

## WELCOME TO EU GLASS INDUSTRIES NEWS



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## EU COMMUNITY NEWS

### NEW EU LEGISLATION

#### Commission Decision

##### COMMISSION DELEGATED DECISION (EU) 2019/708

The Commission decided on 15 February 2019 to supplement Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the **determination of sectors and subsectors deemed at risk of carbon leakage for the period 2021 to 2030**.

The sectors and subsectors listed in the Annex shall be deemed to be at risk of carbon leakage for the period 2021 to 2030, as from 1 January 2021.

This publication confirms that all glass sectors (except shaping and processing of flat glass) are part of this list.

- 2311 Manufacture of flat glass
- 2313 Manufacture of hollow glass
- 2314 Manufacture of glass fibres
- 2319 Manufacture and processing of other glass, including technical glassware

*Full Decision on page 20 at:*

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2019:120:TOC>

21877/OJ L120 – 2019.05.08

#### Commission Recommendations

##### COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION (EU) 2019/786 of 8 May 2019 on Building Renovation

The European Commission published on 16 May a recommendation to EU Member States to help them implement the revised provisions of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (Directive 2010/31/EU).

This recommendation responds to requests for clarification from Member States seeking to transpose the new provisions into national law.

The amendments to the Directive adopted last year **aim to achieve a low-emission (or zero emission) building stock in the Union by 2050**, in particular through national roadmaps with national milestones and progress indicators, as well as public and private funding and investment.

Member States must now adopt long-term national renovation strategies with a strong financial component to ensure the renovation of existing buildings into energy efficient and low-carbon buildings and to facilitate the economic transformation of all existing buildings into near-zero consumption buildings. The objective of these recommendations is to ensure a uniform understanding of the preparation of transposition measures in the Member States. The Commission recalls that almost 40% of final energy consumption is attributable to buildings

*Full Recommendation on page 34 at:*

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2019:127:TOC>

21878/OJ L127 – 2019.05.16

### **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION (EU) 2019/794 of 15 May 2019**

The Commission has issued a coordinated control plan with a view to establishing the **prevalence of certain substances migrating from materials and articles intended to come into contact with food**.

The general objective of the control plan is to establish the prevalence of substances migrating from food contact materials into food or the presence of substances in the food contact material. Competent Authorities of the Member States should therefore carry out official controls in order to establish the prevalence on the European Union market as regards:

- the migration of targeted substances from food contact materials,
- targeted substances in food contact materials,
- overall migration from plastic food contact materials

Member States should implement the coordinated control plan for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food as indicated in the Annex to this Recommendation. The minimum total number of samples recommended in the Annex should be followed as far as possible.

Member States should report the results of the official controls carried out in accordance with the Annex.

Member States should also report results generated as part of any previous controls undertaken within the five years prior to 1 January 2019. These controls should be relevant to the substances in or migrating from materials and articles intended to come into contact with food subject to this Recommendation and undertaken in accordance with relevant legislation on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food and official controls. The results should be reported in accordance with the Annex.

Regarding glass articles (included under Ceramic, enamel, vitreous and metal kitchenware and tableware including artisanal and traditionally produced materials and articles), substances to be tested from 1 June 2019 to 31 December 2019 are metals.

*Full Recommendation on page 37 at:*

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2019:129:TOC>

21879/OJ L129 – 2019.05.17

## Commission Notices

### Notice of Initiation of an Anti-dumping Proceeding Concerning Imports of Continuous Filament Glass Fibre Products Originating in Bahrain and Egypt

The European Commission has received a complaint pursuant to Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1036 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2016 on protection against dumped imports from countries not members of the European Union, **alleging that imports of continuous filament glass fibre products** ('glass fibre reinforcements' or 'GFR') **originating in Bahrain and Egypt, are being dumped and are thereby causing injury to the Union industry.**

#### Complaint

The complaint was lodged on 21 March 2019 by the **European Glass Fibre Producers Association ('APFE')** on behalf of producers representing more than 25 % of the total Union production of GFR.

#### Product under investigation

The product subject to this investigation is chopped glass fibre strands, of a length of not more than 50 mm ('chopped strands'); glass fibre rovings, excluding glass fibre rovings which are impregnated and coated and have a loss on ignition of more than 3 % (as determined by the ISO Standard 1887) ('rovings'); and mats made of glass fibre filaments excluding mats of glass wool ('mats').

All details on page 4 at:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:C:2019:151:TOC>

21880/OJ C151 – 2019.05.03

**European glass fibre reinforcements industry welcomes launch of European Commission investigations into dumping by state-backed Chinese producers exporting from Bahrain and Egypt.**

Axel Jorns, Secretary-General at GlassFibreEurope welcomed the announcement in the EU's Official Journal today: "We strongly welcome the new European Commission investigation into the destructive dumping of state-backed Chinese producers exporting from Bahrain and Egypt. To address the surge of unfairly traded imports from those countries, GlassFibreEurope has asked the European Commission for the immediate registration of glass fibre reinforcement imports from Bahrain and Egypt, which would allow EU anti-dumping duties to be imposed retroactively to the date of registration. We are confident that the European Commission will make a thorough analysis and confirm the existence of dumping by imports from Bahrain and Egypt, which is injuring EU producers and destroying valuable manufacturing jobs, growth and investment in Europe. European downstream industries need a local, innovative and viable glass fibre reinforcements industry to compete internationally. If Europe loses glass fibre reinforcements manufacturing, key sectors from renewables to construction will be dependent on inputs from Chinese state-backed companies."

GlassFibreEurope represents the interests of European glass fibre manufacturers and their 5,000 employees. Glass fibre reinforcements (GFR) is a strategic sector for Europe's future because new materials made with it are stronger and lighter than traditional materials like steel, aluminium and wood. The most extensive use of GFR is in composite materials which are integral to some of the most important and exciting European innovations of our time including wind turbines, the Airbus A350 and fuel-efficient cars.

Soon after the EU started investigating illegal subsidies and dumping of Chinese-based GFR companies in 2013, the state-owned Chinese companies i.e. the Jushi Group and the CPIC Group opened / acquired production sites in Egypt and Bahrain, respectively, in order to avoid EU trade defence measures against imports from China. Since 2015, imports from Bahrain and Egypt into the EU have increased by over 200% which has depressed sales of EU production, even in a growing market. Furthermore, prices of glass fibre imports from Bahrain decreased by approximately 15% between 2016 and 2018, and prices of glass fibre imports from Egypt decreased by approximately 10% over the same period, undercutting and causing further injury to EU industry.

Axel Jorns, Secretary-General at GlassFibreEurope concluded: "Starting from no presence on the EU market, dumped glass fibre reinforcements imports from Bahrain and Egypt took almost 10% EU market share between 2015 and 2018. The EU must impose effective anti-dumping measures to restore fair competition with Egypt and Bahrain, and keep glass fibre reinforcements manufacturing in Europe. The members of GlassFibreEurope are firm believers in free trade, but trade must also be fair. Injuring domestic producers through imports which are dumped is against the WTO and EU rules."

21881/GFE Press Release – 2019.05.03

### **Notice of initiation of an anti-subsidy proceeding concerning imports of certain woven and/or stitched glass fibre fabrics originating in the People's Republic of China and Egypt**

The European Commission has received a complaint under Article 10 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1037 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2016 on protection against subsidised imports from countries not members of the European Union, alleging that imports of certain woven and/or stitched glass fibre fabrics, originating in the People's Republic of China and Egypt, are being subsidised and are thereby causing injury to the Union industry.

The complaint was lodged on 1 April 2019 by **Tech-Fab Europe** on behalf of producers representing more than 25 % of the total Union production of certain woven and/or stitched glass fibre fabrics.

Full notice available on page 11 under:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:C:2019:167:TOC>

21882/OJ C167 – 2019.05.16

**Notices of initiation of an expiry review of the anti-dumping measures and of the countervailing measures applicable to imports of solar glass originating in the People's Republic of China**

The European Commission has received a request for review pursuant to Article 11(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1036 on protection against dumped imports from countries not members of the European Union.

The request was lodged on 13 February 2019 by **EU Pro Sun Glass** ('the applicant') on behalf of producers representing more than 25 % of the total Union production of solar glass.

The product subject to this review is solar glass consisting of tempered soda-lime-flat-glass, with an iron content of less than 300 ppm, a solar transmittance of more than 88 % (measured according to AM1,5 300-2 500 nm), a resistance to heat up to 250 °C (measured according to EN 12150), a resistance to thermal shocks of  $\Delta$  150K (measured according to EN 12150) and having a mechanical strength of 90 N/mm<sup>2</sup> or more (measured according to EN 1288-3) ('the product under review'), currently falling under CN code ex 7007 19 80 (TARIC codes 7007198012, 7007198018, 7007198080 and 7007198085).

The measures currently in force are a definitive anti-dumping duty imposed by Commission in 2014. The request is based on the grounds that the expiry of the measures would be likely to result in continuation or recurrence of dumping and continuation or recurrence of injury to the Union industry.

The investigation shall normally be concluded within 12 months and in any event no later than 15 months from the date of the publication of this Notice,

Both notices available on pages 6 and 22 under:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:C:2019:165:TOC>

21883/OJ C165 – 2019.05.14

## TRADE & INNOVATION POLICIES

### **EU Law and CETA Court System Compatible**

**The Investment Court System (ICS) is compatible with European Union law, the Court of Justice of the European Union ruled in its opinion (1/17) delivered on 30 April in Luxembourg.**

In September 2017, Belgium requested the opinion of the European judge on the compatibility of this judicial system, as proposed in the CETA, the free trade agreement with Canada, with EU primary law. The aim was to address the concerns, mainly expressed in Wallonia, about: - the impact of these courts on the autonomy of the Union's legal order; - the compatibility of the ICS, consisting of a General Court and an Appeal Court, with the exclusive competence of the CJEU to provide a definitive interpretation of EU law; - the general principle of equality and the imperative of the

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effectiveness of EU law; - the right of access to the courts; - the right to independent and impartial justice.

In this binding opinion (Nr.1/17), the Court first recalls that an international agreement is, in principle, compatible with EU law - and therefore so is the creation of a court responsible for interpreting the provisions of that agreement.

However, such an agreement must preserve the nature of the competences of the EU institutions and must not undermine the autonomy of the Union's legal order and, therefore, its founding values, the Court also considers. The ICS will therefore not have jurisdiction *"to determine the legality of a measure, alleged to constitute a breach of this Agreement, under the domestic law of a Party"* for the agreement.

The European judge also points out that the ICS courts do not belong to the EU judicial system. Their competence is therefore strictly limited to interpreting or applying legal provisions relating to CETA. Nor can their decisions have the effect *"to prevent the Union from operating in accordance with the above-mentioned constitutional framework"*.

In addition, it notes that the ICS *"has no jurisdiction to declare incompatible with the CETA the level of protection of a public interest established by the EU measures... to order the Union to pay damages"*. CETA does not allow its courts *"to call into question the level of protection of public interest determined by the Union following a democratic process"*.

According to her, *"the Parties have taken care to ensure that those tribunals have no jurisdiction to call into question the choices democratically made within a Party relating to, inter alia, the level of protection of public order"*.

### **Scope of the opinion**

The CETA agreement is a so-called *"mixed"* agreement: to be fully implemented, it must be ratified by all Member States. Sixteen of them, including Germany, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands, have not yet done so. The Court's opinion could therefore help to remove their reluctance.

Since the CETA, the ICS has been promoted by the EU in its investment protection agreements (IPAs), such as those negotiated with Singapore and Vietnam. Opinion 1/17 could give European negotiators more legitimacy in these talks, particularly in the negotiation of an API with their Japanese partner.

The ICS is the first step towards a Multilateral Investment Tribunal or MIC, under the auspices of UNCITRAL, which, according to the Commission's wishes, should eventually become the competent legal body to rule on investor-state disputes. In the meantime, the Court therefore also validates its compliance.

### **Mixed reactions**

Paul Magnette, former Minister-President of the Walloon Region (Belgium), warned on 30 April that the Belgian Socialist Party (PS) would continue to *"refuse any arbitration mechanism"* under the Free Trade Agreement with Canada (CETA), thus expressing its disagreement with the opinion of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU).

*"I respect the Court's opinion, even if I do not share it and would have preferred the Court to invalidate the mechanism"*, commented the man who, in autumn 2016, embodied opposition to the CETA after the Parliament of the Walloon Region blocked Belgium's approval of the signing of this agreement by the EU.



According to Mr Magnette, the investor-State dispute arbitration (ICS) mechanism provided for by the CETA - at the heart of Belgium's referral to the CJEU - affects the interests of public authorities and individuals, as it is open only to complaints from companies.

Like Mr Magnette and many NGOs, the *European Environment Bureau* (EEB), a network of environmental citizens' organisations in Europe, deplored the Court's verdict on 2 May. According to the EEB, the Court's opinion "*places multinationals above citizens*", as the ICS violates the principle of equality before the law by granting special rights and privileges to large companies.

When contacted by EUROPE, the *European Consumer Organisation* (BEUC) reacted in a more nuanced way. While recalling its support for free trade, the organisation wonders about the effect that complaints from foreign investors could have on consumer protection measures. "*Will Member States nevertheless settle claims early – to avoid the risk of long and costly proceedings – by lowering their ambition on measures to protect people?*", asks Laurens Rutten, BEUC's communication officer.

On the other hand, *BusinessEurope*, representing European employers, welcomed the CJEU's decision, which "*brings more clarity and legal certainty to companies*".

21884/Press Release – 2019.04.30 & 05.03

### EU / Mexico

The European Commission has organised a stakeholder event to discuss the benefits of the modernisation of the trade part of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement.

The modernised EU-Mexico Global Agreement: Better rules, common values and more opportunities for trade and investment

21885/Press Release – 2019.05.20

## ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

### Behavioural Changes and Innovative Technologies Are Essential for a Carbon-Neutral European Economy, According to Ministers

The increased mobilisation of citizens and all stakeholders through behavioural and lifestyle changes, genuine economic circularity and innovative technological solutions are essential to put the EU on the path towards a climate-neutral economy, EU Environment Ministers stressed at their informal meeting in Bucharest on 20 May. The theme they discussed was '*Innovative solutions and the role of citizens for a low-carbon future: how to take better advantage of opportunities related to lifestyle, circularity, spatial planning*'.

*"This is an extremely important issue at the European, international and national level. Finding innovative solutions will require the mobilisation of central, local authorities and NGOs,"* said Romanian Environment Minister Gratiela Gavrilescu, who chaired the session.

And to also insist on the importance of *"taking into account the socio-economic particularities"* of the different countries. *"EU financial instruments are very useful in stimulating and promoting private investment and the necessary innovative technologies"*.

The President-in-Office of the EU 'Environment' Council and the ministers claimed that the choices of consumers and individual citizens, for example, in terms of mobility, housing and food consumption, which reduce energy consumption or the use of certain carbon-intensive products and services, can contribute directly to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Just as a climate-neutral society will benefit from increased circularity.

The European Commissioner for Climate and Energy Action, Miguel Arias Cañete, thanked the Romanian Presidency for contributing to advancing the reflection on the long-term climate strategy to be adopted by the EU in 2020 and for stressing the importance of involving all citizens and stakeholders, through their *"active participation"*, to aim for *"a carbon neutral economy by 2050"*.

*"Recent concerns and voices by the youth show that many Europeans are ready to contribute to this transformation. Changes in attitude are noticeable, as witnessed, for example, by citizens' attitudes towards single-use plastic bags"*, he said.

According to him, *"one must bear in mind in mind that the long-term benefits of this transition will not be immediately tangible for all citizens, sectors and regions. Ensuring that no one is left behind is an essential part of our mission"*.

The Commissioner told ministers where the EU can do better to adapt.

He cited to the press: - better coordination between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction; - the need for the insular sector to span its Interregional role to more actively support adaptation investment; - greater attention to health and making health a new priority within adaptation.

*"We must focus on better preparedness in particular in heat waves and other extreme events"*, he said.

Highlighting the serious challenges facing cities due to the negative impacts of climate change and the fact that by 2050, 80% of EU citizens will live in cities, the Commissioner added that *"adaptation in urban areas is of crucial importance to reduce climate-related risks for citizens and for the economy in Europe"*.

According to him, the ministers expressed their interest in these actions to be explored, it being understood that, even if the Paris Agreement is respected, climate change will have negative impacts on European society and on the European economy.

Just before *World Biodiversity Day*, which will focus on biodiversity as the foundation of health and food systems on 22 May, ministers devoted a second working session to the global biodiversity crisis and the prospects for a post-2020 framework to stem the collapse of species and habitats.

### **EU Ministers Seek Right Balance Between Competitiveness and Environmental Protection**

At an informal meeting held in Bucharest on 3 May, **European Ministers of Economy and Industry have agreed in general terms on the need to do everything possible to achieve a carbon-neutral economy in the long-term.**

They also stressed the need to strike a fair balance between environmental issues and competitiveness in order to preserve the European industrial fabric, in particular that which is based on high energy consumption.

This was highlighted by the Commissioner for the Internal Market and Industry, Elżbieta Bieńkowska. Talking to the press, she quoted a minister who had noted during the discussions that energy-intensive industry would, in the future, be at the forefront of the fight against climate change. However, according to the same minister, EU industry must not be at the expense of its own competitiveness.

The Commissioner noted that the European Commission will present a detailed plan to support European industry at the end of 2019, and one which is in line with the conclusions of the most recent European Council.

The exchanges held during lunch, which were entirely dedicated to the energy-intensive industrial sector, would have been consensual. Some ministers stressed the need to include the question over these industries in energy policies, specifically with regard to raw materials and energy prices, one source explained.

Ministers have also discussed the need for a training and education system that is more entrepreneurial in nature, as well as being based on e-skills.

They also discussed the internal market and how best to support SMEs and start-ups. During the discussions, most ministers welcomed the adoption of the Regulation pertaining to compliance and enforcement of European rules, which will play a key role in strengthening the smooth running of the internal market.

At the conference, the Commissioner stressed that the greatest danger to the European economy was not climate change, but the fragmentation of the internal market, noting that at international level, the Union had to face "continental economies".

**In the aftermath of the European elections**, several European Trade Ministers, meeting in Council in Brussels, wanted to draw the first lessons from the election: European citizens are calling for greater integration of the climate dimension - and for better protection from the negative aspects of globalisation.

For the French Secretary of State to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne, "in view of the results and the votes that have been expressed, we have seen a desire on the part of Europeans to be protected; a desire that the climate dimension be fully taken into account", he said on his arrival in the Council. He thus promised that France would continue to "push very aggressively" to adapt European trade policy. "There is now a real urgency to rethink this trade policy", said Mr Lemoyne.

Ann Linde, Swedish Minister for European Affairs and Trade, has a fairly harmonious view. A member of the Social Democratic Party and a leader in the elections, Ms Linde said before the meeting that her party had promised, in its campaign, "that from now on all deep and profound trade agreements, the partner has to ratify the Paris agreement". "That is a new position on our part", she said.

For the Swedish minister, it is also a question of working to move forward with trade liberalisation, including with the "big countries", on all "climate-smart goods and on goods that are good for climate e.g. bioethanol and all type of bicycles".

On the French side, the approach differs: Rather, Paris wishes to focus on creating fair market access conditions - the famous "level-playing field" - by ensuring that environmental values and standards are respected. "We must no longer be naive, we must really fight for a level playing field in international trade", Mr Lemoyne said.

"In terms of method, it is transparency, it is accountability for this trade policy and it is also about ensuring that we can have a trade policy that effectively protects our planet, but also our jobs, our industries and our sectors", he concluded.

21887Press Release – 2019.05.03 & 27

### **CO2 Emissions from Fossil Fuels Fell by 2.5% in EU in 2018**

Last year saw a significant decrease of 2.5% in CO2 emissions from burning fossil fuels in the European Union, according to preliminary data published by the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) on Wednesday 8 May.

A decrease in emissions was recorded in a majority of EU Member States. The largest decrease was recorded in Portugal (-9.0%), followed by Bulgaria (-8.1%), Ireland (-6.8%), Germany (-5.4%), the Netherlands (-4.6%) and Croatia (-4.3%).

By way of contrast, increases were recorded in eight Member States: Latvia (+8.5%), Malta (+6.7%), Estonia (+4.5%), Luxembourg (+3.7%), Poland (+3.5%), Slovakia (+2.4%), Finland (+1.9%) and Lithuania (+0.6%).

Eurostat notes that imports and exports of energy products have an impact on CO2 emissions in the country where fuels are burned. While imported coal leads to an increase in emissions, imported electricity does not have a direct impact on the emissions of the importing country, only affecting the emissions of the country which produced and exported it.

"After four years without substantial emission reductions, the EU has finally started to walk the road to the zero-carbon economy. Now we need to start running decisively", commented Wendel Trio, the director of the NGO Climate Action Network, in a statement.

21888/Press Release – 2019.05.08

### **More than 50 Business Leaders Urge EU to Establish Real Decarbonisation Strategy**

The CEOs of more than 50 companies called on the European Union to put in place a decarbonisation strategy that would achieve climate neutrality in the EU by 2050 at the latest.

"As EU heads of state and government discuss the future of Europe, they will need to agree not just a political direction, but also an economic and environmental one," said Eliot Whittington, Director of The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group (CLG), in a statement accompanying the letter.

While highlighting their efforts to make their activities more environmentally friendly, the signatory organisations, who come from a multitude of industrial sectors across Europe, encouraged the EU "to put climate change at the top of the EU agenda" and demand a clear and coherent European vision.

They believed that such a vision would give investors and companies the long-term guidance they need to invest in sustainable and net-zero emission industries in the future, in order to stimulate innovation and protect European competitiveness on a global scale. This vision should also set the medium-term key objectives required to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest.

The signatories of the letter also stress that, "to succeed, this strategy will need to go beyond the traditional climate focus, encompassing trade, transport, agriculture, innovation, industrial and infrastructure policies".

*Read the letter at:*

<https://www.corporateleadersgroup.com/reports-evidence-and-insights/pdfs/ceo-letter-to-eu-heads-of-state-to-signal.pdf>

21889/Press Release – 2019.04.30

## SOCIAL ISSUES

### **EU Council adopts third revision of Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive**

On 15 May, the Member States of the European Union adopted the third revision of the Directive on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens and mutagens. As a reminder, the directive reduces occupational exposure in respect to five agents considered a health hazard, namely: cadmium, beryllium, arsenic acid, formaldehyde and 4,4' methylene bis. The co-legislators have introduced a whole series of differentiated implementation dates (8 years for cadmium, 7 years for beryllium, 4 years for arsenic acid and 5 years in some cases for formaldehyde).

21890/Press Release – 2019.05.15

### **Unemployment Rates**

The euro area seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was **7.7%** in **March 2019**, down from 7.8% in February 2019. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the euro area since September 2008. The EU-28 unemployment rate was **6.4%** in March 2019, down from 6.5% in February 2019. This is also the lowest rate recorded in the EU28 since January 2000.

Eurostat estimates that 15.907 million people in the EU28 were unemployed in March 2019, a decrease by 172,000 in the EU28 and by 174,000 in the euro area compared with February 2019.

Czechia	1.9%	Ireland	5.4%
Germany	3.2%	Belgium	5.7%
Hungary (Feb.)	3.4%	Slovakia	5.7%
Netherlands	3.3%	Lithuania	5.8%
Poland	3.4%	Sweden	6.3%
Malta	3.5%	Portugal	6.4%
Romania	3.8%	Finland	6.6%
UK (Jan.)	3.8%	Cyprus	7.0%
Slovenia	4.4%	Latvia	7.1%
Estonia (Feb.)	4.6%	Croatia	7.4%
Bulgaria	4.6%	France	8.8%
Austria	4.8%	Italy	10.2%
Denmark (Feb.)	5.0%	Spain	14.0%
Luxembourg	5.5%	Greece (Jan.)	18.5%

### Elsewhere

USA	3.6%	Russia	4.7%
Canada	5.7%	Brazil	12.7%
Japan	2.5%	Australia	5.2%
Switzerland	2.4%	India	3.5%
Turkey	14.7%	China	3.7%

## GENERAL ISSUES



European Council

### EU Strategic Priorities by 2025

The 27 EU leaders began their reflection on the EU's strategic priorities for the next five years, at an informal meeting in Sibiu, Romania, on 9 May. The objective was to show citizens that the will to move forward together is stronger than internal quarrels and geopolitical uncertainties, such as *Brexit*.

We had “a discussion on the European Union's priorities for the coming years”, whether they be “internal or global challenges in a world that is constantly evolving”, said the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, at the end of the meeting.

For his part, the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, noted “a unity, not a facade, but a solid one”, among the Twenty-Seven, and said that the informal meeting had served as a “trial run” for the June summit, both for the adoption of the strategic agenda and for the process of appointments to senior European positions.

Based on a draft sent in advance to the Member States, this first discussion will feed into Mr Tusk's reflection and he will submit, at the beginning of next month, a more detailed draft with a view to the adoption of the 2019-2024 strategic agenda by the European Council in June. This agenda will serve as a source of inspiration for the future President of the European Commission when drawing up their work programme.

As a reminder, the strategic priorities submitted by Mr Tusk to the Member States are: - protecting European citizens and civil liberties; - modernising the EU's economic model; - building a more sustainable and just future; - promoting Europe's interests in the world.

### **A European Commissioner for the Rule of Law**

The issue of respect for the rule of law has been raised several times before the press, in particular on the controversial reforms of the Romanian social democratic government, on which Romanians will have to vote in a referendum called on the day of the European elections by the very host of the summit, Romanian President Klaus Iohannis.

“Romania deserves a lot of attention”, said Mr Juncker. For Mr Tusk, it is clear that respect for the rule of law must be “a founding principle of our political action” and “will be included in our strategic agenda”. Some Member States reportedly advocate the creation of a Commissioner dedicated to respect for the rule of law and democratic values in the EU.

### **Acting for the climate**

Another key issue on the future strategic agenda is the fight against climate change. The constant pressure from youth and civil society, who also held a parade in Sibiu, seems to be bearing fruit: eight Member States have asked the EU to be even more ambitious in accelerating the move towards carbon neutrality by 2050.

Mr Juncker certainly expressed his “sympathy” for this approach. But he recalled that before setting a very long-term objective, the EU should already respect the one set for

2030. And it is not done. On climate ambition, *“it is true that there are still differences”* among the Twenty-Seven, Mr Tusk acknowledged.

On the contrary, for the French President, Emmanuel Macron, *“there is a consensus that climate must be part of the agenda for Europe”*. He proposes setting up a climate bank and to set a minimum price for CO<sub>2</sub> in Europe.

#### **Introduction of a minimum wage**

In addition, according to the French President, the EU will have to *“build the growth and social model of tomorrow”*. A model that rejects ‘social dumping’, he explained, thanks to the introduction of a minimum wage in all Member States.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel stressed European competitiveness and the Union's ability to adapt to technological change. *“Europe will have to impose its perspective in the field of digitisation”*, she stressed, also making this issue an issue of *“sovereignty”*.

#### **Ten commitments**

Very quickly, the Twenty-Seven had adopted, without amending the draft text submitted to them, the ***Sibiu Declaration***, which sets out ten commitments that should guide their action in the future.

Mr Iohannis welcomed the *“positive message”* sent regarding the willingness of Member States to move forward on clear principles, hoping that this message will reach *“the largest number of European citizens”*.

With no real surprises in store, the Sibiu Declaration reaffirms the Twenty-Seven's determination to *“stand united against all odds”*, to *“speak with one voice”*, to continue to *“protect our way of life, democracy and the rule of law”*. Giving itself the means to achieve its ambitions, the EU will intervene *“where it matters most”*, continue to reduce disparities and help the most vulnerable in Europe, *“putting men and women before politics”*.

Several leaders, including Ms Merkel, stressed the power of symbols: 9 May marks the anniversary of the Schuman Declaration, 2019 the fifteenth anniversary of the enlargement to ten Central and Eastern European countries and the thirtieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

21892/Eurostat Press Release – 2019.05.09

### **BREXIT Developments**

#### **Prime Minister Theresa May Resigned**

Prime Minister Theresa May announced her resignation taking effect on 7 June, notably after the state visit to the United Kingdom by US President Donald Trump.

Michel Barnier, the European Union's chief negotiator for *Brexit*, expressed his *“full respect for Theresa May and for her determination as Prime Minister in working towards an orderly withdrawal”* of the United Kingdom from the European Union.

As of 10 June, the race for the leadership of the *Tory* party, and therefore for the position of Prime Minister, will begin, which could last six weeks. Former Foreign Minister Boris Johnson is the favourite - although a total of 17 candidates have expressed interest, including Rory Stewart, Jeremy Hunt, Michael Gove and Sajid Javid.





Mrs May attended the extraordinary European summit in Brussels on 28 May to analyse the results of the European elections. As the United Kingdom is still a Member State, it will take part in discussions on appointments to senior European posts.

The Europeans were again clear: the withdrawal agreement already rejected three times by the British Parliament will not be reopened for negotiation.

Currently, the United Kingdom is scheduled to leave the EU by 31 October at the latest, unless British MEPs approve the withdrawal agreement by then.

21893/Press Release – 2019.05.24

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

### Results of European Elections on 23-26 March 2019 – EP2019

#### **Highest participation rate in 20 years**

50.5% of European went to the polls for the 2019 European elections, the European Parliament announced on Sunday 26 May at the end of the election, 8 points more than in 2014 (42.61%).

This rate is the highest in 20 years and has risen for the first time since the 1979 elections, when turnout was 61.99%. Since these first elections by universal suffrage 40 years ago, voter turnout has been steadily declining.

In many countries, the participation rate rose by about 10 points or more, as in Germany to 59% and France (54%) and by 20 points in Spain (64.36%). It nearly doubled in Poland, from 23.83% to 43%.

In the United Kingdom, the participation rate increased by 1.4 points to 37%.

On the other hand, it decreased in Portugal, Ireland and Malta, among other countries. But participation is highly disparate, ranging from 22.74% in Slovakia to 89.64% in Belgium, where voting is mandatory.

21894/Press Release – 2019.05.26

#### **The results of the European elections point to a very divided European Parliament**

While the Christian Democrats of the EPP and the Social Democrats of the S&D remain the two largest groups but both lost votes and, between them, no longer have an absolute majority. The liberal ALDE and Greens/EFA groups have gained seats. As expected, the far-right parties are gaining ground, while the far left is clearly in retreat.

#### **The EPP still in the lead**

The EPP won the elections with a provisional result of 179 seats (23.83%). While it remains the largest group, it may lose as many as 38 seats compared to the previous legislature when it had 216 elected representatives.

#### **The S&D in decline**

The S&D group's situation is the same as that of the EPP: fewer seats than before, but still the same position. The S&D is expected to lose 35 seats compared to the previous term (150 compared to 185) but nevertheless maintain its second position in the Chamber, behind the EPP.

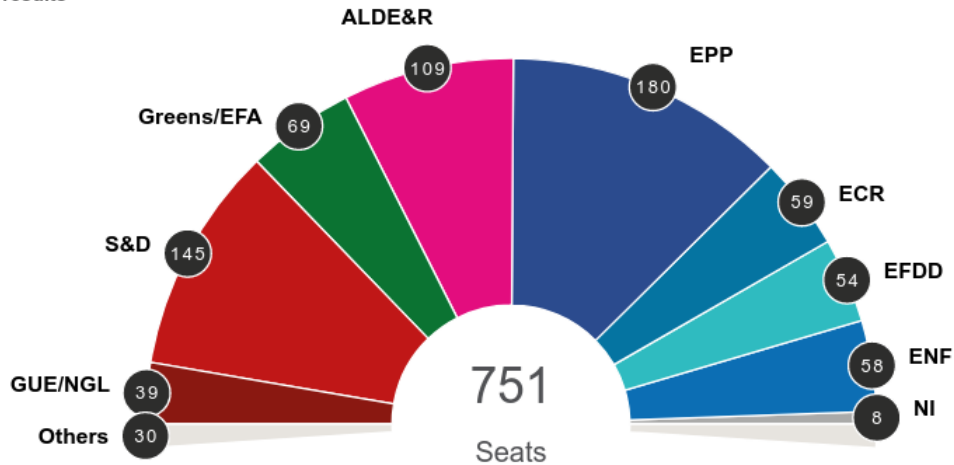


27/05/2019 - 15:05

All times are GMT+2

## European Parliament 2019 - 2024

Provisional results



### Political groups in the European Parliament

- **EPP** - Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)
- **S&D** - Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament
- **ECR** - European Conservatives and Reformists Group
- **ALDE&R** - Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe + Renaissance + USR PLUS
- **GUE/NGL** - Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left
- **Greens/EFA** - Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance
- **EFDD** - Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy Group
- **ENF** - Europe of Nations and Freedom Group
- **NI** - Non-attached Members
- **Others** - Newly elected Members not allied to any of the political groups set up in the outgoing Parliament

Since 2009, according to Parliament's rules of procedure, a political group shall consist of at least 25 Members elected in at least seven Member States.

Composition of the European Parliament based on available provisional or final national results published after voting has finished in all Member States, based on the structure of the outgoing Parliament.

Source: European Parliament in collaboration with Kantar



### **The ALDE sees strong growth**

The Liberals, along with the Greens, are the big winners of these elections, with 38 additional deputies, going from 69 seats to 107 seats.

France is expected to represent the largest contingent in the group with 21 members, 14 more than in the current Parliament, ahead of the British Lib Dems (16 seats compared to one at present) and far ahead of Romania (seven – compared to six at present), Spain (eight, as at present) and Germany (seven compared to four up until now).

The Liberal Group will also see the arrival of new delegations with two Hungarians, two Poles and two Slovaks. However, despite these good results, several delegations are losing members, notably Belgium (-2), Portugal (-1) and the Netherlands (-1) and the group is losing its Italian delegation (-1).

### **Progress for environmentalists**

For the environmental families, it was also a time for celebration. While the Greens/EFA group was composed of 52 MEPs in the previous Parliament, the new results show an increase of 18 MEPs for a total of 70 members.

It is in Germany that the Green Party's result was most notable, with 20.70% of the votes cast. It is expected to send 22 MEPs to Parliament. In France too, the results were surprising, since the Europe Ecology-The Greens obtained 13.13% of the votes, i.e. 12 elected representatives, while polls credited the party with less than 10% of intended votes.

### **Extreme groups have less momentum than expected**

The Europe of Nations and Freedoms (ENF) group, which brings together far-right parties and took more than a year to form after the 2014 European elections, will increase from 37 to 58 seats. This is certainly an expansion, but not the heralded landslide.

In Italy, the Lega, led by the Minister of the Interior, Matteo Salvini, won 28.70% of the votes. This party saw the biggest increase, from five to 24 seats.

The French Rassemblement National (RN), which came in first in France with 23.54%, won 22 seats. However, this score was lower than 2014, when the party, then known as the *Front National* (FN), won 24.86%, or 23 seats.

In Belgium, *Vlaams Belang* made real progress, obtaining 11.53%, or three seats, this year compared to 4.26% in 2014.

In Austria, the *Ibizagate* scandal, which destabilised the Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ) and caused the fall of the government coalition with the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP), does not seem to have discouraged its voters. The party obtained 17.20% of the votes (three seats), a slight decrease from its result in 2014 (19.72%; four seats).

The Czech SPD won two seats (7.50%).

In the Netherlands, on the other hand, the forecasted victory of the extreme right and the populists did not take place. Geert Wilders' Party for Freedom (PVV) lost three seats and kept only one.

At the beginning of April, representatives of the Lega, the German AfD, which belongs to the EFDD group, the True Finns and the Danish People's Party, belonging to the ECR group, announced their plans to form a large political group.

#### **The EFDD gains ground**

With 56 seats compared to 42 in 2014, the Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy Group (EFDD) remains behind the ENF and Conservative (ECR) groups, but it can boast about very good results in the United Kingdom. Nigel Farage's Brexit Party (formerly Ukip) is expected to win 29 seats, or 31.71% of the vote.

As for the Italian Five Star Movement, which received 20.1% of the vote and third place in Italy, the movement led by Luigi de Maio will not succeed in forming a larger European group, according to the Italian media.

In Germany, AfD is credited with 11 seats compared to one in 2014.

#### **Conservatives on the decline**

The Group of European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) is one of the big losers of this election night.

In the previous European Parliament, the ECR was composed of 77 members, the third largest group in the European body. It is expected to lose 19 elected officials, leaving 58 parliamentarians. If these figures are confirmed, the group would therefore only be the fifth-largest political force, on par with the anti-European ENF.

While the Polish Conservatives (PiS) recorded an increase (22 deputies compared to 14 in the previous legislature), the Belgians of the N-VA lost one deputy, and the German Conservatives no longer have a representative in the next Parliament.

Above all, it is the British delegation that suffered the greatest loss. It had 19 representatives in the previous legislature, and now there are only four.

#### **The GUE/NGL in sharp decline**

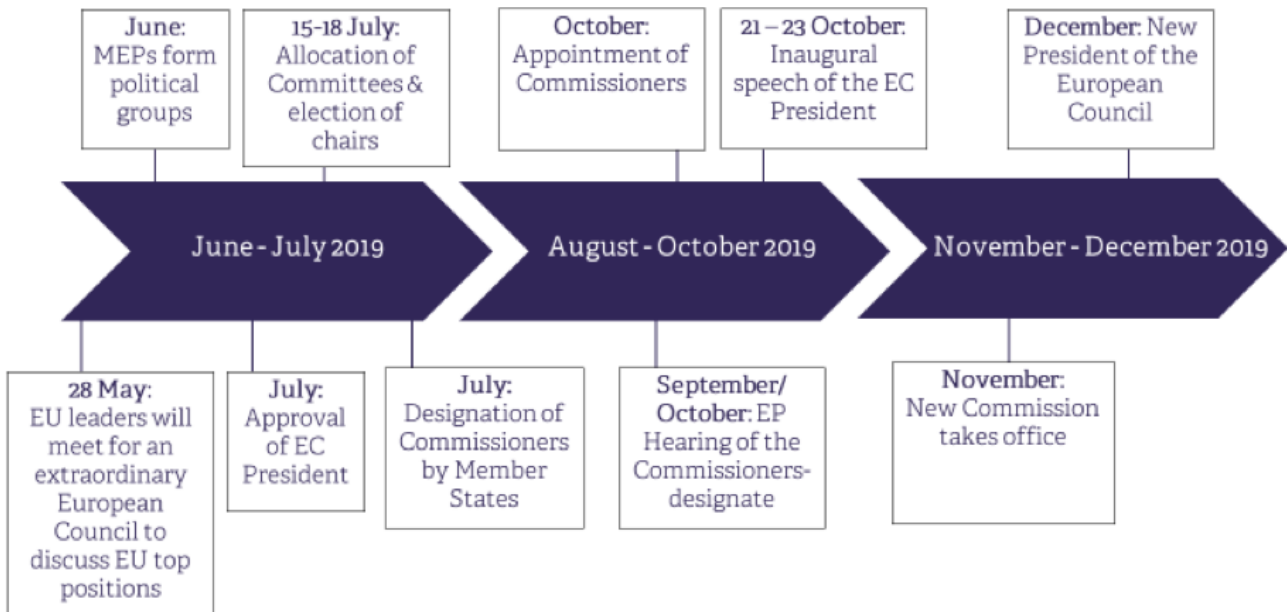
The election was a big disappointment for the Confederal Group of the European United Left and the Nordic Green Left. The group has fallen from 52 to 38 MEPs, with the highest losses in Spain (five elected representatives compared to 10 previously), Germany (five compared to eight previously) and Italy (none compared to three previously).

*"We didn't get the results we hoped for. We will try to communicate better in the future about our priorities, social and climate issues, and we will continue our work",* said the lead candidate on the far left, Belgian Nico Cué.

However, this metalworker can celebrate seeing his party, the Belgian Labour Party, send its very first MEP to Strasbourg.

The GUE/NGL group also won an additional seat in France, reaching six MEPs. Greece will also send six deputies. No other Member State will send additional representatives from the United Left.

**Timeline of Next Steps**



21894/Press Release – 2019.05.26

**Inflation Rate**

Latest Eurostat figures show that the annual inflation rate was **1.7% in April 2019 in the Euro area**, up from 1.4% in March. **The EU28** annual inflation was **1.9% in April 2019**, up from 1.6% in March.

The largest contribution to the annual euro area inflation rate came from services (+0.86%), followed by energy (+0.51%), food, alcohol & tobacco (+0.29%), and non-energy industrial goods (+0.06%).

Croatia	0.8%	Belgium	2.0%
Denmark	0.9%	Germany	2.1%
Portugal	0.9%	Poland	2.1%
Greece	1.1%	Sweden	2.1%
Italy	1.1%	Luxembourg	2.2%
Cyprus	1.2%	Czechia	2.4%
France	1.5%	Slovakia	2.4%
Finland	1.5%	Lithuania	2.7%
Spain	1.6%	Netherlands	3.0%
Ireland	1.7%	Bulgaria	3.1%
Malta	1.7%	Estonia	3.2%
Austria	1.7%	Latvia	3.3%
Slovenia	1.8%	Hungary	3.9%
UK	1.9%	Romania	4.4%

**Elsewhere**

USA	2.0%	Russia	5.2%
Canada	2.0%	Brazil	4.9%
Japan	0.9%	Australia	1.3%
Switzerland	0.7%	India	2.9%
Turkey	19.5%	China	2.5%

21895/Eurostat News Release – 2019.05.17

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## GLASS NEWS

### FLAT GLASS

#### Glass Companies

##### Saint-Gobain

Saint-Gobain NOVA, the external ventures arm of one of the world's largest building materials companies and manufacturer of innovative material solutions, has named Sven Harmsen as Director of External Ventures. In this role, Harmsen will help drive Saint-Gobain NOVA's broader growth strategy as well as the company's strategy around engagement and investment in startups and their relationships with Saint-Gobain businesses.



With more than 15 years of experience in business development and investment in venture capital backed start-ups and large corporations, Harmsen's expertise will help Saint-Gobain NOVA enhance its partnership activities with like-minded startups and grow the company's investment portfolio.

He will also be actively involved in ensuring the success of the InNOVate 2019 Challenge, an accelerator program developed in partnership with CertainTeed, Saint-Gobain's leading building and construction brand, and Greentown Labs, the largest cleantech incubator in the U.S., with the goal of developing innovative technologies to disrupt the built environment value chain.



For more information about Saint-Gobain NOVA: [www.nova-saint-gobain.com](http://www.nova-saint-gobain.com).

21896/Press Release – 2019.05.06

## NSG



### **NSG breaks ground on new float glass line in the USA**

The new manufacturing facility of the NSG Group is the first one in the USA since 1980. The new 500,000-square foot manufacturing plant is in Luckey, Ohio, and will produce transparent conductive oxide (TCO) coated glass to support its key customer, First Solar. The new facility is expected to be operational in the fourth quarter of the 2020 calendar year.

Todd Huffman, overall project manager of solar projects for NSG Group in North America, says the move was made to support the growing solar market.

"Global solar demand is expected see a double-digit growth every year over the next three years," he said. "...The decision to invest in the expanded production capacity is based on NSG Group's commitment to meet the needs of our key customer First Solar."

The Ohio plant will have a melting capacity of 600 tons per day and produce TCO coated glass using NSG's online coating technology. The production facility will also manufacture low-E and solar control glass for buildings and other markets employing transparent conductive films. The plant could create up to 150 new jobs in the area.

"The NSG Group's total investment will take place over the next three years and will include the upgrade and restart of a float line in Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh) and the construction of the new glass plant in Luckey, Ohio," continued Huffman.

The total cost of the solar expansion in Vietnam and the U.S. is estimated to be 350 million USD.

21897/Press Release – 2019.05.03



**AGC**

**1. Forglass has started a new project for AGC MOL Belgium.**

The project calls for design and construction of a new cullet return line for the client’s float furnace.

The project provides for a large number of hoppers, which must not only be fabricated of suitable steel, but also precisely designed for convenient handling within the facility and for easy delivery and assembly on site.

The second aspect of the project involves equipment such as vibrating chutes, crushers and belt conveyors.

Thirdly, all equipment will be assembled by a dedicated Forglass team, people who have extensive experience with the equipment and the methods of its installation in a glass factory.

21898/Press Release – 2019.05.07

**2. AGC Pyrobel earns Silver Cradle to Cradle certification**

AGC Glass Europe has received Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Silver status for fire-resistant glass products Pyrobel and Pyrobelite



AGC Glass Europe began its journey towards Cradle to Cradle certification and confirmed its commitment to continuously enhancing the environmental performance of its products by obtaining Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Silver for its fire-resistant glass products Pyrobel and Pyrobelite2.

By obtaining the Cradle to Cradle Silver certification for fire-resistant glass products, AGC continues to meet its goal of making sustainable glass products. The overall certification level for the Pyrobel and Pyrobelite ranges is Silver, reaching Gold in four of the five categories: Material Reutilisation, Water Stewardship, Renewable Energy & Carbon Management and Social Fairness.

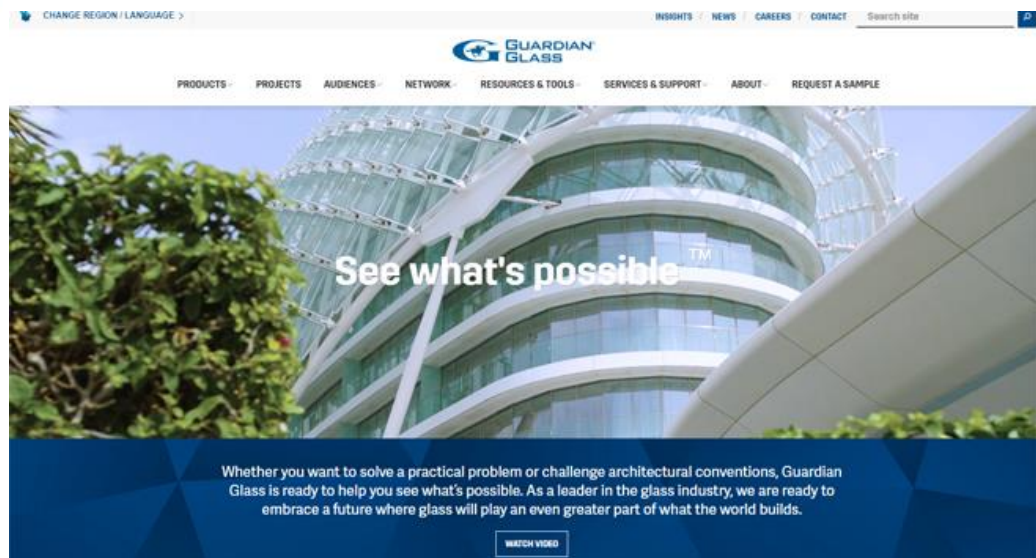
21899/Press Release – 2019.05.22



### Guardian Glass

1. Guardian Glass has launched its new redesigned global website to help visitors see what's possible with new imagery and content featured in updated paths.

<https://www.guardianglass.com/>



Important new components include:

- Visitor journeys that are more personal and deliver the right information faster for the architect, fabricator or glazier
- Regularly refreshed news, education and resource updates from the new Insights page
- An expanded, inspiring project gallery with more comprehensive information on how to build with light
- Enhanced video and animation to improve navigation and content delivery
- Automated product data generation that eliminates human error in updates across platforms and the new Projects search section

21900/Press Release – 2019.05.09

2. Guardian Glass inaugurates **new laminated glass production line in Orosháza, Hungary.**

Guardian Glass welcomed Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Hungary's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Mr. Zoltán Dávid, Orosháza's Mayor; Mr. David Kostelancik, Chargé d'Affaires United States Embassy to Hungary; Mr. Tamás Iván Kovács, Hungarian Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg; and Mr. Marc Ungeheuer, Luxembourg Ambassador to Austria and Hungary, for the official inauguration of the company's new laminating line at its float glass.



*Left to right: Guus Boekhoudt, Vice President Guardian Glass and Managing Director at Guardian Europe s. à r.l.; Jean Ries, Director Government and Public Affairs Europe at Guardian Europe s. à r.l.; Péter Szijjártó, Hungary's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade | Photo Guardian Glass, LLC.*

Guardian Glass invested in the new laminated glass production line to support the increasing demand for laminated glass in Europe. The state-of-the-art line produces both standard and coated laminated glass, as well as specialty products such as acoustic, thick, coated and coloured laminated glass.

The rising demand for laminated glass is being driven by three long-term trends:

- Country-level regulations in Europe require the use of safety glass in an increasing number of fenestration and interior applications, for which laminated glass is the most effective solution.
- The desire for buildings to have more natural light is driving the trend towards larger, energy-efficient windows, which requires the use of laminated glass for higher mechanical resistance and security.
- A general rise in demand for noise reduction for both residential and commercial buildings has increased the use of acoustic laminated glass.



The new fully automated line is already producing 150 truckloads of laminated glass per month, primarily for customers in Hungary, Romania and the Balkan countries. The new line is also a logical continuation of a change initiated at the plant by Guardian Glass in 2016, with a switch from standard clear float glass production to Guardian's higher light transmission alternative, Guardian ExtraClear®, to meet the increased need for more natural daylight in buildings.

21901/Press Release – 2019.05.10

### Glas Trösch

The grand opening of Trösch 5<sup>th</sup> float line took place in Ujazd (Poland), - production is already running at full capacity, barely three months after ignition of the new melting furnace.

The project's construction schedule was very ambitious in its planning and implementation. This enabled the furnace to be lit just 51 weeks after the ground-breaking ceremony. The experienced project team even managed to reduce the construction period by two months compared to the previous tank.

The new furnace is named "Gabriela". This follows the tradition that each Euroglas furnace bears its patron's first name. In this case the daughter of Euroglas Polska's Managing Director Piotr Noga.



*Piotr Noga, Euroglas Polska's Managing Director*



*Erich Trösch compliments the Polish project team*

The additional capacity enables Euroglas Polska to satisfy increased demand in the Polish and European glass market.

21902/Press Release – 2019.05.29

## Miscellaneous

### New TNO Study Quantifies Energy Savings and CO2 Emission Reduction Potential from Glazing

*Actionable and targeted policy measures on glazing can already make a huge difference in 10 years, if implemented soon!*

A new study by the Dutch scientific institute TNO, commissioned by Glass for Europe, finds that nearly 30% of Europe's building energy consumption for heating and cooling could be saved in 2030 if all Europe's buildings were equipped with high-performance glazing. To Glass for Europe, it is striking to note that almost half of these savings could be realised in as little as 10 years should the renovation rate of windows be doubled, i.e. from 2% to 4% annually, and that newly installed windows be equipped with high-performance glazing.

The study by TNO is a quantification of both energy and CO2 savings that can be realised for heating and cooling of buildings thanks to high-performance glazing across the 28 EU Member States in both horizons 2030 and 2050. In addition to full potentials, whereby all windows are equipped with high-performance glazing across all EU buildings, it also simulates the impacts of several window replacement rates, all compared to a baseline scenario.

**Leo Bakker, author of the study and Façade expert at TNO**, explains: *"This study is an update of studies realised by TNO on the same topic a decade ago. It incorporates fresh data, for example on Europe's building stock and its performance and on the decarbonisation of the energy mix, but its main novelty is that it quantifies savings induced by increased window replacement rates. This allows to identify the potential in window retrofitting, when equipped with high-performance glazing, whose properties were provided by Glass for Europe's experts".*

Christian Quenett, Chairman of Glass for Europe and Head of Architectural Glass Europe at the NSG Group, **declares: "This study demonstrates once more the massive energy savings and induced CO2 emission reduction that is made possible thanks to high-performance glazing, which are readily available in Europe. Most interestingly, it highlights that these long-lasting savings could be realised rapidly if building and energy-efficiency policies across Europe were effective at supporting a doubling of the building renovation rate and the uptake of high-performance glass products."**

**Bertrand Cazes, Secretary General of Glass for Europe**, adds: *"When Member States are busy looking for effective climate mitigation measures and designing long-term plans for the renovation of buildings, it arises from this study that Member States can already go a long way with actionable and targeted policy measures on glazing. Support mechanisms to window retrofitting, reviewed performance requirements and incentives to adopt high-performance glazing will make a big difference. The sooner the better!"*

**Glass for Europe draws the following conclusions:**

- High-performance glazing in windows offer a massive energy reduction potential: **75 Mtoe representing 29% of building energy consumption for heating and cooling and 94 Million tonnes of CO2** could be saved in 2030 in the EU, should all buildings be equipped with high-performance glazing.
- **As much as 36 Mtoe, i.e. nearly half of the full potential, could be realised in 2030** by doubling the window renovation rate from 2% to 4% annually with readily available high-performance glazing. This shows that effective measures to support window replacement and installation of high-performance glazing would be enough to already make substantial building efficiency and decarbonisation progress.
- Cumulated savings between 2020 and 2030, would reach as much 200 Mtoe and above 240 Million tonnes of CO2 **thanks to a doubling of the window renovation rate with high-performance glazing. Considering windows offer long-lasting savings, it is in the interest of both citizens and the climate to act rapidly.**
- As cooling equipment is expected to boom all across Europe, substantial savings in cooling buildings are to be realised from adequately using high-performance solar-control glass. **Energy consumption from cooling could be reduced by 27,6% all across Europe in 2050.** In the South of Europe, savings from cooling could reach as much as 36%. It is essential to use the 'energy balance' approach to assess performance and to choose glazing that maximise savings from both heating and cooling, without recourse to extra shading equipment.
- Upgrading glazing in buildings enables Europe's decarbonisation and makes sense in a 2050 perspective when buildings become carbon neutral. Even when Europe's energy mix is being largely decarbonised, **37,4% of CO2 emissions from buildings could be saved in 2050 thanks to advance glazing.** In fact, the contribution of glazing to decarbonisation could turn out to be much higher, as this figure does not encompass savings which will be generated by the uptake of switchable / electrochromic glazing, glazing-integrated photovoltaics or other novel glazing technologies.

More on Glass for Europe website: <https://glassforeurope.com/glazing-saving-potential-2030-2050/>

21903/Press Release – 2019.05.13

## CONTAINER GLASS

### Glass Companies

#### Ardagh

Ardagh Group has produced the latest evolution of Absolut's Elyx vodka bottle, which celebrates the role that copper plays in the distillation process of the luxury vodka



Fredrik Kallqvist, Development Manager of Ardagh Group's Glass Nordic division explained how the new bottle design has really pushed the boundaries of industrial glass production. "The bottle's square cross-section and areas combining heavy patterns with smooth sections meant we had to prepare for different cooling behaviours in different parts of the bottle. Also, the large labels in the new design required the bottle to be produced with demanding geometrical precision to achieve the perfect labelling platform."

Ardagh's involvement in the project from the very beginning was key to successfully developing the design. The Nordic team at Ardagh provided valuable manufacturing expertise when Absolut's London-based design agency, Stranger & Stranger, presented their initial concepts for the new bottle.

The long-standing partnership between Ardagh and The Absolut Company was key to delivering this challenging design in a short timeframe. All sizes have been produced in Limmared, Sweden with excellent results.

Absolut Elyx is Absolut's luxury, single-estate vodka brand. The new, faceted bottle design pays homage to the hand-operated vintage copper column still from 1921, which plays a vital role in creating Elyx's smooth finish.

### Verallia Group



Verallia starts the year with solid results.

Revenue came in at 633 million EUR for the first quarter of 2019, representing reported growth of 6.7 percent. The currency effect had a negative impact of 19 million EUR (-3.3 percent) on the quarterly performance, mainly due to the continued depreciation of the Argentine peso against the euro.

At constant exchange rates, revenue rose 9.9 percent, driven by a significant volume/mix improvement in all regions. Verallia also further demonstrated its ability to pass on the rise in energy and raw material costs to its selling prices.

In Southern and Western Europe (SWE, comprising France, Spain, Portugal and Italy), revenue grew by 7.1 percent on both a reported basis and at constant exchange rates. Along with a general rise in prices, volumes for the region were upbeat, fuelled by strong momentum in the wine market in which Verallia enjoys leading positions.

In Northern and Eastern Europe (NEE, comprising Germany, Russia, Ukraine and Poland), reported revenue climbed 11 percent; changes in exchange rates had a slightly negative impact of 0.7 percent related mainly to the depreciation of the Russian ruble, partly offset by small gains in the Ukrainian hryvnia against the euro. At constant exchange rates, NEE delivered 11.7 percent revenue growth, spurred by the volumes in all countries and across all product ranges. Selling price increases are being implemented as expected to compensate cost inflation especially on the energy.

In Latin America (comprising Brazil, Argentina and Chile), the 4.3 percent decline in reported revenue results from the further depreciation in currencies in the region, in particular the Argentine peso.

At constant exchange rates, Latin America actually delivered strong 26.4 percent growth on the back of good sales momentum, especially in Brazil, and a strong resilience in Argentina. The policy of increasing selling prices held firm in a highly inflationary environment, chiefly in Argentina which is still considered a hyper-inflationary economy, requiring application of IAS 29, consistently with FY 2018. The closure of the historic São Paulo site and the start-up of the new plant in Jacutinga, (State of Minas Gerais, Brazil) were a success.

Adjusted EBITDA grew sharply, up 18.8 percent (up 22.3 percent at constant exchange rates) to 142 million EUR, driven by robust revenue growth coupled with a continued improvement in plants' productivity. The impact of the first application of IFRS 16 represented 5.5 million EUR on the adjusted EBITDA in Q1 2019. Adjusted EBITDA margin increased by 230 bps, including 90 bps due to the IFRS 16 impact, reaching 22.5 percent.

Net income improved strongly to 27.4 million EUR, compared to 10.4 million EUR in Q1 2018, thanks to the increase in adjusted EBITDA and finance costs decreasing from (25.4) million EUR in Q1 2018 to (21.9) million EUR in Q1 2019.

### Outlook

After this good start to the year, Verallia confirms the outlook announced in February for full-year 2019. The Group continues to roll out its strategy, which should allow it to deliver on the following objectives:

- (i) organic growth in revenue and adjusted EBITDA;
- (ii) additional adjusted EBITDA margin growth;
- (iii) disciplined capex spending with recurring capex of around 8 percent of revenue (excluding IFRS 16); and
- (iv) stronger cash flow generation.

Verallia and its shareholders are considering an Initial Public Offering of the Group on Euronext Paris in 2019, to support the group's growth strategy, subject to market conditions.

21905/Press Release – 2019.05.06

### Gerresheimer



Dr. Bernd Metzner takes up the position of Chief Financial Officer of Gerresheimer AG on May 15, 2019, Dr. Metzner has been Chief Financial Officer of SDAX-listed Ströer SE & Co. KGaA since 2014



After studying business administration in Siegen, Germany, completing his doctorate and starting his career at a law firm, Dr. Metzner held various management positions in finance at the Bayer Group between 2002 and 2011. Among other roles, he was responsible for coordinating the carve-out and initial public offering of Lanxess and held the position of CFO at Bayer Italy as well as that of global CFO in Bayer's Pharmaceuticals Division. Before joining Ströer, he served as CFO of the global, family-owned Döhler Group from mid-2011 to mid-2014.

The Management Board of Gerresheimer AG (as of May 15, 2019):

- Dietmar Siemssen, CEO, responsible among other things for the Plastics & Devices and Advanced Technologies Divisions
- Dr. Bernd Metzner, CFO
- Dr. Lukas Burkhardt, Management Board member responsible for the Primary Packaging Glass Division

21906/Press Release – 2019.05.15



### Beatson Clark



New bottle for LA Brewery's range of Kombucha, Apothecary bottle lends distinctive look to LA Brewery's range of Kombucha fermented teas.



When Louise Avery was looking for a new bottle for LA Brewery's range of kombucha fermented teas, she knew she wanted a distinctive design that would really make her teas stand out from the increasing competition.

Thanks to glass packaging specialists Rawlings and manufacturer Beatson Clark, LA Brewery's range of flavoured kombucha teas is now on sale in an eye-catching clear pharmaceutical bottle.

Through Rawlings, Beatson Clark is supplying a 300ml white flint Alpha Sirop bottle from its apothecary range.

Charlotte Taylor, Marketing Manager at Beatson Clark, commented, "Our apothecary range of pharmaceutical bottles look great on the shelf and they can give a drinks brand a really distinctive, vintage look.

"We're pleased to say that the range is becoming more and more popular with our customers, particularly for artisan spirits such as flavoured gins.

"Customers can even have these bottles embossed with their own name, logo or design, and the resulting bottle will still cost much less than a bespoke container that we've designed for them."

Beatson Clark's apothecary range includes Winchesters, Tablet bottles and jars, Alpha Sirops 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.

21907/Press Release – 2019.05.13

### Verescence

verescence

Verescence has inaugurated a capacity increase of its hot stamping workshop in its Somme plant, in Abbeville, France.

The company's president Thomas Riou, General Manager France, H el ene Marchand, and Factory Director, Thierry Calmard, presented the various investments conducted at the site to local dignitaries.

The company has invested in the decoration facility for the past decade to improve the performance of its hot stamping production lines and said it was at the forefront of technology. The site has hired an additional 30 staff in that time.

21908/Press Release – 2019.05.07

### **SGD Pharma**



SGD Pharma is to invest €20 million in its Sucy-En-Brie, France glassmaking site.

The pharmaceutical glassmaker, along with its shareholder JIC, plans to rebuild the furnace and modernise the century-old site. The factory has 400 employees and has been dedicated to producing pharmaceutical glass vials and bottles since 1917. It supplies syrups, droppers, tablets, injectable and infusion bottles to more than 450 customers around the world.

It covers the following therapeutic areas: oral and parenteral antibiotics, parenteral nutrition, respiratory illness, pain-relievers, anesthetics, and OTC.

Every year, Sucy produces number of bottles of Type II & III flint and amber moulded glass bottles, making the factory one of the largest players in the European health care industry.

Its 41,000m<sup>2</sup> surface includes two furnaces and eight production lines connected to ISO 8 clean rooms. The factory operates under stringent quality requirements and is certified ISO 15378 & 50001.

The furnace renovation will include a complete rebuild using advanced technologies to meet its continuous improvement initiatives while reducing its environmental footprint. Benefits to our customers: a continued improvement in the quality of products, increased production flexibility, and a greater adaptation to market needs.

The renovation, which will take a few weeks, has been planned for almost a year which allowed has allowed the company to optimise the stock management of critical items as well as establishing runs on the second furnace to ensure continuous supply.

21909/Press Release – 2019.05.20

## Miscellaneous

### Scottish DRS (deposit return scheme) 'will damage UK glass manufacturing'

British Glass, the body representing the £1.6bn UK glass sector, said it was 'deeply disappointed' by the Scottish Parliament's decision to bring in a **deposit return scheme** (DRS) for recycling which includes glass.

Chief Executive Dave Dalton said: "We have been warning for a long time that the system will have damaging consequences for the UK glass manufacturing sector.

"The UK sector has led moves to increase recycling through investments in infrastructure and communications. Including glass in the proposed DRS will undermine these efforts, increase cost and reduce the amount of glass recycled into new containers.

"The DRS plans will derail the high levels of recycling already achieved through the existing systems. That is not to say that we are happy with the recycling rate and are resting on our laurels. We fully recognise there is further work to be done to increase recycling of glass containers – but the DRS is not the way forward and will result in less recycling and more glass being disposed of via landfill or incineration."

Mr Dalton added: "Despite presenting hard facts to the Scottish Government and its agency Zero Waste Scotland on the negative effects across the UK and the unintended consequences of including glass in the DRS, they refuse to take a pragmatic and common sense approach in designing the scheme.

"We accept that for some materials a deposit return scheme will work well and help the Scottish Government achieve its objectives of reducing litter and increasing recycling, but the case to include glass is not clear cut.

"We have presented the Scottish Government and Zero Waste Scotland with an independent assessment of the market dynamics, and the costs and operational difficulties involved in including glass within the DRS, but they are unwilling to listen.

"Including glass in a DRS will result in a 28% increase in the day-to-day operational cost of the scheme. These are costs that will ultimately be passed on to the consumer – on top of the deposit required. The effects of this will be catastrophic for the glass manufacturing sector in Scotland. It will mean a drop in the sale of beverages in glass and a knock-on effect on manufacturing."

John Lee, Head of Policy and Public Affairs at the Scottish Grocers Federation said: "We are massively disappointed to see glass being included within the scope of the Scottish system. This presents major challenges for small retailers. We will work with key industry colleagues through the Parliamentary process to ensure MSPs understand the issues around glass."

Miles Beale, Chief Executive of the Wine and Spirit Trade Associations, whose members are major customers of the glass container sector, said: "We believe glass is the perfect option for packaging liquid. "All UK politicians should recognise this and seek to encourage the use of glass rather than include it in any DRS."

It is anticipated that the DRS would come into effect in 2020.

21910/Press Release – 2019.05.09



## DOMESTIC TABLEWARE AND CRYSTAL GLASS

### Glass Company

#### Libbey Group



#### **1. Libbey Inc. reported results for the first quarter ended March 31, 2019.**

- Net sales were \$175.0 million, compared to \$181.9 million in the prior-year period, a 3.8 percent decrease (or a decrease of 2.1 percent, excluding a \$3.2 million currency impact).
- Gross profit was \$34.0 million, or 19.4 percent of net sales compared to \$33.7 million or 18.5 percent of net sales in the first quarter of the prior year.
- Net loss was \$4.5 million, compared to a net loss of \$3.0 million in the first quarter of 2018.
- Adjusted EBITDA (see Table 1) was \$9.7 million, compared to \$11.9 million in the first quarter of 2018.
- E-commerce sales were approximately 13 percent of total U.S. & Canada retail sales, an increase of approximately 39 percent compared to the first quarter of 2018.

Net sales in the U.S. & Canada segment increased 1.8 percent, primarily driven by favourable price and product mix sold, partially offset by unfavourable channel mix and lower volume.

In Latin America, net sales decreased 11.5 percent (a decrease of 10.0 percent excluding currency fluctuation) as a result of lower volume and unfavourable currency. In addition, the segment experienced unfavourable product mix within the retail and business-to-business channels.

Net sales in the EMEA segment decreased 13.0 percent (a decrease of 6.1 percent excluding currency fluctuation), driven primarily by lower volume and an unfavourable currency impact, partially offset by favourable price and product mix across all three channels.

Net sales in Other decreased 10.5 percent primarily as a result of unfavourable currency and lower volume.

21911/Press Release – 2019.04.30

#### **2. Libbey Expands Premium Tabletop Offering with Addition of Serveware & Buffetware by APS Germany**

Libbey Inc. will add premium serveware and buffetware products to its full spectrum tabletop offering through an exclusive distribution agreement with Assheuer + Pott GmbH & Co. KG (APS®), manufacturer and distributor of catering products based in Germany.

Through the distribution agreement, Libbey will offer more than 300 catering, buffet and tabletop products that provide innovative solutions for hotel, restaurant and catering customers in the U.S. and Canada. The assortment includes buffet display stands and risers in metal and wood options, high quality melamine serving trays and bowls in a variety of styles, including faux wood, faux concrete and faux cast iron; chafing dishes and beverage dispensers. Most of the products are stackable and feature interlocking systems for stability. Additionally, most products can serve multiple purposes and are interchangeable enabling the greatest flexibility.

The APS serveware and buffetware will join Libbey's upscale Artistry Collection™ of curated, premium tableware brands that provide a rich and varied palette of elements to beautifully frame food and beverage presentations.

The products will be available to ship in the fourth quarter.

In addition to the new APS serveware and buffetware products, the Artistry Collection includes SCHÖNWALD and Playground dinnerware, Spiegelau and Nachtmann glassware, and VIVA® Scandinavia teaware, in select markets.

For more information, visit <https://foodservice.libbey.com/Artistry-Collection>.

21912/Press Release – 2019.05.16

## REINFORCEMENT GLASS FIBRES

### Glass Company

#### Owens Corning



With the publishing of its 2018 Sustainability Report, titled "Difference Driven," Owens Corning is proud to showcase how the company's employees deliver a material difference every day for its stakeholders. For Owens Corning, "Difference Driven" means always looking ahead to what its workforce can do next to materially improve the world. "We aspire to be a net-positive company, where our handprint – our positive impact – exceeds our footprint," Chief Executive Officer Brian Chambers said. "Our team is committed to challenging the status quo and developing innovative solutions that meet the needs of the present and improve the world we leave to future generations."

Owens Corning's 13th annual report highlights the company's sustainability advancements and summarizes progress toward its 2020 sustainability goals. Owens Corning takes a holistic view of sustainability as a concept that drives all aspects of its enterprise and that is advanced by the work of its 20,000 employees in everything they do.

Chief Sustainability Officer Frank O'Brien-Bernini added, "As the science continues to evolve, we'll continue setting ambitious science-based sustainability goals to guide us. We are committed to reducing our environmental footprint – including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and waste – while challenging ourselves to grow our handprint. This brings our purpose, 'our people and products make the world a better place,' to life."

Some projects highlighted in Owens Corning's 2018 Sustainability Report include:

- Launched the first formaldehyde-free perimeter fire containment system in North America. The system relies on the company's Thermafiber®, Firespan® and Safing® mineral wool insulation. It offers architects and specifiers a way to meet green building requirements without compromising on fire safety.
- Increased the number of products with a "Made with 100% Wind-Powered Electricity and Reduced Embodied Carbon" certification, including EcoTouch® insulation for flexible duct and QuietR® duct board insulation. This gives commercial architects and specifiers, builders, and even homeowners the option of lower-carbon products to build greener structures.
- Adopted a new policy to limit initial opioid prescriptions to three days in the U.S. In one year, this policy has reduced the number of opioid pills dispensed through the company's U.S. health plans by 40%. By limiting initial prescriptions to three days, the policy facilitates more constructive discussions between patients and doctors, ultimately reducing the risk of addiction.
- Achieved tobacco-free status at 100% of U.S. legacy facilities, a significant step toward the goal of being a fully tobacco-free company. The company provides many resources to help employees and their families achieve their own health and wellness goals, including smoking cessation support.

The full report is available online at:

<https://www.owenscorning.com/corporate/sustainability/docs/2019/2018-Owens-Corning-Sustainability-Report.pdf>

21913/Press Release – 2019.05.15

### **Johns Manville**



Johns Manville (JM), a leading manufacturer and marketer of premium-quality building and specialty products and a Berkshire Hathaway company, announced today John Vasuta is the new President of the company's Engineered Products business.



Vasuta (pictured) will lead a global business that manufactures premium-quality glass fibre nonwovens, polyester spunbonds and glass fibres for the building and construction industry, as well as for automotive, industrial and residential applications.

JM products cover an extensive range of applications such as waterproofing membranes, flooring, building and technical insulation, air and liquid filtration, energy storage, composites and gypsum boards. The business operates manufacturing plants in the United States, Germany, Slovakia and China.

“Johns Manville is built on a rich history and has a well-earned reputation as a global market leader,” Vasuta said. “I am excited to join the company and to lead the Engineered Products business.”

Vasuta most recently worked at Bridgestone Corp. as President and Managing Director, Firestone Building Products International as well as Global Senior Vice President, Firestone Building Products. He joined Bridgestone as Deputy General Counsel and later held a variety of executive-level jobs, including President of Bridgestone’s 250 commercial store division and VP of International Sales and Operations for building products.

He worked earlier in his career in private law practices and the semi-conductor industry. Vasuta earned a bachelor’s degree in engineering, an MBA and a Juris Doctorate, all from the University of Akron.

21914/Press Release – 2019.05.01

### Lanxess



LANXESS has made a solid start to the new fiscal year despite the weakening economy. In the first quarter of 2019, EBITDA pre exceptionals rose by 1.9 percent to EUR 275 million compared with EUR 270 million in the strong previous-year quarter. The main reasons for this positive development were higher selling prices and advantageous exchange-rate effects, particularly from the U.S. dollar. The EBITDA margin pre exceptionals improved from 14.9 percent in the previous year to 15.1 percent.

Group sales in the first quarter of 2019 amounted to EUR 1.822 billion, on a par with the previous year's level. Net income rose by 3.7 percent from EUR 81 million to EUR 84 million. Earnings per share increased more strongly – by 4.5 percent from EUR 0.89 to EUR 0.93 on account of the lower average number of shares outstanding. In the first three months of fiscal year 2019, LANXESS repurchased own shares for EUR 111 million.

For the full year 2019, LANXESS expects EBITDA pre exceptionals to come in between EUR 1.000 billion and EUR 1.050 billion. In the previous year, the specialty chemicals company generated earnings of EUR 1.016 billion.

21915/Press Release – 2019.05.14

## SPECIAL GLASS

### Glass Companies

#### SCHOTT

##### Next generation of SCHOTT RealView™ high-index glass wafers

Manufacturers of Augmented Reality (AR) and Mixed Reality (MR) devices have a new solution to boost user experience by using the new generation of SCHOTT RealView™ high-index glass wafers with a refractive index of 1.9.



The future of Augmented Reality (AR) and Mixed Reality (MR) is right in front of your eyes. SCHOTT, the international technology group, unveiled today the latest addition to **SCHOTT RealView™**, a product portfolio of high quality optical glass wafers designed for the realization of a new era of consumer-grade smart glasses. The new product enables a Field of View (FoV) wider than any AR device currently on the market, thanks to a further increased refractive index of 1.9. Now, devices with a horizontal FoV of 53° (equal to 65° FoV diagonal) can be envisioned.



During last year's SID, SCHOTT unveiled the first generation of SCHOTT RealView™ after years of research and development in cooperation with AR hardware makers. Compared to conventional glass wafers used in semiconductor and sensor industry, SCHOTT RealView™ wafers define a new standard in thickness uniformity of the surface (10x tighter tolerances) and are based on leading edge glass compositions. The wafering technology developed, enables access to a heritage of 135 years of optical glass with an active portfolio of more than 120 different materials. SCHOTT's optical glass melting and hot forming process can fulfill the demanding requirements for highest purity, homogeneity, and consistency in refractive index. All wafers are available in industry standard large diameters.

#### **Purest optical glass – refined to SCHOTT RealView™ glass wafers**

“With the addition of the latest generation of SCHOTT RealView™ glass wafers with refractive indices of 1.9 to our product portfolio, we are redefining the frontier of commercially available wafer solutions for AR/MR industry, paving the way for optical designs of new generation AR devices,” said Sprengard. “Covering the entire value chain from glass to optical coatings, SCHOTT is a trusted supplier to the AR industry, with a manufacturing footprint ready to meet growing global demand of this dynamic market.” SCHOTT produces the optical glass at its high-tech melting facilities in Germany to ensure unparalleled quality. Wafer manufacturing and optical coating takes place in China, where SCHOTT has set-up a new factory already ramped-up to mass production due to a noticeably heavier industry demand. For prototyping and research, customers can rely on SCHOTT's expertise in glass, wafer processing, and coating in its German and Swiss facilities. Trained application engineers support our customers in all relevant regions.

With this new product launch, SCHOTT is fuelling the industry's technology roadmap, supplying a key component for the realization of the full immersion experience. An outstanding award recently honoured the product's strong market position: The first generation of SCHOTT RealView™ received a 2019 Display Industry Award as a Display Component of the Year from the Society of Information Display, SID. Beside SCHOTT, the winner list includes products from Apple, Samsung, Sony, Dexerials, Japan Display, and Lenovo.

#### **Light guide technology**

Leading AR/MR devices are based on the light guide technology. SCHOTT RealView™ high-index glass wafers are a key component for this groundbreaking technology. But how does it work?

1. Projector emits the light waves of the digital image in the direction of the light guides (SCHOTT RealView™)
2. The projector's light waves are coupled into the light guide at a defined position with the help of a grating.
3. Light waves of each color are coupled out n times in the defined grating area.
4. The mobile, unfixed human eye perceives both the digital and the real image. This creates the impression of a mixed reality.

**CORNING**

**Corning**

Corning Incorporated announced results for its first quarter 2019 ended March 31, 2019. News Summary:

- GAAP sales of 2.8 billion USD and core sales of 2.9 billion USD increased 12 percent and 13 percent, respectively, year over year
- GAAP EPS of 0.55 USD increased 1.27 USD versus 2018, reflecting a non-cash, mark-to-market gain associated with the company's currency-hedging contracts
- Core EPS grew to 0.40 USD, a 29 percent year-over-year increase, reflecting sales and earnings growth across all business segments
- Ongoing technology and manufacturing investments drive additional growth in 2019
  - Continued growth expected in Optical Communications, Specialty Materials, Environmental Technologies, and Life Sciences business segments
  - Display Technologies continues to deliver stable returns, with first quarter sales and net income up double digits year over year, and the best first quarter glass pricing environment in well over a decade
- On track to achieve goals of 2016-2019 Strategy and Capital Allocation Framework
  - Returned 414 million USD to shareholders in first quarter 2019, for a total of 12.3 billion USD since the Framework's introduction
  - Investing to position businesses for short- and long-term sales growth

During the first quarter, progress on commercializing innovations demonstrates clear leadership across the market-access platforms, as well as alignment with important industry trends. Highlights include:

- Optical Communications: earned global industry recognition for product and technology innovations, including RocketRibbon™ extreme-density cable, which enables up to 30 percent faster fiber installation in hyperscale data centers, and ClearTrack™ Hallway Fiber Pathway, which enables fast and easy fiber-optic installation with minimal disruption for tenants in multi-dwelling units;
- Automotive: ramped capacity of DuraTrap® GC filters to meet accelerating gasoline particulate filter (GPF) demand; garnered strong customer engagement with industry's first AutoGrade™ cover glass solutions for automotive interiors, extending Corning's Gorilla® Glass for Automotive portfolio;
- Mobile Consumer Electronics: continued progress on goal of doubling sales over the next several years with adoption of premium glass and other innovative solutions for smartphones, laptops, tablets and wearables; launched the Amplify line of glass screen protectors with Otterbox; gained traction in emerging regions with several device launches in India and Turkey;
- Life Sciences Vessels: growth exceeded market, fuelled by leadership in cell-culture solutions; continued to advance toward FDA approval of Valor® glass packaging with key pharmaceutical development partners.

In addition, during the first quarter Corning announced 518 U.S. patents issued in 2018, strengthening the company's leadership in glass, ceramics, optical physics and proprietary manufacturing technology.

### Groot Glass



Namibia's Groot Glass has appointed Germany-based Suntrace as Technical Consultant for the development of an 80MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Plant.

The power plant will generate electricity and power the planned Groot Glass Manufacturing Factories in Tses, Namibia.

Groot Glass plans to set up factories in Tses to manufacture a of glass products for the construction, kitchenware, beverages, pharmaceutical, touch screen devices, automobiles, solar panels and other industrial applications for the local and regional markets.

The company seeks to initially commission two separate glass-manufacturing factories with a capacity of 350tpd container and 600tpd float for the beverages and construction industries, and add later on three separate tableware, ultrathin and fibreglass factories on the site.

Per year power consumption when all five glass-manufacturing factories are commissioned, will be approximately 100.8 million units, and Groot Solar Park plans to export the surplus, which is about 15% of the total output, to the national electricity transmission network (NamPower) for the domestic power consumption.

Namibia generates about 59% of its electricity needs and still imports about 41% of its power supply mainly from South Africa, Zimbabwe, DRC and Zambia. Namibia also trades electricity with the latter two countries.

The Namibian Government wants to reduce imports and increase local generation capacity through renewable energy sources. This policy is also part of the Namibian Government's national climate change strategy and action plan (2013 – 2020) submitted to the United Nations.

21918/Press Release – 2019.05.07

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## DIVERSE

### GLASS, RESEARCH & SUPPLIERS

#### **Professor Ahmet Kirman Receives the “Ordine della Stella d’Italia”**

Şişecam Group Vice Chairman and CEO Prof. Ahmet Kirman was awarded with the honour of "Cavaliere" of the Order of the Star of Italy, for his valuable contribution to the strengthening of economic bilateral relations and mutual investments between Italy and Turkey.

Prof. Dr. Ahmet Kirman, Vice Chairman and the CEO of Şişecam Group has been awarded the honour of “Cavaliere” of the “Ordine della Stella d’Italia”, proposed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and bestowed by the President of the Italian Republic, for his valuable contribution to the strengthening of economic bilateral relations and mutual investments between Italy and Turkey. The medal was presented by Mr. Massimo Gaiani, the Italian Ambassador in Turkey, to Prof. Dr. Ahmet Kirman.



During his speech on the ceremony at the Italian Consulate General Residence in Istanbul, Prof. Dr. Ahmet Kirman pointed out the importance of Italy for Şişecam Group that is a global player with the production operations in 13 countries on three continents and sales operations in more than 150 countries.

“Italy is among the countries that Şişecam Group attaches great importance in terms of both our investments and also commercial operations. The total sum of our Group’s investments in Italy in the business lines of chemicals, glassware, and flat glass has reached the level of EUR 120 million EUR.” said Prof. Dr. Kirman.

“The glass and chemical products export from Turkey to Italy, as a leading export market of our Group, amount to 90 million USD per year. Therefore, Italy is a special country for our Group thanks to its population of more than 60 million, economy of 2 trillion USD, and deep-rooted industrial past. I wish the strong growth of our cooperation and I am

extending my thanks to Mr. Ambassador and the Italian Presidency for this meaningful and significant honour presented to me,” added Prof. Dr. Kirman.

**Şişecam Group operates in Italy in the business lines of chemicals, glassware, and flat glass.** Şişecam Group made its first investment in Italy with the acquisition of a 50% share of Cromital S.p.A., which operates in the field of chromium chemicals, in 2005. This company, located in the north of Italy, has been an entirely owned subsidiary since 2011. Today, Cromital provides inputs for many industries in Europe led by the Italian leather and metal-plating sectors with its operations in the chromium-based chemicals business line.

Şişecam made its second investment in Italy by opening its first overseas Paşabahçe Store in Milan, recognized as a city of design and fashion, in 2015. With significant investments in the logistics and distribution network in the glassware business line in Italy, the Group reaches the US, European, Middle-Eastern, and African markets via the country.

Şişecam Group made its third investment in Italy by acquiring the Porto Nogaro plant of Sangalli Vetro, a flat glass manufacturer, in the northern part of the country in 2016. In consequence of this operation, Şişecam upgraded its rank one further step in the European flat glass market in terms of the production capacity, becoming the Europe’s largest flat glass manufacturer.

The final investment move of Şişecam in Italy was, again, in the field of flat glass. Acquiring the Manfredonia plant of Sangalli Vetro in the south of Italy in June 2018, the Group has doubled up its flat glass production capacity in the country, while further reinforcing its leadership in Europe.

21919/Press Release – 2019.05.09

## **Glass Technology Services (GTS)**

### **1. GTS unveils a fresh new look.**

UK analysis and consulting group Glass Technology Services (GTS) has rebranded itself. The rebrand marks 20 years since the launch of the former branding and reflects both the expanding nature of work and type of clients that the business supports today.

It has seen significant growth across the high tech, food, drinks and spirits and pharmaceutical sectors.

The addition of the ‘experts in glass’ strap line reflects the laboratory’s position as the leading provider of specialist glass analysis, testing and consultancy support to their global client base.

Operations Director Gareth Jones oversaw the process and believes the brand refresh continues the organisation’s focus on the future.

“Since our foundation we’ve continually evolved and adapted to give our customers the best possible analysis, advice and overall experience we can.

“Now we have a strong, fresh identity to reflect the breadth of exceptional work, capabilities and support provided by our technical experts.”





The new branding, developed by local Barnsley design agency awesome., continues a strategic investment programme across the company.

The ongoing investments have already seen the expansion of their consultancy division, a refreshed training programme, commissioning of new plant and analytical equipment expanding capabilities and capacity, a continued focus on skills and training with academic, vocational and knowledge exchange programmes.

New systems, processes and structuring have been implemented alongside all of these changes to deliver customers the best possible experience and deliver the solutions they require.

The ethos of continual improvement at the accredited laboratory can be clearly felt when speaking with their customers – a recent survey indicated 94% of customers were either satisfied or very satisfied with the service received, while 96% would recommend Glass Technology Services.

21920/Press Release – 2019.05.20

## **2. Research Project in Yorkshire**

GTS invest over 500,000 UKP to meet growing industry demands. Independent glass research, analysis and testing specialists Glass Technology Services Ltd (GTS) continues to invest to remain at the forefront of glass support.

Over 500,000 UKP have been invested to meet increasing demands across the glass supply chain. As well as increasing analytical capabilities and capacity, at the centre of all these changes and investments are people.

A positive campaign to share and retain knowledge has been launched, with regular seminars being delivered by staff, for staff, to share, challenge and retain technical knowledge, while sharing new ideas and approaches.

The programme has seen investments in new plant, equipment, systems, people and training in order to remain at the forefront of glass research, analysis, testing and consultancy for their growing client base.

Business Development Manager, Philip Marsh, said, “Over the past year we have expanded our consultancy division, increased capacity for routine analytical services, replaced and supplemented core laboratory equipment and extended capabilities through strategic investments.

“Existing clients will have noticed our administrative, customer care and financial systems have been a focus – we’ve streamlined processes, improved communication and enhanced the customer experience, while also giving our own staff better access to information and improving internal systems.

“At the centre of all these changes and investments are our people – a programme of academic, vocational and on-the-job training at all levels of the organisation has been undertaken to ensure that our teams maintain their professional development, extend their knowledge and can continue to be the very best at what they do.

“A positive campaign to share and retain knowledge has been launched, with regular seminars being delivered by staff, for staff, to share, challenge and retain technical knowledge, while sharing new ideas and approaches.

“As a service-orientated business specialising in glass, our greatest asset is our people and their unique knowledge. We require the latest in laboratory equipment, but without our technical experts we would not be able to provide our clients with the added guidance, knowledge and technical support that they really require. It is their interpretation and understanding of data that allows us to provide real answers and solutions.”

Glass Technology Services Ltd provides analysis, consultancy, testing and research and development support to all parts of the glass supply chain – from raw materials to the end consumer.

The experts in glass pride themselves on their reputation, confidentiality and impartiality and are accredited to ISO 9001 and ISO/IEC 17025 standards.

For more information visit [www.glass-ts.com](http://www.glass-ts.com), email [enquiries@glass-ts.com](mailto:enquiries@glass-ts.com)

21921/Press Release – 2019.05.03

### **3. UK research could ‘cut emissions and save millions of pounds’**

Scientists at UK-based Glass Technology Services have demonstrated techniques that could potentially cut carbon emissions drastically and save the glassmaking industry millions of pounds every year by using waste ash from biomass power plants.

Research in the laboratories in Sheffield has shown that using the ash could cut carbon emissions and replace up to a fifth of the conventional mined and man-made raw materials used to make glass (sand, soda ash and limestone). UK biomass power plants currently produce more than 1million tons of waste ash a year.

And now the researchers, working with Sheffield Hallam University, are looking at how they can make the process more efficient, demonstrating to glass manufacturers that they can make quality glass using waste ash which melts at lower temperatures thus saving energy costs, and at the same time cut down on CO2 emissions.

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This could give a massive boost to the manufacture of bottles and jars, float glass for windows, doors and the automotive industry, the glass fibre used in wind turbines, and high-value ceramics.

Glass Technology Services (GTS) is leading two collaborative projects in this area. The first, funded by a £508,000 grant from government department BEIS, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, is looking to develop glass products for the coloured container glass sector. The second, with a £494,000 grant from Innovate UK, the Government's innovation agency, is looking at how the ash could be used in a broader range of applications, including float glass, glass wool and high value ceramics. Both projects are researching how to reduce the glass melting point, cutting the energy required to make the glass, and CO2 emissions.

Although the UK glass industry is among the most efficient in the world, it generates more than 2million tonnes of CO2 a year from burning fossil fuels to power furnaces and from the unavoidable release of CO2 from raw materials such as limestone during the melting process. The industry has increased productivity and cut carbon emissions by 54% since 1979, and the GTS research is another part of its work to continue improving that figure.

Rob Ireson, leader of the GTS innovation team, said: "Our research could mean potential savings to the UK glass industry of £1.6m a year in energy costs and CO2 savings of around 10%.

"Other benefits include less emissions, reducing the impact of mining and the amount of hazardous waste sent to landfill.

"As an industry we are already working hard to improve efficiency across all aspects of glass manufacture. The 2050 'Roadmap' which the trade membership organisation British Glass has produced together with Sheffield Hallam University is leading the way for the sector. It looks at improving furnaces, and the design of the product being manufactured, whether that is bottles and jars or flat glass for buildings. We are also focusing closely on waste heat recovery and recycling.

"So this is very exciting work. If by using waste ash from power stations we can cut down on carbon emissions, reduce the amount of energy needed, and also reduce the waste material we produce, it's a win-win situation for everybody."



## SEMINARS / CONFERENCES / WORKSHOPS

### Glass Technology Services (GTS) Training Programme 2019



GTS announced an extended training programme for 2019 due to increasing demand from across the glass industry and wider supply chain.

The 2019 programme features not only an increased number of introductory and technical events, but wholly new courses and workshops developed following feedback and requests from our client-base.

Please find herewith the list of the courses for 2019:

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

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

21923/Glass Technology Services Press Release – 2018.12.13

### GPD Finland 2019

The Glass Performance Days (GPD) event in 2019 will celebrate its 27th year of service to the glass industry, **from 25 to 28 June 2019**.

The final program of the conference is available and registration is now open.

With over 180 presentations given via workshops, conference sessions and the step-change program, attendees will be in for a treat.

Presentations in the opening ceremony will be graced by the following professionals:

**Mr. Stefan Blach**, Studio Libeskind

**Mike Pilliod**, Director, Tesla

**Dr. Sener Oktik**, CTO SISECAM

To access the program, click the following link: [GPD Finland 2019 Final Program and Timetable](#), by scrolling up and down the page, it's possible to see and access content of the different activities of the event.

21924/Press Release – 2019.04.01



### **ICG -11th Workshop Montpellier (France) 8-12 July 2019**

The 11th workshop for new researchers in glass science and application is to be held in **Montpellier (France) 8-12 July 2019**.

The 11th workshop for new researchers in glass science and application will be composed of two interwoven threads.

The first thread will overview fundamentals in glass science emphasising structure-property relationships, experimental techniques, material simulations and tools that probe structure. Specific properties and applications will be discussed e.g. optical behaviour, transport phenomena, nucleation and crystallisation, and strength.

The second thread this year will focus on glasses for hazardous waste immobilization, to echo the importance of the nuclear industry and other significant areas of waste disposal. Attention will be given to glass formulation and structure, long-term corrosion behaviour, as well as melting technologies for nuclear waste glasses. 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.

A more complete programme is available on ICG website: [www.icglass.org](http://www.icglass.org)

Participation will be limited to 20 Glass Applications and 30 Glass Science applicants.

Pre-registration deadline 15 April 2019 by email to [verres2019@mycema.fr](mailto:verres2019@mycema.fr).

Registration deadline 15 May 2019.

21925/Press Release – 2019.03.05

### **Society of Glass Technology**

#### **SGT special conference on raw materials for glass making**

The Society of Glass Technology is holding a special conference on Raw Materials for Glass Making in **Cambridge, UK 1–4 September 2019**.

The conference will feature dedicated sessions on particular glass ingredients as well as the batch as a whole.

The first speakers have been recently announced.

- Hans van Limpt of Sibelco will give an overview of the silica sand situation and future glass industry requirements.
- Tom Paterson the managing director of Fife Silica Sand and will discuss its contribution to the UK glass sand market.
- Diego Zurolo, General Manager of Loch Aline Sand Mine (LQS) will present a report about the position of LQS regarding the supply of their well-known high-quality sand.
- Professor Chris Rayner of C-Capture a branch from Whiterose.ac.uk a consortium consisting of Leeds, York and both Sheffield Universities, will speak about the CO2 stripping trial being carried out at Drax Power Station, the first such full-scale project in Europe.
- Nicola Johnson of Appleby Calumite will describe the history of Calumite use in the UK and Czech Republic and its role in lowering furnace emissions.



Further contributions can be expected from British Glass (on cullet), Glass Technology Services, Ardagh, St. Gobain and FIC (electric melting) on *'is this the future and what are its implications for raw material quality and specifications.'*

The raw materials conference will run in parallel with other sessions on glass science and technology and heritage and history as part of the SGT Annual Meeting.

21926/Press Release – 2019.02.20

### **80th Annual Conference on Glass Problems**



The 80th annual Conference on Glass Problems will be held once again at the Greater Columbus Convention Centre in **Columbus, Ohio, 28-31 October 2019**, and invites engineers, educators, students, and solutions providers working on various aspects of glass manufacturing to submit an abstract for an oral presentation at this premier industry conference.

This conference is the largest glass manufacturing conference in North America and attracts glass manufacturers and suppliers worldwide to exchange innovations and problem solutions. The conference is co-organized by the Glass Manufacturing Industry Council and Alfred University, and provides expert lectures, panel discussions and focused courses and symposia, along with exhibiting and networking opportunities.

The topics of interest for this convention broadly include glass melting & quality, combustion and heat transfer, refractories, process control, sensors and Industry 4.0, modelling of glass melting and processing, raw materials, batching and recycling, forming issues and container customization, environment safety, emissions and respirable silica, carbon reduction, energy management and electric boosting, furnace design and reconstruction, furnace life extension and maintenance and any new topics relevant to glass manufacturing.

21927/Press Release – 2019.01.08

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