DECEMBER 2019

Newsletter N°369

WELCOME TO EU GLASS INDUSTRIES NEWS

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EU COMMUNITY NEWS

NEW EU LEGISLATION

Commission Procedures Relating to the Implementation of the Common Commercial Policy

N° 2019/C 424/05 of 17 December 2019

Notice of initiation of an expiry review of the anti-subsidy measures applicable to imports of continuous filament glass fibre products originating in the People's Republic of China.

Following the publication of a Notice of impending expiry of the anti-subsidy measures in force on the imports of continuous filament glass fibre products originating in the People's Republic of China, the European Commission has received a request for review on 19 September 2019, lodged by the **European Glass fibre Producers Association** ('**APFE**') on behalf of producers representing more than 50 % of the total Union production of continuous filament glass fibre products.
The product subject to this review is chopped glass fibre strands, of a length of not more than 50 mm; glass fibre rovings, excluding glass fibre rovings which are impregnated and coated and have a loss on ignition of more than 3 % (as determined by the ISO Standard 1887); and mats made of glass fibre filaments excluding mats of glass wool, currently falling under CN codes 7019 11 00, ex 7019 12 00 (TARIC codes 7019120022, 7019120025, 7019120026, 7019120039) and 70193100.

The request is based on the grounds that the expiry of the measures would be likely to result in continuation of subsidisation and continuation or recurrence of injury to the Union industry. The applicant has provided sufficient evidence that the producers of the product under review in the country concerned have benefitted and are likely to continue to benefit from a number of subsidies granted by the Government of the country concerned and from regional and local governments in that country.
The applicant has also provided sufficient evidence showing likelihood of continuation or recurrence of injury.

The expiry review will determine whether the expiry of the measures would be likely to lead to a continuation or recurrence of subsidisation of the product under review originating in the country concerned and a continuation or recurrence of injury to the Union industry.

The investigation shall normally be concluded within 12 months and in any event no later than 15 months from the date of publication on 17 December 2019.

Full text and annexes on page 5 at:
https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:C:2019:424:TOC

22235/O.J. C424 – 2019.12.17

TRADE POLICY

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and Competitiveness of European Industry

As part of its "Green deal", the European Commission intends to propose a carbon border adjustment mechanism. By sanctioning imports from highly polluting countries, it would make it possible to combine the EU's climate objectives with the international competitiveness of European companies.
The purpose of this carbon inclusion mechanism would be to reintegrate environmental externalities into the production costs of products imported into the Union. In this way, the Commission would prevent European companies from suffering from European measures to achieve carbon neutrality - and thus combat climate change (see other articles). It would also prevent any carbon "leakage" outside the EU (the departure of European companies to territories with more lax climate rules).
This shows that the stakes are high. Expectations are high among Member States, who see it as the counterpart to any energy tax or extension of the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).
However, it will take two years for the Commission to table its proposal. This will be limited, at least initially, to only a few key, energy-intensive sectors that are probably already included in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) - such as cement production.

On the other hand, if everyone agrees that these measures must be compatible with the non-discrimination principles of the World Trade Organization (WTO), it is more easily said than done. Trade economists have been analysing this solution for more than 20 years, but no country has adopted it so far, because in practice, the implementation of this system is extremely complex. The aim will be to calculate the carbon footprint of the industrial processes of imported products. However, even within a country, a process may differ from another. Another challenge is to trace the path of these products through extremely complex global value chains.

As a result, avoid reprisals from the EU's trading partners - China has already expressed its mistrust of this mechanism - while at the same time avoiding penalising exports from economically less developed countries, this promises to be quite a conundrum!

22236/Press Release – 2019.12.11

EU / USA

Faced with Washington's threat to hit the EU with *"firm measures"* and Paris with record customs duties, the Commission insisted that Europeans remain united.
The report, published on Monday 2 December by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and claiming that the EU has not brought its subsidies to *Airbus* into line with its rules, dealt a severe blow to the EU and brought grist to the Washington mill. At the end of this long transatlantic conflict, any hope that American sanctions will be lifted has therefore been further weakened. Worse still, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer is threatening to increase these tariffs and to include new products.
However, the EU considers that there is no legal basis in the WTO compliance report for doing so. This escalation will not facilitate a (friendly) settlement in the transatlantic dispute over the US aircraft manufacturer *Boeing*, the outcome of which should be known in the second half of 2020.
Finally, the Commission stated that the EU would remain united in the face of another threat of sanctions, those targeting France: French products could be subject to record customs duties if Paris applies a GAFA tax.

22237/Press Release – 2019.12.03

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

EU Green Deal Roadmap

Announced since July as the trademark of the von der Leyen Commission, the European **Green Deal** - a broad programme of legislative and non-legislative measures to transform the European economy and society for economic growth that respects the climate, the environment, biodiversity and social justice - was officially unveiled in its broad outlines on 11 December by Ursula von der Leyen to the MEPS.
The roadmap set out in the Communication lays the foundations for a climate-neutral European Union economy by 2050, geared towards green and sustainable growth, based on the three pillars of sustainable development as understood by the United Nations: the environmental pillar, the economic pillar and the social pillar.
The Green Deal is very broad: it covers all sectors of the economy - industry, buildings, transport, energy, trade and agriculture, in particular.

A sustainable industry, a comprehensive building renovation plan, sustainable mobility, biodiversity conservation, sustainable food from farm to fork, elimination of water, air and soil pollution are the main areas of intervention planned, building on innovation and the massive investments required by the transition.
A new growth strategy. On the one hand, it is a question of reducing emissions - of greenhouse gases or only polluting ones - but also of creating jobs, and making Europe a front-runner in green technologies and green investments. It has also the objective to "leave no-one behind".

Mrs von der Leyen presented the Green Deal to the European Council on 12 December. She stressed the importance of the Just Transition Mechanism to support regions heavily dependent on very carbon-intensive activities and populations for whom the transition would be most painful. This mechanism goes well beyond the Just Transition Fund alone (technical assistance is also planned) and will be able to mobilise up to €100 billion of investments with the multiplier effect of InvestEU and EIB funds. It is in January that things will be clarified, in a Commission proposal, both for the Just Transition Mechanism and for the investment plan for a sustainable Europe.

The Climate Law, a key measure in March. The climate law, which will be introduced by March 2020, is the flagship measure of this Green Deal. It will make it possible to enshrine in a legal text the objective of climate neutrality by 2050.
The Commission plans to raise the EU's 2030 target to an emission reduction of at least 50% or even 55% below 1990 levels (currently at least 40%) after a thorough review of legislation (ETS, effort sharing, the LULUCF, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Directives, energy taxation) in summer 2020.
In 2021, the Commission will present a package of proposals with amendments to existing legislation, if necessary. The modification of the EU's 2030 target will be achieved through an amendment to the Climate Law. Ursula von der Leyen assured that this adjustment of the EU's ambition 2030 would be made in time for the COP26 (Glasgow, December 2020), where all parties to the Paris Agreement must update or strengthen their NDC (nationally determined contribution).
A border adjustment mechanism is envisaged, but the Commission intends to reflect on it for a year and a half. The objective would be to create conditions of fair competition within the framework of the Paris Agreement so that the European economy does not have to suffer unfair competition from countries that do not respect this universal agreement. It could contain a tax or be a more global mechanism, to be applied if necessary.

Biodiversity, circular economy, sustainable food. To reflect the EU's climate and environmental ambition, the Commission will also present, next spring, the EU's 2030 biodiversity strategy, including the preservation and restoration of ecosystems, the new industrial strategy and action plan for the circular economy, the strategy for sustainable food from farm to fork and proposals for a pollution-free Europe. It is also next March that the EU intends to launch its Climate Pact to mobilise all European society willing to take climate initiatives.

22238/Press Release – 2019.12.11

Twenty-Eight Agreed on EU's Climate Neutrality by 2050 Except Poland

In the midst of a climate emergency, the Heads of State or Government of the Twenty-Eight agreed, on 12 December, on the EU's objective of climate neutrality by 2050, while specifying that one Member State was not in a position, at this stage, to commit itself to implementing this objective: Poland.
This country, heavily dependent on coal for its electricity production, has fought to the end to obtain details on the extent of the financial support it could receive to accompany a very costly energy transition, the social consequences of which it also fears.
This was in vain, since negotiations on the EU's 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) are ongoing.
It was agreed to return to the subject in June to give Warsaw time to take an informed decision, based in particular on the proposal on the Just Transition Fund, expected in January from the European Commission, and then the future MFF.

"We have a climate agreement. It is very important to show our ambition beyond the Green Deal. We want Europe to be the first climate-neutral continent by 2050", said European Council President Charles Michel, brandishing this result as a success and a strong signal to COP25. He pointed out that the European Council had "*understood the need to give Poland more time*". Faced with an unprecedented decision that violates the consensus rule required by the European Council and could set a precedent, Mr Michel conceded to the press that he had shown "*creativity*".

Although the European Council's political guidelines for the EU's long-term climate strategy stress the need to take into account the different starting points of different countries, national particularities and freedom of choice in the energy mix, Hungary and the Czech Republic, supported by Slovakia, absolutely wanted nuclear energy to be explicitly mentioned in the conclusions, to the great displeasure of Luxembourg and Austria. They finally won their case. The text mentions that "*some Member States have indicated that they rely on nuclear energy as part of their national energy mix".*
In its conclusions, the European Council *"endorses the objective of achieving a climate-neutral EU by 2050, in accordance with the objectives of the Paris Agreement".*

Poland also wanted to know what period beyond 2050 could be granted to it to achieve carbon neutrality. The idea of 2070 was even put forward by Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki.

22239/Press Release – 2019.12.12

Towards creation of a Forum of local and regional authorities to focus on European Green Deal

As the European Commission presented its roadmap for the Green Deal, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) calls for regional and local levels to be taken into account and heard and, to this end, wants to create a European Forum of local and regional authorities.

For the CoR, the European Commission's action programme must be prepared in cooperation with local and regional authorities if it is to be successful.

In a resolution adopted during the Committee's last plenary session, the regions thus undertake to set up a Forum of local and regional authorities to establish a close cooperation with the European Commission and the Member States. Objective: to monitor as closely as possible the implementation of actions and initiatives related to the Green Deal, but also to provide a platform for the exchange of best practices.

They also invite the Commission to continue to support and develop initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, both inside and outside the Union, and to take into account the implementation reports on air pollution policies and public procurement made under the Committee of the Regions' regional poles pilot project, the 'RegHubs'.

The regions are calling for the Just Transition Fund to be fully financed from new resources, not from the cohesion policy, and for a relaxation of the state aid rules and the Energy Taxation Directive.

22240/Press Release – 2019.12.09

COP 25 in Madrid Ended on 15 December 2019

Disappointed, EU considers that missed meeting at COP25 makes European *Green Deal* more necessary than ever.

COP25 ended on 15 December in Madrid, two days late, with a minimal agreement that disappointed the EU. But it has already chosen to look forward: COP26 (Glasgow, end of 2020).

The parties to the Paris Agreement have responded with urgency to the climate emergency and calls from the street by deferring all the irritating issues – rules that will govern international carbon markets, transparency rules, financing for developing countries that already have the most to suffer from global warming.

And while this COP was supposed to create a new dynamic to increase nationally determined contributions (NDC), many countries, led by the United States, Australia and Brazil, stood idly by. As a result, only countries together accounting for 10% of global emissions have committed to increase their ambition.

The parties have agreed that they will update their NDC in 2020 to reflect their greatest possible ambition.

According to the Commission and the Finnish Minister for Environment and Climate, Krista Mikkonen, who negotiated hand in hand on behalf of the EU, the failure of the parties to the Paris Agreement to agree on robust rules to govern international carbon markets in the future is a regrettable failure.

The EU also expresses its concern at the lack of agreement on transparency "despite the utmost importance of these issue for implementing Paris Agreement".

"With the #EUGreenDeal adopted and #COP25 behind us, now we look forward to raising global ambitions at #COP26 in 2020. Next year, we will continue to work with our partners and make sure that we all face head-on the urgent challenge of climate change", EU Vice-President Frans Timmermans commented.

Loss and damage. COP25 completed the second review of the Warsaw International Mechanism. Countries will initiate a discussion on financing and create a new group of experts to provide advice. The Green Climate Fund has been tasked with addressing this issue.
A new action plan for gender equality. It aims to increase women's participation and leadership in international negotiations, the design and implementation of climate policies. The EU welcomed this.
Financing. Developed countries have committed nearly $90 million in new adaptation funds and have made additional commitments to the Green Climate Fund, but this is still far from the $100 billion per year promised between now and 2020 and 2025.

22241/Press Release – 2019.12.16

EU Taxonomy on Sustainable Finance

The Member States' ambassadors to the European Union (Coreper) approved on 18 December the final agreement reached between the co-legislators (European Parliament and Council) on 16 December on the regulation laying the foundations for the future taxonomy on sustainable finance (for ecological sustainability of economic activities).
25 countries voted for the agreement and three countries abstained: Austria, Hungary and Poland.
It will also have to be approved in January by the European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) and the Environment Committee (ENVI) and then confirmed by a vote in plenary session.

Taxonomy: instructions
In practice, what does the agreement contain? It lays the foundations for a common classification that should allow investors to clearly know which activities are considered environmentally sustainable. It does not constitute a 'green' list of economic activities, but sets out how this list will be defined and incorporated into EU law.
Thus, the agreement provides that, to be qualified as "*environmentally sustainable*", an activity must make a significant contribution to at least one of the following six objectives: - climate change mitigation; - adaptation to climate change; - the sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources; - the transition to a circular economy; - pollution prevention and control; - the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. At the same time, it should "*do no significant harm*" to any other environmental objectives.
These activities can be classified into three different categories, namely:

- "*Green*" activities, which in themselves contribute substantially to one of the six environmental objectives;
- "*Transition*" activities for which there are no low-carbon alternatives but which support the transition to a climate-neutral economy; and
- "*Enabling*" activities, which allow other activities to make a substantial contribution to one of the objectives.

The agreement explicitly excludes electricity generation activities from solid fossil fuels. For nuclear energy and gas, which were the subject of a fierce battle, the question was left to later.
The text amended by the EU Council, which was given the green light by the European Parliament on 16 December, recognises the importance of "*climate neutral energy*" for the transition in a recital, while the principle of "*assessing the feasibility of all existing technologies*" was introduced in an article dealing with "*transition*" activities.
The analysis will be done on a "*case-by-case*" basis, within the framework of the technical selection criteria that will be decided by the European Commission and laid down by delegated acts.

To this end, the Commission will be assisted by a platform bringing together experts from different sectors, but also by a group of experts from the Member States. In addition, it will take into account the final recommendations of the Technical Expert Group on Sustainable Finance (TEG), which are expected to be ready in February 2020.

Will Member States be able to veto the list? No, Member States will be involved in the preparation of the taxonomy: they will be consulted, informed and given the opportunity to give their opinion, but they will not have the opportunity to veto the 'green' list before it is adopted by the Commission. Nevertheless, once the delegated act is adopted by the Commission, the Parliament and the EU Council will have the possibility of opposing the texts as a whole.

Once the taxonomies are ready, financial market participants will be required to disclose information on how the investments underlying their financial products support economic activities that meet the criteria of the taxonomy. In the case of financial products for which investments are made in economic activities that are not included in the taxonomy, and therefore not environmentally sustainable, a specific declaration will then be required.

The taxonomy for climate change mitigation and adaptation should be established by the end of 2020, with a view to ensuring its full implementation by the end of 2021. For the other four objectives, the taxonomy should be established by the end of 2021 and applied by the end of 2022.

22242/Press Release – 2019.12.18

Energy/Climate Plans and the EU's Energy Objectives for 2030

At the end of the meeting of Member States' Energy Ministers on 4 December, it was not clear that the Member States' final energy/climate plans (NECPs) would meet the European Union's energy efficiency and renewable energy targets.
During the discussions, the European Commission stressed the importance of continuing the efforts already made by most Member States since their last meeting on 24 September.

The Commission is concerned that these may not be sufficient to meet the EU's energy targets for 2030 (increasing the share of renewable energy to a minimum of 32% and improving energy efficiency by at least 32.5%).
Indeed, gaps remain between planned national contributions and the EU's energy objectives, according to the Commission's latest analyses. While the Commission's assessment of NECP projects published in June revealed gaps of 6.2% in the case of energy efficiency and 1.6% in the case of renewable energy, they are now reportedly around 4 to 5% and over 1% respectively.
However, at the meeting, several Member States announced a further increase in their ambitions for their final NECPs, which are to be sent to the Commission before the end of the year.

- Greece: an increase from 31% to 37% in the share of renewable energies in the Greek energy *mix*, thanks in particular to the end of the use of lignite in electricity production by 2028.
- Czechia: an increase in overall renewable energy targets to 22%.
- Spain: 42% of its final energy will come from renewable sources and energy efficiency in the country will have been improved by 39.5% by 2030.
- Lithuania: an increase in its energy efficiency ambitions, reducing energy needs by one fifth by 2030.
- Poland: its target of 21% renewable energy could be increased by 2 percentage points, provided that it receives additional European funding.

22243/Press Release – 2019.12.04

ETUC, BEUC and EEB Call on European Commission to Clean Up European Chemicals Policy

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), the European Consumers' Organisation (BEUC) and the European Environment Bureau (EEB) have sent a letter to the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, calling for an overreaching 2030 chemical strategy. They call, inter alia, for the phasing out of substances of very high concern (SVHC), the adoption of occupational exposure limit values for 25 priority carcinogens under the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive and, finally, better regulation of low-dose effects and the cumulative impact of chemicals.

22244/Press Release – 2019.12.09

Titanium Dioxide

A handful of Greens/EFA MEPs are mobilising to ban titanium dioxide (E171) in human food. 14 parliamentarians called on the new Health Commissioner to speak out in favour of a general ban on the European market. Titanium dioxide (E171) is a food additive that can contain up to 3.2% nanoparticles per unit weight. It is used in powder form for its colouring (white pigment) and opacifying properties.

This substance is currently not subject to any use limit (maximum level) in Europe, although Regulation 1333/2008 on food additives provides for it to be used in an amount proportional to the colouring objective. In 2016, the European Food Safety Agency concluded that the substance did not pose a significant health risk, but indicated that it did not have sufficient data to make a decision on its effects on the human reproductive system. However, in April 2019, the French government signed an order to ban it on the French market as of 1 January 2020, after the French Food Safety Agency (ANSES) had again insisted on the lack of data.

The 14 members of the Greens/EFA group believe that now is the right time to launch the debate. According to an answer to a parliamentary question dated 22 November, the Commission has already held two exchanges of views with the Member States on the measure taken by France (on 13 May and 26 September). “The Member States have given their opinion on the extension of the French measure to the whole of the EU and on other alternative risk management measures. On the basis of these opinions, the Commission will consider the next steps”, says former Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis.

22245/Press Release – 2019.12.17

European Commission launches the Due Diligence Ready! Programme

The European Commission’s Due Diligence Ready! online portal is up and running. 'Due diligence ready!' is designed for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with minerals and the metals of tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold in their supply chains. Some of these substances are used in the glass industry.
The portal helps SMEs to effectively perform due diligence on their supply chains and ensure responsible sourcing. It also helps them to comply with the regulatory requirements of the EU Conflict Minerals Regulation and provides access to materials that help the companies to be due diligence ready such as Webinars, FAQs, Glossary of Terms, Toolbox with templates.

22246/Press Release – 2019.12.10

SOCIAL ISSUES

Unemployment Rates

The euro area seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was **7.5%** in **October 2019**, down from 7.6% in September 2019. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the euro area since July 2008. The EU-28 unemployment rate was **6.3%** in October 2019, stable compared with September 2019. This is also the lowest rate recorded in the EU28 since January 2000.
Eurostat estimates that 15.583 million people in the EU28 were unemployed in October 2019, a decrease by 29,000 in the EU28 and by 31,000 in the euro area compared with August 2019.

Czechia	2.2%	Luxembourg	5.4%
Germany	3.1%	Belgium	5.6%
Poland	3.2%	Slovakia	5.6%
Malta	3.4%	Latvia	6.1%
Hungary (Sept.)	3.5%	Lithuania	6.4%
Netherlands	3.5%	Portugal	6.5%
UK (August)	3.8%	Croatia	6.6%
Romania	4.0%	Finland	6.7%
Bulgaria	4.2%	Sweden	6.8%
Estonia (Sept.)	4.3%	Cyprus	7.1%
Slovenia	4.3%	France	8.5%
Austria	4.6%	Italy	9.7%
Ireland	4.8%	Spain	14.2%
Denmark	5.3%	Greece (August)	16.7%

Elsewhere

USA	3.5%	Russia	4.6%
Canada	5.9%	Brazil	11.6%
Japan	2.4%	Australia	5.3%
Switzerland	2.3%	India	8.5%
Turkey	14.0%	China	3.6%

22247/Eurostat Press Release – 2019.11.29

GENERAL ISSUES

New EU Commission Adopts New Working Methods

European Commission

The European Commission has adopted new working methods for the roles of the Executive Vice-Presidents, the High Representative/Vice-President, the Vice-Presidents and the Commissioners' Groups.
Ursula von der Leyen, the Commission President, insisted to the media that the Commission “works as one team”. The Commission will take decisions collectively. The members of the Commission will all have an equal say in the decision-making process. Once decisions have been made, each member of the Commission will be expected to take ownership of them and defend them.

- The three Executive Vice-Presidents will perform a dual function, acting both as Vice-Presidents and as leaders of a policy area. The Executive Vice-Presidents, the High Representative/Vice-President and the Vice-Presidents will be responsible for giving political direction to the work in their action area, while ensuring it is coordinated, through the six groups of Commissioners in particular (A European Green Deal, Europe fit for the digital age, etc.)
- The Commission has established a new body to coordinate external relations issues, the Group for External Coordination ('EXCO').
- The College of Commissioners will lead the way in digital matters by holding paperless meetings and using the ‘e-college’ app.
- Cabinets 50% female. Commissioners’ all cabinets are to include at least 50% women at administrative level, with as many different nationalities as possible.
- A new internal think tank came into existence: ‘IDEA' (Inspire, Debate, Engage, Accelerate action).

22248/Press Release – 2019.11.27

Two New Directorates-General

The College of Commissioners formally decided on Tuesday 17 December to create two new Directorates-General within the Commission: **DG ‘Structural Reform Support’ (REFORM)** and **DG ‘Defence Industry and Space’ (DEFIS)**, as from 1 January 2020.
The Commission will transform the Structural Reform Support Service (SRSS), which was part of the Secretariat-General, into the Structural Reform Support Directorate General (REFORM). This DG is expected to be composed of a Directorate, eight units and two advisory functions. The Dutchman Martinus Verwey, currently Director General of the Structural Reform Support Service, is expected to take over as Head of REFORM, and the current Director of the Service, Mary McCarthy of Ireland, is expected to be transferred to the position of Director of the ‘Resources and Aid Programme’ Directorate of DG REFORM.
The College also validated the creation of the new Directorate General for Defence Industry and Space (DEFIS) with a new ‘Space’ Directorate.

Two existing Directorates of DG GROW - 'Space Policy, Copernicus and Defence' and 'EU Satellite Navigation Programmes' - will be transferred to this new DG and renamed 'Defence Industry' and 'Development and Innovation' respectively. A sectoral working party on 'Information Security' will also be created, as well as two units.
The current Deputy Director General for Defence and Space at DG GROW, the Belgian Pierre Delsaux, is expected to be temporarily transferred to the post of Deputy Director General for 'Development and Innovation' and 'Space', pending his permanent assignment.
For his part, the current Director of the 'EU Satellite Navigation Programme Directorate' in DG GROW, Matthias Petschke of Germany, is expected to be temporarily transferred to the post of Director of the 'Space' Directorate.
All these decisions will take effect on 1 January 2020.

22249/Press Release – 2019.12.18

Croatia EU Council Presidency from 1st January 2020 until 30 June 2020

European Council

Croatia will preside the European Council for the first time as a newest EU member state. This is a huge challenge as for the state administration as for the CSOs. They have both started preparations for this task.
Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenković unveiled the trappings of his country's debut EU presidency, confirming what priorities will feature during the youngest EU member's six months at the helm of the European Council.
Focus on a "Europe that develops, Europe that connects, Europe that protects and Europe that is influential".
The prime minister also unveiled the presidency's logo, which was designed by first-year design student Iva Primorac, and the slogan: "A strong Europe in a challenging world".

EU 2020 HR

Plenković told the launch event that the best solution to the challenges facing the world is a "stronger Union" and that the presidency is a historic moment for the country.
Croatia, which joined the bloc in 2013, is celebrating 29 years of independence and the prime minister said the presidency is proof that the country has made the leap from a war-torn nation to a stable international actor and member of EU and NATO.
Plenković said the EU's long-term budget, the multiannual financial framework (MFF), is one of the specific policy areas Croatia will focus on, once the presidency starts on 1 January.
The country is part of the "Friends of Cohesion" group, which aims to preserve the percentage of the budget allocated for cohesion.
It also aims to maintain member state participation in projects financed by cohesion funds. The minimum co-financing rate is currently 15% but some member states want to increase it to 30%.

Croatia insists that it would not be able to fulfil its obligations in most of the projects if the increase was made, especially those in local communities.
Plenković said that efforts will also be made in strengthening the European Pillar of Social Rights. The Western Balkans will also have a special position in the presidency.
In May, there will be an EU summit on that topic in Zagreb, seen as a chance to revive, or rethink, the languishing enlargement process.
Croatia is very interested in measures that will boost the EU's birthrate: half of the member states are faced with huge demographic problems, most of them from Eastern Europe. Other targets include better connectivity and shoring up freedoms and access to justice, better and more secure data infrastructure, internal security.
On migration, the PM said that reform of the Common European Asylum System and better cooperation with third countries are needed.
"We need to be more resilient to growing hybrid threats, strengthen capabilities in cybersecurity, combat false news," Plenković concluded.
Croatia has coordinated its presidency along the lines of the Council's new strategic agenda for 2019-2024 and the political guidelines unveiled by Commission President-elect Ursula von der Leyen in July.

22250/Press Release – 2019.12.16

European Parliament's Industry, Research and Energy Committee

The Romanian MEP Cristian-Silviu Buşoi (EPP) was elected chairman of the Industry, Research and Energy Committee (ITRE) on 4 December. He will replace his compatriot Adina-Ioana Vălean (EPP), who left for the post of European Commissioner for Transport.

22251/Press Release – 2019.12.05

BREXIT

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, winner of the December 12 legislative elections, will present to the new Parliament on Friday 20 December the EU's withdrawal agreement as approved on 17 October with the Twenty-Seven, with a view to an effective EU exit on 31 January 2020. The presentation of the text will launch the adoption process, with the adoption as such of the draft agreement to take place after the Christmas holidays. The head of government will also have to address the 109 newly elected Conservative MPs from the 365 seats won on December 12. The week will also be marked, on December 19, by the Queen's speech, which also allows the government to present its major legislative priorities other than Brexit.

22252/Press Release – 2019.12.16

Revision of Population Weighting Data of Member States for a Qualified Majority

In order to comply with the Brexit requirement, the EU Council adopted a decision amending the EU Council's Rules of Procedure for the year 2020 on qualified majority voting.

In a **qualified majority vote**, the Member States constituting that majority must represent **at least 65% of the population of the Union**. In anticipation of the departure of 66,647,112 British - or 12.96% of the EU population - the weight of each Member State had to be reviewed.

The adopted decision therefore provides that, in the EU Council's Rules of Procedure for the coming year, both the figures concerning the population of the Union for the period from 1st January 2020 to the date on which the Treaties cease to apply in the United Kingdom and the figures for the period from the day following that on which the Treaties cease to apply in the United Kingdom to 31 December 2020 will be indicated.

Thus, the two most populous EU countries, Germany (82,940,663 inhabitants) and France (67,028,048 inhabitants), will represent 18.54% and 14.98% of the EU population respectively, compared to 16.13% and 13.04% before the British departure.

This decision will also apply to the European Atomic Energy Community.

For the purposes of implementing Article 16(4) TEU and Article 238(2) and (3) TFEU, the population of the Union and the population of each Member State, as well as the percentage of each Member State's population in relation to the population of the Union, for the period from the day following that on which the Treaties cease to apply to the United Kingdom to 31 December 2020, shall be as follows:

MEMBER STATES	Population	% of the Union's population
Germany	82 940 663	18.54
France	67 028 048	14.98
Italy	61 068 437	13.65
Spain	46 934 632	10.49
Poland	37 972 812	8.49
Romania	19 405 156	4.34
Netherlands	17 423 013	3.89
Belgium	11 467 923	2.56
Greece	10 722 287	2.40
Czechia	10 528 984	2.35
Portugal	10 276 617	2.30
Sweden	10 243 000	2.29
Hungary	9 772 756	2.18
Austria	8 842 000	1.98
Bulgaria	7 000 039	1.56

Denmark	5 799 763	1.30
Finland	5 512 119	1.23
Slovakia	5 450 421	1.22
Ireland	4 904 240	1.10
Croatia	4 076 246	0.91
Lithuania	2 794 184	0.62
Slovenia	2 080 908	0.47
Latvia	1 919 968	0.43
Estonia	1 324 820	0.30
Cyprus	875 898	0.20
Luxembourg	612 179	0.14
Malta	493 559	0.11
TOTAL EU 27	447 470 672	
Threshold (65 %)	290 855 937	

22253/Press Release – 2019.12.16

Inflation Rate

Latest Eurostat figures show that the annual inflation rate was **1.0% in November 2019 in the Euro area**, up from 0.7% in October. **The EU28** annual inflation was **1.3% in November,** up from 1.1% in October.
The largest contribution to the annual euro area inflation rate came from services (+0.82%), followed by food, alcohol & tobacco (+0.37%), non-energy industrial goods (+0.10%) and energy (-0.33%).

Italy	0.2%	Malta	1.3%
Portugal	0.2%	Slovenia	1.4%
Belgium	0.4%	U K	1.5%
Greece	0.5%	Lithuania	1.7%
Spain	0.5%	Estonia	1.8%
Cyprus	0.5%	Sweden	1.8%
Denmark	0.6%	Latvia	2.0%
Ireland	0.8%	Bulgaria	2.2%
Croatia	0.8%	Poland	2.4%
Finland	0.8%	Netherlands	2.6%
Luxembourg	1.0%	Czechia	3.0%
Germany	1.2%	Slovakia	3.2%
France	1.2%	Hungary	3.4%
Austria	1.2%	Romania	3.8%

Elsewhere

USA	2.1%	Russia	3.5%
Canada	1.9%	Brazil	2.27%
Japan	0.2%	Australia	1.7%
Switzerland	-0.1%	India	5.54%
Turkey	10.6%	China	4.5%

22254/Eurostat News Release – 2020.12.18

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GLASS NEWS

FLAT GLASS

Glass Companies

Guardian Glass

Guardian Glass has launched a digital version of its popular GlassTime handbook, which is an outstanding tool for architects, glass processors and cladders to learn about glass and how to build with it.
As a glass technical manual and encyclopedia, GlassTime is the ultimate online glass reference guide for the glass community. Previously only available in hard copy/printed format, the new digital version is interactive, easier to navigate and contains information that can be updated as needed. The content is developed by Guardian Glass experts using valuable feedback from customers and other glass influencers.
The handbook is valuable for all levels of glass expertise and includes understanding the properties and benefits of glass types of glass and its use, and how it's made. There's also information on glass standards, as well as recommendations for glass processing and its application in a building or home.
Each page of the online handbook can be printed, saved as a PDF file or shared with colleagues via email. Users can easily access the relevant Guardian Glass product pages, perform keyword searches and access useful online calculation tools such as the 'Glass Analytics'. If users need to request a product sample, require technical support, or need specific project advice, this is just a couple of clicks away.
Guus Boekhoudt, Vice President of Guardian Glass Europe, Russia and Asia & Managing Director, Guardian Europe comments: "By launching the digital version of GlassTime, Guardian Glass is providing the ultimate Glass Knowledge Centre. We want to share our knowledge and make our expertise available to users wherever and whenever they need it."

22255/Press Release – 2019.11.28

Sisecam

Şişecam Group has inaugurated its second flat glass investment facility in Sant'Angelo in Puglia, Italy with Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte in attendance.
The opening ceremony of the Manfredonia facilities took place two months earlier than planned on 30th November and was hosted by Şişecam Group Vice Chairman and General Manager Ahmet Kırman.

Along with Mr Conte, Turkey's Ambassador to Rome Murat Salim Esenli, Puglia Regional President Michele Emiliano and Monte Sant'Angelo Mayor Pierpaolo D'Arienzo also attended the ceremony.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the facility, Mr Conte said that he attended the ceremony to show the special importance his government considers the development in the southern part of the country.
Extending thanks to Mr Kırman for the investment, Conte stated: "Şişecam has come with a sustainable project both economically and environmentally and taken an important step by putting this facility into operation."

Mr Esenli emphasised that the presence of Turkish company Şişecam in Italy is an indication of the economic power and the visionary perspective of Turkey.
He added: "I would like to consider the attendance by Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte in such an important opening as an indication of the importance he and the government he represents to relations and cooperation with Turkey."
He underlined that Şişecam continues to grow in line with its performance-based investment policy with a view to becoming one of the world's largest three producers in the main areas of activity.
He said: "Including our recent soda investment in the U.S., we are operating in 14 countries on four continents, bringing our innovative products to our customers in more than 150 countries and providing jobs to 22,000 people.

Mr Kırman added: "Along with additional investments, we have invested more than 55 million euros in the facility, including purchase price and business capital."

22256/Press Release – 2019.12.02

Glass for Europe: the European Green Deal

Publication by the European Commission of the communication on "The European Green Deal" sets a new horizon that Europe's flat glass sector looks forward to with enthusiasm and cautious optimism.
The European Commission's ambition to actively operationalize a decarbonisation agenda across all relevant policies and to make it an opportunity to expand sustainable economic activity and Europe's leadership in low-carbon technologies, is music to Glass for Europe's ears.

Glass for Europe's Secretary General, Bertrand Cazes said, "Europe's flat glass sector is ready to support these new climate and sustainability ambitions with its best-in-class manufacturing installations and its high-performance products, which enable the decarbonisation of buildings and cars and the deployment of solar energy."
The flat glass sector feels most particularly encouraged by the European Commission's intention to engage in a building "renovation wave". The launch a new renovation initiative in 2020 coupled with the rigorous implementation of high energy-performance standards for buildings will be instrumental to ensure that a doubling of building renovation rates delivers the expected energy savings. In the mobility sector, Glass for Europe also welcomes the announcement that CO2 emission performance standards for vehicles will be revised in 2021. The flat glass sector has solutions ready to be used for Europe to rapidly cut its CO2 emissions.

Other initiatives announced in the European Green Deal, such as that on greater circularity and recycling in the construction sector, sustainable product policy, R&D and industrial policies supportive of decarbonisation of industrial processes, etc., have the potential to support the flat glass sector's efforts to maximize its contributions to the carbon neutral transition.

"The daunting task is now to operationalize the European Green Deal. We must get things right." concluded Bertrand Cazes.

Glass for Europe will unveil its '2050 vision for the flat glass sector' next month to engage in a dialogue with European authorities on an informed and constructive basis.

22257/Press Release – 2019.12.12

CONTAINER GLASS

Glass Companies

O-I

O-I embarks on corporate modernisation

O-I has embarked on a corporate modernisation that will result in the formation of a new holding company, **O-I Glass Inc**, that would become the parent company of O-I.

The holding company would also replace O-I as the public company trading on the New York Stock Exchange and assume O-I's current ticker symbol: OI

The company's first move was to authorise attempts to gather the consent of bondholders and creditors that may have loans, bonds, or other finance arrangements with O-I or any of its many subsidiaries.

Once that is obtained sometime later this month, the company is expected to announce other moves that currently it cannot openly discuss because of restrictions that apply to it as a publicly-traded company

But the world's largest glassmaker said it expects to complete its process and begin to implement its corporate modernisation by year's end.

O-I said it was taking the steps because it believes the move "would improve the company's operating efficiency and cost structure, while ensuring the company remains well-positioned to address its legacy liabilities."

22258/Press Release – 2019.12.10

Ardagh

1. Ardagh among contenders for O-I's Australasia division

Ardagh has emerged as one of the final contenders to purchase the Australian and NZ division of O-I, *reports The Australian*.

While second-round bids are due around December 16 in the Goldman Sachs-run contest to acquire the division, the situation is said to be fluid, with a third round added to the competition that will see final bids due in the new year.

Many are taking the fact that three rounds exist for the process as a signal that strong competition exists for O-I's Australian and New Zealand operations.

22259/Press Release – 2018.12.09

2. Ardagh Group partners with St. Julian Winery

Ardagh Group, Glass – North America announced a long-term supply agreement with St. Julian Winery to manufacture its wine bottles. The new agreement pairs the longest continually operating and largest winery in the state of Michigan with the largest domestic manufacturer of glass bottles for the U.S. wine market.

St. Julian Winery's passion for local farms and high-quality fruit and its more than 95 years of experience is synergistic with Ardagh's passion for high-quality glass bottles manufactured in the U.S. for more than 125 years.

The bottles for St. Julian Winery leverage the brand's existing bottle design assets with a modern, premium look and feel. Ardagh has an extensive product portfolio for the wine market, offering glass bottle designs in a variety of shapes, colours and sizes.
"Ardagh Group is proud to partner with St. Julian Winery to provide consumers with glass bottles made in the U.S., while supporting U.S. manufacturing jobs," said John T Shaddox, Chief Commercial Officer for Ardagh Group Glass North America.
Glass bottles are 100 percent and endlessly recyclable, and they can go from the recycling bin to the store shelf in as little as 30 days. Glass wine bottles preserve the true taste of the product and deliver great shelf appeal and brand differentiation in a premium, sustainable package.

22260/Press Release – 2018.12.19

Verallia Group

Horn completes Verallia furnace repair

A furnace at Verallia Essen plant has been repaired by the engineering group Horn.
Furnace number 3 was drilled and drained, and then cooled and completely demolished. The melting tank and chamber were rebuilt in the existing design. Worn steel parts were replaced in the course of the repair.
The process tank received a new design for later extension of line 3-1. The forehearth line 3-3 was adapted and extended for the installation of a triple gob machine.
All process tanks and forehearth gas skids were brought up to current safety levels.
The furnace was tempered on schedule after completion of the works and the commissioning of the furnace was carried out successfully.

22261/Press Release – 2018.12.17

Zignago Vetro

Zignago Vetro has expanded its capacity at its Portogruaro, near Venice, Italy, plant to meet increased demand for glass containers.
The expansion involved building a new greenfield production area on the company site, including hall construction and required infrastructure.
As part of the construction of the production area, Zignago Vetro has optimised its production sectors from melting to packaging according to the procedures.
It has installed a regenerative end-fired furnace, supplied by Nikolaus Sorg. The furnace will provide low energy consumption values as well as NOx emissions at the lowest technical level.
To meet the increasing demand for glass containers, Zignago Vetro has expanded its capacity at Portogruaro in flint, Georgia's green or dark green glass.
Sorg has also supplied the complete heating system (including emergency heating) as well as the control and SCADA system.
The heating is done with gas. Alternatively, the heating is provided with heavy oil. The waste gas rail is intended for the later connection of an emission control system.
The furnace is also equipped with a melting booster and a barrier booster as well as a refiner and throat booster, which leads to a higher melting capacity.
The batch charging system was supplied by EME and is done via two IRD dog houses by means of two EME-NEND S2 screw chargers. This type of batch charger is characterised by a completely sealed doghouse, which eliminates the uncontrolled entry of false air and reduces dust formation.
The new melting plant is designed so that the melting capacity can be extended during the first furnace repair.

22262/Press Release – 2019.12.04

Saverglass

SAVERGLASS, leading manufacturer specializing in the production and decoration of luxury and high-end glass bottles for the wine and spirits industry, finalized the purchase of the Belgian company MD Verre, a subsidiary of the Spanish group VIDRALA. In its Walloon factory in Ghlin near Mons, located on an 84-acre site, MD Verre produces some 160,000 tons of glass per year, mainly entry-level wine bottles.
SAVERGLASS has continued to grow at an average rate of 10 percent per year over the past thirty years, largely due to its specialization in the booming segment of bottles and decanters designed to carry super premium spirits and fine wines.

With the commissioning in June 2018 of a powerful new ultra-modern plant in Guadalajara, Mexico, Saverglass significantly enlarged its footprint on the American continent, leading to consolidated sales this year that have topped the symbolic milestone of 500 million EUR.
The Ghlin location meets the immediate need for a large and efficient production capacity to support the European presence of the SAVERGLASS group in the world of fine wines. The production of its Emirates plant will be mainly reoriented towards the needs of customers from the Pacific and America regions.

Adapting the MD Verre plant to accommodate its new target of high-end wines will rely on an immediate investment program of around 50 million EUR over the next three years. This major financial effort, coming on the heels of the 500 million EUR or so invested over the last eight years, will be facilitated by the modest cost of MD Verre, which was purchased for the symbolic price of one euro.
The transition of the Ghlin factory from mass production to the premium products of SAVERGLASS will take place in stages thanks to a contract simultaneously being signed with VIDRALA. The contract will lock in the supply of a significant part of its needs for the next five years.

At the same time, SAVERGLASS is embarking on a major training program to prepare Ghlin's 250 employees to develop SAVERGLASS products, with support provided by the technical assistance of at least 100 of its 3,400 global staff from the SAVERGLASS Group. They are also able to source and offer components that are not always available to general trade, which opens up the possibilities in our spirit packaging.

22263/Press Release – 2019.12.04

Pochet du Courval

French container glass manufacturer Pochet du Courval is to invest €15 million in digital manufacturing. The cosmetic and perfume bottle maker, headquartered in Paris and with a manufacturing site in Guimerville, Blangy sur Bresle, said the investment will support the digitisation of its processes.
The tranche of investments will take place between 2019 and 2022.
The company has already started to deploy production control software in the hot end to monitor production data in real time.

22264/Press Release – 2019.12.10

Croxsons

In answering the growing demand from consumers for healthier drink choices, Croxsons has recently worked Sea Arch, a start-up producer of non-alcoholic gin; the premium spirit, blended and bottled in England, contains eleven botanicals and is twice distilled in a traditional copper pot with spring water.

Croxsons, a Queens Award winner for international trade with a 150-year-old heritage, teamed up with the Devon-based newcomers, to supply a pair of distinctive bottles that have been designed and developed to Sea Arch's exact brief. Taking inspiration from their fresh and rugged coastal environment, the bottles – a 700ml Moonea bottle and 250ml version – are spray coated with lead-free paint to a specific colour requirement and feature plain cork closures. Both products are available online from the Sea Arch website and from specialist retailers.


Croxsons design new bespoke bottle for Eden Mill

Commenting on the project, Tim Croxson, Croxsons' COO, said, "We pride ourselves on working in partnership with environmentally conscious customers to meet and deliver their individual requirements. Sea Arch is a great alternative for gin lovers, offering the consumer an alcohol-free option.

"As a relative newcomer to the industry, we have been able to support them with our experience and knowledge gained from many years in the spirits sector. We have supplied standout bottles in two sizes and they have been well received."

Geoff Yates, founder of Sea Arch, said, "As a start-up business it can be difficult to know where to start. Nikki, our contact at Croxsons, has been very helpful and guided us through the early stages of development and production.

"Coming from a coastal town, we care about our environment – it's where we live and play and we want to help preserve it. We use recycled cardboard for our boxes, solvent free paint on our bottles and of course no single use plastic is used in our packaging. We now take two bottle sizes from Croxsons (70cl and 25cl) and continue to receive great feedback from the bottle, which we believe represents our brand perfectly."

A recent CGA report into drinking trends highlighted the non-alcoholic drinks sector as one of the fastest growing trends. Volume of sales was up by over 400 percent in the period leading up to February 2019.

22265/Press Release – 2019.12.19

Miscellaneous

1. <u>FERVER Joins the Close the Glass Loop Platform</u>

FEVE
The European Container
Glass Federation

FERVER, the European Federation of Glass Recyclers has joined the Close the Glass Loop programme.

The major industry stewardship programme for glass packaging was recently launched by FEVE, the European glass container federation.

One major target of the platform is to reach a post-consumer glass container collection target of 90% while the other one is to ensure that the recycled material is reused again into a new production loop of glass containers.

"We are eager to collaborate on the Close the Glass Loop platform. We fully support its mission and objectives, and we are glad to be involved in its shaping from its early stages – says Ulrich Ix, President of FERVER. "Recycled glass is a precious resource for the container glass production loop. It means a more resource-efficient production process, more sustainable and competitive glass packaging solutions for the market, more opportunities of sustainable growth for the whole glass packaging Circular Economy".

"Cullet processing companies are a key enabler to the final recycling of post-consumer glass into a new production loop. This can't simply happen if collected glass is not properly sorted, treated and upgraded into a furnace-ready raw material," said Michel Giannuzzi, President of FEVE. "The collaboration with FERVER members is therefore fundamental if we want to achieve the Close the Glass Loop objectives. We are really glad to count on their collaboration."

22266/Press Release – 2019.12.09

2. Increasing Quality and Efficiency of the Glass Recycling Value Chain

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Organizations across Europe are committed to increasing the quality and efficiency of the glass recycling value chain through separate collection, quality recycling and closed loop manufacturing of glass.

A practical example of how to achieve genuine circularity of glass packaging is "Close the Glass Loop" – the major industry stewardship programme for glass packaging initiated by FEVE and aiming to reach a post-consumer glass container collection target of 90 percent by 2030. In parallel, the initiative should ensure that the recycled material is reused again into a new production loop of glass containers.

EPR Organizations, as the link between the different stakeholders, have a key role in promoting and facilitating better collection, high quality sorting and recycling of used packaging including glass, thus ensuring the achievement of the initiative's objectives.

EXPRA's Managing Director, Joachim Quoden, said, "EXPRA supports the "Close the Glass Loop" as our organization and its members strive to constantly improve their performance by supporting and investing in innovative collection models, high quality sorting & recycling and especially in communication and information campaigns for consumers, who at the end of the day are the engine at the core of the whole process. We look forward to closer cooperation with the other stakeholders in the value chain in finding the most efficient ways and means to face challenges but also exploit opportunities stemming from the new EU Waste Legislation."

"This commitment by the EPR community to "Close The Glass Loop" across Europe is a strong signal for the glass industry that the time is now to make a difference for the circular economy," stated Michel Giannuzzi, President of FEVE. "As an industry we can count on a material with unique potential in terms of recyclability.

We know there are big challenges ahead to make the most of this potential, and to face them it is essential that we foster a strong partnership with EPR schemes on European and especially on national level."

22267/Press Release – 2019.12.17

DOMESTIC TABLEWARE AND CRYSTAL GLASS

Glass Companies

Durobor

Workers at the troubled Durobor tableware glass site in Belgium plan to launch a takeover. Glass makers at the site have put forward a plan to relaunch two production lines at the site in Soignies, near Mons, Belgium.

It plans a crucial meeting with Sogepa, the financial arm of the Walloon region, which will take place before the end of December.
"Uncertainties remain in terms of the commercial strategy," says David Leclercq, head of press relations at Sogepa.
"The workers brought in a commercial project that was not fully completed. With the external partners, we are trying to secure the sales volumes to reach a certain turnover so that the company is profitable or at least financially independent. "
Another blocking point is the funding level. Much higher than initially planned, the investment required to revive the factory must be made through a public-private partnership.
"We have to raise funds through partners. But first we have to convince them to adhere to a business strategy that holds water. This is where the difficulty lies because Durobor has a complicated history. Restoring trust requires always time. "
The company went into receivership at the beginning of May and has been unable to find a buyer.

Sogepa decided to temporarily maintain the furnace in working order and a team of about 20 staff were kept working under temporary contracts to maintain the furnace.

22268/Press Release – 2019.12.17

Libbey

Libbey announced the appointment of Juan Amezquita as the Company's senior vice president, chief financial officer and treasurer, effective January 13, 2020.
Mr. Amezquita will lead Libbey's global finance, accounting and treasury teams. He will succeed James C. Burmeister, who has served as Libbey's CFO since March 2017.
Mr. Burmeister will remain at Libbey and will continue to serve as senior vice president, chief operating officer, with primary responsibility for the Company's manufacturing, engineering, supply chain and information technology operations.
Mr. Amezquita's appointment and Mr. Burmeister's transition are in furtherance of the organizational realignment plan the Company announced in August 2019.
Mr. Amezquita has more than 25 years of financial management experience. He will join Libbey from Owens-Illinois, where he has served as vice president of strategy and integration since April 2019. Mr. Amezquita previously held roles of increasing responsibility in O-I's finance and treasury functions, beginning in 2005 as Colombia treasurer and culminating in his roles as vice president and treasurer from 2012 to 2015 and vice president of finance and corporate controller from 2016 to April 2019. Mr. Amezquita's earlier experience includes serving as chief financial officer for companies in the business services and health care industries in Colombia, as well as working as an IT system analyst.

22269/Press Release – 2019.12.17

REINFORCEMENT GLASS FIBRES

Glass Companies

Owens Corning

The Executive Chairman of OC Board of Directors Mike Thaman has decided to retire from the company as of the date of the Annual Meeting of Stockholders, currently scheduled in April 2020. Brian Chambers, President and Chief Executive Officer, has been elected by the Board to succeed Mr. Thaman as Chairman effective at the same time.
“It has been a privilege to be a part of Owens Corning for the past 27 years and to lead the Board for nearly 18 years. I couldn’t be prouder of this company and its 20,000 employees who are collectively focused on making the world a better place.
I’m confident that the best days are ahead for Owens Corning and I’m excited for what Brian will contribute to the Board as Chairman,” Mr. Thaman said.

Mr. Chambers became CEO and was elected to the Board in April 2019. He has been with the company for over 15 years, and throughout his career, has held a number of senior operating roles across a range of businesses and geographies.
Mr. Chambers stated, “I am honoured to be named Chairman of the Board for this remarkable company. I want to thank Mike for his tremendous passion and dedication to Owens Corning. His legacy of generating value for shareholders, creating sustainable solutions for our customers, and developing our employees will have a profound impact on the organization for years to come.”

22270/Press Release – 2019.12.09

Lanxess

LANXESS
Energizing Chemistry

Innovative Lightweight Design Project
The endless fibre-reinforced thermoplastic composite material Tepex dynalite from LANXESS has made a major contribution to the success of the FuPro project of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). At the international trade fair for mobility 4.0 “eMove360° Europe” in Munich, Germany, the project received the Gold Materialica Award in the “Surface & Technology” category. The abbreviation FuPro stands for “Design and process development for functionalized multi-component structures with complex hollow profiles”.
In the research project’s innovative fibre composite modular system, organic sheets, fibre composite hollow sections and injection moulding compounds were combined to form highly integrative multi-component structures. Using the case of a belt integral backrest the high application potential of the technology was demonstrated. The organic sheets used here are made from the semi-finished product Tepex dynalite 102-RG600 based on roving glass fabric and a polyamide 6 matrix.
The LANXESS subsidiary Bond-Laminates in Brilon, Germany, manufactures these very lightweight yet highly resilient fibre composite semi-finished products.
The FuPro project
Within FuPro, an interdisciplinary team from industry and science developed a novel technology that integrates continuous fibre composite hollow profiles into hybrid organic sheet metal injection moulding structures. The project involved the Institute for Lightweight Engineering and Polymer Technology (ILK) at Dresden Technical University and Brose Fahrzeugteile GmbH & Co. KG as well as the companies Arburg, AUMO, DITF Denkendorf, Elring Klinger, GK Concept, gwk, Schmalz, PHP Fibers and Werkzeugbau Siegfried Hofmann.

The objective of the FuPro research project was to develop and analyse a novel, large-scale production process for multi-component structures made from complex fibre-reinforced plastics (FRP) hollow profiles, organic sheets and injection moulding compounds. The aim is to achieve a level of process, structural and functional integration that goes far beyond classic design methods and thus to achieve significant weight reductions in vehicle structures.

Lightweight design is a key technology that is an essential prerequisite for resource-efficient mobility. Highly integrative multi-component engineering methods – i.e. a combination of torsion- and flexurally rigid hollow profiles, flat construction elements and complex node structures – are particularly promising for the realization of highly loadable lightweight structures.
In addition, the use of FRP allows the individual components to be optimized according to the force flow. Thermoplastic FRP are predestined for mass production applications in the automotive industry, since cycle times of less than one minute are usually achieved in component production.

22271/Press Release – 2019.12.11

SPECIAL GLASS

Glass Company

SCHOTT

Schott inaugurates new Indian glass tank facility following €21 million investment

Schott has inaugurated its new glass tank facility in Jambusar, Gujarat, India following an investment of €21 million last year. The company has also committed additional investments of €26 million for another tank facility in 2020.
Each of the new production facilities will double the capacity of Schott Glass India's manufacturing plant, allowing the group to produce its highly specialised FIOLAX tubing material for both domestic and export demands.
Schott began the construction of its first new facility last year on the occasion of completing two decades of operations in India.

The facility finished construction within a record time of one year, enabling employment of another 100 skilled local workforce.

Talking about Schott Glass India's future plans, Managing Director, Georg Sparschuh said: "While domestic market remains our key focus, our India plant also caters to the Asian market, thereby contributing to pharmaceutical industry exports and the Indian government's vision of becoming a global pharmaceutical hub.
Schott also understand the Indian Health Ministry's initiative to provide affordable and accessible healthcare to its citizens.
It aims to contribute to the pharmaceutical value chains and by providing high-quality glass products for pharma packaging, ensuring highest global safety standards. Dignitaries from the German Embassy- Mumbai in India, and Marja Einig, Deputy German Counsel also attended the inauguration of the new facility.

On the occasion, Ms Einig commended the efforts and said: "Schott is playing a pivotal role in giving a fillip to our efforts in strengthening the Indo-German partnership. Time and again, Schott has showcased its commitment towards India. With its expanded operations in the country, it is catering to the needs of the Indian health industry and contributing to the Indian government's initiatives such as Make in India and Pharma Vision 2020."

22272/Press Release – 2019.12.02

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DIVERSE

SEMINARS / CONFERENCES / WORKSHOPS

Şişecam International Glass Conference

The "Şişecam International Glass Conference" was held in Istanbul, on November 21-22, 2019, with the attendance of 500 participants from 26 countries.

Prof. Şener Oktik, Şişecam Group Chief Research and Technological Development Officer, Chairman of the conference

The Conference, combined with the "34th Şişecam Glass Symposium", had the main theme of "Glass in the Sustainable Future: Achieving What is Possible…"
The international conference consisted of 10 thematic parallel sessions, 111 oral presentations, and 12 poster presentations, which attracted researchers and industry professionals from all around the world, and raised the perception on the central role of glass on sustainable future.
Şişecam Group Chief Research and Technological Development Officer Prof. Şener Oktik, in his opening speech as the Chairman of the conference, said, "Archeological findings suggest that the roots of glass industry are in Anatolia where we are together to discuss and exchange our knowledge, experiences, ideas and the progress in research and technological development results of glass science, technology in an attempt to improve our understanding of a mystery of glass in many dimensions.

"Glass is actually neither a liquid nor a solid. It is an amorphous material somewhere between those two states and can flow very slowly and the molecules move to settle into a more stable, crystal-like formation over long periods. Unfortunately, as in the journey of molecules in glass, 'a clock speed' of glass industry moves slowly. To improve the clock speed of the glass industry, all possible stakeholders, scientists, engineers, technology providers, and investors from universities, research institutions, suppliers and glass manufacturers at an international scale ought to communicate more strongly in open platforms to facilitate collaborations and co-creation at pre-commercial phases."
Prof. Oktik added, "We hope that this initiation would be serving glass industry from fundamentals of glass science and technology to every stage of glass production and the secondary processes starting from nearby geography to the ever-enlarging geographies covering the world and getting stronger in width and depth in coming years by the help of all stakeholders."

22273/Press Release – 2019.12.04

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

22274/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/

22275/Press Release – 2019.09.05

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