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Special



MAY 2017 Newsletter N°341

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COMMUNITY NEWS

A. EU NEW LEGISLATION

Council/Parliament Regulation

Council/Parliament Regulation (EU) 2017/852 of 17 May 2017

Mercury is a very toxic substance which represents a global and major threat to human health, including in the form of methylmercury in fish and seafood resources, ecosystems and wildlife. Due to the transboundary nature of mercury pollution, between 40 % and 80 % of total mercury deposition in the Union originates from outside the Union. Action is therefore warranted at local, regional, national and international levels.

Most mercury emissions and associated exposure risks result from anthropogenic activities such as primary mercury mining and processing, the use of mercury in products and industrial processes, artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing, coal combustion and the management of mercury waste.

The Seventh Environment Action Programme adopted by Decision No 1386/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) establishes the long-term objective of a non-toxic environment and, for that purpose, stipulates that action is needed to ensure the minimisation of significant adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment by 2020.

The Union and 26 Member States have signed the **Minamata Convention on Mercury** of 2013 ('the Convention'). The two Member States that did not sign the Convention, Estonia and Portugal, have expressed their commitment to ratify it. The Union and all its Member States are therefore committed to its conclusion, transposition and implementation.

Swift approval of the Convention by the Union and its ratification by Member States will encourage the major global mercury users and emitters, which are signatories of the Convention, to ratify and implement it.

This Regulation should complement the Union acquis and lay down the provisions that are needed to ensure the complete alignment of the Union acquis with the Convention so that the Union and its Member States are able to respectively approve or ratify and implement the Convention.

This Regulation on mercury repeals Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008 and shall enter into force on 14 June 2017 and apply from 1 January 2018.

All details on page 1 at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2017:137:TOC>

Commission Regulation

Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/776 of 4 May 2017

This Regulation amends, for the purposes of its adaptation to technical and scientific progress, Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on **classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures**.

Proposals for new, updated or deleted harmonised classification and labelling of certain substances have been submitted to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). Based on the opinions on those proposals issued by the Committee for Risk Assessment of ECHA (RAC), as well as on the comments received from the parties concerned, it is appropriate to introduce, update or delete harmonised classification and labelling of certain substances.

Annex VI to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 is amended as set out in the Annex to this Regulation, which shall apply from 1 December 2018.

All details on page 1 at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2017:116:TOC>

20490/O.J. L116 – 2017.05.05

Commission Communication

The Commission has issued the **total number of allowances in circulation for the purposes of the Market Stability Reserve under the EU Emissions Trading System** established by Directive 2003/87/EC.

1. In 2015, the Council and the European Parliament took the decision to establish a Market Stability Reserve ('MSR') under the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) - Directive 2003/87/EC. The MSR will operate as of 2019. The purpose of the MSR is to avoid the EU carbon market operating with a large structural surplus of allowances, with the associated risk that this prevents the EU ETS from delivering the necessary investment signal to deliver on the EU's emission reduction target in a cost-efficient manner.
2. The Decision states that, by 15 May each year and starting in 2017, the Commission shall publish the total number of allowances in circulation. This figure determines whether allowances intended to be auctioned in the subsequent year should be placed into the reserve. This Communication is the first publication of the total number of allowances in circulation for the purposes of the MSR, and concerns the year 2016.
3. The remainder of this Communication sets out in detail how this figure has been calculated.
4. Functioning of the Market Stability Reserve: The MSR functions in an automatic manner where the total number of allowances in circulation is outside of a predefined range. Allowances are added to the reserve, if the total number of allowances in circulation exceeds the threshold of 833 million allowances. Allowances are released from the reserve, if the total number of allowances in circulation is lower than 400 million allowances. Allowances are added to the reserve by auctioning less, and released from the reserve by auctioning 100 million more allowances in the future. The publication of the total number of allowances in circulation, on the basis of which allowances will be

added to or released from the reserve, is therefore a key element for the operation of the reserve.

5. The total number of allowances in circulation relevant for MSR feeds and releases is calculated by the following formula: $TNAC = Supply - (Demand + allowances\ in\ the\ MSR)$
There are three different elements that determine the total number of allowances in circulation: first, the supply of allowances since 1 January 2008; second, the number of allowances surrendered and cancelled ('demand'); and third, the holdings of the reserve. Aviation allowances and verified aviation emissions are not considered in this context.

Full details on page 3 at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:C:2017:150:TOC>

20491/O.J. C150 – 2017.05.13

B. TRADE POLICY

Council of EU Adopts Position on New EU Antidumping Methodology

In view of the negotiations with the European Parliament on this dossier, the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the EU (Coreper) approved the Council position on the new methodology for calculating what constitutes anti-dumping. This position seeks to resolve the question of how China should be treated as part of the EU's anti-dumping investigations. It came at the time of the expiry of the provisions relating to China's protocol of accession to the WTO as it was proposed by the Commission in November 2016.

The Maltese Minister for the Economy and Acting President of the Council, Christian Cardona, explained, *"we gave our support to a new, non-discriminatory anti-dumping methodology that will help ensure that imported products are sold at a fair and equitable price in the EU, no matter where they come from. This will strengthen Europe's trade defence instruments and will help protect jobs and enhance competitiveness"*.

This new methodology seeks to be neutral when assessing all third countries and identifying market distortions in third countries resulting from state intervention in these countries. It also aims to tackle the damages caused to European industry, in compliance with the rules contained in the WTO's antidumping agreement.

The Council's position reflects to a large extent the main principles put forward by the Commission. It establishes a non-exhaustive list of examples which are used to identify significant market distortions, such as: state policies and influence, widespread presence of state-owned enterprises, discrimination in favour of domestic companies, lack of independence of the financial sector, inadequate enforcement of bankruptcy, corporate or property laws.

According to the terms of the Council position, when a significant distortion is recognised in an exporting country, the Commission will be able to correct it. It will set a price for the product by referring either to the costs of production and sale prices in a country with similar levels of economic development or to appropriate undistorted international costs and prices. The Commission will also draft specific reports on countries or sectors describing distortions. In line with current practice, it will be for EU firms to file complaints, but they will be able to use the Commission's reports to support their case.

The Council will be able to begin "*trialogue*" discussions with the European Parliament on the basis of the agreement on the position, as soon as the Parliament determines its own negotiating position.

The examination of the new anti-dumping methodology runs in parallel with a separate institutional negotiating process on the modernisation of the EU's trade defence instruments.

20492/Press Release – 2017.05.03

EU Trade Ministers' Meeting on 11 May

The EU trade ministers discussed the EU's new anti-dumping method that was proposed by the European Commission at the end of 2016, and reviewed the ongoing free trade negotiations in preparation for the WTO conference in Buenos Aires.

Trade defence. The ministers are expected to give their political approval to the position adopted by the EU Council at ambassadors' level on 3 May, regarding a new methodology for the anti-dumping calculation. This is in order to settle the issue of how to treat China in the EU's anti-dumping investigations, now the arrangements on this have expired under China's WTO accession protocol. Based on its position, the Council will be able to begin *trialogue* negotiations with the European Parliament, when the Parliament has determined its own negotiation position.

This new methodology, which is intended to be neutral with regard to all third countries, is aimed at identifying market distortions resulting from state intervention in these countries, and at remedying the damage caused to European industry, in line with the rules of the WTO's anti-dumping agreement.

The Council's position broadly reflects the principles put forward by the Commission, which has drawn up a list for identifying large market distortions such as: the government's policies and influence; the general presence of state-owned companies; discrimination in favour of national companies; the lack of independence of the financial sector; the inadequate application of legislation on bankruptcy, business or ownership.

When a significant distortion is identified in an exporting country, the Commission will be able to correct it, setting a price that relates either to the cost of production and sale price in a country with similar levels of economic development, or to the costs and prices without market distortion. Furthermore, the Commission will have to write specific reports on countries and sectors, identifying distortions. It will still be up to EU businesses to lodge complaints, but they will be able to use these reports to substantiate their case.

The assessment of this new anti-dumping method is taking place alongside the separate process of inter-institutional negotiation on the modernisation of the EU's trade defence instruments (proposed by the Commission in April 2013 and started in March, following on from the fragile agreement in principle reached at the Council in December 2016).

WTO negotiations. The ministers will discuss the prospects for the 11th WTO ministerial conference to be held in Buenos Aires on 11-14 December, where there are hopes of results on issues covered as part of the Doha round, like agriculture, fisheries subsidies, services and new issues such as e-commerce.

Implementation of free trade agreements. The Council will hold a debate on the basis of ideas presented by the Commission to guarantee effective application of the arrangements of these free trade agreements between the EU and third countries to the benefit of all economic actors. There are currently 23 free trade agreements in force, six have been concluded (but their implementation has not yet started, as is the case with the CETA with Canada), and around 20 negotiations are under way.

Ukraine. The ministers will review the draft temporary autonomous trade measures for Ukraine, which were proposed by the Commission in September 2016 in addition to what is already offered as part of the EU-Ukraine free trade area. The European Parliament's international trade committee gave its green light on 4 May to additional EU annual duty-free import quotas for Ukraine, ruling out certain agricultural products such as wheat but not corn.

Burma/Myanmar. The ministers will discuss the talks for an EU-Burma agreement on investment protection, which were launched in March 2014. The 5th round of talks was held at the end of April and enabled "*very good progress*", a diplomatic source told *EUROPE* on Monday 8 May, giving assurances that the discussions were "*very near to a conclusion*".

Pacific. The Commission will review the preparatory work for negotiations for free trade agreements with Australia and New Zealand, and for updating the agreement in force with Chile. The scoping exercises for these talks were completed with the three countries between January and April.

The ministers also discussed the state of progress in the free trade agreements with Japan, Mercosur and Mexico.

- Launched in March 2013, the negotiations for a free trade agreement with Japan are more advanced. The 18th round of talks, in Tokyo in early April, enabled the gaps to be reduced between the two parties, with the objective of concluding an agreement as soon as possible in 2017, European Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström stated on 11 April. The parties are expected to keep up their political momentum at the G7 summit in Taormina, Italy on 26 and 27 May. "*We are still very hopeful to have a conclusion by the end of this year*", a Maltese diplomatic source told *EUROPE* on Monday.
- Relunched in May 2016, the negotiations on the trade section of an association agreement between the EU and Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) made progress during the second round of talks, in Buenos Aires at the end of March.

The parties agreed to merge their negotiation text proposals into consolidated texts, and agreed on the text of the chapter on competition policy. The next round is planned for early July, in Brussels. Malmström and Argentina's Foreign Affairs Minister Susana Malcorra confirmed their commitment on 20 April to concluding an agreement by the end of 2017.

- Launched in May 2016, the talks for updating the comprehensive EU-Mexico agreement (which has been in force since 2000) have progressed after three rounds of negotiations (the last in Brussels on 3-7 April), and the two parties confirmed their desire to conclude an agreement in principle by the end of 2017 (*see* EUROPE 11764). The next round of negotiations is planned for the end of June, in Mexico. Malmström was in Mexico on Monday to assess the progress of these negotiations.

Future of EU and globalisation. The Commission will present its discussion document on managing globalisation by 2025, which it will unveil on 10 May, as an extension to its White Paper on the future of Europe.

20493/Press Release – 2017.05.08 – 11

EU / Mexico

EU Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström visited Mexico City on 8 and 9 May. She met Foreign Minister Louis Videgaray and Minister of Economy Ildefonso Guajardo for negotiations. The EU and Mexico are currently involved in talks on a new free trade agreement between the two, to replace an existing trade deal signed some 20 years ago.

"Both sides are committed to concluding these negotiations before the end of the year. This is an ambitious but feasible goal. We want to send a clear signal to the world about the importance of strengthening - not weakening - the rules that govern international trade", Malmström said at a press conference following the meeting with Minister Guajardo.

"We have also agreed to accelerate the pace of negotiations even further, increasing the frequency of our negotiators' meetings," Malmström added.

The next negotiating round - the fourth - will take place from 26 to the 30 June in Mexico. Then, during the second half of the year, negotiators will meet every month.

Since the entry into force of the existing trade agreement in 2000, trade volumes between the EU and Mexico have tripled. In February, both parties agreed to significantly accelerate the pace of negotiations to reach a deal sooner. The new deal will simplify administrative burdens, cut red tape, boost growth and competitiveness, widen consumer choice and create jobs on both sides.

20494/Press Release – 2017.05.08

C. ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

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



1. The Climate Change Committee approved technical changes to auction rules on 27 April 2017.

They endorsed the European Commission's proposal for a Regulation to amend the EU ETS Auctioning Regulation in view of the forthcoming implementation of the Market Stability Reserve (MSR) as of January 2019.

This concerns mainly changes to the determination of auction calendars made necessary by the fact that feeds of allowances into and releases from the MSR will take place over a 12-month cycle from September to August, while auction calendars are drawn up for a 12-month calendar year cycle.

The Commission will now submit the draft Regulation amending the Auctioning Regulation to the European Parliament and the Council for their scrutiny. Provided that they raise no objections within three months, the Commission will then adopt and publish the Regulation, after which it will directly enter into force.

20495/DG CLIMA Press Release – 2017.04.27

2. The number of auctions for carbon allowances reached four digits as auction number 1000 of emission allowances under the EU ETS Auctioning Regulation took place at the European Energy Exchange.

Since these auctions started on 26 October 2012, more than 3 billion carbon allowances have been auctioned and Member States have generated revenues of over €16 billion. Most of this money is used for climate and energy related purposes.

European carbon allowance auctions represent a tremendous technical success. Nowhere in the world have environmental assets been auctioned before at such a scale, covering carbon emissions from manufacturing and power plants across 28 EU Member States.

This is a cornerstone of the market that puts a price on carbon emissions and provides companies with a clear EU-wide signal to incentivise climate action.

While most allowances were handed out for free in the first two phases of the European carbon market as of 2005, since late 2012 the regular supply of allowances via auctions has become a daily routine for the carbon market. Almost every working day a few million allowances are put in circulation via auctions.

Transparency and predictability are at the heart of the system, with auction dates and volumes being determined up front through year-ahead auction calendars and rapid publication of the results of each auction within 15 minutes of closing.

The allowances are quickly delivered to the successful bidders and the revenues are divided up among Member States.

A key element underpinning this unique system is the successful cooperation between Member States: 25 Member States and the Commission participate in a joint procurement process to contract a common auction platform that delivers dependable carbon allowance auctions while saving costs by avoiding duplication.

The technical success of European carbon allowance auctions offers a powerful example to countries interested in putting in place carbon pricing policies, showing that auctions can play a key role in delivering a flexible and market-based mechanism.

20496/DG CLIMA Press Release – 2017.05.04

Early Estimates of CO₂ Emissions from Energy Use

In 2016, CO₂ emissions in the EU estimated to have slightly decreased compared with 2015 Eurostat estimates that in 2016 carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from fossil fuel combustion decreased by 0.4% in the European Union (EU), compared with the previous year. CO₂ emissions are a major contributor to global warming and account for around 80% of all EU greenhouse gas emissions. They are influenced by factors such as climate conditions, economic growth, size of the population, transport and industrial activities.

Various EU energy efficiency initiatives aim to reduce emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases. It should also be noted that imports and exports of energy products have an impact on CO₂ emissions in the country where fossil fuels are burned: for example, if coal is imported this leads to an increase in emissions, while if electricity is imported, it has no direct effect on emissions in the importing country, as these would be reported in the exporting country where it is produced.

According to Eurostat estimates, CO₂ emissions rose in 2016 in a majority of EU Member States, with the highest increase being recorded in Finland (+8.5%), followed by Cyprus (+7.0%), Slovenia (+5.8%) and Denmark (+5.7%). Decreases were registered in eleven Member States, notably in Malta (-18.2%), Bulgaria (-7.0%), Portugal (-5.7%) and the United Kingdom (-4.8%).

20497/Eurostat Press Release – 2017.05.04

Circular Economy

According to the European Parliament, **reducing annual food waste in the EU by 30% by 2020 and by half by 2030** is both necessary and feasible. This is borne out by a raft of measures it is advocating in a resolution adopted by a large majority (623 votes for, 33 against, 20 abstentions) on Tuesday 16 May in Strasbourg.

The remedy offered by the MEPs is mainly based on a common EU wide method for measuring food waste, a legally binding objective to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030 and a goal of at least 30% by 2025 in member states. Parliament is effectively repeating the ambitious position it adopted last March when it called for a revision of the EU “waste” directives as part of the legislative package on the circular economy. There are also a number of corrective measures to European legislation it seeks to introduce, in an effort to facilitate food donations.

This includes an amendment to the VAT directive that will explicitly authorise tax exemptions for these donations. The Commission is being requested to put forward a proposal in this regard.

MEPs explain that consumer information and awareness campaigns also seek to complete this mechanism. There is a need to tackle the confusion between about “best before” and “use by” labelling dates on food products.

In this regard, the European Commission is being called on to assess the potential benefits of withdrawing certain labelling dates without putting public health or the environment at risk. Rapporteur Biljana Borzan (S&D, Hungary) explained, *“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”*. In its vote, the Parliament took into account the recommendations it had formulated and which Parliament's Environment committee approved.

20498/Press Release – 2017.05.16

Minamata Convention on Mercury Entered into Force

On 18 May, the European Union deposited its ratification instrument for the Minamata Convention on Mercury – a United Nations agreement that aims to protect public health and the environment from this particularly toxic heavy metal. The EU member states now need to complete their national ratification procedures. This process will not have finished before the next conference of the parties in Geneva, Switzerland, on 24-29 September.

20499/Press Release – 2017.05.19

D. SOCIAL ISSUES

European Pillar of Social Rights

Building a fairer Europe and strengthening its social dimension is a key priority for this EU Commission. It has recently delivered on its promise to adopt its proposal for the European Pillar of Social Rights.

The Pillar is designed as a compass for a renewed process of upward convergence towards **better working and living conditions** in Europe. It is primarily conceived for the euro area but applicable to all EU Member States wishing to be part of it.

The Pillar sets out 20 key principles and rights to support fair and well-functioning labour markets and welfare systems, which are structured around three categories:

- equal opportunities and access to the labour market
- fair working conditions
- social protection and inclusion

A number of principles and rights included in the Pillar will require further legislative initiatives to become effective. Where needed, existing EU law will be updated, complemented and better enforced.

Already today, the European Commission flanks the European Pillar of Social Rights with a number of further concrete legislative and non-legislative initiatives such as on the work-life balance of parents and carers, on the information of workers, and on access to social protection and on working time.

A social scoreboard is also established to **track trends and performances** across EU countries in 12 areas and to assess progress towards a social "triple A" for the EU as a whole. This analysis will feed into the European Semester of economic policy coordination.

The Pillar should serve to re-start the process of **convergence** within the Economic and Monetary Union and some of the principles and rights could act as **guidance** towards more binding standards for the euro area. Further EU legislative or non-legislative initiatives may follow in the future as part of the annual Commission Work Programmes. The European funds, in particularly the European Social Fund, will also provide financial support to implement many key aspects of the Pillar.

Next Steps

The Pillar is presented today under two legal forms with identical content: as a Commission Recommendation, effective as of today, and as a proposal for a joint proclamation by the Parliament, the Council and the Commission. On this basis, the Commission will now enter into discussions with the European Parliament and the Council to work towards broad political support and high-level endorsement of the Pillar.

20500/News Release DG EMPLOYMENT – 2017.04.26

Unemployment Rates

The **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was **9.5%** in March 2017, stable compared to February 2017. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the euro area since April 2009. The **EU-28** unemployment rate was **8.0%** in March 2017, down from 8.1% in February 2017. This is also the lowest rate recorded in the EU28 since January 2009. Eurostat estimates that 19.716 million people in the EU28 were unemployed in March 2017, a decrease by 56,000 in the EU28 and by 5,000 in the euro area compared with February 2017.

Czechia	3.2%	Sweden	6.6%
Germany	3.9%	Belgium	6.9%
Malta	4.1%	Slovenia	7.6%
Hungary (Feb.)	4.3%	Lithuania	8.1%
UK (Jan.)	4.5%	Slovakia	8.4%
Netherlands	5.1%	Finland	8.8%
Poland	5.3%	Latvia	9.0%
Romania	5.3%	Portugal	9.8%
Estonia (Feb.)	5.5%	France	10.1%
Austria	5.9%	Croatia	11.3%
Luxembourg	6.0%	Italy	11.7%
Denmark	6.2%	Cyprus	12.5%
Ireland	6.4%	Spain	18.2%
Bulgaria	6.6%	Greece (Jan.)	23.5%

Elsewhere

USA	4.4%	Russia	5.4%
Canada	6.5%	Brazil	13.7%
Japan	2.8%	Australia	5.9%
Switzerland	3.4%	India	4.9%
Turkey	13.0%	China	3.97%

20501/Eurostat News Release – 2017.05.02

E. GENERAL ISSUES

Member States Want a European Industrial Strategy by Spring 2018

On 17 May, the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the EU (Coreper) approved the draft conclusions proposed by the Maltese Presidency of the Council.

The Competitiveness Council of 29 May adopted conclusions calling on the European Commission to present an “holistic” industrial strategy by spring 2018 at the latest.

The member states are specifically demanding that the strategy focuses on SMEs, start-ups and expanding businesses. The member states are therefore calling on the Commission to include the strategy in its 2018 work programme. They also appeal for a concrete action plan, as well as an impact study of the initiatives taken since 2015 for industrial policy at a European level.

According to Étienne Schneider, Luxembourg's Vice Prime Minister, this will occur in March. During the debate held upstream of this meeting, Germany and Luxembourg highlighted the fact that this strategy should set out long-term objectives, namely, up to 2030. Scandinavian member states expressed their concern that this strategy could become a system for subsidising obsolete industries.

France and Belgium in particular regularly put the question of deindustrialisation on the table following the closure of emblematic industrial centres such as the Caterpillar factory in Wallonia.

The Commissioner for the Internal Market and Industry, Elżbieta Bieńkowska, took note of the conclusions. During the press conference, she declared that she supported the strategy requested by the Council and explained that this could be translated into a “horizontal document” with “a number of sectoral approaches”, before adding that the internal debate on the subject had been difficult.

To be noted is that the European treaties only confer a coordinating role on the European Commission in this area.

20502/News Release – 2017.05.17 & 30

Future of the European Union

Commission Proposes Ways to Better Manage Globalisation to Everyone's Benefit



European Commission

As part of the reflection on the future of Europe that was launched with the publication of a White Paper on 1 March, the European Commission presented guidelines for reflection, on 10 May, that are clearly based on free trade dogma, in order to better manage globalisation so that its advantages might benefit all European citizens fairly – and, beyond that, all peoples of the world.

In the face of hostility towards globalisation and a rise in protectionism and isolationism, the Commission is trying to counter-attack by launching a wide-ranging debate on how the EU and its member states can “shape globalisation so as to improve Europeans’ living conditions, on the basis of a fair appreciation of the advantages and disadvantages of globalisation”, it says in a 25-page reflection paper.

The Commission is sure about the positive contribution of free trade for the EU’s economic growth: every billion euros in additional exports contributes to the creation or preservation of 14,000 jobs, and its less expensive imports benefit poorer households, it assures. But it admits that these gains “are not automatic or spread evenly” and that the EU is affected by differences in social, environmental and safety standards with third countries, which are translated into unfair competition and thus the closure of factories, jobs losses, and downwards pressure on salaries and working conditions.

“We must now see how we can manage globalisation because it will be an even greater problem in 2025. There is no protection in protectionism, and isolationism would make us lose opportunities – and we will pay the price for this. Globalisation brings new benefits for the European economy but this makes little sense for our citizens if the benefits are not spread fairly and more evenly”, European Commission First Vice-President Frans Timmermans told press.

On the external level, the Commission advocates shaping a “truly sustainable” world order, suggesting that the EU might take the leadership in writing a new body of rules at world level, “in line with its interests, values and standards” and based on “effective” multilateral institutions and a “fair” settlement of disputes, Timmermans states, adding that the EU would uphold its approach within the G7 and G20.

This global body of rules would aim at ensuring fair competition conditions by fighting unfair practices like tax fraud, harmful state subsidies or social dumping. “If the EU could defend the fight against tax evasion with a single voice at the G20, that would already be significant. This is only one example illustrating the need for global governance”, European Commission Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness Jyrki Katainen said, also highlighting the EU’s leadership in creating a multilateral court to settle investment disputes.

The Commission is also working on the negotiation of free trade agreements, including binding clauses on the respect of social and environmental standards, along with sanctions for violations of these standards, Timmermans said.

On the internal level, the Commission is building on work at national level for "more robust" social policies, along with "safety nets", according to Timmermans, and on "reformed structures" for social security, according to Katainen, adequate support on education and lifelong learning, "progressive" tax policies and investment in innovation.

In the meantime, the Commission advocates the use of the European Structural Funds to help vulnerable regions, and the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund to help workers who have been dismissed find a job.

"Better redistribution would contribute to ensuring social cohesion and the solidarity on which our Union is founded. Globalisation can be beneficial if it is well managed", Timmermans stated, asking the member states and regions, international partners and other stakeholders to work together with the EU.

20503/News Release – 2017.05.10

Opposing Uncontrolled Globalisation, MEPs (Parliamentarians) Target Tax, Social and Environmental Dumping

On 16 May MEPs hailed the reflection launched by the European Commission on 10 May to harness globalisation and ensure a fairer distribution of its benefits. One section criticised the neoliberal dogma embraced by the Commission, urging that greater account be taken of social and environmental factors in European and national policies and calling for tax competition to be tackled globally.

Speaking for the **EPP Group**, Françoise Grossetête (France) called for EU trade defence instruments to be modernised, for a "*more ambitious*" level of reciprocity in access to public contracts and for support for European industry "*rather than buying from elsewhere goods we produce in Europe*". Grossetête also argued for a "*firm action plan*" on foreign investment control in strategic areas, "*a sector that guarantees jobs*".

On behalf of the **S&D Group**, Jeppe Kofod (Denmark) condemned the "*enormous pressure*" put by globalisation on rights, standards, values, wages and jobs and was scathing that "*citizens bear the burden of austerity-only policies and reduced welfare, the world's richest companies and individuals pay as little as 0.005% in tax, as was the case with Apple in Ireland*". The latest Eurobarometer shows that 74% of Europeans want more EU action against tax fraud, Kofod highlighted and he called on the Commission to develop a public "*harnessing globalisation*" scoreboard that "*make it crystal clear*" what the EU is doing and when, for example, it adopts a blacklist on tax havens with strong sanctions.

"It is possible to have progressive trade agreements but more rules, social and environmental standards and democratic scrutiny are needed. It is possible to protect European industries but we need to have the courage to pass a Buy European Act, like all major nations do to protect their own companies. It is possible to regulate globalisation by tackling tax optimisation and tax evasion but we have to include tax conditionality in our trade agreements", argued Emmanuel Maurel (S&D, France).

Marietje Schaake (Netherlands), speaking for the **ALDE Group**, argued for the EU to promote open trade based on its fundamental principles and high standards. "We must be rule makers, not rule takers", she stated. She also called on the countries of the EU to "take much more responsibility for redistributing the macroeconomic benefits of access to third country markets more evenly at home, to re-school, redistribute and innovate as much as possible". Marian Harkin (ALDE, Ireland) said that investment in broadband access for all and lifelong learning was "essential" and she underlined the importance of the globalisation fund, calling



for it to be granted sufficient resources and the degree of flexibility necessary to make it available to SME sector workers. She said, too, that tax competition was “a global problem that probably only be resolved at global level”.

A number of EU governments would have to give consideration to this issue, she said, to ensure that differences between tax systems cannot be exploited by large companies. “I think that all governments have a responsibility but some more than others. I won’t mention any names”, she added.

On behalf of the **GUE/NGL**, Rina Ronja Kari (Denmark) called for stronger trade unions and for their negotiating rights to be maintained, for strengthened social safety nets and for the creation of new jobs through investment rather than pulling downwards as tax competition demands.

Speaking for the **Greens/EFA Group**, Ska Keller (Germany) criticised the “lack of definite initiatives” in Commission proposals, and she called for “an end to the race to the bottom” among member states on workers’ rights, both within the EU on the issue of posted workers and globally as part of trade agreements, for climate change to be tackled without waiting for others to follow but being more ambitious on reducing CO₂ emissions and for “more serious consideration” to be given to tax evasion, “a key problem in social justice”, ensuring that big companies which derive great benefit from globalisation pay their share.

20504/News Release – 2017.05.16

Tusk endorses Macron's Message on a Europe That Protects

European Council President Donald Tusk endorsed the rhetoric of newly elected French President Emmanuel Macron on a Europe that protects its citizens and businesses. *“Millions of Europeans see your victory as a sign of hope”,* Tusk stated. *“Hope for a Europe that protects, (...) for a Europe that looks to the future”,* he said before his meeting with Macron in Paris. *“A strong EU, capable of being sovereign in relation to the external world, capable of protecting its values, culture and economic interests, capable of protecting its external border, is the best, and perhaps the only guarantee of national and state sovereignty and independence”,* Tusk added.

20505/News Release – 2017.05.18

BREXIT Developments

1. EU Guidelines on Brexit Negotiations

On 29 April the EU27 *“unanimously”* adopted their guidelines on the Brexit negotiations that will begin in mid-June, following the parliamentary elections in the UK.

The guidelines, which have evolved slightly since they were presented in March, were adopted *“in less than four minutes”*, European Council President Donald Tusk stated at the end of the European summit.

Unity around the key principles:

- a phased approach: the negotiations on the future trade relationship with London will only take place if the EU27 consider enough progress has been made on the terms of the divorce;

- priority to the resolution of three core issues linked to citizens' rights, to the balance of accounts on the EU's membership of the EU, and to the issue of Northern Ireland's border.

These guidelines set the future political negotiation framework. They are supplemented with negotiation directives that form the mandate of the EU's chief Brexit negotiator, Michel Barnier (endorsed by the General Affairs Council on 22 May).

The Commission's directives are to secure clear, specific and binding guarantees by autumn 2017 on the rights of the citizens, the financial settlement and the border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland before authorising any discussion on the future of the relationship between London and the EU.

Mr. Barnier stressed that at this stage, the mandate covers only the first phase of the article 50 process: the divorce terms and settling matters related to the citizens, the UK's financial obligations and the Northern Irish border. Other matters are also covered by the mandate and these negotiating guidelines, such as the administrative procedures and governance details for the withdrawal agreement.

Barnier hopes that an agreement on the divorce terms can be reached by autumn 2017 so that discussions on the future relationship between London and the EU may begin.

On the rights of citizens, with 3.2 million citizens of the EU27 currently on British soil and 1.2 million British in the rest of the EU, there must be assurances that these will be fully respected as long as the UK is an EU member and even beyond.

Europeans settling in the UK before the date on which the country actually leaves, and their families, will retain their rights as European citizens. Individuals who are not economically active must also see their rights protected. These rights, guaranteed before Brexit, will remain in force for the rest of their lives. This concerns access to the employment market, education, healthcare and the recognition of diplomas and qualifications. In the event of dispute, the European Court of Justice will be called upon to rule, even if the disputes occur after the country has left.

On the finances, Barnier again dismissed the idea that the EU is punishing London. "It's not a punishment and it's not a bill", he stressed, explaining that it is simply about London honouring the commitments it has made and that there is a price to pay for leaving the EU. But the UK will have to wait to find out the grand total, and it will be on the sole basis of the calculation parameters and methodology decided upon that the commitment will be made by autumn.

The Commission's mandate stipulates what must be included in these calculation parameters. The total will include obligations stemming from the entire time the UK will have been a member of the EU. There will be a single financial settlement covering the obligations under the EU budget and the impact on all bodies or institutions (for instance the EIB and the ECB) of which the country is a member. The settlement will cover commitments to participate in certain financial funds and instruments related to EU policies (such as the European Development Fund and the financial facility to support refugees in Turkey).

The Commission explained that this single financial settlement must be based on the principle that the UK must honour its share of the funding of all the obligations entered into when it was a member of the EU; furthermore, it must fully bear the specific costs related to the withdrawal process, such as transferring agencies or other EU bodies.

Barnier will also be responsible for deciding whether sufficient progress has been made to move to the second stage of the discussions, on the future free-trade agreement requested by London. This progress report may consist of a clear commitment on which an agreement has been reached regarding the three major subject areas, a clear agreement on the principles, method, reciprocity, non-discrimination and continuation of rights for the citizens. This agreement must be clear and firm and there will be no revisiting the principles, Barnier warned.

2. Decision on agencies in autumn

The issue of the two London-based European agencies – the European Banking Authority and the European Medicines Agency – will be a major stake in the negotiations, this time only between the EU27.

The heads of state and government are reported to have mentioned this issue only briefly. Juncker and Tusk told the EU27 that they would present a list of criteria in June. *"What is sure is that the agencies must remain in the EU. Coreper (the national ambassadors to the EU) will examine the issue once the criteria have been presented and will take a decision before this autumn"*, Ireland's Prime Minister Enda Kenny stated.

The European leaders will meet again in Brussels at the end of June.

The text of the guidelines can be found at:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/04/29-euco-brexite-guidelines/>

20506/Press release – 2017.04.30 / 2017.05.03 /

Inflation Rate

Latest Eurostat figures show that the annual inflation rate was **1.9% in April 2017 in the Euro area**, up from 1.5% in March. **The EU28** annual inflation was **2% in April**, up from 1.6% in March.

The largest upward impacts to euro area annual inflation came from fuels and transport (+ 0.39%), package holidays (+ 0.12%) and heating oil (+ 0.11%), while telecommunication (- 0.11%, garments (- 0.08%) and bread & cereals (- 0.05%) had the biggest downward impacts.

Romania	0.6%	Italy	2.0%
Ireland	0.7%	Sweden	2.0%
Slovakia	0.8%	Czech Republic	2.1%
Denmark	1.0%	Cyprus	2.1%
Finland	1.0%	Hungary	2.3%
Malta	1.1%	Austria	2.3%
France	1.4%	Portugal	2.4%
Croatia	1.4%	Spain	2.6%
Netherlands	1.4%	Belgium	2.7%
Greece	1.6%	Luxembourg	2.6%
Bulgaria	1.7%	U K	2.7%
Slovenia	1.7%	Latvia	3.3%
Poland	1.8%	Lithuania	3.5%
Germany	2.0%	Estonia	3.6%

Elsewhere

USA	2.4%	Russia	4.1%
Canada	1.6%	Brazil	4.6%
Japan	0.2%	Australia	2.1%
Switzerland	0.6%	India	3.8%
Turkey	11.9%	China	0.9%

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GLASS NEWS

A. *FLAT GLASS*

Glass Companies

Saint-Gobain

1. Saint-Gobain Corporation appointed Mr. Thomas Kinisky as President and CEO of Saint-Gobain Corporation.



Mr. Kinisky will focus on growth across the Saint-Gobain family of companies in North America. He is Saint-Gobain's North American representative overseeing the family of companies in the United States and Canada, which are key geographies within Saint-Gobain's global portfolio. Kinisky was also appointed Senior Vice President for Saint-Gobain and is a member of the company's Global Management Committee.

Kinisky assumed the position earlier this year, succeeding John Crowe, who most recently served as President and CEO of Saint-Gobain and CertainTeed Corporations. Benoit Bazin filled the role as President and CEO of CertainTeed in addition to continuing to serve as the global President of the Construction Products Sector and Senior Vice President for Saint-Gobain.

"With more than 30 years of experience in research and development and as an executive of several global businesses' operations at Saint-Gobain, Tom is uniquely positioned to lead Saint-Gobain's businesses in North America. This is especially true given that the company is specifically focused on creating materials, systems, and solutions that address the next generation of challenges facing society in an effort to enhance the well-being of people everywhere," said Pierre-André de Chalendar, Chairman and CEO of Saint-Gobain.

Kinisky's overriding focus is on enabling sustainable, profitable growth across the full range of Saint-Gobain companies operating in North America, including CertainTeed Corporation, Saint-Gobain Abrasives, Saint-Gobain ADFORS, Vetrotech Saint-Gobain, Saint-Gobain Glass, SageGlass, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics, and Saint-Gobain Ceramics.

Kinisky asserts that the company's focus on growth will come from a balanced strategy that combines increased investments in research and development, employee training and development, talent acquisition, and strategic external acquisitions.

"Saint-Gobain has been one of the top global innovators for more than 350 years, and North America will continue to play a vital role in the company's innovation legacy, which includes a host of products and materials we rely on in our homes, offices, hospitals, and even other planets to make these spaces healthy, energy efficient, accessible, safe, and aesthetic," said Kinisky. "The key to continuing our storied history of innovation will lie in our ability to unlock the innovation potential of our entire workforce and to attract top talent to join that effort. I believe this passion to embed innovation in everything we do can and will lead to disruptive solutions for our customers that will benefit the world at large."

Kinisky joined Norton Company (which was acquired by Saint-Gobain in 1990) in 1989. He spent over a decade working in research and development in various roles, including Vice President of Technology and New Business Development for the company's Abrasives Division, before assuming the role as President for two Saint-Gobain businesses: Saint-Gobain Crystals (2002) and Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics (2008).

Kinisky's most recent position as President of Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics gave him responsibility for over 6,000 employees across 57 manufacturing facilities in 22 countries. Over the course of nearly 10 years, he expanded that business's offering of innovative materials in markets such as aerospace, transportation, and health care. Today, within the Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics business, one of every two products sold were developed within the last five years.

Kinisky holds a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from Pace University and a Master of Science in materials science from New York University (Polytechnic University). He has authored many technical publications and holds five U.S. patents. Throughout his career, Kinisky has been active in technology education as an industrial adviser to the engineering programs at several universities.

20508/Press Release – 2017.05.09

2. Saint-Gobain Group appoints Vice-President, Corporate Strategy and Planning

As of 1 June 2017, Julie Bonamy is appointed Vice-President, Corporate Strategy and Planning at Saint-Gobain Group, replacing Delphine Geny-Stephann, who has been appointed Vice President and General Manager Silicon Carbide & Quartz within the Innovative Materials sector. Julie Bonamy reports to Guillaume Texier. She is a member of the Senior Management Committee.



Julie Bonamy is a graduate of the Paris Institute of Political Studies (IEP de Paris) and the National School of Public Administration (Ecole Nationale d'Administration). She started her career as a civil servant (inspectrice des finances) for the French government in 2011, before joining the Office of the French Minister for the Economy, Industry and the Digital Sector in October 2014. She has been appointed advisor for the budget and digital sector in July 2015. Saint-Gobain designs, manufactures and distributes materials and solutions which are key ingredients in the wellbeing of each of us and the future of all. They can be found everywhere in our living places and our daily life: in buildings, transportation, infrastructure and in many industrial applications. They provide comfort, performance and safety while addressing the challenges of sustainable construction, resource efficiency and climate change.

20509/Press Release – 2017.05.23

3. Saint-Gobain Glass is coming up with transparent solutions in its research laboratory in Chennai.

Developed at the French glass-maker's lab, Saint-Gobain Research India, in Chennai, at the IIT-Madras Research Park, the lab is working on creating quick wins in the market by solving specific problems customers have. One of the challenges posed to it was by a software major to whom it had provided acres of glass. Its large canteens are extremely noisy with over 2,000 people eating at one go. "No one can hear anything, spending half-hour every day can be bad for hearing. The company asked if we can come up with a solution. We actually did a digital model of the canteen and we came up with acoustic solutions," says B Santhanam, President and MD for South Asia, Saint-Gobain.

With baffles and sound absorbing materials located with precision, the noise was brought down from 85 decibels to 75, an order of magnitude reduction, a significant drop. "We are offering system solutions; we can model acoustics, light or heat entering into a building through glazing or concrete. That is expanding our portfolio, not just in products, but services as well, and that's what architects and builders are looking for," says Santhanam. Of the seven major labs it has across the world, Saint-Gobain Research India's work focusses on solutions for hot, humid and dusty conditions and can develop technology for other countries with similar weather profiles.

At its research lab, over 110 engineers and scientists, 34 of them with PhDs from top schools such as MIT, Cambridge, University of Tokyo and other universities in Europe, work innovatively to come up with solutions to consumer problems.

As Santhanam points out, it's no more about just the product, in the company's case, float glass for the construction and automotive sector, but also in providing innovative and practical solutions that marries the company's historic strength in material science with digital insights.

20510/Press Release – 2017.05.15

4. Saint-Gobain invests in the continuity of its plant and jobs

With the inauguration of its new flat glass (float) production plant located in Aniche-Emerchicourt (North of France), Saint-Gobain is demonstrating its commitment to invest in its plant and in the region.

At the leading edge of glass technologies in France, the manufacturing equipment has been completely renovated and modernized for a total investment of EUR 30 million. With an annual output of 20 million m², this float also emerges strengthened in terms of market opportunities: it now produces glass for both the construction and the automotive markets.

After being mothballed four years against the backdrop of an unprecedented economic crisis, the renewal of the Aniche-Emerchicourt float line marks the sustainable and social industrial rooting of Saint-Gobain in this region. After taking exceptional measures to preserve jobs, Saint-Gobain ensures the continuity of the plant and its processing workshops over the long term (the new furnace has an estimated service life of 20 years), reenergizing at the same time the activity of local and regional subcontractors.

The result of the Saint-Gobain Group's know-how and R&D, the renovated furnace also boasts new technical and environmental performances: around 10% higher plant productivity, 25% lower energy consumption and 20% fewer CO2 emissions compared to the previous facility.

"I would like to pay tribute to the experienced teams at Aniche with whom we have installed a modern and energy-efficient manufacturing facility serving our market and local employment. With the recent repairing of the float line in Salaise, this investment in Aniche is a tangible sign of our commitment to industry in France," affirms Patrick Dupin, President of Saint-Gobain's Flat Glass sector.

20511/Press Release – 2017.05.29

5. Saint-Gobain solar control glass for Oastler Building, University of Huddersfield (UK)

Saint-Gobain solar control glass has been used in the Oastler Building, opened by The Duke of York in April as part of University of Huddersfield.



The GBP 27.5 million Oastler Building, opened by The Duke of York in April as part of University of Huddersfield, incorporates SGG Cool-Lite SKN 165 II solar control glass in its curved frontage and a 3.5m cantilever, helping it to gain a BREEAM Outstanding rating. Saint-Gobain Building Glass worked with commercial sealed unit manufacturer Dual Seal Glass, who said: "The partnership created between our two businesses is invaluable and it helps to ensure that we can meet the ever increasing demands in the commercial building sector."

Adrian Adams, façades market manager at Saint-Gobain Building Glass, added: "The team at Saint-Gobain Building Glass is proud to have been part of a project that was made possible by the involvement of many fantastic local businesses. It has been incredibly inspiring to see this project take shape and we look forward to seeing it become an established part of the Huddersfield skyline."

The building is a tribute to Richard Oastler, the 19th century reformer who campaigned to curb child labour and improve conditions for all workers in the new factories of the Industrial Revolution.

20512/Press Release – 2017.05.30

AGC



AGC Asahi Glass (AGC), a world-leading manufacturer of glass, chemicals and high-tech materials, has announced that it has started mass production of 3D curved cover glass for car-mounted displays at its Keihin Plant (Yokohama, Kanagawa prefecture) for the first time in the world.

The company also decided to boost production capacity to respond to increasing demand for its product.

AGC Group's car-mounted display cover glass accentuates the sense of luxury and design of car interiors. Its anti-reflective surface treatment offers a number of benefits that include improved visibility and operability, which has led to its increasing adoption as the choice material for car navigation systems and information panels. AGC's subsidiary, AGC Display Glass Yonezawa Co., Ltd. (ADY), began production of the flat-surfaced version of the product in 2013 on a dedicated production line, and was prompted to increase production capacity in April 2016 in order to meet overwhelming demand for the product.

This new curved cover glass is surface-treated using AGC Group's proprietary technology, a process that includes chemical strengthening treatment, optical thin-film coating, and surface printing. The finished product brings vehicle interiors to a new level of sophistication. The trend of in-vehicle displays that offer larger and curved surfaces is expected to continue in years to come. In response to this, AGC's Keihin Plant will boost its production capacity of curved cover glass for car-mounted displays. The AGC Group is committed to solidifying its position as the leading manufacturer of car-mounted display cover glass by swiftly setting up a supply system capable of meeting ever-diversifying needs.

Under its AGC plus management policy, the AGC Group has made a commitment to create products that add various pluses for stakeholders. Pluses for society include 'safety', 'security', and 'comfort', while pluses for customers include 'new value' and 'functionality'. As a pioneer of car-mounted display cover glass, the AGC Group is dedicated to pursuing technological innovations that allow it to continue providing products that add new value and exceed customers' expectations.

20513/Press Release – 2017.05.29

Pilkington



If we carefully observe a normal float glass we can notice that, contrary to the cliché according to which the glass is transparent and colourless, in reality it assumes a greenish colour, which is seen in particular when observing the edges. The reason for this effect is due to the presence of iron oxides in the raw materials that make up the vitrifiable mixture. Instead, there are applications where it's required for glass to have the characteristic of being colourless and completely transparent, useful for aesthetic and functional aspects. From an aesthetic point of view, there are situations where maximum transparency is very important. Let's think about some of interior environments of buildings, where the stairs, partition walls, or balustrades are designed precisely to avoid being a hindrance to the eye or not to alter the colour balances of the environment so that they cannot be truly transparent.

The same problem can be found in the case of some furniture where tables, showcases, shelves, need to be fully transparent.

Conversely, from a functional point of view, one of the typical characteristics of the role of windows in a building is to maximize lighting, for both aspects of comfort and energy saving. Having a transparent glass really means to increase living comfort and reduce the cost of artificial lighting.

Pilkington claims its new product Optiwhite™ is suitable to solve these problems. It is extra clear glass, with a low content of iron oxides, practically colourless, where the green colour is absent. It is therefore the ideal choice in all situations where glass edges are exposed and where a neutral colour is preferable.

Its extra-clear appearance is obtained using selected raw materials in the production process, nearly free from iron oxides and other metals.

In addition to the careful selection of raw materials, it is essential to strictly control a lot of parameters of the melting process to make sure that the properties of glass obtained remain constant over the time.

The result is an extra clear product, with a 3% to 4 % greater transparency than the usual clear glass. The percentage increases to 7% to 8% when the thickness of the glass is bigger than 8 mm. It is available in thicknesses from 2 mm up to 19 mm. Its extreme flexibility allows it to associate as well with products of other ranges to add other features.

Due to its characteristics, it is a product appreciated by famous designers in Italy and abroad. For example, it is the product used in the construction of the Church of the Jubilee of 2000, designed by Richard Meier. It is the product used in the Milan City area in the Liebeskind residences, and the glass that envelops the new headquarters of the Cantina Antinori made by the Studio Archa by Professor Marco Casamonti.

For more information visit www.pilkington.it.

20514/Press Release – 2017.05.11

Guardian



Koch Industries, Inc. has completed the acquisition of Guardian Industries Corp. following the receipt of all regulatory approvals. Koch initially invested in Guardian in 2012, acquiring a 44.5 percent minority interest in the company at the time.

Guardian brings new capabilities and expertise to Koch in several highly technical manufacturing and distribution industries. In addition to being one of the world's largest producers of float, value-added and fabricated glass products, Guardian is also a leader both in high-value coatings on plastics for the automotive industry and the distribution of specialty building products.

"Guardian began in 1932 as a small windshield company in Detroit and has since become an established leader, proudly serving a global customer base in multiple industries," said Ron Vaupel, president and CEO of Guardian. "The combination of Guardian's expertise and Koch's existing capabilities and infrastructure provides a tremendous opportunity for all of us to create more value for our customers and the communities in which we operate."

"Koch Industries' philosophy is to invest in companies where there is mutual benefit for both entities as well as their customers," said Charles Koch, chairman and CEO of Koch Industries.

“Our capabilities will help Guardian better serve their customers, while their industry-specific experience and expertise will bolster Koch’s operations. Although we’ve worked with Guardian since 2012, I believe our progress together has just scratched the surface.”

With the addition of Guardian, Koch companies now employ more than 120,000 people worldwide, with about 70,000 of those in the United States. Guardian companies have nearly 150 locations in more than 25 countries. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

20515/Press Release – 2017.05.23

SISECAM

Sisecam has won the "ICCI Energy Award" with its "Power Generation from Waste Heat Project". The awards are known as the "Oscars" for the Energy Industry.



A global player operating in four main fields of glass industry consisting of "Flat Glass", "Glassware", "Glass Packaging" and "Chemicals", Sisecam Group's subsidiary Sisecam Flat Glass has won the "ICCI Energy Award" with its "Power Generation from Waste Heat Project" launched by its Mersin Plant. The Awards are known as the "Oscars" for the energy industry. At the ceremony held for the sixth time this year at Istanbul WOW Convention Centre, Ziya Altunyaldiz, the Grand National Assembly Committee Chairman for the Industry, Energy, Natural Resources, Information and Technology presented the award to Serdar Gencer, Chief Corporate Development & Sustainability Officer, on behalf of Sisecam Group.

The Mersin Plant of Sisecam Flat Glass, which was rewarded in the category of "Waste Heat" with its "ORC (Organic Rankine Cycle) Power Generation from Waste Heat Project" launched in coordination with the Energy Efficiency Department, has won the "ICCI Energy Award" for its innovations in the glass industry and successful practices.

The Bursa-Yenisehir Plant of Sisecam Flat Glass, a Sisecam Group company, had also won the "The Most Successful Enterprise" award in 2014 in the category of "Energy Improvement Projects in Industry (EIPi)" with its "Power Generation from Waste Heat Project".

Organized every year since 2011 and rewarding the best of the leading companies generating the power of Turkey, known as the Oscars of the energy industry in Turkey, the sixth "ICCI Energy Awards" Ceremony took place in Istanbul WOW Convention Centre on May 2nd, 2017.

20516/Press Release – 2017.05.25

PPG Aerospace



Research Frontiers licensee Vision Systems and PPG Aerospace have reached a commercial agreement to work together on developing new applications utilizing Vision Systems' electronically dimmable window (EDW) shading solutions for aircraft.



These solutions use Research Frontiers SPD-Smart EDW technology and also combine the considerable experience that both PPG Aerospace and Vision Systems have in supplying the aircraft industry with EDW systems.

"The agreement provides a framework for PPG and Vision Systems to pursue opportunities in commercial, regional, military and general aviation applications that capitalize on each company's expertise."

SPD-Smart EDWs deliver unprecedented passenger benefits. By enabling users to precisely control the amount of daylight and glare coming through windows, passengers can instantly tune the tint to a comfortable level while continuing to enjoy views, rather than blocking their view with a shade. The system delivers many other practical benefits including a cooler cabin due to remarkable thermal insulation properties, and a quieter cabin due to acoustic insulation properties.

Research Frontiers is the developer of SPD-Smart light-control technology which allows users to instantly, precisely and uniformly control the shading of glass or plastic, either manually or automatically. Research Frontiers has an infrastructure of over 40 licensed companies that collectively are capable of serving the growing global demand for smart glass products in automobiles, homes, buildings, museums, aircraft and boats.

20517/Press Release – 2017.05.22

CTIEC / Ghani Glass Limited



On April 28, the signing ceremony of the export contract between CTIEC (China Triumph International Engineering Co.,Ltd.) and Ghani Glass Limited from Pakistan on the complete sets of equipment adopted in the cold repair and reconstruction project of its 450t/d float glass production line was held in Shanghai. Authorized by Mr. Peng Shou, board chairman and president of CTIEC, Mr. Sun Jian'an, executive vice president, on behalf of CTIEC signed this contact with Mr. Anwaar Ahmad Khan, CEO of Ghani Glass Limited.

With a thorough understanding of technical strength and equipment manufacturing capacity of CTIEC, Ghani Glass Limited made a prompt decision to settle down this cooperation between two parties. At terms of cooperation with CTIEC at Pakistan, Mr. Anwaar Ahmad Khan also mentioned that projects with wider coverage and deeper level would be carried out in the future.

20518/Press Release – 2017.05.04

Orda Glass (Kazakhstan float glass facility)

Stewart Engineers, Inc has installed production equipment support steel structures at the Orda Glass float glass manufacturing and processing plant in Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan.

The installation crew on site in Kyzylorda, under the supervision of Stewart Engineers, has ramped up the installation of support steel structures for the tin bath and melting furnace of the float glass plant.

Support steel installation commenced in early March. Nearly 80% of the support steel installation is expected to be complete in July, at which time sufficient steel will be in place to begin installation of the melting furnace and tin bath, which comprise the heart of the float glass production line.

It is critical, however, that a new construction company be appointed shortly to continue the civil works, as the melting furnace and tin bath cannot be installed until civil construction is sufficiently advanced.

The batch plant (for mixing of glass-forming ingredients) must also be completed in order to commence heat up of the melting furnace.

"Stewart Engineers is delighted that work continues and we applaud the efforts of our partner Orda Glass in searching for a new civil works construction company to fulfill Orda's civil works responsibilities," said Stewart Engineers' Vice President of Technology, Chris Cording.

“Stewart Engineers is assisting Orda in this initiative. China Triumph International Engineering is currently in negotiations to take over the civil works from the previous contractor, ShymkentKhimMontazh.”

20519/Press Release – 2017.05.23

Miscellaneous

Glass for Europe: Energy Saving Potential of Windows Impeded by an Inadequate EU Policy Framework



Under the Energy Performance of Building Directive, EU Member States are required to put in place minimum levels of energy performance for building envelope elements, such as windows, when they are retrofitted or replaced. While the recast EPBD has been in place for over five years and while European Institutions are reviewing the directive, a new study commissioned by Glass for Europe to ECOFYS provides a clear picture of the minimum requirements for window replacement in the residential sector.



Over 85% of glazed areas in EU buildings are equipped either with single glazing or uncoated double glazing[1] and over 1 billion of new windows will be sold by 2030[2]. Ensuring the enforcement of minimum performance requirements for windows is essential to unleash the massive energy saving potential that lies in the European building stock.

"Despite the priority given to energy efficient buildings and the vast amount of energy that could be saved if consumers opt for energy-efficient windows, this study demonstrates that regulatory measures in place are insufficient or not properly enforced," says Bertrand Cazes, Secretary General of Glass for Europe.

This study by ECOFYS shows that in most countries, minimum performance requirements do not drive the market towards energy efficient products, as they often refer to sub-optimal choices or apply under very restrictive conditions only. Based on the findings of this study, Glass for Europe makes three recommendations for improving the EPBD and fixing the identified problems.

1. Minimum performance requirements should be based on the energy balance approach. The study shows that national requirements are too often sub-optimal and based on the sole U-value. Only Denmark and, indirectly the United Kingdom, apply minimum requirements for windows based on the energy balance approach, which correctly combines both solar heat gains and heat losses of the window into a single value.
2. National updates of energy performance requirements should be made at more regular intervals to improve energy efficiency. Eight countries have not updated their building codes for at least five years. In other countries, recent updates of building codes do not

include updates of the requirements for windows, despite advances in window technology and the untapped energy savings potential.

3. Minimum requirements for windows should apply from major renovation down to single window replacement. In 11 Member States, windows for the residential sector with a performance below the minimum requirements can still be installed on buildings. This is made possible because requirements apply only in case of new construction or when a renovation permit is requested or when the requirement is linked to a minimum window area to be renovated.

"The study illustrates how the realisation of the energy savings potential of windows is impeded by an inadequate EU legislative framework. To make minimum performance requirements a real energy efficiency driver, the current EPBD must provide better guidance to Member States on how to assess the energy performance of windows and it must correct today's loopholes to ensure minimum performance requirements are implemented more thoroughly, concludes Bertrand Cazes.

[1] TNO Built Environment and Geosciences - *Glazing type distribution in the EU building stock* - February 2011

[2] VHK, ift Rosenheim - *Ecodesign Preparatory Study on Windows (ENER LOT 32)* - June 2015

20520/Press Release – 2017.05.22

Everlam Appoints Financial Director

Everlam, manufacturer of high-quality polyvinyl butyral (PVB) film for laminated architectural glass, has appointed Laurent Verhelst as Financial Director, reporting to the company CEO Harald Hamer and succeeding to Ilse Tielemans who remains a key part of the financial team. Mr Verhelst joined **Everlam** from Stanley Black & Decker, world leader in the tools industry, where he worked for 17 years in various financial positions with increasing functional and regional responsibilities. Prior to that, Mr Verhelst worked at Dow Chemical and Parisbas.

Commenting on this new appointment, Harald Hammer said: "Laurent brings a wealth of international experience gained in top notch global companies and I am delighted that we could attract a financial expert of such calibre. Good finance is an essential cornerstone to our ambitious growth plans on the laminated architectural safety glass market worldwide. I trust Laurent to strengthen our solid financial foundation and develop close collaboration with our commercial team."

20521/Press Release – 2017.05.18

Iran Loses An Important Float Glass Market

India has emerged as one of the key export destinations for the country's float glass producers in recent years. In a recent ruling, Indian authorities have DGAD recommended anti-dumping duty on clear float glass from Iran. The petition for this ruling was filed by three Indian float glass producers (Saint Gobain India, Gold Plus Glass Industry Ltd and HNG Ltd). Iranian float glass industry leaders, **Kaveh Glass Group and Ardakan Float Glass Company** have become large exporters of float glass to India. In total, Iranian float glass exports to India during the eighteen-month period (Jan 2015 to June 2015) were 67,802 tons.



The Indian Authority concluded that the product under consideration (clear float glass of nominal thickness ranging from 4mm to 12mm) has been exported to India from Iran below their normal values, in great quantities, and that the domestic industry has suffered material injury. Therefore, the Authority recommends imposition of definitive anti-dumping duty equal to the lesser of the margin of dumping and the margin of injury, so as to remove the injury to the domestic industry.

20522/Press Release – 2017.05.12

ISO Releases Solar Heat Gain Coefficient Standard



The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has published a standard that specifies a method to measure the solar heat gain coefficient (SHGC) of complete doors and windows.

ISO 19467:2017 is titled “Thermal Performance of Windows and Doors – Determination of solar heat gain coefficient using solar simulator.” According to the document, it is “designed to provide solar heat gain coefficient values by standardized measurement method and to enable a fair comparison of different products.”

It specifies standardized apparatus and criteria, and the SHGC-measuring apparatus applied in it includes the solar simulator, climatic chamber and metering box. The document applies to doors and windows with various types of glazing, including systems that are single- or multi-glazed; with or without low-E coatings; and with spaces filled with air or gases. It also applies to doors and windows with opaque panels, as well as various types of frames, shading devices and solar fenestration systems – including building-integrated photovoltaics or building-integrated solar thermal collectors.

ISO 19467:2017 doesn’t include shading effects of building elements, heat transfer caused by air leakage between indoors and outdoors, or ventilation of air spaces in double and coupled windows. It also doesn’t include “thermal bridge effects at the rebate or joint between the window or door frame and the rest of the building envelope,” according to the document.

20523/Press Release – 2017.05.26

B. CONTAINER GLASS

Glass Companies

O-I



O-I's Jaroslaw, Poland plant has installed a flue gas treatment system from ATS. O-I equipped the Jaroslaw glassworks with an efficient flue gas treatment plant.



The system is among the first for the Polish container glass industry and involves lime injection inside a dry reactor upstream of an electrostatic precipitator (ESP). The lime reacts with the sulphur oxides present in the flue gases, transforming them into sulphite and sulphate that can be collected by the ESP. O-I has two plants in Poland (Jaroslaw and Antoniniek) and has six active furnaces supplying the global food and beverages industry.

20524/Press Release – 2017.05.02

Verallia



The Style Book, produced by the design agency Carlin in collaboration with Selective Line's marketing team, reveals the design trends identified for 2018 from which new bottle shapes and decorations are imagined.

The book is presented to customers and design agencies to inspire their future developments.

This year, three trends have been decrypted, which have inspired the new bottle shapes and decorations produced by Verallia's décor companies, Saga Décor (France) and Verallia Polska (Poland).



Most astonishing examples are the Atlanta bottle for Rosé Art, the OSAKA Black Sunshine bottle and the Carpe Diem Tokyo Limoncello bottle, which expresses the sublimed and colourful naturalness aided by Saga Décor's ink-jet printing.

Selective Line is Verallia's premium international brand for glass bottles. Since it was founded in 2008, Selective Line has harnessed Verallia's unique manufacturing expertise to cultivate differentiation, innovation and customization in supporting its customers with their glass creations.

Since 1947, CARLIN has anticipated consumer trends worldwide and converted them into creative leads.

20525/Press Release – 2017.05.12

Beatson Clark



BrewDog-backed distillery LoneWolf has chosen a Beatson Clark bottle originally intended for pharmaceutical products for its new craft gin. The Scottish distillery, backed by craft beer pioneers BrewDog, launched its first spirits into the industry last year with its V1 and V2 prototypes. In January this year it launched its V3 prototype gin which has an eye-catching look thanks to the new white flint bottle.



Beatson Clark's 500ml Sloping Shoulder Flat bottle was designed for medicines, but its elegant lines and unusual shape help to emphasise the revolutionary nature of LoneWolf's boundary-pushing product.

Beatson Clark Marketing Manager Charlotte Taylor said: "LoneWolf BrewDog have gone one step further and put a craft spirit in a pharmaceutical bottle, and we think the final effect looks great! "BrewDog are long-standing customers of ours and we're pleased to have supplied two bottles for them in recent months – a 375ml embossed champagne-style bottle for their Abstrakt range of occasional brews and a miniature 100ml bottle for their Hop Shot beer. "It's great that this partnership has now been extended with their sister company, LoneWolf Spirits, with this pharma bottle."

Beatson Clark is the UK's only manufacturer of pharmaceutical glass bottles and jars and holds a wide range of shapes and sizes to suit customers' requirements.

The range includes Winchesters, Tablet bottles and jars, Alpha Syrups and Sloping Shoulder Flats with a variety of neck finishes. Most can be produced in either white flint or amber glass and several are available from stock. They are perfect for craft gins, evoking a vintage feel and image.

20526/Press Release – 2017.05.08

BA Vidro



Bareck Overseas, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Portugal's BA Vidro, has published a buyout bid for the remaining 405,652 shares in Bulgaria's Drujba Glassworks, which BA Vidro does not already own directly or indirectly. The deadline for accepting the offers is 28 days following its publication on 15 May, Drujba Glassworks said in a bourse filing.

Bareck Overseas would finance the acquisition of the shares with a 2.5 million levs loan from BA Vidro.

The board of Drujba Glassworks has deemed as fair the offered price of 6.118 levs per share. The company initially launched a buyout bid for Drujba Glassworks in February, proposing to pay 3.7 levs per share but the bid was suspended by the Financial Supervision Commission. In October 2016, Greek glassmaker Yioula agreed to sell its Bulgarian unit Drujba Glassworks to BA Vidro as part of a wider divestment plan that also includes the group's glass container business in Romania.

Drujba Glassworks has two glass container plants - in Sofia and Plovdiv.

20527/Press Release – 2017.05.18

Croxsons



Danish company, Scape Spirits, distills and packages its gin in the UK, but maintains a distinctly Danish twist that is evocative of Denmark's famous hygge culture. Scape Spirit's aim was to develop a smooth and balanced gin with the clear touch of total freedom like being at the seaside - the total escape. They believe they have found the answer with their Ginscape sea buckthorn London dry gin and, of course, this special gin needed a very special bottle.



The complex decoration on the 700ml bottle includes a graduated spray coat on the front panel with a three-colour screen print on top - the back panel was left clear to accommodate a label. In a bold and eye-catching design by UK based Creative Graphics, the colours fully match the customer's brief.

20528/Press Release – 2017.05.04

Gerresheimer

Gerresheimer unveils bottle ideas for famous brands at the CosmeticBusiness trade fair in June in Munich.

GERRESHEIMER



Gerresheimer's new bottles: Elegance, transparency, and originality. Gerresheimer is demonstrating how these concepts can be reinterpreted in a unique way time and again in the shape of a bottle. The perfume bottles for *Colors* by Benetton, *Eclat* by Oriflame, and *Dance* by Shakira show just how many ways there are to shape, design, and accessorize glass. Gerresheimer's glass factories in Tettau (Germany) and Momignies (Belgium) specialize in producing high-quality glass packaging for the cosmetics industry.

20529/Press Release – 2017.05.26

IVN – Industria Vidreira do Nordeste (Brazil)

Brazilian glass container manufacturer Industria Vidreira do Nordeste (IVN) has closed its plant in the city of Estância, State of Sergipe, Brazil.



The owner blamed adverse economic conditions in Brazil, particularly in the northeast region, where IVN was operating with significant financial losses and without liquidity. The €70 million site employed 195 staff and was only inaugurated on April 4, 2016 after two years of construction. It made glass containers for food and beverages.

The Sergipe factory operated one furnace and was expected to produce 80,000 tonnes a year, primarily for the north-east region of Brazil.

The majority partner of IVN is Ipiaram Empreendimentos e Participações. Global glass container manufacturer Verallia was a minority partner with a 27% share.

Verallia said it was making every possible effort so that IVN addresses the issues arising from the suspension of its activities, in a manner satisfactory to all parties involved (employees, customers, suppliers).

20530/Press Release – 2017.05.09

San Miguel Yamamura (SMC) (Philippines)



Conglomerate San Miguel Corp. is spending USD 700 million to build the Philippines's largest glass manufacturing facility. San Miguel president and chief operating officer Ramon Ang said that San Miguel Yamamura would break ground over the next two months for a glass manufacturing with an 800-metric ton capacity.

The plant, which will rise within the company's industrial estate in Davao Occidental, is expected to be completed over the next 24 months. The production plant would cater primarily to the export markets including the US, Australia, New Zealand and Europe. San Miguel would also build a plastics manufacturing facility and carton converting plant. Phase 1 of the glass manufacturing project will cost roughly USD 700 million. San Miguel has a joint venture partnership with Japan's Nihon Yamamura Glass Company Ltd. for packaging. San Miguel Yamamura posted a 3% increase in revenues in the first quarter to PHP 25 billion. Consolidated operating income went up 2% to PHP 2.3 billion, as a result of improved efficiency and cost management.

San Miguel owns a 2,000-hectare industrial estate in Malita, Davao Occidental that is expected to attract both local and foreign companies.

20531/Press Release – 2017.05.30

Miscellaneous

FEVE's Friends of Glass Wins Award for Best Social Media Campaign



FEVE, the European Container Glass Federation, and communications agency Weber Shandwick have won the 2017 International & European Association Award for Best Social Media Campaign.

The Europe wide '*Endless Lives of Glass*' campaign by **Friends of Glass** ran in 11 countries last year.

This is the second year running that Friends of Glass has won this prize, having previously been awarded the same accolade for its 'Taste of Europe' campaign.

Commenting on the award win, Michael Delle Selve, Senior Communications Manager at FEVE said: "We are delighted with this level of recognition for our Friends of Glass campaign."

“Winning this prize for a second year running is testament to the work our national and central teams do to drive awareness of the positive and sustainable benefits of glass packaging. “Glass is endlessly recyclable, giving it endless lives – and who better to tell this story than the glass itself!”

Annick Boyen, CEO, Weber Shandwick Benelux said: “Winning a second International & European Association Award marks a significant achievement for the Friends of Glass campaign.

“As an agency, we are very honoured to have been part of this success story for over three years, and are proud to have assisted in delivering award-winning campaigns for FEVE.”

The Association Awards were established to recognise excellence in leadership, development and service within membership organisations.

The jury includes influential association leaders, all focused on the continuous improvement of associations internationally and European-wide.

The awards are organised by the Associations Network, the largest community of associations in Europe, which has been recognising and promoting excellence within its 15,000 members since 2006.

The fourth year of the Friends of Glass campaign, Endless Chorus, is now underway. This year’s efforts will highlight the environmental and sustainable benefits of glass packaging in a new and engaging way.

The campaign can be followed on Twitter using the hashtags: #chooseglass #endlesslivesofglass

20532/Press Release – 2017.05.12

FEVE: Glass Declared Number 1 By European Consumers



Growing concern for the environment, combined with consumer preference for healthy living, is driving increased trust in glass as the ultimate packaging choice for food and drinks. **According to a Europe-wide independent survey, commissioned by the Friends of Glass community, 85% of Europeans would recommend glass to their friends and family. This marks a 15% increase in the past eight years ago.**

Almost 18,000 European consumers in 11 countries across the region were surveyed, with the findings revealing that 76% of Europeans see glass as the most environmentally friendly packaging material. This represents a 50% increase since 2008.

While glass is regarded as one of the most sustainable and eco-friendly forms of packaging, more education on its benefits is needed. There are still many Europeans who are not fully aware of the full range of benefits glass offers to the environment and sustainable living; in fact, glass is 100% infinitely recyclable, yet a majority of Europeans believe that it is only 84% recyclable. Only 49% of them believe that glass waste is not harmful to the environment. While this marks an increase from three years ago (at the time this was 40%), there is an awareness gap.

Commenting on behalf of the Friends of Glass Community, Adeline Farrelly - Secretary General of FEVE, the European Container Glass Federation - states: "It is encouraging to see that consumers have become more conscious of the positive sustainable benefits of glass packaging. Whilst these results are reassuring, as an industry, we cannot be complacent, and we remain committed in our focus to inform consumers about the unique sustainable and recycling properties of glass."

"No matter how many times it is recycled, the permanent nature of glass means that its quality never diminishes – glass remains glass. Nowadays, Europeans can actively contribute to achieve a 100% recycling rate by bringing their used glass bottles and jars to the nearest bottle bank. Glass can be infinitely recycled as part of a positive circular economy and within a closed loop", she added.

Living sustainably is not just about saving the planet; it is also about looking after your health. Indeed, Europeans associate glass packaging with numerous health benefits. Consumers believe glass has the lowest risk of interaction with food (14%). Because of its inert properties, glass provides a natural protective barrier which ensures the product contents do not change over time. Among those who opt for glass, 53% believe glass is the safest food packaging material while 73% consider glass to be the safest drink packaging material.

A Generation Gap?

This latest research highlights that older generations are better informed about the importance of choosing the right packaging for a healthy and sustainable lifestyle. Younger consumers buy fewer glass-packaged products than older generations, and expect less glass across food and beverage products. Price (34%) and availability (34%) are the main barriers to buying glass.

However, younger generations identify glass packaging as the trendier option, and find glass to be the best packaging option in preserving taste and quality. Whilst the younger generation votes in favour of glass, they are less concerned about food safety issues and environmental issues related to packaging materials than older consumers.

*For more information on the findings from this pan-European **survey**, visit news.friendsofglass.com.*

Sisecam Glass Packaging's Glass Packaging Preference Survey for On-Premise Consumption Points.

Sisecam Glass Packaging, Europe's and the world's fifth largest glass packaging producer, has held a survey with the theme of "the healthiest packaging material" in cooperation with GFK Turkey. Within the scope of the computer-aided survey conducted face-to-face interviews were held with managers of 150 on-premise consumption points in Istanbul. The survey aimed to reveal the on-premise consumption points' tendencies in choosing packaging materials when making their beverage purchases and serving these beverages.

The results of the survey showed that people tend to consider glass as the "healthiest and safest packaging material" for beverages. The survey demonstrated that the first reason why beverages in glass packaging are preferred was "health" and that consumers' rate of satisfaction with the beverages in glass packaging available in the market was around 95%.

Beverage changes, but packaging preference doesn't!

The survey revealed that 65% of consumers prefer a different beverage category rather than changing their packaging preference if the requested beverage is not available in glass packaging. In addition, the survey also shows that cola drinks were the top item in the list of beverages requested in glass packaging.

The reasons why beverages are served in glass packaging at HORECAs highlight that this is what the consumer demands and glass is considered to be healthier. An examination of the aspects requested to be improved with respect to beverages in glass packaging reveals that people expect glass packaging to be "more voluminous, attractive and returnable".

47% of on-premise consumption points send glass wastes for recycling

In the survey's packaging assessment category, glass packaging was defined to be "healthy, hygienic and clean" and glass packaging is considered to "provide value and high-quality for money". The survey shows that there is a low sensitivity level among on-premise consumption points with respect to sending glass waste for recycling. Whereas the rate of on-premise consumption points, which reporting that they throw glass wastes into dustbin and do not recycle, is 43%, while 47% of businesses send them for recycling.

20534/Press Release – 2017.05.08

Bonanza for Russian Container Glass Industry

Russian authorities have implemented a law, which will ban retail sales of alcoholic drinks in PET bottles from July 1, 2017. Earlier, Russian authorities implemented a law on January 1, 2017, restricting sales of alcoholic drinks in PET bottles. The law banned production and sales of alcoholic products in PET bottles with more than 1.5 litres in capacity.

Starting 1st January 2017, any alcoholic beverages produced in PET bottles with a capacity of more than 1.5 litres are subject to a fine of 100,000 rubles to 200,000 rubles (\$1,644 - \$3,288) for individuals and from 300,000 to 500,000 rubles (\$4,929 - \$8,215) for legal entities.

42% of all beer sold in Russia are in plastic containers, only 12% in glass bottles, and another 6% in aluminium or tin cans. A ban on plastic bottles would prove to be a bonanza for the container glass industry, which has been struggling to keep its market share in the category for a long time. The sale of unpacked beer, which is mainly draught beer, accounts for the rest 40% of the market.

However, beer producers are making a move that would lead to shortages in the supply of packed beer in the short run because of the limited manufacturing capacities of glass bottles and cans. It would also cause a price hike of packed beer and reduced consumption because of higher packaging costs.

Russian beer production is highly consolidated and dominated by four major players. Carlsberg holds the No. 1 position with a 39% market share in 2015, mainly through its subsidiary Baltika. SunInBev with a market share of 17 % is the second largest beer producer, followed by Heineken (15% share) and Efes Rus (14% share).

20535/Press Release – 2017.05.02

C. REINFORCEMENT GLASS FIBRES

Glass Companies

Johns Manville



Johns Manville (JM) appointed Marcia Howes as Vice President of Global Supply Chain. Howes comes to JM from a similar position with BJC HealthCare in St. Louis. She is a veteran business leader and supply chain professional with more than 20 years of experience in all aspects of supply chain and in driving operational excellence across complex organizations. Howes will be responsible for leading JM's global supply chain organization and for developing and implementing the company's supply chain strategy.

"We are excited to welcome Marcia to Johns Manville in this critical role that partners with our operations in North America, Europe and Asia," said Greg Clarke, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. "Her extensive experience in supply chain management will benefit JM and our suppliers as we work together to successfully grow our businesses."

20536/Press Release – 2017.05.01

3B-the fibreglass company



Export Credit Norway has awarded 3B-the fibreglass company (at Birkeland, in the inner Agder region) its export prize for 2017. Among 80 companies operating in Norway 3B stood out, based on 4 main criteria:

- a high percentage of export,
- value creation in Norway,
- sustained success over time,
- innovation.

This award further strengthens the position of 3B as a major player in the green industry value chain. "We are very proud of this prize, and we want to thank our customers for their trust, our employees for their dedication and engagement and Export Credit Norway", says Marc Hubert, CEO of 3B.

The company has an export rate of almost 100 percent, and is an excellent example of a Norwegian business that is creating local value in foreign markets. Three out of 10 windmill blades manufactured and installed in Europe are made of fibreglass delivered by 3B Fibreglass. The company also manufactures fibreglass for sale and further processing into products for the transport and automobile industries.

Over the past 10 years, 3B Fibreglass has completed an aggressive, focused product innovation programme with the aim of consolidating its market position through sustainable and energy-efficient production processes. The company is now one of Norway's ten largest green-technology exporters, and is already a good example of tomorrow's sustainable industry.

20537/Press Release – 2017.04.28

PPG / NEG



PPG has announced that it has reached a definitive agreement to sell its remaining fiberglass operations to Nippon Electric Glass Co. Ltd. (NEG). The transaction is expected to close in the second half of 2017, subject to customary closing conditions. Pre-tax proceeds from the sale are approximately USD 545 million, and are subject to customary closing adjustments. PPG's remaining fiberglass operations include manufacturing facilities in Chester, South Carolina, and Lexington and Shelby, North Carolina; and administrative and research-and-development operations in Shelby and in Harmar, Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh. The business, which employs more than 1,000 people and had net sales of approximately USD 350 million in 2016, supplies the transportation, energy, infrastructure and consumer markets.

In 2016, PPG completed the sale of its European fiberglass operations to NEG and divested its ownership interests in two Asian fiberglass joint ventures. PPG also completed the sale of its North American flat glass business in 2016.

“We considered all of the strategic alternatives for the business and factored potential impacts to stakeholders. We are pleased that these operations will become part of NEG, a company that is focused on fiberglass as a core business,” said Michael H. McGarry, PPG chairman and chief executive officer. “This transaction represents the end of PPG's history as a manufacturer of fiberglass and is the final action in our disciplined, multiyear strategy to divest non-core businesses. Going forward, we will continue to focus on growing our paints, coatings and speciality materials businesses. I want to personally thank our fiberglass employees for their contributions and dedicated support of PPG, and wish them well as they establish the North American fiberglass business of NEG.”

20538/Press Release – 2017.05.30

D. SPECIAL GLASS

Glass Companies

CORNING



Corning signed a three-year contract to supply Verizon (VZ) with optical fibre.

The Verizon order is worth \$1.1 billion, but Corning will start delivering the order in 2018 and finish in 2020.

Verizon is an important US company in digital connection and communication devices. In the meantime, though, Corning continues to give investors reasons to keep it in mind. The company blew past expectations in 1Q17 as it registered growth across all its segments. The numbers speak for themselves.

Corning operates several business segments, including Display Technologies, Optical Communications, and Specialty Materials. The Verizon deal falls in the Optical Communications segment, whose revenue rose 34% to \$818 million in 1Q17 compared to 1Q16.

Corning's Display Technologies revenue rose only 2.0% in 1Q17. Closely related to the Display Technologies segment is its Specialty Materials segment, in which Corning produces the premium display glass known as Gorilla Glass. Samsung (SSNLF) and Alphabet's (GOOGL) Google are some of the Smartphone vendors that have adopted Gorilla Glass in their latest handsets.

20539/Press Release – 2017.05.09

OcuGlass



OcuGlass is now in full production of OcuWrite, its writable surface glass which offers a smooth surface for easy writing with dry-erase and permanent markers.

OcuWrite is a writeable surface glass acting both as a marker board and projection screen.

A dry-erase marker will erase cleanly with a dry cloth. Permanent marker and spray paint wipe clean with the use of a simple household glass cleaner. The surface also acts as both a marker board and projection screen, as its etched surface prevents glare.

OcuGlass has an environmentally-friendly process and facility, as well as a proprietary vertical process. The company offers a customer-provided substrate option, which makes for cost-effective and efficient logistics. All etching can be carried out on clear, low-iron, mirror or many other substrates.

20540/Press Release – 2017.05.19

Markets & Trends

Global Sapphire Glass Market to Grow Through 2021



Sapphire glass is a synthetic variant of the naturally available sapphire gemstone. Sapphire glass is industrially made from aluminium oxide, wherein the raw material is fused and processed to produce an extremely hard polycrystalline product. The production of synthetic sapphire had unlocked various applications for this novel material, that otherwise was restricted to decorative use as a rare gemstone. Sapphire glass ranks next only to diamond in terms of hardness and is extremely resistant to scratches. This property of the material is increasingly being explored by various organizations across the world. The major commercial uses of sapphire glass are in the manufacture of smartphone displays, watchmaking, and manufacture of medical, mechanical, and optical equipment and as a bulletproof and ballistic material in safety establishments.

Market research analysts Technavio forecast the global sapphire glass market to grow at a CAGR of close to 9% during the forecast period, according to their latest report. The market study covers the present scenario and growth prospects of the global sapphire glass market for 2017-2021. The report also lists LED manufacturing, consumer electronics, semiconductors, and medical devices and industrial, as the four major application segments, of which LED manufacturing accounted for close to 50% of the market share in 2016.



Technavio analysts highlight the following three market drivers that are contributing to the growth of the global sapphire glass market:

- Increased demand from LED and semiconductor industries
- High demand for luxury watches in Asia
- Wide scope for application Increased demand from LED and semiconductor industries

Sapphire glass is widely used as a substrate in LED and semiconductor manufacturing. The superior properties of sapphire glass make it a preferred material for manufacturing LEDs and semiconductors.

The LED and semiconductor industries consume about 78% of the sapphire material produced and remain as the major end-user segment. Sapphire substrates are widely used in growing blue LED crystals.

High quality, greater brightness, long life, and low energy consumption are the major benefits of using sapphire glass in LEDs. Regional government policies and regulations triggered the use of LED lighting over incandescent and CFL lighting, thereby increasing the demand for sapphire.

“The consumption of sapphire wafers in semiconductors also increased due to the growth in semiconductor manufacturing. Therefore, the growing demand from LED and semiconductor manufacturers is driving the global sapphire glass market,” says Mahitha Mallishetty, a lead analyst at Technavio for glass and ceramics research.

Sapphire crystal is used in most high-end watch brands, such as Rolex, Omega, TagHeuer, Victorinox, Citizen, Seiko, and most premium branded Swiss watches. Asia accounted for almost half of the Swiss watch imports in 2010, and Hong Kong ranked the highest. In 2014, the most popular brands in China were Cartier, Omega, and Rolex. Furthermore, in the same year, Russia and India exhibited a significant increase in interest for luxury watches. “Sapphire crystal is preferred over other watch glass as it is least prone to scratching or shattering. Brand penetration and increasing disposable income of individuals in the region have increased the demand for luxury watches, thereby driving the market growth,” says Mahitha.

Sapphire glass is widely used in medical, aerospace, and defence segments in display and safety equipment. In the aerospace and defence sector, sapphire windows are used for safety. Saint-Gobain Crystals produces sapphire products for aerospace and defence applications. It offers products for transparent armour solution, electro-optical and infrared windows, countermeasure system, and vision systems. Rubicon Technologies, another key vendor, in its project LANCE produced large-area sapphire glass for military infrared-sensing applications.

Sapphire glass is widely used in medical surgical systems due to its laser transmission, high resistance to heat, and non-thrombogenic properties. Swiss Jewel produces sapphire for endoscope lenses, laser hair removal systems, blood cell counters, insulators, and surgical blades. Furthermore, it is used in optical applications, such as xenon lamps, gas analysers, cryogenic viewports, photodiodes, barcode scanners, and detectors. Although medical and aerospace and defence markets appear to consume less quantity of the total sapphire glass produced, the revenue generated is high and the sapphire glass consumed is of high quality.

Read the full report: <http://www.reportlinker.com/p03155297/Global-Sapphire-Glass-Market.html>

E. DOMESTIC TABLEWARE AND CRYSTAL GLASS

Glass Companies

Libbey Inc.



LIBBEY

1. Libbey Inc. revises **full-year outlook** to reflect softer business condition by implementing proactive measures to reduce costs and improve margins. They reported results for the first quarter ended March 31, 2017.

Business Highlights

- Net sales \$173.0 million, down 5.4 percent versus prior year, or down 3.3 percent in constant currency.
- Net loss of \$6.6 million, down \$7.3 million versus prior year.
- Adjusted EBITDA (Table 1) \$6.2 million, compared to \$22.9 million in the first quarter of the prior year.
- Company is implementing proactive measures to respond to softer business conditions, including approximately \$5 million of cost reductions and lower 2017 capital spending.
- Strong cost controls, pricing actions in the U.S. and Mexico, new product launches, and accelerated development of e-commerce business are supporting long-term strategy to return the business to growth.

"Our first quarter results reflected net sales that were in line with our expectations, but a continuation of difficult end-market conditions in our foodservice and retail channels resulted in lower profitability than we anticipated during the quarter," said William A. Foley, chairman and chief executive officer. "Planned furnace rebuilds, the initiation of some technology investments, foreign currency, unfavourable price and product mix, and the mark-to-market impact of certain natural gas hedges, all negatively impacted profitability in the quarter. As a result, we've begun taking proactive measures to ensure the strength of our business, and we've revised our full-year outlook accordingly."

"While we do not foresee any improvement in the competitive environment in the near-term, we are adapting to structural shifts occurring in our markets, and we're making appropriate operational and organizational improvements to maintain our business strength. We're implementing strong cost controls, taking pricing actions in both the U.S. and Mexico to improve margins, continuing to enrich our product mix with new product launches, and accelerating development of our e-commerce platform to improve sales performance. We're confident in the strength of our market position, and we're seeing indications of increased interest in our products in a number of regions where customers are seeking a stable supplier, as the health of some of our competitors remains uncertain. We have a great team in place working to secure a successful future, and we believe Libbey will emerge from this environment as an even stronger leader in the industry."

Outlook

As a result of lower-than-expected first-quarter results, as well as the expectation of continued challenging end-market conditions, the Company has revised its full-year 2017 outlook. The Company now expects:

- Net sales decline in the low-to-mid-single digits, compared to the full year 2016, on a reported basis, with continued currency headwinds
- Adjusted EBITDA margin (see Table 7) in the 11 percent to 13 percent range
- Capital expenditures of approximately \$50 million

20542/Press Release – 2017.05.02

2. Libbey targets market trends with purpose-driven Innovation

Libbey displayed more than 350 new products at the 2017 National Restaurant Association (NRA) Show in Chicago, proving its commitment to grow sales through innovative, trend-right and problem-solving new products. These products range from dinnerware designed to help address cleanliness challenges in high-volume foodservice environments to premium glassware uniquely engineered to enhance the experience of drinking bourbon.

Libbey has also opened a new Chicago product showroom on May 20 to provide a forum for Midwest foodservice distributors, and hospitality and foodservice buyers, restaurateurs and hoteliers to explore Libbey's tableware portfolio.

"We're taking foodservice product development to the next level by targeting our new offerings to specific trends and pain points our customers face," said William A. Foley, Libbey chairman and chief executive officer. "Well-researched and strategic new products like these are a core tenant of our strategy to respond to a tough and ever-changing foodservice environment. We're using all the tools at our disposal, including previous capital investments, to create momentum and meet market opportunities head on."

Constellation™ is the first-ever porcelain dinnerware with built-in **Microban® technology**, exclusively available from Libbey. Microban technology provides 24/7 product protection and helps dining establishments confidently ensure a fresher dining experience while proactively defending against improper cleaning and handling. Microban protects the dinnerware against the growth of odour- and stain-causing bacteria that can pose risks to foodservice cleanliness. Microban technology is integrated into Constellation's fully vitrified glaze for an additional layer of defence that will not wash or scratch off.

This advanced silver-based technology creates an inhospitable environment for microbes, to protect the plate by preventing microbes from growing and reproducing on the surface of the plate.

Libbey is continuing to maximize the impact of 2013 investments in **ClearFire® glass technology** at its Shreveport, La., plant by expanding the overall Master's Reserve® collection to address primary beverage industry growth drivers, which include bourbon and premium cocktails.

In 2016 alone, sales of bourbon, Tennessee whiskey and rye whiskey were up 8 percent to \$3.1 billion. And, while bourbon is one of the fastest growing domestic spirits in the United States, the dominant glass for serving bourbon is imported.

Libbey has responded to this market opportunity by partnering with the Kentucky Bourbon Trail® to create the ideal bourbon glass.

Tea is one of the most popular and fastest growing beverages among Millennials – 87 percent drink tea on a regular basis. Libbey has **partnered with VIVA® Scandinavia on tea service products** that deliver the high-end experience Millennials expect from a handcrafted cocktail or craft coffee. Designed in Denmark and handcrafted by skilled artisans, the VIVA Scandinavia collection includes tea pots, cups, saucers and infusers.

"The new products launching at NRA represent some of the most innovative in Libbey history," said Foley. "The collective impact of our recent investments in innovative, ground-breaking glassmaking technology and strategic alliances with the likes of Microban, Kentucky Bourbon Trail and VIVA Scandinavia show that we aren't letting up anytime soon. Expect Libbey to keep serving up our experience with innovative products for years to come."

20543/Press Release – 2017.05.18

New City Glass (Egypt)

Egyptian tableware manufacturer New City Glass has installed three MAVSA press machines at its site in Cairo. Two of the MDP 24-34 machines are the first in Egypt to make mugs in double gob. The other line will produce tumblers, also in double gob.



The coffee mug weight is 113 grams line #13 and the tea mug weight is 190 grams line #12. The tumbler weight is 220 grams line #14.

The double gob mugs lines will produce 60 mugs per minute. The press machines also use Mavsa mould equipment.

Mavsa Director, Gustavo Fuentes, said: "It was a pleasure to form a great working team between New City Glass and Mavsa. We thank NCG for putting its trust in Mavsa."

20544/Press Release – 2017.05.23

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IN BRIEF

GLASS & SUPPLIERS

Plans Unveiled for £20 Million UK Glass Centre of Excellence

Plans have been unveiled for a £20m global centre of excellence in glass at Magna in Rotherham, UK.

The Glass Futures project, the brain-child of British Glass in Sheffield, is backed by a consortium including Owens-Illinois (O-I), Guardian Industries, Siemens and Leeds University. At the heart of the project will be a furnace producing 30 tonnes of glass per day for windows, bottles and fibre glass.



The Magna site in Rotherham, UK

The facility will bring together world experts to carry out research into energy and emissions reduction, glass formulation and new high-tech products. Work on the project is expected to start later this year and when fully operational the facility will employ around 100 people.

The furnace will be housed in a large, previously unused area at Magna known as the 'dark space', with the intention of integrating it into the existing Magna visitor attraction.

Richard Katz, director of Glass Futures, a not for profit company, said: "We are very excited to be working with the team at Magna, which is the perfect venue for this project being at the heart of the Advanced Manufacturing Investment District and part of science education."

Dave Dalton, chief executive of British Glass, one of the partners, said: "The glass industry has amazing potential for growth and, by bringing academics, manufacturers and technology companies together we can grasp that potential and bring real benefits to the UK economy.

"I look forward to seeing the technical leaps and competitive improvement this facility will enable and I am excited to see it coming to fruition so close to the heartland of glass manufacturing, in Yorkshire."

Other partners already involved in Glass Futures are glass manufacturer Swarovski, the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London, the British Glass Manufacturers' Confederation, and Glass Technology Services (GTS).

Vitro Socially Responsible Company



Vitro, S.A.B. de C.V., the leading glass producer in North America, informs that it was recognized as a Socially Responsible Company. This 2017 is the tenth consecutive year that the Company receives the award by the Mexican Centre for Philanthropy (Cemefi). To obtain the badge, Cemefi asked companies to present evidence supporting their projects and policies in five indicators; Management of social responsibility, quality of life in the company, business ethics, community engagement and preservation of the environment.

Regarding this achievement, which reflects the Company's commitment with sustainability and social responsibility, Adrián Sada Cueva, CEO of Vitro said: "Our operation is based on a responsible management, working under the highest ethics standards, ensuring an optimal work environment, the welfare of communities and respect for the environment.

" The ESR seal and other achievements such as being part of the Super Companies listed by Expansión, reflect the strategy under the Vitro Sustainability Model. "We thank our employees for this achievement, because with their effort, social responsibility in Vitro lives and transcends to other stakeholders, generating prosperity and value for the Company and society as a whole," added the CEO.

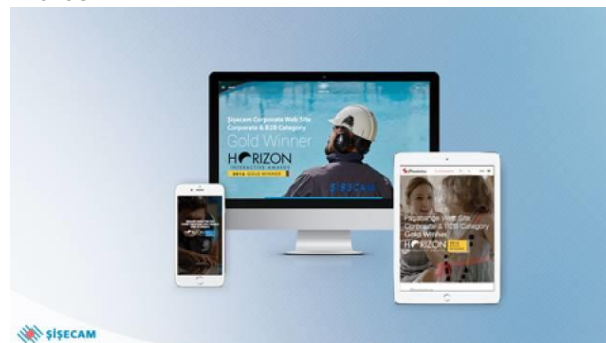
Alfonso Gómez Tamez, Director of Human Development and Continuous Improvement, also commented: "Fulfilling a decade as a Socially Responsible Company is the reflection of solid fundamentals on sustainability at Vitro. The badge is also a commitment to keep working on each of our Social Responsibility projects, advancing with positive actions that impact our entire value chain towards a solid future". Among sustainability projects in the company that stand out are: a labour inclusion initiative, the annual volunteer of reforestation "Naturally Vitro" and the Environmental Footprint Management program.

20546/Press Release – 2017.05.11

Şişecam Group Awarded for its Websites



The global player of the glass industry, Şişecam Group has received three awards from the Horizon Interactive Awards.



The websites www.sisecam.com/en and www.pasabahce.com/en have won the "Golden Award" in the "Corporate & B2B" category, while www.sisecamkariyerim.com/en has won the "Best in Category" award in the "Human Resources & Business" category.

The "user-friendly" websites featuring state-of-the-art designs, which are in perfect harmony with the renewed corporate culture of Şişecam Group, have won three awards from Horizon

Interactive Awards, one of the most prestigious awards competitions of the digital world, with their technically and visually innovative structure.

The jury of Horizon Interactive Awards, consisting of internationally-renowned professionals in the field of interactive media, evaluates more than 10,000 applications from nearly 50 countries in 19 different categories ranging from online ads to video games. Horizon Interactive Awards choose the winners upon a review of the applications filed through a panel consisting of various industry professionals with a background in multimedia, graphic design, advertisement and marketing sectors. The awards are given on the basis of a set of criteria including design, technique, message and efficiency.

20547/Press Release – 2017.05.15

Fraunhofer Researchers Develop New Laser-Based Glass Forming Technology



Fraunhofer Researchers develop new laser-based glass forming technology. This breakthrough approach paves the way for a new range of promising products for designers and architects. Glass has a specific attribute, i.e., it becomes viscous and malleable when subjected to high temperatures. The rest is done by gravity and precise calculations. The researchers are exploiting this attribute in their study.

A laser beam moves across the glass surface with excellent precision, tracing a pre-programmed if still imperceptible path. From time to time, the beam stops, alters position, and then moves on. A glass sheet measuring 4 mm thick is placed in an oven, which has been preheated to just below the temperature — the temperature at which point the glass starts to melt. Then, the glass begins to soften at the points that were heated by the laser and, due to gravity, the laser-heated portions begins to drop as if they were made of thick honey. After the preferred shape or form is obtained, the laser is turned off and the glass re-solidifies. The end result is a remarkable shape with bends having waves, small radii, and round protrusions.

This is one area of where lasers can be effectively applied to bend sheet glass in a process devised by the Fraunhofer Institute for Mechanics of Materials IWM in Freiburg Breisgau. The entire process is based on a specific physical property of the material; for example, glass is different metal and lacks a definitive melting point at which it liquefies. Glass softens and becomes malleable when it is subjected to a certain temperature range.

The laser-supported technique developed by Fraunhofer IWM enables both architects and industrial designers to utilize shapes that were difficult and costly to produce in the past. In the laser-supported technique, the sheet glass is shaped without using a bending mould to apply pressure. Thus, the novel process produces flat glass surfaces that remain visually undistorted and without leaving behind any ugly marks.

Most importantly, programming the process workflow helps gives a product the desired shape. Geometrical data is employed to develop a program that will control the laser beam as well as define the sequence of precisely when, where, and for how long the material will be heated.

This accounts for options to stop the laser for a short time, change the beam intensity, or heat a point multiple times. “Thanks to our technique, manufacturers have a cost-effective way of producing extremely customized glass objects in small batches or even as one-offs,” says Tobias Rist, scientist at Fraunhofer IWM.

Right from placing the glass in the preheated oven to cooling it off, the entire process takes just about 30 minutes. Based on the preferred shape, the laser takes only a few minutes to complete its job. “A distinct benefit for manufacturers is that the machine is only occupied for short times. The workpiece is placed in the preheated oven and lasering can begin after just a few minutes,” Rist explains. As the glass is taken off from the oven for cooling, the bending oven becomes free for the next workpiece and hence there is no need to cool it. This provides considerably more energy efficiency when compared to traditional processes. Although the laser needs plenty of energy, the short processing times save significant amounts of electricity.

A powerful CO₂ laser model is used by the Machining Processes, Glass Forming Group at Fraunhofer IWM. This specific laser is often employed in materials processing in the industry. Instead of directly applying on the workpiece, the laser beam is directed through adjustable mirrors that are fixed to the oven’s interior. This offers a simple yet rapid way to position the laser beam because the laser apparatus itself can continue to remain static. At present, the group’s researchers can process sheet glass with edges of up to 100 cm and change the shape of either side of the glass. The next step is to work with a wide range of glass and study more manufacturing differences with an aim to expand the variety of shapes products can take.

20548/Press Release – 2017.05.05

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

20549/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.

20550/Press Release – 2017.02.27

The International Commission on Glass Conference in Montpellier on July 3 - 7.

9th workshop for new researchers in glass science and technology glass formation, structure, and properties and how numerical modelling can help to disentangle some key technological challenges in glasses.

The workshop will be composed of two interwoven threads. The first thread will overview fundamentals in glass science emphasising structure-property relationships, experimental techniques and material simulations. Specific properties, their structural dependence, and applications will be discussed, e.g. optical behaviour, transport phenomena, nucleation and crystallisation, and strength. The second thread this year will focus on a variety of process and product simulations. On the one hand, numerical technologies combined with experiments offer the optimal design guide for key industrial processes, e.g. heat transfer, melt flow, and glass forming. On the other hand, stress analysis and data-oriented technologies are beneficial to designing products of sufficient quality. In the sessions where the two threads overlap, all participants will cross two bridges: one between science and technology, the other between academia and industry. The lecturers will be world experts in their fields.

A significant aspect of the workshop will be student-centred projects that will help participants to develop their understanding by applying what they know to specific issues. The pre-registration deadline for the conference has been extended to June 1, 2017. For more information about the conference, please visit www.icglass.org.

20551/Press Release – 2017.05.03

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

20552/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

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E-mail: info@icgistanbul2017.com

For more information visit www.icgistanbul2017.com

20553/Press Release – 2016.06.08

GlassPrint 2017 – Solutions For Glass Decoration

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



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

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

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

20554/Press Release – 2017.02.24

PUBLICATIONS

Recycling

1) *Can cullet ensure glass remains key?*

Richard van Breda (Swiss independent consultant) highlights how cullet is critical to the future of container glass but that its use in global container glassmaking today is relatively low.

2) *Foam glass aggregates boost Finnish recycler.*

Finnish glass recycler Uusioaines has joined Cleantech Finland, doubled its foam glass capacity and reduced its carbon footprint, reports *Expert manager Henry Rawstorne*.

20555/Glass International – April 2017