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Building, Solar, Transport



Special



APRIL 2017 Newsletter N°340

Table of Contents

COMMUNITY NEWS	2
EU New Legislation.....	2
Trade Policy	3
Environment.....	5
Social.....	10
General Matters	12
GLASS NEWS	16
Flat Glass.....	16
Container Glass.....	19
Reinforcement Fibres	25
Special Glass	26
Domestic Glassware	29
IN BRIEF	31

COMMUNITY NEWS

A. EU NEW LEGISLATION

Commission Regulations

Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/735 of 14 February 2017

The Regulation amends, for the purpose of its adaptation to technical progress, the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 440/2008 laying down **test methods** pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (**REACH**).

All details at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2017:112:TOC>

20442/O.J. L112 – 2017.04.28

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/699 of 18 April 2017

This Regulation lays down a common methodology for the **calculation of the weight of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE)** placed on the market in a Member State and a common methodology for the calculation of the total quantity of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) generated by weight in a Member State to be used by Member States, as relevant, for the **calculation of the collection rates of WEEE**. For this purpose, it also provides for the availability of a WEEE calculation tool, customized for each Member State, which is set up and made available by the Commission as an integral part of these methodologies.

Annex I deals with the methodology for the calculation of substantiated estimates of the weight of EEE placed on the market of a Member State.

Annex II with the methodology for the calculation of the total quantity of WEEE generated in a Member State.

All info on page 17 at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2017:103:TOC>

20443/O.J. L103 – 2017.04.19

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/724 of 24 April 2017

The Commission has decided to maintain a **definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain continuous filament glass fibre products originating in the People's Republic of China**.

A definitive anti-dumping duty is imposed on imports of 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 within CN codes 7019 11 00, ex 7019 12 00 (TARIC codes 7019120021, 7019120022, 7019120023, 7019120025, 7019120039) and 7019 31 00 and originating in the People's Republic of China.

The rates of the definitive anti-dumping duty applicable to the net, free-at-Union-frontier price, before duty, of the product described in paragraph 1 and produced by the companies listed below shall be as follows:

Jushi Group Co., Ltd; Jushi Group Chengdu Co., Ltd; Jushi Group Jiujiang Co., Ltd	14.5%
Chongqing Polycomp International Corporation	19.9%
Other cooperating companies listed in Annex	15.9%
All other companies	19.9%

All info on page 4 at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2017:107:TOC>

20444/O.J. L107 – 2017.04.25

B. TRADE POLICY

EU / Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay)

The European Commission published its report on the progress made in the second round (since May 2016) of EU-Mercosur free-trade talks which took place in Buenos Aires from 20 to 25 March and also the texts of its proposals tabled at that meeting.

The progress report on the negotiations on the trade chapter of the association agreement between the EU and Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) details the progress made by the 15 working groups in trade in goods; rules of origin; customs and trade facilitation; technical barriers to trade; sanitary and phytosanitary measures; trade defence instruments; subsidies; dispute settlement; services and establishment; public procurement; intellectual property, including geographical indications); competition, trade and sustainable development; SMEs; and institutional affairs.

At the Buenos Aires round, the parties agreed to merge their proposals into consolidated texts and, in the area of competition, reached provisional agreement on a full text.

The two sides agreed to meet again in Brussels in July. An inter-sessional round of talks on the trade chapter will take place in Buenos Aires at the end of May.

The progress report and the textual proposals are available at:

<http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1644>

20445/Press Release – 2017.04.10

USA and Japan Support EU in China's WTO Dispute

The United States and Japan expressed their support for the EU at the meeting of the dispute settlement body (DSB) after the WTO agreed to China's request for a panel to be set up to consider its complaint over the way the EU currently calculates anti-dumping duties.

Immediately after the expiry, on 11 December 2016, of certain provisions of China's protocol of accession (in 2011) to the WTO, which allowed the other member countries of the organisation to treat China as a non-market economy country in how they calculated anti-dumping duties, China lodged a complaint with the WTO over the so-called "substitute country" method used by the EU in its calculation of anti-dumping duties to be applied to Chinese exports.

As it had done on 21 March, when it submitted its first request for a panel to be set up, China stated that the provisions in its accession protocol, which allowed special rules to apply in anti-dumping proceedings on imports from China, had expired after a 15-year transitional period. China noted the United States' intention to continue applying "discriminative practices" against its exporters despite the expiry of the above-mentioned provisions. This, it said, was inconsistent with WTO rules.

With regard to the EU, China said that there was "*no deficiency*" in its request for the establishment of a panel. China considers the EU's views regarding the inclusion of modifications, replacements or amendments in the Chinese complaint to be "*incorrect as a matter of law and fact*".

China agreed that members could use appropriate WTO tools to address injurious dumping according to WTO law. However, it argues that the EU had failed to use WTO-consistent tools in anti-dumping disputes involving China.

The EU said it regretted China's decision, stating that the measure at issue, Article 2(7) of the EU's basic anti-dumping regulation was currently the subject of an internal legislative process which could result in its withdrawal (the EU is looking to find a new anti-dumping methodology to resolve the issue of how to treat China in its investigations).

Deeming China's request "*unnecessary and incapable of being fruitful*", the EU repeated its concerns regarding China's attempt to "*create and maintain an unlawful short-cut*" between the current dispute and the unknown outcome of the legislative process to define a new anti-dumping methodology.

The United States said that it supported the EU's right to use a non-market economy methodology in anti-dumping proceedings involving China, arguing that China's accession protocol allows members to continue using a non-market economy methodology with respect to China for as long as such treatment was justified by the facts, that is, until the facts showed that China had made the reforms necessary to become a market economy.

Japan said that it supported the positions of the EU and the United States in this dispute and that it shared their concerns. In particular, Japan was of the view that China's accession protocol continued to allow members to use a methodology not based on a strict comparison with domestic prices or costs in China.

Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Mexico, Norway, the Russian Federation, Chinese Taipei, Turkey and the United States reserved their third-party rights to participate in the panel proceedings.

20446/Press Release – 2017.04.06

India Against China for Dumping of Chemicals for the Glass Industry

India has initiated a probe against the dumping of a chemical used in glass and other industries from China to protect domestic manufacturers from cheap in-bound shipments. The chemical, Phosphorus Pentoxide is used to manufacture optical glass and heat-insulating glass. It is also used as a strong drying and dehydrating agent. Indian Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties (DGAD) has found sufficient evidence of dumping of the chemical from China and has initiated the dumping probe.

Sandhya Dyes and Chemicals Ltd has filed the application before the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) for initiation of the investigation and imposition of the duty on the imports of Phosphorus Pentoxide from China. The company is sole producer of the chemical in India.

The DGAD has found “sufficient evidence of dumping” of the chemical from China. “The authority hereby initiates an investigation into the alleged dumping, and consequent injury to the domestic industry,” DGAD said in a notification. In the probe, the DGAD will determine the existence, degree and effect of alleged dumping and then recommend the quantum of anti-dumping duty, which if levied, would be “adequate” to remove the injury to the domestic industry.

The 15 months’ period of investigation for the dumping probe is between July 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016. The injury investigation period will, however, cover the periods 2013-2014, 2014-2015, and 2015-2016.

20447/Press Release – 2017.04.12

C. ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

EU ETS: Inter-institutional Negotiations on Post-2020 ETS Reform

The talks on a draft reform of the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) for 2021-2030 enters their final stretch, with the first informal inter-institutional meeting to negotiate an agreement on the redesign of the ETS held on 4 April.

At this stage, Parliament’s negotiating team led by Ian Duncan (ECR, United Kingdom) and the Maltese Presidency has still not yet got to grips with the subject. The negotiators simply discussed how to proceed. They will review all the articles in the draft directive. **The next triologue meeting will take place on 30 May.**

The respective positions decided by the Parliament on 15 February and the Council on 28 February relating to this draft directive, which seeks to make the ETS more efficient by increasing the price per ton of carbon on the European market, whilst protecting the highest energy consuming industrial sectors that are most exposed to carbon leakage and international competition, are not so far removed from one another.

Paris Agreement in the firing line. The Carbon Market Watch NGO pointed out that Parliament's and the Council's positions “*fall dramatically short of delivering the reform needed to align the ETS with the Paris Agreement*”. It therefore considers that the final compromise needs to include three elements “*as a bare minimum*”, namely: - an annual cancellation mechanism for allowances in the Market Stability Reserve (MSR) adopted by the Council; a provision granting member states the option to cancel allowances unilaterally adopted by the Parliament and provisions excluding investments in the modernisation of coal-powered electricity plants from the ETS transition funds adopted by the Parliament. The European chemical industry and a number of delegations that were unable to support the principled agreement at the Council are alarmed, on the contrary, by the annual cancellation of surplus allowances advocated by the Council as from 2024.

20448/Press Release – 2017.04.04

Commission Study Says Clean Development Mechanism (CMD) Is Ineffective

A new analysis of the clean development mechanism (CDM) published by the European Commission on 19 April highlights the shortcomings in this, one of the flexible mechanisms defined in the Kyoto Protocol granting carbon credits in return for clean investment in third countries. The CDM was due to end with the Paris climate agreement.

The study, carried out by Öko-Institut e.V. of Germany for the Commission, finds that 85% of projects covered in the analysis and 73% of the potential supply of CDM credits from 2013 to 2020 are unlikely to deliver “*real, measurable and additional*” emission reductions and, indeed, could lead to an increase in overall greenhouse gas emissions of over 3.5 billion tonnes of CO₂, equivalent to almost 2 years of emissions in the EU emissions trading system (ETS).

The CDM ends with the Paris climate agreement but will form an important basis for the elaboration and design of future international crediting mechanisms. The study could also be used to assess the environmental integrity of other compliance offsetting mechanisms, its authors stress.

The NGO Carbon Market Watch is not surprised by these new findings. They “*are another reminder that carbon offsetting has not worked as a reliable climate tool*” and that “*the CDM and the emissions shifting concept of offsetting are not fit for the climate challenges ahead*” said Aki Kachi, Carbon Market Watch’s International Policy Director. He goes on to argue that the Paris Agreement’s changed policy landscape calls for a new approach to international climate cooperation.

Carbon Market Watch warns that the most probable buyers of these CDM credits could be the aviation industry through its recently established offset market, the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

The scheme intends to accept CDM and other UN credits that meet additional standards which ICAO aims to finalise this year. Carbon Market Watch stresses, therefore that, “to avoid greenwashing, aviation’s new offset market has to exclude credits that have not proven to be effective”.

The study is available online at the European Commission’s DG Climate Action website:
https://ec.europa.eu/climat/sites/clima/files/ets/docs/clean_dev_mechanism_en.pdf

20449/Press Release – 2017.04.20

Guidance on National Air Pollution Control Programmes

The National Air Pollution Control Programme (Article 6 of the NEC Directive) is the main governance measure by which EU Member States must ensure that the reduction commitments for 2020 and 2030 are met. The first programme is due for 31 March 2019, and in order to help the Member States prepare, the Commission is currently preparing guidance on the development of the programmes, a draft of which should be available in Spring 2017.

Under Article 6(10) of the Directive, the Commission is required to specify the format of the Programme by means of an implementing act, and this will be prepared on the same timetable.

The Commission has issued a contract with the consultancy Ricardo to develop first drafts to be discussed with stakeholders and Member States.

The draft guidance can be found:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/pollutants/pdf/guidance_on_the_elaboration_and_implementation_of_the_initial_national_air_pollution_control_programmes.pdf

and the draft reporting format:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/pollutants/pdf/guidance_on_the_elaboration_and_implementation_of_the_initial_national_air_pollution_control_programmes_appendix%204.pdf

The legal provisions which the guidance must take into account are primarily contained in Article 6 and Annex III part 1 of the Directive. These require that when drawing up, adopting and implementing the programme, Member States shall:

- Assess the extent national emission sources are likely to have an impact on air quality nationally and in neighbouring Member States
- Take account of need to reduce air pollution emissions to reach compliance with the air quality objectives
- Prioritise emission reduction measures for black carbon when taking measures to reduce PM_{2,5}
- Ensure coherence with other relevant plans and programmes established under EU or national legislation
- Include the mandatory measures, and may include the optional measures, in Part 2 of Annex III (agricultural measures)

The Programme shall also at least cover:

- the policy framework in which it has been developed (policy priorities, allocation of responsibilities, projected developments on business-as-usual)
- the policy options considered and eventually adopted so as to comply with the reduction commitments (including how coherence with other policy areas is ensured)
- the identified reduction trajectory between 2020 and 2030 (pursuant to Art. 4(1) and (2)).

The Commission is required to examine the national air pollution control programmes, including the trajectory between 2020 and 2030, in the light of the Directive's requirements. The results of this examination, as well as the programmes themselves, will be made public on website.

20450/Press Release – 2017.03.13

No G7 Statement on US Climate Reservations

The energy ministers of the G7 group of countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom and United States) along with European Energy and Climate Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete failed in Rome on 9 and 10 April to reach agreement on a joint statement because of United States reservations on climate change.

The US said it would reserve its position on G7 commitments made at the signing of the Paris climate agreement. It is reviewing its position on climate change after the new administration, led since January by President Donald Trump, took office. In view of that country's reservations, Italy decided not to propose a joint statement, Italian Economic Development Minister Carlo Calenda said.

White House spokesperson Sean Spicer said at the end of March that Trump would announce his position "before the end of May" and the G7 summit in Taormina, Sicily, (26-27 May) on the 2015 international climate agreement concluded in Paris by 195 countries, including the United States. The meeting of G7 energy ministers focused on energy security, including cyber security, natural gas and Ukraine, renewable energy, sustainable alternative fuels, energy efficiency and innovation in clean technologies.

20451/Press Release – 2017.04.10

Circular Economy

To cut the 88 million tonnes of edible food wasted annually in the EU by half by 2030, the European Parliament's environment committee, meeting in Brussels on 11 April, devised a recipe which it hopes will be followed.

Among the ingredients of this recipe, set out in a draft resolution that was adopted unanimously, are: a clear definition of food waste, a common method for measuring it, a legally binding 50% reduction target by 2030 and an objective for member states of at least a 30% reduction by 2025, corrective measures to European legislation to make it easier to make food donations and awareness-raising and information campaigns to ease the confusion among many consumers between the "best before" date, after which food may still be consumed, and the "use by" date, which indicates the final date by which the product must be consumed.

The committee largely followed the line taken by rapporteur Biljana Borzan (S&D, Croatia), calling for a holistic and coordinated approach to give substance to an initiative on the efficient use of resources to reduce this blight of rich countries and increase food security as part of the EU action plan on the circular economy.

“In developed countries food is wasted mostly at the end of the chain, at distribution and consumption. Everyone has a responsibility to tackle this problem. My report calls for a coordinated policy response on labelling, liability and education, as most consumers do not understand the precise meaning of ‘best before’ and ‘use by’ labelling”, Borzan stated.

The MEPs on the committee felt that national authorities and stakeholders had to help consumers understand that foodstuffs are still safe to eat after the “best before” date. The Commission should assess the possible benefits of removing certain dates from products where there is no risk to public health or the environment.

The committee wants the Commission to propose a change in the VAT directive that would explicitly authorise tax exemptions on food donations. It should be possible, it argues, for the EU Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) to finance the cost of collecting, transporting, storing and distributing food donations.

The European Parliament will put the draft resolution to a vote in the mid-May plenary session (15-18 May).

20452/Press Release – 2017.04.11

New EU Regulation Restricting Use of Mercury

Public health and the environment should now be much better protected against mercury, a highly toxic heavy metal, thanks to the new regulation adopted without debate by the Council of the EU on 25 April. The new regulation puts in place EU-wide measures to control and restrict:

- the use, storage and sale of mercury, its compounds and mixtures of mercury;
 - the manufacture and sale of products containing mercury;
 - the use of mercury in dental amalgam fillings for pregnant women and children under the age of 15. It seeks, too, to ensure proper management of waste containing mercury.
- Mercury is contained in plastic, dental amalgams and in emissions from coal plants, as well as water.

The regulation, which will be applicable from 1 January 2018, transposes into EU law the Minamata Convention, which the EU has yet to ratify. The European Parliament has backed ratification on 27 April, by giving the go-ahead for this important step towards the entry into force of this international treaty. Ratification of the Convention by the EU and its member states will help it to enter into force in the three months following its ratification by the 50 signatory parties.

20453/Press Release – 2017.04.25 & 27

D. SOCIAL ISSUES

EU Commission To Relaunch Social Europe

Do we need the more or less of a social Europe between now and 2025? This is the main thrust of the question posed by the European Commission in its reflection document on the social dimension in the EU. It was published on 26 April and is the first of a series of papers to launch the debate on the future of the EU27.

Whilst awaiting the answers, the Commission has already been launching a range of concrete initiatives, including the “*European Pillar of Social Rights*” and targeted initiatives.

On 25 April, the European Broadcasting Union’s “*Generation What*” survey revealed that 53% of 18-34-year-olds interviewed do not have confidence in Europe but that 76% young Europeans asked wanted to remain in the EU.

In this context, the Commission is beginning to recognise the anxiety of European citizens regarding their future, before proposing to the different actors about what kind of social Europe they want. On this basis, it is putting forward three different scenarios, including their positive and down sides:

1) a social dimension limited to free movement;

2) a social Europe *à la carte* and

3) an enhanced social dimension within the EU27.

The paper, however, only briefly mentioned the idea of maintaining the status quo or a more federalist Europe, which is, nonetheless, expected to be included in the March White Paper.

Three scenarios scrutinised

As part of **option 1**, the Union would keep the rules in force that seek to promote the cross-border movement of persons but would not provide any minimum social standards. In other words, this would mean abrogating the current rules on maternity leave, working conditions, as well as health and workers’ security.

As part of **option 2**, several groups of countries would be able to decide whether to further integrate in the social field. They would therefore be able to launch, on the condition of being a minimum of nine member states, enhanced cooperations in the tax field, refugee integration, with, nonetheless, the risk of further increasing current fragmentation.

As part of **option 3**, the Union would no longer be content with just setting out minimum standards and would, in certain areas, entirely harmonise citizens’ rights. It could, for example, harmonise the retirement age or create new European agencies, such as the European work inspection agency or a European agency for transport

The Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, Marianne Thyssen, was keen to emphasise that the solution would be through common action. Whatever happens, the options will not have any binding or standardising character and could also be combined or amended, pointed out one expert.

Pierre Moscovici, the Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, asserted that, “*The Commission is on the offensive on the social question. Recreating economic and social convergence is urgent if we are to find a permanent crisis exit strategy. This is the Commission’s priority over the next few months. The member states must go with the flow*”.

Unemployment Rates

The **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was **9.5%** in February 2017, down from 9.6% in January 2017. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the euro area since May 2009. The **EU-28** unemployment rate was **8.0%** in February 2017, down from 8.1% in January 2017. This is also the lowest rate recorded in the EU28 since January 2009. Eurostat estimates that 19.750 million people in the EU28 were unemployed in February 2017, a decrease by 153,000 in the EU28 and by 140,000 in the euro area compared with January 2017.

Czechia	3.4%	Bulgaria	6.7%
Germany	3.9%	Belgium	7.0%
Malta	4.1%	Slovenia	7.8%
Hungary (Jan.)	4.3%	Lithuania	8.3%
UK (Dec.)	4.6%	Slovakia	8.6%
Netherlands	5.3%	Finland	8.7%
Poland	5.3%	Latvia	9.3%
Romania	5.4%	France	10.0%
Austria	5.7%	Portugal	10.0%
Estonia (Jan.)	5.8%	Italy	11.5%
Luxembourg	6.1%	Croatia	11.6%
Denmark	6.4%	Cyprus	12.9%
Ireland	6.6%	Spain	18.0%
Sweden	6.8%	Greece (Dec.)	23.1%

Elsewhere

USA	4.7%	Russia	5.6%
Canada	6.6%	Brazil	13.2%
Japan	2.8%	Australia	5.9%
Switzerland	3.6%	India	4.9%
Turkey	12.7%	China	4.02%

E. GENERAL ISSUES

Future of the European Union

Democracy

Faced with worrying rise in populism, Council of Europe calls on member states to look at themselves in the mirror

In his 2017 report on democracy, human rights and the rule of law, published on 21 April, Thorbjørn Jagland, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe (COE), asks, “how strong are Europe’s checks and balances” to tackle populism?

In his introduction, Mr Jagland says that populism is too often used as “a catch-all label for every person or movement, which rocks the establishment” and that they need an appropriate definition of the word. The COE Secretary General therefore explains that populists are those, “who invoke the proclaimed will of ‘the people’ in order to stifle opposition and dismantle checks and balances which stand in their way”.

On this basis, Mr Jagland then moves on to evaluate the notion of the robustness within the 47 member countries of the COE of the five democratic pillars: the impartiality of the judiciary; the freedom to hold meetings and the freedom of association; functioning democratic institutions and inclusive societies.

Mr Jagland regrets that, “Today, however, many of our societies appear less protective of their pluralism and more accepting of populism”. He also points to other problems such as restrictions on NGOs in Russia and Hungary, the imprisonment of journalists in Turkey, violence directed towards them during demonstrations, as well as the dissolution of private bodies deemed too close to the Fethullah Gülen movement.

Policy in Turkey criticised.

Asked about the possibility of reintroducing the death penalty, as mooted by President Erdogan, the Secretary General of the COE explained that this involved an “extreme expression of populism”. He believes that if the death penalty were reintroduced, “no compromise would be possible and Turkey could not remain a member of the COE”.

He added that the abolition of the death penalty is the first condition for a state joining the COE and that this corresponded to the most fundamental articles of the European Convention on Human Rights: the right to life (Article 2) and protection against torture and inhumane and degrading treatment (Article 3).

Although Russia was able to join the COE by introducing a moratorium on the death penalty, which has not yet been abolished from texts, Turkey would only be able to avoid a challenge to its status as a member state by not applying the death penalty that it would have legally reintroduced, added Thorbjørn Jagland. According to the latter, the two cases cannot be compared.

In addition to this case in point, it is the whole of the 47 member states that the Secretary General of the COE calls on to thoroughly examine themselves and regain control by developing reliable institutions and inclusive societies that are able to resist “populist attack”.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Mr Jagland also provides a number of examples of good practices to: fight against hate speech, xenophobia and discrimination; protect the freedom of expression and tackle fake news; promote the effective integration of refugees and migrants; promote the integration of inclusive societies and refute populist discourse.

On this last point, Thorbjørn Jagland calls for an extensive Europe wide consultation on the initiative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which would include the European and national parliaments.

20456/Press Release – 2017.04.21

BREXIT Developments

1. European Parliament sets red lines ahead of Brexit negotiations

On 5 April, the European Parliament adopted, by a very large majority, its red lines ahead of the negotiations with the British government on the UK's departure from the European Union. Voting by 516 votes to 133, with 50 abstentions, MEPs formulated the "*first political reaction*" to British Prime Minister Theresa May's notification of Article 50 of the Treaty on 29 March, as the European Commission's negotiator for Brexit, Michel Barnier, summed up at a plenary debate.

The next position to be taken will be that of the European Council with 27 member states, which will adopt its guidelines on 29 April.

The European Parliament, which will have to give its formal consent at the end of the negotiation process leading to the UK's departure, sets out a series of principles. These were broadly explained on the eve of the vote by the leaders of the five political groups at the origin of this resolution (EPP, S&D, ALDE, GUE/NGL, Greens/EFA).

The MEPs stated that it is essential to ensure fair and equitable treatment for EU citizens living in the UK, and for British citizens residing in the EU. They also state that the UK remains a member of the EU until its official departure, which involves financial commitments that could run beyond the date of withdrawal (currently set for March 2019).

The Parliament's resolution warns against any attempt at compromise between security and the future of the economic relationship between the EU and the UK. The resolution also opposes any form of "*à la carte choice*" and a fragmented economic relationship characterised by sectoral agreements.

In addition, the resolution states that the negotiations on transitional arrangements can only begin once "*tangible progress*" has been made in the negotiations on the agreement for withdrawal. These arrangements can last no longer than three years, whilst an agreement on the future partnership can only be concluded once the UK is outside the EU.

During the debate, ahead of the resolution's adoption, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker praised the attitude of the EU27 who are now acting united. "*The stronger we are as 27, the stronger the negotiation will be*", he said. He also promised that the EU would show renewed energy to consolidate its project of integration again.

Commissioner Barnier stated that the common goal was to seal an amicable agreement and that a scenario of "*no deal*" was not in either party's interest. Refusing to punish the UK, he simply said that the country should respect its commitments, enabling its accounts to be settled with the EU, "*no more and no less*".

In the opinion of Belgian national Guy Verhofstadt, the European Parliament's Brexit coordinator, it is normal that the resolution that has been adopted should be firm because the Parliament cannot accept that a third country should benefit from a status that is more favourable than when it was a member of the EU. Earlier, he had said in the Parliament's plenary session that the marriage between London and the EU had never been marked by passion. However, he predicted that in the future, a new generation British leader would bring the UK back into the EU.

According to a Downing Street spokesperson, Prime Minister Theresa May reiterated the UK's intention to ensure a deep and special partnership with the European Union after it leaves the EU and noted the constructive approach set out by the Council in its draft guidelines published on 31st March.

May said the UK looked forward to beginning negotiations officially once the 27 member states had agreed on the guidelines, the press release stated. The negotiating directives are due to be adopted on 22 May.

The two leaders agreed that the tone of the discussions had been positive on both sides and that they would try to remain in close contact as the negotiations progress.

May also said that the UK's position had not changed on the subject of Gibraltar: the UK will seek the best agreement possible for Gibraltar when it leaves the EU and there will be no negotiations on the sovereignty of Gibraltar without the consent of its people. Tusk tweeted that he confirmed the commitment to remain in close contact as the negotiations progress.

20457/Press release – 2017.04.05 & 06

2. British MPs endorse by wide majority the holding of early election

The British Parliament adopted by 522 to 13 the holding of an early general election announced on 18 May by the prime minister, Theresa May, for 8 June 2017.

Theresa May wants to ensure a solid majority before getting to the heart of the Brexit talks. Exiting the EU has to take place before the European elections in 2019. British media accuse the leader of wanting to hold elections to destroy what remains of the influence of Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party, although Labour said it would not oppose the early election.

Quizzed on the question, Margaritis Schinas, a spokesperson for the president of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, explained on 19 April the sequence of events that will lead to the launch of exit talks with London, namely a European Summit on 29 April and a General Affairs Council around 22 May to adopt the Commission's negotiating directives. The spokesperson said Juncker feels that the talks will actually begin just after the 8 June general elections.

20458/Press release – 2017.04.19

Inflation Rate

Latest Eurostat figures show that the annual inflation rate was **1.5% in March 2017 in the Euro area**, down from 2% in February. **The EU28 annual inflation was 1.6% in March**, down from 2% in February.

The largest upward impacts to euro area annual inflation came from fuels and transport (+ 0.48%), heating oil (+ 0.11%) and vegetables (+ 0.08%), while telecommunications and package holidays (- 0.09%) and garments (- 0.05%) had the biggest downward impacts.

Romania	0.4%	Cyprus	1.5%
Ireland	0.5%	Greece	1.7%
Netherlands	0.6%	Poland	1.8%
Denmark	0.9%	Slovenia	2.0%
Finland	0.9%	Spain	2.1%
Bulgaria	1.0%	Austria	2.2%
Slovakia	1.0%	U K	2.3%
Croatia	1.1%	Luxembourg	2.5%
Malta	1.2%	Belgium	2.5%
France	1.4%	Czech Republic	2.6%
Italy	1.4%	Hungary	2.7%
Portugal	1.4%	Estonia	3.0%
Sweden	1.4%	Lithuania	3.2%
Germany	1.5%	Latvia	3.3%

Elsewhere

USA	2.7%	Russia	4.6%
Canada	2.0%	Brazil	4.8%
Japan	0.3%	Australia	1.5%
Switzerland	0.6%	India	3.7%
Turkey	11.3%	China	0.8%

GLASS NEWS

A. **FLAT GLASS**

Glass Companies



Saint-Gobain

1. Saint-Gobain has launched a new free online and responsive specification tool, **CalumenLive**.



The tool is designed to help customers find the right glazing products and evaluate the technical performance of glazing specifications. It enables access to the information directly through mobile devices, laptops, PCs, Macs or tablets. CalumenLive delivers an intuitive and fluid user experience for glass configuration and insulated glass unit composition. Results can be shared with the new interface and emailed directly from within the service or exported as a pdf document. CalumenLive's range of filters include "comfort" factors such as maximising light transmission, minimising solar heat gain, achieving high performance acoustics, and so forth. In addition, CalumenLive updates automatically, ensuring the very latest product information and technical data.

20460/Press Release – 2017.04.06

2. Saint-Gobain announces **the Winner of the Saint-Gobain Student Design Competition** at Case Western Reserve University.

Saint-Gobain, in partnership with Case Western Reserve University, known for its academic and research excellence, hosted the finals of the Saint-Gobain Student Design Competition on April 13. Five student finalist teams presented their prototypes designed to solve a societal problem. Following the final judging by representatives from Saint-Gobain and Case Western Reserve, team PulseOx, was named the overall winner of the competition. "This competition is an example of industry-university collaboration at its finest, and it's exciting to see the products and technologies our students were able to develop by working together in interdisciplinary teams with mentors from Saint-Gobain," said Jim Pae, Director of Corporate Relations at Case Western Reserve and an organizer of the competition. "The competition provides our students with an invaluable experience to engineer and design within the context of business drivers, preparing them for their next step as they enter the workforce. Through this competition, they have all applied their knowledge gained in the classroom and developed products that could potentially be put on the market."

The winning team of Steve Aviton, Imshan Dhrolia, Ashley Djuhadi, Amanda Noonan and Thomas Thornton, pursued the development of a new device to obtain reliable blood oxygen level measurements of infants. Inspired by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal target of ending preventable deaths of newborns and children under the age of 5 by 2030, the team's unique and redesigned approach reduces the vulnerabilities common to existing technologies and is intended to be reusable, unlike many other low-cost technologies currently deployed in resource constrained health facilities.

Over the past several months, student teams have been tasked with designing and building a prototype device that takes an existing material and, using principles of materials science and engineering, creates a new and innovative use for it that solves a problem for society. To enter the competition, students submitted project proposals detailing the societal problem they aimed to solve as well as background research supporting the need for their prototype in the marketplace. Students were then given three months to work on their prototypes and, during midterms, presented 10-minute overviews of their projects in front of a panel of judges who provided feedback on their project direction. Based on this feedback, student teams then had an additional month to work on their projects in preparation for the final presentation.

"As the sponsor of the Saint-Gobain Student Design Competition at Case Western Reserve for the last seven years and as a major employer in the Greater Cleveland area, this competition provides Saint-Gobain with access to like-minded potential future employees with a passion for pushing the boundaries of innovation," said Anne Hardy, Director of Saint-Gobain's Research and Development Centre in Northborough. "By providing students with practical experience developing a prototype to fill a gap in the marketplace while working in interdisciplinary teams, the competition helps to prepare young people for work at a company like Saint-Gobain that believes diversity in thought contributes to innovation."

20461/Press Release – 2017.04.26

Guardian



Guardian Glass adds to its solar glass family.

Guardian Glass is introducing a new addition to its eXtra Selective family of solar control glass: Guardian SunGuard® SNX 60. The new SunGuard® SNX 60 offers a pleasing and consistently neutral transparent appearance. It was developed to provide optimal aesthetics and technical performance on both Guardian ExtraClear® float glass – available as SunGuard® SNX 60 – and on Guardian UltraClear™ low-iron float glass – available as SunGuard® SNX 60 Ultra. According to Nicolas Gouzou, Product Manager at Guardian Glass: "The introduction of SunGuard® SNX 60 marks the first of a new generation of triple-silver products characterised by enhanced aesthetics and colour, regardless of the angle of vision. We foresee the launch of further products for this range in the near future."

SunGuard® SNX 60 is a triple-silver coated, solar control glass that lets in 60% of natural daylight and just 29% of the solar heat – one of the highest selectivity (ratio of light transmission to solar factor) products available in the industry today. It may help lower a building's energy costs by reducing the need for artificial lighting and air conditioning, whilst adding a sophisticated touch to the design of the glazed façade.

Moreover, with a U-value of 1.0 W/m²K, it provides a very high level of thermal insulation, which may help to reduce heating costs during the colder periods.

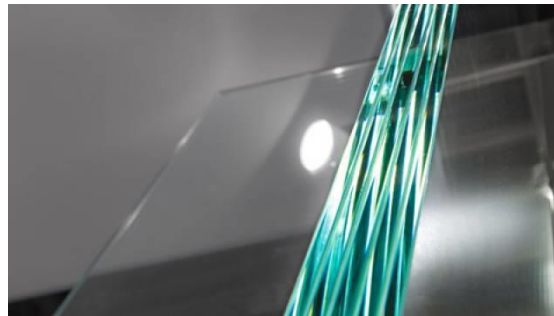
New SunGuard® SNX 60 is available in both annealed and heat treatable versions. It can also be supplied on laminated glass for safety, security or acoustic applications.

20462/Press Release – 2017.04.05

Miscellaneous

Sedak Glass Crystal Clear in China

Sedak, based in Gersthofen, Germany will take part in the China Glass show which takes place on May 24-27, 2017. The glass manufacturer will present a façade construction with a supporting glass fin.



As an innovation leader for oversized glass and special solutions, Sedak has developed considerable production know-how. The detail of the glass façade production that the company presents at China glass serves as an example for that. Even the supporting construction is transparent. The filigree connection of the glass fin and the glass units by means of toggles is technologically pioneering.

Thanks to the particularly small titanium inserts, maximum transparency and the highest level of static safety can be combined. During production, Sedak laminates the inserts precisely in between the laminate's layers which makes installation on site easier and demonstrates Sedak's exceptional lamination capabilities.

20463/Press Release – 2017.04.21

SentryGlas® / Trosifol®

The world's tallest and longest pedestrian glass bridge over the Grand Canyon of Zhangjiajie in China highlights nature and fortitude.

At 300 meters (984 feet) above the canyon floor, the 385 meter (1,263 feet) long and 6 meters (19.7 feet) wide bridge over the Grand Canyon of Zhangjiajie is the world's tallest and longest pedestrian glass bridge. It also boasts the world's highest bungee jump and will serve as a stage for dances, fashion shows, and cultural events. The bridge features a transparent glass floor and side suspension cables and can hold up to 800 visitors due to the robust glazing solution implemented by its architects and engineers. This demanding application used the laminated glass panels of SentryGlas® ionoplast interlayers from Trosifol®. At 50 millimeters (1.97 inches) thick, the panels are made of three layers of 16 millimeters (0.63 inches) low iron glass, with two layers of SentryGlas® interlayer sandwiched between them.

According to the architect, Professor Haim Dotan, founder of Haim Dotan Ltd. Architects and Urban Designers, "Out of respect for the beauty of nature, the bridge had to disappear. This was my challenge in the design process. We therefore put our heart, vision, and love of nature into creating a bridge, which had the least impact on the surrounding natural beauty." "We immediately conceived the glass floor," he continues, "in order to make the bridge transparent. A structural girder design, suspended from cables, was devised to eliminate the need for bulky 3 metre or 4 metre (9.8 to 13.1 feet) bridge beams and to create a slim profile with a girder beam depth of just 60 centimetres (23.6 inches) for a 400-meter (1,312 feet) span length. In order to further integrate the bridge into the surrounding nature, the four suspension towers are covered with trees and plants, assimilating them into the green canyon cliffs beyond."

20464/Press Release – 2017.04.05

B. CONTAINER GLASS

Glass Companies

Ardagh Group



Ardagh Group denies patent infringement. Green Mountain LLC claims that it was infringed by Ardagh's US glass business, which was previously named Verallia North America or VNA. The jury verdict in favour of Green Mountain was noted on April 21 and Ardagh disagrees and plans to pursue all options available including appealing the charge. The case was filed by Green Mountain before Ardagh acquired VNA.

20465/Press Release – 2017.04.26

Verallia



The French packaging firm Verallia has invested around €20 million in the modernisation of its production plant in Oiry in north-eastern France, which produces bottles for the champagne and sparkling wine market.



Jean-Pierre Floris, chairman and CEO of the Verallia group, inaugurated the site which employs 160 people and can produce up to 550,000 bottles a day, including also large bottles such as the 15-litre Nabuchodonosor variety.

"The Champagne bottle is certainly the most demanding glass bottle in terms of quality, and we take pride in being the leader on this market," said Floris. "This investment enables us to offer better quality, better design capabilities, and better customer service."

More than 15% of Verallia's total investment went towards improving the working conditions for the plant's teams, especially for the improvement of workstation ergonomics and lighting. More than 200 people attended the inauguration, and among attendees were representatives from Verallia's two equity funds, Apollo and Bpifrance.

Verallia celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2015 and produces around 16 billion glass bottles and jars at its global facilities each year. The company's turnover in 2015 was €2.4 billion.

20466/Press Release – 2017.03.31

Beatson Clark



Beatson Clark will be showcasing its new beer bottle design at BrewExpo America next month.

The champagne-style 500ml Skittle bottle will complement a similar 330ml bottle which is already in Beatson Clark's general sale range.



Export Sales Manager Jan-Willem Ridt and Marketing Manager Charlotte Taylor will be at BrewExpo America, which takes place from 11th to 13th April in Washington, DC. On stand number 3113 they will be showcasing the new bottle, which has been designed in response to an increased demand for eye-catching beer bottles from the growing craft beer sector.

Beatson Clark will also be promoting its embossing service. Breweries can commission an exclusive, bespoke design with embossing or, if budgets are restricted, Beatson Clark can add embossing to a standard bottle, which reduces the cost and minimum volume.

BrewExpo America, part of the Craft Brewers' Conference, is the largest brewing conference and trade show in the United States. Staged at the Walter E Washington Convention Center, it brings together more than 800 vendors in one location.

"Brewing is a very important part of our business, so BrewExpo America is now a major highlight in our calendar of trade shows," said Charlotte Taylor.

“The craft beer sector is a perfect fit for us, as we offer small production runs and a flexible approach, and breweries are often surprised to find they can have customised beer bottles at such low volumes and cost.

Beatson Clark produces beer bottles for many breweries, from global brands such as Brooklyn Brewery and BrewDog to artisan craft breweries like Bertinchamps in Belgium and the Basqueland.

20467/Press Release – 2017.04.03

Encirc



Premium soft drinks & mixers brand, Franklin & Sons, has chosen Encirc to design and produce the glass bottles for its new range of hand-crafted soft drinks.

Franklin & Sons worked with Encirc’s design team to create three new, bespoke glass bottles. These include 200ml bottles as well as 275ml and 750ml containers for its flavoured soft drinks and mixers.

The new range of soft drinks and mixers comprises traditional British beverages with a signature Franklin & Sons twist, such as Sicilian Lemonade & English Elderflower with crushed juniper, and British Dandelion & Handpicked Burdock with star anise.



Rob Turvey, Sales and Marketing Director at Encirc Glass, commented:

“Consumer tastes are changing and more people are looking for high-end alternatives to traditional beverages.

“Glass bottles are an ideal packaging material for these new mixers and soft drinks, and will give Franklin & Sons’ consumers a memorable drinking experience.”

Mark James, Group Managing Director at Franklin & Sons said: “Our refined tonics & mixers range has been created as the perfect partner for premium spirits, both in taste and appearance.

“These sit beautifully beside the soft drinks range, which honours the heritage and provenance of the brand.”

20468/Press Release – 2017.04.07

Allied Glass



Plans for further growth at Allied Glass Containers have been boosted by a £75m debt restructuring deal. The Leeds-based manufacturer and distributor of glass bottles and containers produces 600 million bottles per annum across 450 product lines and has seen strong growth in the global whisky and gin markets.

Specialist banking company, Investec, created a bespoke debt structure comprising a mix of asset-based and cashflow lending to support the company's long term growth, working capital and seasonality requirements.

Alan Henderson, chief executive of Allied Glass, said: "The team at Investec designed a blended funding structure specifically for our business's shape and needs, giving us the firepower and headroom to take advantage of growth in our market."

20469/Press Release – 2017.04.28

CristalChile



Cristalerías de Chile is to invest in a \$100 million furnace expansion of its Llay Llay plant. It will construct a third furnace, which will have a capacity of 400 tonnes a day, at the site. It is due to begin operation in the second half of 2019 and will increase the production capacity of glass containers by 100 thousand tons per year.

The company said the new technology would be state of the art and comply with world-class environmental and energy efficiency standards.

The plant located in the commune of Llay Llay is considered to be the most modern in its field in Latin America, both in production processes and in the care of the environment.

The new furnace will be the seventh in the company and will meet the needs and growing demands of sectors such as the wine, beer, liquor, beverages and food.

"With this expansion, we seek to create the technological conditions of quality and service that meet the growing needs of our customers, who must compete in ever more demanding markets," said Eduardo Carvallo, General Manager of Cristalerías.

20470/Press Release – 2017.04.25

Gerresheimer



U.S. healthcare confusion hits packaging firm Gerresheimer

German drugs-packaging firm Gerresheimer said its major pharmaceutical customers had been more cautious in placing orders due to uncertainty over the new U.S. administration's policies, sending its shares lower. Revenues at Gerresheimer's business division that makes glass bottles and vials for drugs fell 2.9 percent in its first fiscal quarter through the end of February as sales in North America slipped.

"Greater uncertainty with regard to the new U.S. government triggered a relatively pronounced reticence among a number of large pharma customers to place orders," Gerresheimer said in a statement, adding that European cosmetic glass sales had risen. President Donald Trump has promised to increase competition in the pharmaceutical industry without giving details, while promised healthcare reform has been delayed, leaving drug makers uncertain as to how pricing and demand may be affected. Overall, Gerresheimer's revenues were down more than 5 percent at 302.8 million euros (\$323.1 million) in the quarter, missing analyst consensus of 307 million euros in a Reuters poll.

The group said it expected full-year revenues at the lower end of its forecast range of 1.405 billion to 1.455 billion euros. Analysts on average see 2017 revenues of 1.43 billion euros. Shares in Gerresheimer fell 5.9 percent in early trading to the bottom of the German mid-cap index, which slipped 0.4 percent.

20471/Press Release – 2017.04.07

Shandong Jingyao



Chinese glass container producer, Shandong Jingyao, has purchased more of the latest cold end inspection solutions from Iris Inspection machines.

The recent order involves three new Evolution 16 sidewall and sidewall stress inspection machines, together with three Evolution 5 machines for base, finish and stress inspection + spacer technology. Finish inspection is critical for NNPB process operations, where overpressed, unfilled and line over finish are critical defects, as well as inclusions with tension in beer bottles.

Shandong Jingyao is an established supplier of glass packaging for China's iconic Tsingtao beer and has been the subject of investment in recent years to keep pace with growing demand.

The glassmaker's modernisation strategy has included installing the first Narrow-Neck-Press-and-Blow (NNPB) production lines in China to make the Tsingtao beer bottles.

These high-speed 10-section Heye International IS machines are successfully operating with advanced cold end inspection equipment from Lyon-based Iris Inspection machines.

This follows an equipment order placed by the glassmaker with Iris in 2015 and is confirmation of the customer's satisfaction with the service and support provided by Iris in a competitive environment.

20472/Press Release – 2017.04.061

Soliver

Lebanese container glass manufacturer Soliver is set for closure. It blamed a loss of market share, cheaper imports from other countries and increased energy costs for the forthcoming closure. Soliver pays more than \$3 million a year to generate its own electricity.

Omar Kaddoura, Soliver General Manager, said the investment required to upgrade its equipment and machines would cost \$30 million and now is the time to replace them.

It produces 140 tonnes per day of container glass in a variety of colours and sizes. It employs 250 full time staff, who will each receive one month' salary severance compensation for each year of service.

The factory is set to close this month. Mr Kaddoura said the factory will not be sold for the time being and may re-open 'if the situation improves'.

20473/Press Release – 2017.04.11

Venvidrio (Venezolana del Vidrio)



Venezolana del Vidrio (Venvidrio) is on the brink of bankruptcy, reports El Carabobeno Venezuelan newspaper.

90% of its operational capacity is paralyzed, raw material inventories are empty and nine of the 11 furnaces are damaged.

The machinery of the plant located in Los Guayos, east of Carabobo, has deteriorated since October 2010 when the national leader ordered the expropriation of Owens-Illinois (O-I) Venezuela.

At the time of the measure the company supplied more than 60% of the national demand for glass containers for the food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries, with two million 100 thousand units per year. The expectations of the Government, at the beginning of its administration, were to raise those numbers up to six million.

Today they do not reach a million and only manufacture glass containers for liqueurs and mayonnaise, according to Hernán Serrano, a member of the Frente Amplios de Trabajadores of the region.

600 Venvidrio workers have been dismissed and compounding the problems is a lack of soda ash, which has to be imported.

20474/Press Release – 2017.04.11

Miscellaneous

Company Profiles

1. Chinese glassmaker chooses exhaust air purification system

Dürr first deployed the Ecopure CCF, a new combined DeDust, DeSOx and DeNOx process, for a Chinese glassmaker.

It enables the glassware manufacturer to reliably comply with low emission limits. Another strength of the space-saving technology is its suitability both for new installations and retrofits.

Due to TA-Luft 2017 – the new air pollution control regulations – this technology is also of particular interest to industrial companies in Germany.

The Ecopure CCF technology eliminates three pollutants in one system, which translates into economic total cost of ownership.

As DeDust, DeSOx and DeNOx processes are combined in just one unit; the setup is compact and allows space-saving installation within existing production facilities.

The efficiency of the individual processes delivers maximum separation efficiencies for all types of pollutants, meeting the latest requirements of the forthcoming TA-Luft 2017 regulations particularly in respect of dust, sulphur oxides and nitrogen oxides. Integrating the three individual processes into the Ecopure CCF system means lower maintenance costs and reduced space requirements, which results in lower operating costs.

The 3-in-1 technology has been well received, especially in overseas markets, and now it has been included in the official draft of the VDI 2578 standard in Germany.

20475/Press Release – 2017.04.07

2. Coca-Cola Bulgaria breaks world record

Coca-Cola Bulgaria has broken the Guinness World Record for the largest mosaic made from glass bottles.

Creating an image almost ten times larger than the previous record holder, the mosaic was made using 72,933 empty Coca-Cola, Coca-Cola Zero and Schweppes Soda **glass bottles**.

The resulting mosaic had a total surface area of 250 square metres.

The record attempt took place at the company's annual sales conference in Kamchia, Bulgaria, with official Guinness World Records adjudicator Glenn Pollard on hand to officiate.



A total of 545 Coca-Cola employees worked together for over two hours to create the giant image of the iconic Coca-Cola bottle, which featured the word 'BULGARIA' down the middle. Svetoslav Atanasov, General Manager of Coca-Cola HBC Bulgaria, commented on the accomplishment:

"Achieving a Guinness World Records title is an impressive event by itself, but what adds an even bigger value to it is the community element.

"I'm happy to see our employees working together to support the young people and the local community of Varna."

As well as setting a Guinness World Records title, those involved in the attempt also raised funds for the Varna – European Youth Capital initiative, which focuses on promoting social innovation and entrepreneurship in young adults.

Previously the largest glass bottle mosaic consisted of 7,420 bottles and was achieved by HOMEX (Japan) at Toyota Ecoful Town, in Toyota, Aichi, Japan, in 2014.

20476/Glass International – 2017.04.13

C. REINFORCEMENT GLASS FIBRES

Glass Company

Owens Corning

Owens Corning reported **first-quarter 2017 financial results** on 26 April.

Consolidated net sales totalled \$1.5 billion in first-quarter 2017, compared with net sales of \$1.2 billion in first-quarter 2016, an increase of 20%.

First-quarter 2017 net earnings attributable to Owens Corning were \$101 million, or \$0.89 per diluted share, compared with \$57 million, or \$0.49 per diluted share, during the comparable quarter in 2016. First-quarter 2017 adjusted earnings were \$97 million, or \$0.85 per diluted share, compared with \$62 million, or \$0.53 per diluted share, during the same period one year ago.

Reported earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) for first-quarter 2017 were \$170 million, compared with \$116 million during the same period in 2016. Adjusted EBIT in first-quarter 2017 was \$171 million, up from \$118 million in 2016.

“Owens Corning is off to a great start in 2017. The company capitalized on market growth and delivered an outstanding result in the quarter,” said Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Mike Thaman. “All three businesses are executing on our priorities, and we are well-positioned to achieve another year of strong performance.”

Owens Corning sustained a high level of safety performance in first-quarter 2017, with a recordable incident rate of 0.49, compared with 0.55 in first-quarter 2016, representing an 11% reduction.

2017 Outlook

The company continues to expect an environment consistent with consensus expectations for U.S. housing starts and moderate global industrial production growth.

In Composites, the company expects continued growth in the glass fibre market, driven by moderate global industrial production growth. The company anticipates a third consecutive year of record EBIT, with growth of about \$25 million primarily from improved operating performance. Continued strong volume performance could provide some improvement to this outlook.

20477/Press Release – 2017.04.26

D. SPECIAL GLASS

Glass Companies

SCHOTT

1. SCHOTT Sets Unprecedented **Quality Control Standards for Pharmaceutical Tubing**. New technical performance specifications underline aspiration to ‘zero defect’ glass tubing.



SCHOTT has presented new technical specifications for clear and amber FIOLAX® tubing that achieve unprecedented quality control standards. By harnessing big data through the implementation of the perfeXion™ system, SCHOTT has moved from a statistical sample-based quality-control process to one that inspects 100 percent of the tubing. As a result, SCHOTT now offers an improved product with superior auditability and traceability for the

pharmaceutical industry. These improvements are anchored in the company's new specifications and thus made visible for customers.

The new technical standards are the culmination of years of in-house research into the development of tubing geometry measurement, suitable for SCHOTT's fast-paced production environment. The tubing, used for vials, syringes, cartridges, and ampoules, can now be produced at an even higher quality from the beginning, even for parameters such as the inside diameter, which previously were difficult to measure. By improving the measurement of visual quality characteristics as well, SCHOTT can offer individual specifications tailored even closer to customers' requirements.

In the new specifications, the tolerances for outside diameter, inside diameter, and wall thickness have been expanded to now include precise measurements of circularity, siding, and straightness. Furthermore, the minimum length restrictions for outside diameter and wall thickness tolerance deviations have been completely eliminated, the maximum permissible airline width has been reduced from 0.1 mm to 0.08 mm, and an extractables profile for the glass composition has been added for the first time.

These standards are achievable with perfeXion™, which uses state-of-the-art cameras and lasers to pinpoint potential defects along the production line, generating more than 100,000 data tags per minute and feeding them into a real-time production database. The process allows SCHOTT to automate inspection of 100 percent of tubes, while generating valuable data for potential improvements.

20478/Press Release – 2017.03.29

2. SCHOTT Eternaloc® Terminal Headers Now Available with Electrical Assembly

SCHOTT has announced that its 'Eternaloc' terminal headers, used to safely supply electricity to the pumps of cryogenic LNG tanks, are now available with an integrated electrical assembly. Additionally, type test and certification services are now offered as well. For SCHOTT's customers, this one-stop solution minimizes effort and costs related to coordinating these processes amongst several parties. Decades of in-house type testing experience, a commitment to safety and adhering to regulatory standards helps provide peace of mind for components manufacturers.



Simplified sourcing and certification

"By offering the entire fully-certified system, we remove the burden from customers of having to go through multiple laborious procurement and certification processes," explains Mr. Thomas Goettlinger, Sales Director LNG in the Nuclear Safety Division of SCHOTT Electronic Packaging in Landshut, Germany.

“Given the importance of safety in LNG applications, the admission process is very demanding. We go to great lengths to complete the process of testing and certifying each individual component and completed assembly as required.”

Building on extensive R&D and manufacturing experience, SCHOTT has been enhancing its in-house competencies in engineering and testing since the early 1970s in accordance with IEEE standards. In addition to technical calculations, product design and simulations, SCHOTT has the capability to perform type tests in-house. These include pressure resistance and leakage tests, electrical tests and thermal cycling tests at cryogenic temperatures.

Small component – Big impact

To maintain the integrity of the pressure vessel, the feedthroughs must remain hermetically sealed – even in case of an accident. Though small in size, the failure of a terminal header assembly can lead to performance or even leakage issues that can bring about expensive down times for maintenance. In a more severe instance, the leakage of flammable boiling natural gas into the atmosphere could have catastrophic consequences.

Reduced total cost of ownership through maintenance-free terminal headers

The key to superior reliability lies in Schott’s unique sealing technology. SCHOTT’s terminal header assemblies are manufactured using gas-tight, non-aging glass-to-metal compression sealing, which has proven to be the safest, most reliable technology. Since 1985, thousands of ‘Eternaloc’ terminal header assemblies have been installed worldwide in onshore, offshore and small-scale LNG applications. All of them are performing maintenance-free since the date of installation.

For owners and operators of LNG facilities, this means reduced total cost of ownership that helps create substantial value while offering peace of mind.

20479/Press Release – 2017.04.03

CORNING

Corning Incorporated reported strong first-quarter results demonstrating the company's continued positive momentum.

Compared to the first quarter of 2016, GAAP EPS increased \$0.43 to \$0.07; core EPS rose 39% to \$0.39; GAAP and core sales increased 16% and 14% to \$2.38 billion and \$2.49 billion, respectively.

Solid performance across all business segments was highlighted by sales growth in Optical Communications; continued rapid adoption of Corning® Gorilla® Glass 5; and continued glass price moderation in Display Technologies.

"We are very pleased with the excellent performance and growth across all of our businesses this quarter," said Wendell P. Weeks, chairman, chief executive officer and president. "The strategic and financial benefits of Corning's cohesive portfolio are becoming even more apparent. We are on track to deliver our 2017 objectives and overall Framework goals. Looking into the second quarter, we expect our momentum to be further demonstrated with year-over-year sales and EPS growth."

Corning's Strategy and Capital Allocation Framework continues to deliver long-term value to shareholders. Utilizing its financial strength, the company plans to deliver more than \$12.5 billion to shareholders while investing \$10 billion in growth opportunities and sustained leadership between 2016 and 2019. In the first quarter, Corning returned \$552 million to shareholders through a combination of dividends and stock buybacks, and, since the Framework was announced, has returned more than \$6.5 billion to shareholders. In addition, Corning's focused portfolio is delivering excellent results.

"Corning's leadership in a distinctive and cohesive set of capabilities increases our relevance in solving our customers' toughest challenges," Weeks added. "Verizon's announcement last week is a great example. Verizon has committed to purchase at least \$1.05 billion of optical fiber and associated solutions from Corning as they reinvent their network to support 5G and new services. Our Optical Communications market-access platform is central to realizing Verizon's vision because of our ability to economically expand capacity and deliver innovative solutions."

In Display Technologies, the company's objective is to stabilize returns. First-quarter LCD glass price declines equaled the most moderate first-quarter declines in the past six years. Full-year 2017 LCD glass prices are expected to decline by about 10%, or possibly at a lower rate.

Other progress includes the continued rapid adoption of Gorilla® Glass 5, which supports the company's goal of doubling sales in mobile consumer electronics. In the automotive market-access platform, Corning has won a majority of gas particulate filter (GPF) platforms. The company is also seeing progress toward commercialization of Gorilla Glass for Automotive, where interest in interiors is accelerating and progress toward additional wins for exteriors continues.

20480/Press Release – 2017.04.26

E. DOMESTIC TABLEWARE AND CRYSTAL GLASS

Glass Company

Arc International

Arc presented three hundred new products at the Frankfurter Tableware Exhibition last February, the arrival of two new materials, the revival of four historic brands and the creation of a new one.

- 1- **The spirit:** Tim Gollin, CEO of Arc, insists on "A brand new Arc", a new updated brand, with three hundred novelties. "Arc goes back to the group's DNA to make beautiful things for everyone", he said.





- 2- **New materials:** Among these three hundred novelties, two new substances:
- the Krysta: It replaces lead crystal but also Kwarx (developed in 2006 by the glass group); it is an extremely strong crystalline lens which benefits from the qualities of the crystal and those of the Kwarx, notably at the sound level. When one toast, one finds the particular sound of the crystal.
 - a gray opal, tinted in the mass, a trendy colour.
- 3- **The brands:** Four brands will be relaunched:
- Arcoroc, reserved for hotels, restaurants and communities. It will present more than seventy innovations.
 - Luminarc, the flagship of the group (€ 260 million turnover, more than a quarter of the Group's total turnover). Luminarc will offer more than 100 new products.
 - Chef and Sommelier, the expert brand in tasting and oenology, will benefit from the new material Krysta.
 - Cristal d'Arques Paris, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2018, is experiencing a real revolution, as Agathe Morscher, head of the brand, explains: "With our designer René Barba, we have renewed 95% of the range. We have focused on the Art Deco spirit, playing on the transparency and brilliance of the Krysta. "
- 4- **Novelty "Éclat"**
Finally, a new brand is launched: Éclat, by Cristal d'Arques Paris. "It is the daughter brand of Cristal d'Arques and will be sold in mass retail. A brand that we wanted modern, especially with a series for Ladies'Night female aperitifs but which will also take over the iconic collections of Cristal d'Arques as Longchamps (1978), Lady Diamond (2008) or One Emotion".

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IN BRIEF

GLASS & SUPPLIERS

FunGLASS Research Centre in Slovakia

FunGLASS research centre in Slovakia established with €25M, including €15M from EU's Horizon 2020

The global glass community received excellent news of a €25 million investment in glass research, including €15 M from EU's Horizon 2020, to establish the new Centre for Functional and Surface-Functionalized Glasses (FunGLASS) in Trenčín, Slovakia. The Centre includes partner institutions in Germany, Spain, and Italy.

The establishment of this European centre boosts the momentum and importance of glass research on a global scale. The purpose of the Centre is to conduct cutting edge research on glasses with special functional properties, as well as investigate novel strategies for functionalizing conventional glasses. The aim is to modify properties and add new functionalities to expand the range of applications in the optical, energy, structural, and biomedical sectors.

Prof. Galusek, director of the Centre, says, "This Centre will be an important asset for the Slovak Republic mainly due to the fact that it will participate in cutting edge research in cooperation with some of the leaders in the field, generating high added value in all major activities, both in teaching, fundamental science, and industry-driven research. The latter is ensured by close links of the Centre with the local glass industry. We also believe the Centre is of importance for the glass technology sector. Its activities will be focused on those technologies where properties of glass can be substantially altered or new functionalities added by surface treatment, at low energy or material cost, to generate a host of applications for high-tech uses."

The European Commission H2020 program awarded €15 million under the scheme H2020-WIDESPREAD-01-2016-2017-Teaming-Phase2 to establish the Centre. Also, the project has additional funding of at least €10 M from the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic.

The lead institution for the project is the Alexander Dubcek University of Trenčín, Slovakia, under the direction of D. Dusan Galusek. Cooperating institutions and their lead investigators are:

- Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen – Nuremberg, Germany (Aldo R. Boccaccini),
- Friedrich Schiller University of Jena, Germany (Lothar Wondraczek),
- Institute of Ceramics and Glass of Spanish National Research Council in Madrid, Spain (Alicia Durán), and
- University of Padova, Italy (Enrico Bernardo).

Research at the Centre will focus on five main application areas:

- i) Biomaterials / materials for healthcare,
- ii) Optical materials, including materials with luminescence properties,
- iii) Materials for energy-related applications and low-carbon processing,
- iv) Other functional materials (i.e. electric, magnetic, etc.), and (v) Structural glass-based materials.



Where applicable, areas will further divide horizontally, in terms of: a) processing and characterization, b) coatings and sol-gel methods, c) high-temperature processing, and additive d) manufacturing approaches.

The core funding will be used to upgrade the existing National Glass Centre in Trenčín, Slovakia, and establish an internationally recognized new hub for research and innovation in glass. Tasks between now and 2023 include creating and formalizing coordination and management structures of the new Centre, building the premises, upgrading the research infrastructure, and expanding staff capacity.

Special attention is paid to hiring outstanding researchers and engineers. Project leaders anticipate approximately 40 new jobs for researchers at all career stages and auxiliary staff. Recruitment began in March 2017.

The funding will allow partners to create a motivating environment not only for researchers from the Slovak Republic, as well as experts from other countries. The goal is to build a multidisciplinary, creative, highly competitive, and inspiring environment for conducting cutting edge research to develop glasses for a variety of applications. Continuous education and training through extensive scientific exchange programs and the creation of international doctoral degree programs issuing double diplomas with project partner institutions will ensure that scientists and Ph.D. students from the Centre develop the desired qualifications.

20482/Press Release – 2017.04.12

Dow Corning Celebrates 50+ Years



DOW CORNING

The company celebrates over 50 years of performance for silicone solutions, providing design freedom for modern glass facades.

Dow Corning, the global leader in silicones, silicon-based technology and innovation, and a pioneer of Silicone Structural Glazing (SSG) and weatherproofing sealants, has revolutionised the way commercial architects design glass facades. Dow Corning has more than 50 years of proven performance with silicone products and design systems. With years of ongoing application quality control improvements and continued product innovations, Dow Corning silicones continue to outperform most competitive products.

The Dow Corning SSG curtain walling method utilizes a structural silicone sealant that adheres glass to metal frames – without the use of visible mechanical fasteners – for pure glass aesthetic and improved design freedom for architects. The resulting facade is designed to permanently accommodate movement as it transfers wind-loads from the glass to the framework and to ensure long-term structural capability of building envelopes. Dow Corning air and weather barrier solutions help architects improve the airtightness of the building envelope, saving energy and reducing costs of uncontrolled air leakage. This system alleviates shortcomings of current air barriers that do not meet updated installation and performance standards.

Expanding on Dow Corning's proven performance history, these silicone technologies work hand-in-hand to give architects an edge in high-performance building designs, combining energy efficiency, sound control, weather and UV protection, building security, and lifecycle cost savings.

20483/Press Release – 2017.04.04

SEMINARS / CONFERENCES / WORKSHOPS

Glass Focus Awards 2017



Royal Armouries
Leeds
15.06.2017

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

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

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

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

The categories for the Glass Focus Awards 2017 are:

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

The deadline for entries is Wednesday 26 April 2017. Entries should focus on initiatives taking place since last year's awards closed – so between April 2016 and April 2017. You can submit

more than one entry in any category, and may enter the same initiative for more than one category.

All info at:

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

20484/British Glass Press Release – 2017.02.01

GPD: Face-Lift for 25th Anniversary

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



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

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

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

Two new Special Programs for a world-leading Conference

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

1. The Step Change Program aims at introducing new ideas and services from start-up companies or universities that have emerging ideas but are not yet established in the market. The main purpose of the Step Concept is to provide investors and mentors and

decision makers with focused opportunities to meet glass industry start-ups. Face-to-face-meetings can be arranged before or during the event through the Meeting Management Tool. A pitching contest for start-ups will be extended to all attendants at the GPD. This contest will showcase the start-ups to conference attendants, mentors, investors and the media.

2. The Mentoring and Ambassador Program focuses on linking talents within the industry. Solid connections between seasoned, perhaps retired professionals and the new generation of glass specialists are vital for the development of the industry and the building of sustainable networks. Special benefits and discounted prices are offered to experienced professional who register for the Ambassadorial Program. Investors and Mentors from the glass industry are especially welcome to sign up for new opportunities to learn about emerging technologies and potential partnering. An important goal for the GPD Mentor and Ambassadorial Program is to find, inform and finally to invite start-ups as well as emerging technology scouts to the GPD.

20485/ Press Release – 2017.02.27

Vitrum Announces Innovations for 2017



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



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

This year the show will focus specifically on the close connection between all the industry's players – foreign and Italian businesses, domestic and international glass industry associations, institutional stakeholders, research centres and trade press from around the world. Vitrum stakes its claim as the **“House of Glass”**, the ideal setting for machinery manufacturers and operators, researchers, technicians, industry professionals and institutional stakeholders to meet and share ideas that drive product innovation and optimization, and stimulate growth of the industry.

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

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

20486/ Press Release – 2017.02.10



Şişecam Glass Symposium, Istanbul: Call for papers

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

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

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

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

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

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

Topics will include:

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

Abstract Evaluation Deadline May 1, 2017

Early Bird Registration July 31, 2017

INFO at: SCIENTIFIC SECRETARIAT: Şişecam STC

Tel: +90 850 206 0488

ORGANISING SECRETARIAT: Serenas Group

Tel: +90 312 440 50 11

E-mail: info@icgistanbul2017.com

For more information visit www.icgistanbul2017.com

GlassPrint 2017 – Solutions For Glass Decoration

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



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

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

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