter into force on the third day after it is published

21583/Press Release – 2018.12.13

EU Political Priorities for EU's 2020 Long-Term Climate Strategy

The Heads of State or Government of the 28 Member States committed to taking the necessary steps to enable the EU to adopt a long-term climate strategy to be submitted by 2020 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement.
To this end, they specified in their conclusions that they will define the political orientations and priorities by the first quarter of 2019.

The European Council has thus sent a signal to all participants in the COP 24 and It satisfies Poland, which wanted to ensure that the subject was discussed at the leadership level before the EU submitted this 2050 strategy, required by all parties of the Paris Agreement.
In the meantime, the European Council invites the EU Council to work on the elements outlined by the Commission in its vision for a future strategy for the decarbonisation of the European economy by 2050

21584/Press Release – 2018.12.14

Clean Energy For All Package

EU ministers responsible for energy policies met on 19 December in Brussels to discuss the ongoing negotiations on the clean energy package.
The European Commission presented its Communication on a '*A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate-neutral economy*', which was adopted on 28 November. This presentation was followed by a first exchange of views between ministers on this communication. Energy now accounts for more than 75% of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions. The Commission therefore foresees a central role for the energy sector in the transition to carbon neutrality.

Clean Energy Package. The Austrian Presidency informed the Council on the state of play of the legislative process on the seven dossiers of the clean energy package that have not yet entered into force. The Council formally adopted three legislative acts: the Regulation on the governance of the Energy Union, the Energy Efficiency Directive and the Renewable Energy Directive.
See relevant documents on https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies/2050_en

CEF. The issue of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) will be discussed. The Council adopted a partial general approach on 3rd December.
Ministers were informed on the progress of the revision of the 2009 Gas Directive and discussed the hydrogen initiative, ocean energy and external energy relations, as well as energy security in the age of decarbonisation.
The election of the next Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is on the agenda, as well as the priorities of the incoming Romanian Presidency of the Council.

21585/Press Release – 2018.12.18

Emission Limits for Real Driving Tests (RDE) Less Demanding than Euro 6 Standard

Welcoming the appeals of the cities of Paris, Brussels and Madrid, the European Union General Court annulled the provisions of Regulation 2016/646 setting the not-to-exceed emission limits for oxides of nitrogen when testing light passenger and commercial vehicles under real driving conditions ('Real Driving Emissions tests'), in a judgement delivered on 13 December (joined cases T-339, 352 and 391/16).
In force since September 2017, these new nitrogen oxide emission standards aim to reflect the true level of pollutants from vehicles and to thwart the use of 'rigged software' that caused the 'Dieselgate' scandal.
The Commission has set them on the basis of the 'Euro 6' standard set out in Regulation 715/2007 to which it applied correction coefficients in order to take account of, in its view, statistical and technical uncertainties.
The three capitals, which have introduced traffic restrictions to combat air pollution, challenge the setting of emission limits that are less demanding than the 'Euro 6' standard.
In its judgement, the Court agreed. It considers that the action for annulment is admissible because the act is of direct concern to the cities bringing the action and does not entail implementing measures. There is a possibility that the three capitals may not be able to admit vehicles that have successfully passed the RDE tests within the parameters of a traffic-restriction measure.
Regulation 2016/646 implements Regulation 715/2007, which authorises the Commission to determine the specific procedures, tests and requirements for type approval of vehicles. However, the European Court points out that the 'Euro 6' standard is an essential element of Regulation 715/2007, which cannot be amended by the Commission.
The Court concludes that the Commission had no power to amend the 'Euro 6' standard for the RDE tests by applying correction coefficients. It only cancels the provisions of Regulation 2016/646 relating to emission limits for nitrogen oxides, and not those specifying the conditions for carrying out the RDE tests.
In order to avoid legal uncertainty, the effects of the annulled provision are maintained for the past and for a period of 12 months (from the expiry date of the time limit for appealing against this judgement or, if an appeal is lodged, from its rejection date) in order to allow the rules to be amended.

21586/Press Release – 2018.12.13

SOCIAL ISSUES

Future Headquarters of European Labour Authority

Slovakia, Latvia and Cyprus officially announced their candidacy to host the future European Labour Authority (ELA), on the occasion of the adoption of a general approach by the competent ministers at the Employment and Social Policy Council (EPSCO).
These three countries insisted that the "new" Member States, which do not yet host European agencies, should be given priority to obtain this seat before submitting their official application. The Czech Republic has officially supported Bratislava.
The general approach adopted weakens the draft Authority by making its role clearly optional, as Member States may request its services on a voluntary basis for joint inspections and to settle a dispute. In addition, the majority of delegations agreed to exclude the use of mediation for social security matters and to change the name of the entity to "Agency".
The Commission regretted these changes, as did France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Cyprus. The latter states supported the compromise in the hope of a rebalancing during the interinstitutional negotiations with the European Parliament.
On the contrary, most of the Eastern Member States, but also Scandinavian members and Germany welcomed the development of the text. Satisfaction was less clear on the Polish side, which, while supporting the compromise, would have liked to see the removal of the obligation to justify itself in the event of refusal to participate in a joint inspection.
Hungary, for its part, announced that it did not support the proposal, in particular because of the inclusion of road transport in the scope of the TEA - a point that many Member States in Central and Eastern Europe regretted. Bulgaria has also added a declaration to the compromise. It should be noted that Sweden did not support the compromise because of the unnecessary administrative burden that the new entity would introduce.
Inter-institutional negotiations are expected to start on 8 January under the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU. These are likely to be difficult, as parliamentarians have recently adopted a position close to the European Commission's proposal.
A political agreement in the Council was not a foregone conclusion. The Austrian Presidency of the Council did not seem to have much appetite for the matter, before changing its mind during its mandate, under the impetus of the Austrian Chancellor, Sebastian Kurz.

21587/Press Release – 2018.12.06

Unemployment Rates

The euro area seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was **8.1%** in **October 2018**, stable compared with September 2018. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the euro area since November 2008. The EU-28 unemployment rate was **6.7%** in October 2018, stable compared with September 2018. This is also the lowest rate recorded in the EU28 since January 2000.

Eurostat estimates that 16.626 million people in the EU28 were unemployed in October 2018, a decrease by 4,000 in the EU28 and increased by 12,000 in the euro area compared with September 2018.

Czechia	2.2%	Estonia (Sept.)	5.8%
Germany	3.3%	Lithuania	6.3%
Malta	3.7%	Belgium	6.2%
Netherlands	3.7%	Sweden	6.3%
Hungary (Sept.)	3.7%	Slovakia	6.6%
Poland	3.8%	Portugal	6.7%
Romania	4.0%	Latvia	6.9%
UK (Aug.)	4.0%	Finland	7.2%
Denmark	4.8%	Croatia	8.1%
Austria	5.1%	Cyprus	8.5%
Luxembourg	5.0%	France	8.9%
Slovenia	5.2%	Italy	10.6%
Ireland	5.3%	Spain	14.6%
Bulgaria	5.4%	Greece (Aug.)	18.9%

Elsewhere

USA	3.7%	Russia	4.7%
Canada	5.6%	Brazil	11.7%
Japan	2.4%	Australia	5.0%
Switzerland	2.5%	India	3.5%
Turkey	11.4%	China	3.8%

21588/Eurostat Press Release – 2018.11.30

GENERAL ISSUES

Romanian Presidency of the EU Council in First Half 2019

Romanian Prime Minister Viorica Dăncilă promised that his country's EU Council Presidency, which will start on 1 January next, will be ambitious but realistic.
"*We want an ambitious and realistic Presidency*", she explained, adding that her country wanted to finalise as many dossiers as possible. 257 legislative files are still in progress, including the post-Brexit. Ms Dăncilă considered that at the very least a political agreement should be reached on the multiannual financial framework 2021-2027, probably at the Sibiu European Summit on 9 May 2019. Due to the European elections by the end of May, the European Parliament will cease its activities in April. There are "*four useful months*" left to move forward.

The next Presidency's priorities include:
(1) the convergence of Europe, through growth, cohesion, competitiveness and connectivity;
(2) a more secure Europe, whether in terms of internal security, digital security or the area of freedom, security and justice;
(3) a stronger Europe as a global player;
(4) a Europe of common values.

21589/Press Release - 2018.12.05

18 Member States Call on Next Commission to Adopt an Ambitious Post-2020 Industrial Strategy

At a ***Friends of Industry*** summit in Paris on 18 December, some 18 Member States adopted a joint declaration to set out an industrial roadmap for the next European Commission.
"*We are now at the crossroad. Either we take the necessary decisions to be an industrial powerhouse, or we will be dependent on other continents, first of all China and the United States*," said French Finance Minister Bruno Lemaire, who expressed his satisfaction with the growing success of these summits, which have been held since 2013 at France's initiative.
Thus, referring to the conclusions adopted at the last Competitiveness Council, the signatories (**France, Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Spain**) call on the next Commission to propose, from the beginning of its mandate, an ambitious and comprehensive industrial strategy for 2030. This strategy should focus on SMEs and develop a monitoring mechanism.

In addition, they ask the current European Commission to identify European strategic value chains by early 2019. Here, priority should be given in particular to electric batteries, connected and autonomous vehicles, semiconductors, cyber security, supercomputers, robotics, low-carbon steel-making, low carbon industrial processes, net zero energy building renovation and construction, maritime industry and space.
In doing so, they call for an action plan to be drawn up for each identified strategic value chain and for the role of the Competitiveness Council to be strengthened in order to make it a truly transversal body and, in so doing, to rationalise European policies contributing to industry.
In general, the signatory states want the state aid rules to evolve, the Important Projects of Common European Interest (IIPEC) to be adapted to the industrial reality of the EU and the anti-monopoly rules to be revised. They also want to support the development of breakthrough innovations in the European Union - based on the new European Innovation Council - as well as electric vehicles and artificial intelligence.

21590/Press Release - 2018.12.18

BREXIT DEVELOPMENTS

Theresa May postpones British Parliament's vote to save draft Brexit agreement negotiated with Twenty-Seven

Faced with a high risk of the British Parliament rejecting the UK's draft withdrawal agreement from the EU, British leader Theresa May announced on 10 December that this vote, scheduled for 11 December, would be postponed until further guarantees could be obtained, but did not specify a date for a new vote.
Confirming rumours, Ms May admitted that she would fail on the safety net to prevent the return of a physical border between Ireland and Northern Ireland.
This last resort solution, to be applied only in the absence of a post-*Brexit* free trade agreement between the EU and London, would oblige the United Kingdom as a whole to remain in a customs union with the EU.
The EU will not accept an agreement without a "*backstop*", Ms May reiterated.
Several elected officials believe that the implementation of the *backstop* would imply an indefinite retention of the country in this Customs Union, its revocation being subject to a joint decision by the Twenty-Seven and the British.
With this postponement, Mrs May is betting that she will get some wording changes from her peers regarding the post-*Brexit* relationship between the EU and the United Kingdom and the link with the backstop.

21591/Press Release - 2018.12.10

Twenty-Seven agree to clarify agreement on an ordered *Brexit*, but refuse to renegotiate it

European leaders refuse to reopen the agreement on an orderly exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union, agreed at the end of November with London. However, they could agree to clarify some of the modalities, including the *backstop* to avoid the return of a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland if an EU/post-*Brexit* United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement is not in place by the end of 2020.
"*The deal we have reached is the best deal possible it's the only deal possible. There is no room whatsoever for renegotiation", underlined European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker on 11 December in front of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. And added: "But, of course, there is room enough, if used intelligently, to give further clarifications and further interpretations without reopening the withdrawal agreement."*
According to Mr Juncker, the Twenty-Seven and the United Kingdom will have to do everything possible to avoid the introduction of the *backstop*. "*But we have to prepare it, it's necessary for the coherence of our agreement and for Ireland. Ireland will never be left alone!" he insisted.*
Ms May toured European capitals, after postponing the British Parliament's vote on the withdrawal agreement, and met Presidents Juncker and Tusk, the EU's Chief Negotiator, Michel Barnier, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

After hearing the British leader's appeals, they clarified some points in the agreed text on 25 November but their concessions stopped there, with the Twenty-Seven hammering home that they will not reopen the content of this agreement and refusing to give in to the temporary nature of the *'backstop'* for Ireland, one of the nodes of the blockade across the Channel.
In the conclusions adopted, EU leaders only agreed to specify that this safety net - which, according to proponents of a clean break with the EU, could imprison the United Kingdom indefinitely in a customs union with the EU - should only be an "insurance *policy"* to avoid a physical border in Ireland.
The discussion with Mrs May made it possible to define two things: *"Do not open (the withdrawal) agreement again and, secondly, make it clear that the backstop must be temporary and in no case sustainable."* But setting a deadline for the backstop is a red line for the Twenty-Seven.

A free trade agreement as soon as possible
The conclusion of a free trade agreement by 31 December 2020 should put in place the arrangements to ensure that this safety net is not deployed.
The Europeans have sought to reassure Mrs May that they intend to negotiate this future free trade agreement as soon as possible once the British withdrawal agreement has been signed and the United Kingdom has left the EU.
In front of the press, the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, insisted on this point. *"I want to prove to the members of the House that we take this seriously,"* he said, before adding: *"We will accelerate the procedure"* which concerns the future bilateral relationship.
However, Mr Juncker pointed out that, despite Mrs May's *"courageous and virtuous fight"*, questions remained about the intentions of the United Kingdom, which has still not said precisely what it expects from this future trade relationship.
Theresa May has reportedly not fully convinced the Twenty-Seven by not giving precise indications on how to proceed, starting with the timetable for a vote in the British Parliament. Some rumours suggested that she might be considering the week of 15 January.

21592/Press Release - 2018.12.11 & 13

Possibility to Revoke the Requested Withdrawal

In a judgement delivered on 10 December in the '*Wightman*' case (C-621/18), the European Court of Justice (ECJ), sitting in plenary session, ruled that **the United Kingdom could unilaterally revoke its decision to leave the EU**.
The ECJ thus follows the conclusions of Advocate General Manuel Campos Sánchez-Bordona issued on 4th December.
In the present case, at the request of several British Members of Parliament, a Scottish court referred to the Court of Justice of the European Union (ECJ) the question of the revocability of a State's decision to leave the EU and the conditions to be met for a possible unilateral revocation, with a view to the British Parliament's vote on the withdrawal agreement negotiated by the Kingdom's government with the EU.

Like the Advocate General, the ECJ considers that Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) “*does not explicitly address the subject of revocation of the intention to withdraw*”.

Principle of congruent forms and right to revocation

This lack of “*express provision*" creates the conditions for the principle of congruent forms, according to the European judges. Like the decision to withdraw, its revocation must therefore be "*decided unilaterally, in accordance with the constitutional rules of the Member State concerned*".

“*The sovereign nature of the right of withdrawal argues in favour of the existence of a right for the Member State concerned, as long as a withdrawal agreement has not entered into force, to revoke the notification of its intention to withdraw from the Union*", argues the ECJ.

"*Submitting, as proposed by the Council and the Commission, the right of revocation to approval by the European Council, by unanimity, would transform a sovereign unilateral right into a conditional right*”, the judges still consider, thus head-on opposing the pleadings of the two institutions.

Conditions

In addition to the substantive conditions (unilaterality and compliance with constitutional rules), the Court provides for two formal conditions for the revocation of the withdrawal decision: its “*univocal and unconditional*” nature and its notification to the Council.

For lawyers Catherine Barnard and Steve Peers, the need for a “*unambiguous and unconditional*" decision suggests that the notice of revocation should stipulate that the United Kingdom wishes to terminate the procedure and renounce any renegotiation of a withdrawal agreement.

As interpreted in this way, this condition responds to the fear expressed in particular by Jo Leinen (S&D, Germany) that the United Kingdom would be offered the possibility of "*stopping the procedure against the will of others to restart it from scratch".*

Commission, Council and UK Government in unison

The Council and the Commission stated that they “*took note*” of this decision.

"We have an agreement that has been validated by the Council. It is the best and only possible, as Mr Juncker said. As far as we are concerned, the United Kingdom will leave the EU on 29 March 2019", said Commission spokesperson Mina Andreeva.

The same is true of the British Secretary of State for the Environment, Michael Gove, who pointed out that the United Kingdom did not wish to remain in the EU and that *Brexit* would indeed take place.

Alyn Smith (Greens/EFA, UK), on the contrary, welcomed the ECJ ruling, referring to “*a light at the end of the tunnel for the economy, employment and the UK's place in the world”. “The ball is now in the British court*”, he said.

The vote of the deputies, which was supposed to take place on 11 December, has been postponed to 21 January 2019.

The full text of the ECJ judgement is available in English at
http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf;jsessionid=97526B01BDF772918C7D75E248C0A359?text=&docid=208636&pageIndex=0&doclang=en&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=1086495

21593/Press Release - 2018.12.10

EU Transport Committee discusses Brexit repercussions on the sector

On December 3, the European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) met for a consideration of a Draft report on the Connecting Europe Facility 2014-2020 in the context of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union. The goal of the Commission's proposal was to avoid a discontinuity of the North Sea – Mediterranean corridor between Ireland and continental Europe, once the CEF Regulation ceases to apply to the United Kingdom.

In case of a "no-deal" Brexit, the current connection between Dublin and Belfast will be lost and the corridor would be cut into two distinct parts. In order to address this situation, the Commission has proposed to add a maritime link between Ireland and other continental Member States (Belgium and the Netherland) on the North Sea in order to ensure a continuity of the corridor. While the rapporteur Karima Delli, from the French Greens, expressed support for the overall goal of the Commission, especially due to the urgent nature of the situation, in her draft report, she differed from the proposal by proposing to create additional connections and financing tools for territories in the North of France.

The Commission representative welcomed the draft report while adding that they would have no objection to adding Calais and Dunkirk to the list of ports of the North Sea-Mediterranean corridor. However, he disagreed with changing of the routes of the current corridors or with adding of Ireland to the Atlantic corridor in this context. Finally, the Commission was not in favour of a special emergency fund, as it would create too many problems in their view.

During the same meeting, the MEPs discussed the Draft report on the Common rules for ship inspection and survey organisations also in the context of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union. The Rapporteur Isabella De Monte, Italian central-left, welcomed the Commission proposal and expressed belief that it would resolve the legal uncertainty created in the area of recognised organisations by the United Kingdom's withdrawal, safeguard business continuity for the affected shipowners and the competitiveness of the flags of the EU-27 Member States working with the affected organisations. She proposed fast-tracking the procedure as the quick adoption of the proposal was considered of essence. It is important to note that the deadline for amendments on both draft reports is set for December 10 2018.

Finally, the meeting also saw a presentation of a Study on the consequences of a no-deal scenario on transport and tourism sectors."

21594/Press Release - 2018.12.04

Inflation Rate

Latest Eurostat figures show that the annual inflation rate was **1.9% in November 2018 in the Euro area**, down from 2.2% in October. **The EU28** annual inflation was **2.0% in November,** down from 2.2% in October.
The largest contribution to the annual euro area inflation rate came from energy (+ 0.88%), followed by services (+ 0.57%), food, alcohol & tobacco (+0.38%) and non-energy industrial goods (+0.11%).

Denmark	0.7%	Slovenia	2.1%
Ireland	0.8%	Sweden	2.1%
Portugal	0.9%	Germany	2.2%
Greece	1.1%	France	2.2%
Poland	1.1%	Austria	2.3%
Croatia	1.3%	Lithuania	2.4%
Malta	1.4%	UK	2.4%
Finland	1.4%	Luxembourg	2.6%
Czechia	1.6%	Belgium	2.9%
Italy	1.6%	Latvia	2.9%
Cyprus	1.6%	Bulgaria	3.0%
Spain	1.7%	Estonia	3.2%
Netherlands	1.8%	Hungary	3.2%
Slovakia	2.0%	Romania	3.2%

Elsewhere

USA	2.2%	Russia	3.8%
Canada	2.4%	Brazil	4.05%
Japan	1.4%	Australia	1.9%
Switzerland	0.9%	India	2.3%
Turkey	21.6%	China	2.2%

21595/Eurostat News Release – 2018.12.17

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GLASS NEWS

FLAT GLASS

Glass Companies

Saint-Gobain

Saint-Gobain Building Glass, Logli Massimo and Cristalvetri Design together at Arkeda, the show-conference dedicated to architecture, construction, design and interior decorating, which took place 30 November-2 December in Naples.

At the 2018 edition of Arkeda, Saint-Gobain took part with its design partner Cristal Vetri, along with the recently-acquired company Logli Massimo, with an installation not only visual, but also as a unique sensorial journey and experience, exploiting glass and its best quality – transparency.

The theme 'Tower of Knowledge' was represented by a tower of glass, with steps taking visitors inside the construction – assembled with structural accessories from Logli Massimo Saint-Gobain.

During the event, Saint-Gobain presented the most modern design solutions made up of accessories and glass, starting right from the new shower system, with SGG Timeless patented magnetronic-coated glass, made up of special anticorrosive metal oxides that are resistant to the combined action of limescale and soap, which, over time, oxidize the glass.

Mayor of Naples - Mr. De Magistris - on his visit to Saint-Gobain's stand at Arkeda

The solid brass hinges from Logli Massimo Saint-Gobain, are branded with the network logo of Design moreover, the TUV certification (the only hinges to have this certification), guarantee more than 20,000 opening/closings, and simulates 15 years of premature aging thanks to a 168-hour salt spray test for resistance to corrosion of fittings and chrome plating.
Since 2014, Design Partners Saint-Gobain have been part of the reference name for interior design. Present all over Italy, these glassworks – partners of Saint-Gobain Glass – stand out for their specialization in transforming and installing glass that creates a unique style in furnishings and interiors.

21596/News Release – 2018.12.06

Vitro Architectural Glass Names New President

Vitro has announced a change in president as current president Richard Beuke is set to retire on 31 March 2019, with **Ricardo Maiz** taking over as of 1 January 2019.
Maiz began his career at Vitro S.A.B. de C.V., in Monterrey, Mexico, the parent company of Vitro Architectural Glass, in 2000 as a strategic planning and business development associate and has been promoted into a number of increasingly responsible positions during the past 18 years. Most recently, Maiz served as chief operating officer for Vitro Architectural Glass, where he was responsible for operations, quality control, supply chain management, and the sales and marketing functions for the company's joint US and Mexican operations.

Maiz (pictured) holds a B.S. in Economics from the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education (ITESM) in Mexico and an M.B.A. in Finance from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.

21597/Press Release – 2018.12.05

Press Glass

Press Glass can now offer its customers as many as 133 different acoustic glazed units within the range of 31-52 dB. Thirteen new acoustic glazed units with the Rw values ranging from 41 to 48 dB have been added to the Press Glass offer. Sound parameters of the glass were confirmed by mandatory certificates recognised on the European and North American markets.

"The range of acoustic glazed units from Press Glass has been gradually extended by adding new items. We know how difficult choosing the right acoustic glazed unit can be. That is why we encourage our Customers to use two dedicated free tools: Soundproof Glass Configurator and Noise Damping Simulator."

Both tools contain a full list of acoustic glazed units. The configurator enables quick checking and comparison of sound parameters of acoustic glazed units. The simulator can be used to quickly compare the acoustic results for all acoustic glazed units.

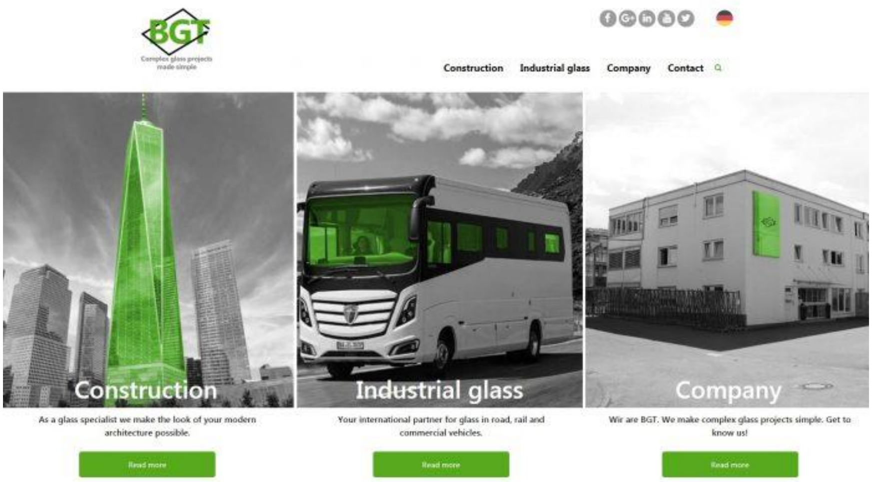
21598/Press Release – 2018.12.05

Miscellaneous

BGT Bischoff Glastechnik AG,

Komplexe Glasprojekte einfach gemacht

As a flat glass processor and finisher known for projects such as the Reichstag in Berlin and the World Trade Center in New York, BGT presents a new image to the outside world. This includes a new look with, amongst others, a new logo, slogan, and a completely renovated and extended website. Corporate communication has been elevated to a contemporary level and builds on a new foundation.



"For the outside world, the new homepage and the new appearance with a new logo will, obviously, be the most visible. The internal improvement measures are ultimately much more important for BGT and our customers," explains Heiko Probst, CEO of BGT. "We have strategically rebuilt our foundations. Guiding principles, vision, mission and core values are completely repositioned into a manual for all employees. This will professionalise our approach towards customers, suppliers and other interested parties. The new foundation will eventually become more and more visible over a period of time and increase reliability for our customers and partners."

BGT Bischoff Glastechnik AG (since 1938) with headquarters in Bretten, Germany, is one of the leading companies in Europe in the field of flat glass processing and finishing. With its wide range of high-quality functional and specialty glasses and a high level of know-how and passion for innovation, BGT is represented in the national and international construction industry as well as in various industry branches. Since 2007, the company can use the extensive resources of the Scheuten Group, for example in production, logistics and purchasing, to be one of the few companies in the world to successfully execute very large construction projects. Well-known buildings with BGT glass are among others the WTC 1 & 3 (NYC, USA), the Elbphilharmonie (Hamburg), the Reichstag (Berlin), the ECB building (Frankfurt), Evolution Tower in Moscow, Gehry Building (Basel) and Ferrari World in Abu Dhabi.
www.bgt.glass

21599/Press Release – 2018.12.14

Viridian (Australia)

Viridian New World Glass

CSR Limited (CSR) has announced it has entered into an agreement to sell its Viridian Glass (Viridian) business to Crescent Capital Partners. This transaction includes the Viridian property site at Dandenong, Victoria. CSR will retain the property at Ingleburn, and has entered into a long-term lease on commercial terms with Viridian in relation to the Ingleburn property.
Following completion of the transaction with Crescent, CSR will begin a sale process for this property thereby completing the divestment of all Viridian assets.
Viridian operates the only float glass manufacturing line in Australia and New Zealand as well as downstream glass processing operations. Following a strategic review announced in July 2018, the Board came to the view that the funds employed in the Viridian business would generate better future returns for CSR shareholders if they were invested in its core building products business.
CSR Managing Director Rob Sindel said, “Viridian’s float glass and processing businesses supply customers including glass processors and fabricators which operate separately from CSR’s other building products businesses. This transaction will enable Viridian to align its footprint and cost structure to operate more effectively as a standalone business.”
The sale to Crescent is subject to a limited number of conditions with completion expected by 31 January 2019.
www.csr.com.au

21600/Press Release – 2018.12.11

CONTAINER GLASS

Glass Companies

Ardagh

Ardagh's Cullet Conference addresses the future of glass recycling

Cullet plays a hugely important part in Ardagh Group's daily glass manufacturing operations. It enables the company to meet the market need for glass bottles and jars that contain a high percentage of recycled glass.

Ardagh Group held its third Cullet Conference, bringing together suppliers and customers to discuss the future requirements of glass cullet quality and availability.

With more than 95% of Ardagh Group's cullet suppliers present, Johan Gorter, CEO of Ardagh Glass, opened the conference with the company's strong views on sustainability. The key messages were: 'Glass is the best packaging option for resource efficiency', and 'together we must collect more glass and recycle it into high-quality cullet to be re-used in our furnaces'.

- Hans Hilkes, Supplier Quality Manager, and Sven-Roger Kahl, Manager of Furnace Operations & Innovations, talked about the Ardagh Cullet Management System, Cullet Supplier Quality performance over the years and the challenges to the industry regarding Ardagh's future cullet requirements.
- Ullrich Ix, President of FERVER, talked about its position on the Heavy Metal discussion for packaging materials, and Jacques van Putten, Managing Director of Flexty, discussed the checks it conducts on behalf of the glass industry.
  One of its 'Cullet Check' vans was present for demonstration.
- Sessions were also held on the latest developments in sorting techniques, with a focus on lead glass and organics. Three major producers of glass recycling sorting equipment: Binder & Co, Redwave and KRS with partner company Sesotec, presented their vision on present and future developments of glass recycling.

The event took place at the Van der Valk Hotel in Schiphol, The Netherlands, on November 29.

Johan Gorter, CEO of Ardagh Glass, said: "As a producer of sustainable glass packaging solutions, Ardagh Group is committed to meeting the requirements of a true circular economy.

"Our latest cullet conference in Schiphol continues Ardagh's work with our industry partners across the supply chain to further increase glass recycling rates and grow our industry-leading usage of cullet in support of our customers."

21601/Press Release – 2018.12.11

Stölzle

Stölzle Glass Group has launched its Prestige Standards Range which is aimed at the rum market.
The launch came after Stölzle's research discovered trends in the spirits sector and an opportunity within the rum market for startups to make their mark by having uniqueand attractive bottles.

The new range was produced with startups in mind, who may not have the capital for fully bespoke bottles in the same way larger spirits companies do, but still want their glassware to feel premium and to the highest standard.
Stölzle has created a range totaling 12 bottles. Each has beautifully designed and precision-engineered glass bottle standards as a canvas for bringing spirit brands to life.
All bottles are categorised by four different families. The Straight and Taper ranges are made up of four bottles, each with two height options.
The Barrel range offers two bottles of differing heights, and the Conical range includes two silhouette options of the same height.
Each bottle in the range has the capability to be coloured and customised to a business' brand aesthetic.
Brands can also decorate their bottles with a number of techniques including, but not limited to, Screen Printing, Acid-Etch Spraying and Precious Metal Application.
Gary Steen, UK Sales Director at Stölzle, said: "We're always seeking opportunities where we can help our current and potential customers grow their brand identity.
"The bottles in our Prestige Standards Range can help those starting out craft a solid and flexible look for their brand."

21602/Press Release – 2018.12.04

Sevam (Morocco)

Moroccan container glassmaker Sevam (Site d'Exploitation des Verreries au Maroc) has been sold to a French brewer. Its owner, Moroccan investment fund Al Mada, sold it to the domestic subsidiary of the French group Castel.
The Castel subsidiary, Brasseries of Morocco, is a specialist in the production of beverages and wines. The acquisition will allow the brewer to produce its own glass bottles for the packaging and sale of its products.

The shareholders of Société des boissons in Morocco decided to diversify the company's activity during a general meeting of shareholders a few months ago. The brewing and malting company will soon be marketing food products and providing payment services in Morocco and other European markets.
Société des boissons du Maroc recorded a growth of 3.3% in its 'beer' business in the 2017 financial year.

21603/Press Release – 2018.12.11

DOMESTIC TABLEWARE AND CRYSTAL GLASS

Glass Company

Dartington

English glassmaker Dartington Crystal announces that its management team has acquired the majority control of the business.
Devon-based glassmaker Dartington Crystal will begin 2019 with the management team having acquired the majority control of the business.
Since 2006, Dartington's chairman and major shareholder, John Hammond MBE, has led the company to independent ownership and strengthened its performance to its current healthy trading levels.
The three directors – Neil Hughes (managing director), Richard Halliday (commercial direc-tor) and Alan Ramsay (finance director) – have been supported by Barclays Bank to take a major share of the business and continue its growth.

From right: Key shareholders Neil Hughes, managing director, and Richard Halliday, commercial director, toast to the future with Dartington

Managing director Neil Hughes comments: “We are grateful to John Hammond for his commitment and investment in Dartington Crystal over the last 12 years. We are delighted to be able to further his ambitions for the Company and for his belief in us as a management team.”
John Hammond adds: “Despite market challenges, Dartington Crystal and its employees are well-positioned to meet them and prosper. I am very proud in what we have achieved over the years and look forward to seeing progress continued.”
As the last factory scale producer of crystal in the UK, Dartington Crystal employs 130 staff at its Torrington headquarters in Devon, UK. The Company also owns the Scottish Caithness Glass brand, Royal Brierley cut crystal and John Beswick ceramics.
In recent years, the company has developed a diverse range of sales channels including high street retailers, wine and spirits, corporate gifts and bespoke own-label products. In 2017, the business celebrated 50 years of trading with record sales of circa GBP 14m.

21604/Press Release – 2018.12.05

REINFORCEMENT GLASS FIBRES

Glass Company

NEG UK

Nippon Electric Glass

The UK **Glass Focus 2018** were held on 22 November at the Millennium Gallery in Sheffield, UK by British Glass, and **Electric Glass Fiber UK, Ltd**., NEG’s UK subsidiary of glass fiber business, received **“Company of the Year”**, the highest accolade.
Being awarding this prize, Electric Glass Fiber UK was judged highly commended “Strengthening Business Through People” and “Health and Safety activities, “Near miss-Hiyari Hatto”, which was developed based on NEG’s Health and Safety activities”.

21605/Press Release – 2018.12.03

SPECIAL GLASS

Glass Company

SCHOTT

SCHOTT prepares market launch of an advanced Xensation® 3D – tougher than ever before.
With Xensation® 3D, the international technology group SCHOTT has successfully positioned itself in the smartphone cover glass market.

The enhanced lithium alumino-silicate (LAS) cover glass is extremely strong, especially to falls on sharp objects. Its attributes make it an attractive alternative to competing solutions in the cover glass jungle, "Made in Germany" and processed in China. The proven Xensation® 3D – securing smartphone displays from leading Chinese brands – already demonstrates that it is perfectly suited for people's lives.
With Xensation® 3D, the international technology group SCHOTT has successfully positioned itself in the smartphone cover glass market. The company has been supplying leading Chinese smartphone makers with lithium alumino-silicate (LAS) glass since 2011, making it a pioneer in LAS glass production.
SCHOTT has now made Xensation® 3D even better: the improved composition has been refined to even further increase set-drop performance (a device drop test) on sharp objects. This is enabled by a special production and tempering process that introduces potassium and sodium ions onto the glass surface. This results in an outstanding depth effect of the chemical strengthening that has never been possible before. For comparison, conventional cover glass types diffuse only potassium ions into the material during chemical toughening.
"The cover glass market is in urgent need for diversity. With an advanced Xensation® 3D, SCHOTT now prepares the market launch of a high-performance cover glass option. The outstanding results of the drop test paint an extremely attractive picture," says Dr. Reiner Mauch, Head of SCHOTT's Xensation® product group. "Our goal is to further expand our cover glass market share with the Xensation® 3D product line-up through consistent further development of the product. By 2019, we want to be protecting over 100 million smartphones from the challenges of everyday life."

The introduction of an enhanced Xensation® 3D marks the next step in SCHOTT's ongoing cover glass initiative. This initiative has seen the company introduce numerous unique and groundbreaking key technologies made of special glass that are enabling pioneering innovations in mobile devices.
Besides the robust and comparatively thick Xensation® 3D cover glass (available in thicknesses from 0.55 to 0.8 millimetres), SCHOTT is also advancing its development of ultra-thin glass thinner than a human hair. The flexible material can be used to make foldable smartphones or flexible displays. Ultra-thin glass with a thickness of 0.07 millimetres, for instance, is 32 times thinner than a 1-euro coin.
Xensation® is a registered trademark of SCHOTT AG.

21606/Press Release – 2018.12.10

ZEISS

We make it visible.

Zeiss reports another record year: revenue increased by 9% to EUR 5.8 billion
- Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology and Medical Technology drove growth;
- all segments and regions contributed to positive result;
- research and development expenditures have paid off;
- revenue increased by 12% after currency adjustments.

The ZEISS Group is continuing its growth trajectory. In fiscal year 2017/18 (ended on 30 September 2018), the company achieved record-breaking revenue and earnings: revenue increased by 9% to EUR 5.817 billion. After currency adjustments, revenue rose by 12%. With earnings, it was possible to fully compensate for the unfavourable currency effects. Thus, at EUR 772 million, earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) were slightly higher than the previous year (EUR 770 million). The EBIT margin was 13%. Order intake increased by 7%, totalling EUR 6.046 billion.

All four segments made positive contributions to the ZEISS Group's earnings, but the development dynamics varied:
- the Industrial Quality & Research segment, comprising metrology and microscopy solutions, continued to benefit from the stable demand for measuring technology in the automotive sector. This, in turn, compensated for the weaker development in the microscopy business. In spite of considerable negative currency effects,
- the Medical Technology segment proved the growth driver in the direct business and, thanks to product innovations, held its own against strong competition from the US and Japan.
- The Consumer Markets segment, comprising the Vision Care and Consumer Products strategic business units, grew at an above-market rate in nearly all markets with ZEISS brand eyeglass lenses – especially in China, Brazil and other emerging economies, but also in Europe. The camera lens business, however, did not meet expectations due to the broad negative market trends for photography.
- Significant investments in research and technology and increased capacities enabled the Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology segment to realize very strong growth of over 25%.

In 2017/18, the ZEISS Group generated approximately 90% of its revenue outside Germany. Once again, the dynamically developing economies in the APAC region in particular contributed to this positive development. Direct business in China has grown by 21%, superseding Germany as the company's second-largest sales market after the US. ZEISS was able to continue growing in the EMEA region with a 4% increase in revenue. Posting 5% growth, the optics company again enjoyed positive gains in the Americas region.

The 16% increase in expenditures for research and development is a particularly strong indicator of the company's investment strategy: in fiscal year 2017/18, these totalled EUR 642 million. During the reporting period, the investments in property, plant and equipment increased significantly to EUR 244 million, as compared to depreciations totalling EUR 164 million.

The number of employees worldwide increased by 9%. Due to the personnel requirements at Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology, the headcount increase occurred primarily in Germany, with over 700 new employees hired. On 30 September 2018, ZEISS had a global workforce of around 30,000 employees. As in previous years, employees shared in the company's success.

Currently, economic growth is slowing in developed and emerging economies, while additional trade barriers increase the risks of global trade. With its corporate strategy, the ZEISS Agenda 2020, ZEISS is well-equipped to respond to these events and continue the company's dynamic growth trajectory: "Even if, in light of the economic forecast, momentum in the segments and regions will vary, we anticipate continued organic growth overall with a stable EBIT margin. With our consistent focus on innovations, investments and expansion, we have our sights set squarely on our goal of achieving six billion in revenue," says Kaschke, looking ahead to fiscal year 2018/19. "The growth drivers are the company's high-tech solutions, which will play an important role in all key future trends – from digitalization and Smart Production to health care in an aging society."

With innovations like ZEISS VISUFIT 1000, a platform launched in 2018 for the digital capture of centration data, the company is focusing on future trends – from digitalization and Smart Production to health care in an aging society. Good vision requires more than just the right prescription eyeglass lenses. These must also be properly centred in the frames. ZEISS VISUFIT 1000 helps ZEISS eye care professionals provide glasses precisely matched to the wearer's needs.

21607/Press Release – 2018.12.19

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DIVERSE

GLASS & SUPPLIERS

Şişecam Glass Symposium: “The Future of Glass”

ŞİŞECAM

During the II International Sustainability Workshop held in Istanbul, Sisesam Group launched its new sustainability pathway “Care for Next” and discusses the ‘transition from information to smart society’.

‘Care for Next’ is built on the ‘preserve’, empower’ and ‘progress’ sustainability pillars. At the workshop under the theme of the ‘From Information to Smart Society’, which was attended by about 300 people from 13 countries, the effects of topics such as technological developments in the world, digital transformation and the new dynamics of the global economy on the business world and models of doing business were discussed.

Sisesam Group Vice President and CEO Prof. Ahmet Kirman, drew attention to the fact that companies, while keeping up with the change, should not only focus on matters such as profitability and finance but also act with a broader vision, and added:

“Operating in 13 countries with 22,000 employees, Sisesam Group has built its sustainability strategy on the pillars of ‘preserve’, ‘empower’ and ‘progress’. We carry on all of our operations and processes in our Group, from raw material to the final product, in line with the so-called ‘Care for Next’ sustainability approach. As Sisesam, we aim to leave the next generations a livable world”.

Drawing attention to the fact that the entire supply chain and all processes in Şişecam Group’s operations, from raw material to the final product, were carried in line with its sustainability strategy, Prof Dr. Kirman stated, “As Sisesam, we aim to leave the next generations a livable world.

Several matters such as energy efficiency, waste management, use of renewable resources are at the heart of all our decision-making processes. We integrate Industry 4.0 into the entire supply chain under our sustainability efforts. We believe that a smart future is only possible by Industry 4.0, and continue to invest in it while our global sustainability approach empowers our employees and stakeholders by advocating and engaging in practices that encourage diversity and inclusiveness, progresses through climate neutral, 360-degree circular model, and preserves natural resources that we rely on and our institutional heritage for resilient and sustainable generations to come."
Sisesam Group Chief Strategy Officer Özlem Vergon, on the other hand, in her speech entitled 'Sustainable Developments: Global Scale and Sisesam', stated that Group goals fully aligned with the corporate sustainability approach focuses on the future as well as present in all geographic areas in which Sisesam operates, and added: "Our sustainability strategy Care for Next reinforces Sisesam sustainable value creation for next generations. Being a global player, we mainstreamed sustainability principles in our business model and operations. Sisesam's vision and values to pioneer in our areas of business, respect people and the environment, develop innovative solutions with a focus on technology, improve and develop together with an understanding of sustainability. We move forward and contribute in this direction."

The Group, which has 43 production facilities in total, has manufacturing activities in Turkey, Germany, Italy, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Russian Federation, Georgia, Ukraine, Egypt and India. With its more than 80 years of experience, 22,000 employees, production in 13 countries, and sales in 150 countries, Sisesam is a group at international scale and continues on its journey to become one of top three global producers in its all-main business fields.

21608/Press Release – 2018.12.18

SEMINARS / CONFERENCES / WORKSHOPS

Future energy options for glass melting - 4 December 2018, Wakefield (UK)

British Glass

British Glass CEO Dave Dalton challenged companies to tackle the challenge of decarbonisation as he opened a seminar organised by the Sheffield based association.
The 'Future energy options for glass melting' seminar took place in Wakefield, UK last week and fielded speakers from across the industry.
"We are starting the dialogue on the future of energy in our sector, and I hope you will take it back to your own companies and as a sector we start resolving this problem," said Mr Dalton, as he addressed the delegates at the Cedar Court Hotel.
He was followed by Dr Nick Kirk, Technical Director at British Glass, who outlined the challenges facing the glass manufacturing sector, and the work by British Glass to tackle the issues of low carbon technologies, increasing recycling, promoting the benefits of glass, and campaigning to raise the standards of building glass regulations.

The presentation section of the seminar was opened by Olu Fasan of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy who spoke on the Government's £315million Innovation programme to accelerate the development of clean energy technologies, and how manufacturers will be able to access this fund through a competitive process.

Glass industry delegates then heard from a number of speakers about topics focused on the melting technology the sectorry will need to adapt in order to meet the 2050 decarbonisation goal. Speakers were:

- Ken Cronin of the UK Onshore Oil and Gas Association, who outlined the history of onshore gas production and the options and challenges surrounding renewable energy, including national policy versus local planning decisions.
- Andrew Self of Ofgem discussed electricity networks, price controls, regulations, and how the department is working to ensure all consumers get a greater voice on prices and access.
- Adam Baddeley of Progressive Energy spoke about its work with hydrogen-related projects. These include HyNet NorthWest, which allows industry to move over to hydrogen incrementally, and HyMotion which explores hydrogen transport.
- Julie Gartside, SLR Consulting, detailed eligibility for competitive application for the industrial waste heat recovery funding programme, and the need to build confidence that heat recovery worked.
- Neil Simpson, Celsian, updated the seminar on CO2 neutral glass melting.
- Andy Reynolds, Fives Stein, focused on practical aspects of all electric melting technology. He said that longer furnace life and likely changes to fuel economics over the next 20 years were driving customers to ask how furnaces can be designed to adapt to this. Although electric furnaces have a shorter life, this could be seen as an advantage as it allows more frequent technology upgrades to meet the changing energy landscape.
- Finally, Andrew McKenna of Northern Powergrid talked about the development of flexibility markets.

In closing, Dave Dalton briefly outlined the Glass Futures project in which British Glass is a founding partner.

"Glass Futures is a collaborative platform for the global glass community to share ideas and bring forward the brightest and best to train for the industry, in a pre-competitive environment," he said.

"We can act as a model for the rest of the world, and ultimately we can go to Government and demonstrate how we can deliver the future."

He concluded: "Last night [Monday December 3] at a CBI event I met the Chancellor, Philip Hammond, and told him that we are working together as an industry – but we need certainty on what the energy mix of the future will look like. Certainty is important. We're an industry that wants to react positively."

21609/British Glass Press Release – 2018.12.10

Glass Technology Services (GTS) Training Programme 2019

GTS announced an extended training programme for 2019 due to increasing demand from across the glass industry and wider supply chain.
The 2019 programme features not only an increased number of introductory and technical events, but wholly new courses and workshops developed following feedback and requests from our client-base.
Please find herewith the list of the courses for 2019:

Wednesday, 6 March 2019	#PharmaGlass (1 day workshop);
Tuesday, 26 March 2019	Glass appreciation – an introduction to glass (1 day course);
16-18 April 2019	Glass failure analysis (3 day course);
Wednesday, 8 May 2019	Fundamentals of Glass (1 day course);
Tuesday, 9 September 2019	An introduction to glass packaging (1 day course);
Tuesday, 10 September 2019	Glass appreciation – an introduction to glass (1 day course);
Wednesday, 9 October 2019	#PharmaGlass (1 day workshop);
15-17 October 2019	Glass failure analysis (3 day course);
Wednesday, 13 November 2019	Fundamentals of Glass (1 day course);

More info at: https://www.glass-ts.com/training

21610/Glass Technology Services Press Release – 2018.12.13

GPD Finland 2019

Next year's edition of GPD Finland will be taking place **25-28 June 2019**, with the first two days dedicated to workshops, followed by the Conference, Exhibition and Step-Change.
GPD 20019 will focus on smart cities (smart buildings and glazing), smart factories and AI, to find out how smart glass will fit in the smart city environment and on the challenges the industry faces today regarding the ever-changing city planning demands. The GPD concept covers the whole supply chain of glass, from raw materials to applications, from design and research to product and process development. This is to ensure maximum value for investments and continued customer satisfaction throughout the whole supply chain. The GPD Conference shapes the future of glass.

"We have built a powerful global network of glass professionals over the years, linking up to promote business by working together and sharing information. It is crucial that we, who shape the future of glass, know what is available, what is technically, economically and environmentally possible, and how our knowhow can be extended over new boundaries," Vitkala says.

- 25-26 June 2019 - Workshops.
- 26-28 June 2019 - The Conference, Exhibition and Step-Change (for start-ups)

The first deadline for submitting abstracts is 21 October 2018. Abstracts received by this date will be reviewed in November. If selected, the early submission fee charged will be EUR 950. For abstracts submitted and selected after 21 October, the fee charged will be EUR 1,150.

For more information regarding the different sessions, please refer to the following links:

- All info about the 2019 call for papers: https://gpd.fi/call-for-papers/
- Speaking Fees: https://gpd.fi/call-for-papers/#fees
- Proposed Conference Sessions: https://gpd.fi/call-for-papers/#sessions
- Abstract review process: https://gpd.fi/call-for-papers/#reviewprocess
- Workshops: https://gpd.fi/call-for-papers/#workshops
- Exhibition: https://gpd.fi/call-for-papers/#exhibition

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

21611/Press Release – 2018.09.04