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Newsletter N°357

WELCOME TO EU GLASS INDUSTRIES NEWS

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EU COMMUNITY NEWS

NEW EU LEGISLATION

COMMISSION REGULATION

N° (EU) 2018/1602 of 11 October 2018

This Regulation is amending Annex I to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the **Common Customs Tariff** (CCT).
It shall apply from 1 January 2019.
There is no change in the section dedicated to glass products (chapter 70).

All details at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2018:273:TOC

21517/O.J. L273 – 2018.10.31

COURT of AUDITORS – Preparatory Documents

Opinion N°5/2018 on Articles 287(4) and 322(2) of the TFEU – Functioning Treaty of the European Union

This Opinion concerns

a) the proposal for a Council Decision on the system of own resources of the European Union (COM(2018) 325 final);
b) **the proposal for a Council Regulation on the methods and procedure for making available the Own Resources based on the Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB), on the European Union Emissions Trading System and on Plastic packaging waste that is not recycled, and on the measures to meet cash requirements (COM(2018) 326 final**); and
c) the proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 1553/89 on the definitive uniform arrangements for the collection of own resources accruing from value added tax (COM(2018) 328 final).

The financing system for the EU budget has not been significantly reformed since 1988. The three main categories of revenue (Traditional Own Resources (TOR), the Value Added Tax (VAT)-based own resource and the Gross National Income (GNI)-based own resource) have, for the last 30 years, ensured the overall stability and sufficiency of the funds collected. The Commission has proposed changing this financing system for the future budget under the 2021-2027 Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) by:

- reforming existing own resources, which will make up 87 % of EU revenue: keeping TOR but with lower rate of collection costs, maintaining the GNI-based own resource and simplifying the own resource based on VAT,
- introducing a 'basket' of three new own resources, which together will make up 12 % of EU revenue: one based on the Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB), one based on the European Union (EU) Emissions Trading System (ETS) and one based on plastic packaging waste that is not recycled,
- phasing out the corrections that exist in the current system, and
- increasing the ceilings for own resources to overcome the impact of Brexit and the integration of European Development Fund (EDF) into the EU budget, as well as to cover financial liabilities linked to loans or financial facilities guaranteed from the EU budget.

The proposed new EU financing system took on board a number of the key principles of the reform, but not all. In addition, it addresses some of the weaknesses we identified in our previous work on the existing own-resources system. In our view, the proposed EU financing system remains complex.

- The Court of Auditors assessed the Commission's proposals and found the following main issues:
- The proposed reduction of the collection costs rate for TOR is not justified by means of a study providing reliable estimates of the costs incurred by customs authorities in collecting duties,
- The proposed simplified VAT-based own resource includes assumptions on standard-rated transactions that do not adhere to some of the calculation steps described by the Commission,
- The application of the own resource based on the CCCTB is subject to the Directive on this tax being adopted by the Council and transposed in the Member States. It will be at the earliest phased in several years after the start of the new MFF,
- The EU ETS is an important tool for implementing the EU's policies on climate and the environment. However, the proposed own resource based on the EU ETS does not create an additional incentive for Member States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, it is not a stable resource since the auction prices of the emission allowances are highly volatile,
- The plastic packaging waste-based own resource provides an incentive for Member States to increase plastics recycling. We noted, however, that there is a need to improve the quality of data used to calculate this own resource,
- The phasing-out of corrections is a step forward in implementing a more transparent and less complex system. According to the Commission's proposal, corrections will end in 2026, and

As regards the proposed new own resources, there may be restrictions on the Court's audit powers in respect of those based on the CCCTB and plastic packaging waste. There is a risk this may affect auditability and thus accountability.

We recommend that the legislative bodies ask the Commission to undertake the following as soon as possible:

(a) Review the legislative proposals; as regards the new own resources, the Commission should:

- carefully assess the likelihood of applying the CCCTB-based own resource during the next MFF,
- clarify in its proposal that the EU ETS-based own resource does not create an additional incentive for Member States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and analyse the impact of this resource's volatility,
- carefully consider how the amounts expected to be collected through the plastic packaging waste-based own resource may decrease due to changes in the behaviour of households and economic operators;

(b) Reconsider the proposal for the simplified VAT-based own resource and, should it decide to keep it, modify the proposal.

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All details on: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:C:2018:431:TOC

21518/O.J. C431 – 2018.11.29

TRADE POLICY

Generalised Scheme of Preferences '*On Track*' to Meet Its Objectives

A mid-term review of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) of the European Union was presented to representatives of civil society by the Trade services of the European Commission on 7 November.

The new regulation, which has been in place since January 2014 for ten years, drastically reduces the number of countries benefiting from this system, whilst slightly extending product coverage.

The Commission's interim assessment report observes that the share of imports under the GSP regime has fallen compared to the situation noted under the previous system, from 6.1% of total imports in 2013 to 4.1% in 2016. Of these, the share of the 'standard' GSP has fallen, whilst the share of the 'Everything But Arms' regime, on the other hand, has grown considerably.

Furthermore, the value of imports of European origin to the GSP+ countries has risen considerably since 2013.

Of the products imported to the EU under the GSP scheme, the share of textiles has more than doubled, to around 46% of imports under the GSP+ scheme. Imports of shoes have risen from 4% to around 8%. Imports of plastic products, on the other hand, have roughly halved, to 10%.

Social and environmental benefits

The GSP regime appears to act as a facilitator of social development and compliance with employment and human rights. Certainly, in exchange for the trade preferences offered by the EU, the beneficiary countries must apply the principal United Nations conventions on human rights and the International Labour Organisation.
The report notes that the reformed GSP has contributed to the promotion of sustainable development and good governance, in particular through the EU's enhanced monitoring of the implementation of the international conventions relevant to GSP+.
In its conclusions, the report recommends greater transparency in monitoring and dialogues on the GSP+ and more inclusive dialogue. It also recommends an improved promotion and awareness of stakeholders in beneficiary countries.
Once the GSP system expires, the study recommends updating the list of international conventions on the fundamental human and employment rights and on environmental protection. It also suggests harmonising the arrangements of the GSP and GSP+ and including the trade in certain types of services. Finally, it encourages greater coherence between the GSP schemes and free-trade agreements.

21519/Press Release – 2018.11.09

EU Free Trade Agreements' Implementation

An annual report from the European Commission on the implementation of the European Union's free trade agreements (FTAs) reveals improvements in 2017 compared with 2016 as to the use of tariff rebates.
However, for some sectors already singled out in 2016, the tariff benefits remain under-utilised by EU economic operators.

The 2017 report covers the development of the situation for 35 EU trade agreements, in other words, 32% of the EU's total trade with the world, accounting for €1179 billion. It was an overall fruitful year for European exporters: exports up, with €637 billion for the FTAs , 12% more with South Korea compared by 2016, 10% more with Colombia, and 7% more with Canada over the nine months of the CETA being in force.
Among the most dynamic sectors are the agri-food industry and that of motor vehicles – both already identified in 2016. By contrast, as in 2016, the potential remains unexploited for the transport equipment and machinery sectors.

As to the imports made as part of the FTAs, they account for €542 billion in 2017.
From a trade point of view, the three economies most integrated with the EU are neighbours of the European bloc: Switzerland with 7% of trade under the FTA framework, Turkey (41%) and Norway (3.4%). Fourth on the list, with 2.7%, South Korea is the first state with which the EU implemented a new generation agreement.

Utilisation rates generally up
In the FTA with South Korea, the increase in preferential utilisation rates by European operators continues, applying to 74.3% of exports and 88% of imports. The result is similar for the FTAs with countries such as Chile, Georgia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

The utilisation of tariff quotas, which are applied especially to sensitive products, is also progressing in European trade with Central America (for European milk powder) and with Chile (EU cheeses). The report nevertheless deplores an under-performance with the Mediterranean countries.
The Commission's report also covers progress made in the elimination of non-trade barriers. As to the trade and sustainable development chapters in the *"new generation"* FTAs, the report notes that *"the stronger EU engagement is starting to deliver results"* although at different speeds according to the partners. In particular it mentions the cases of South Korea and Latin American countries.

Taking more advantage of the agreements
The report is part of an exercise enabling assurance that the many FTAs negotiated by the European Commission do indeed bring the intended benefits to European operators. Another objective is to monitor the FTAs' implementation and to learn lessons for ongoing or future negotiations.
According to a study published by the Commission last July, EU exports could save around €15 billion per year if they fully use the trade preferences offered by the 18 EU FTAs.
The report highlights the measures implemented by the Commission to ensure that these FTAs benefit everyone, particularly small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
The report can be consulted at:
http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/october/tradoc_157468.pdf

21520/Press Release – 2018.10.31

British Challenges at World Trade Organisation

There has been some recent disenchantment across the Channel regarding the United Kingdom's ability to trade under post-*Brexit* World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules. While the risks of pitfalls are not insurmountable, they are quite real.
However, following the *Brexit* referendum, the EU and the United Kingdom have worked together to determine a strategy to enable London to regain control of its trade policy.

A two-step strategy
Before 29 March 2019, the United Kingdom and the EU are working on defining the EU's place in the WTO. As the United Kingdom is a full member of the WTO, it is therefore 'sufficient' to identify UK schedules of commitments for goods and services at the WTO and to allocate tariff quotas between the EU and the United Kingdom.
However, even if it is possible to use a simple reproduction of the European schedules to create its tariff schedules, this is not the case for products subject to *tariff rate quotas*.
The EU and the United Kingdom have chosen to allocate them on the basis of their respective uses. In doing so, the EU and the United Kingdom are twisting the arms of WTO members, imposing their method of allocation on them, even if only temporarily. Several major trading partners have expressed their dissatisfaction (USA, Japan, China, South Korea).

Then, from April 2019, the European Commission and London will start negotiations, separately, under Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) on the modification of Members' commitments. However, until negotiations with these members are concluded, the lists cannot be certified, i.e. approved by the 163 WTO members.
In itself, the lack of certification is not insurmountable. But if members feel aggrieved and the negotiations are not successful, they could choose to suspend some tariff concessions, or even enter into a dispute with the EU and/or the United Kingdom.
For WTO Member States, the *Brexit* approach has a negative result. Firstly, because they are losing flexibility, with access to two smaller markets, and secondly, contrary to the spirit of the WTO, the *Brexit* approach aims to erect trade barriers, rather than eliminate them.

What about the agreement on public procurement?
While the United Kingdom is a full member of the WTO, this is not the case with the Agreement on Government Procurement. In fact, London has failed to ratify this plurilateral agreement, which has been in force since 1981.

21521/Press Release – 2018.11.16

EU Council Agreement on Post-Brexit EU Tariff Quotas

BREXIT

The EU ambassadors (Coreper) confirmed an agreement by qualified majority on the draft regulation on the allocation of the European Union's **tariff rate quotas** (TRQs) from the WTO (World Trade Organization) list after the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU.
The UK's withdrawal from the EU has consequences that go beyond bilateral relations between the EU and UK, especially as regards their commitments under the agreement establishing the WTO.

The existing quantities of the EU's WTO bound TRQs for agricultural, fish and industrial goods have been established on the basis of the UK being an EU member state and forming part of the EU market. These TRQs are applied to the EU market as a whole, the UK included. It is therefore necessary to reflect the fact that the EU's WTO schedule will no longer apply to the UK after its withdrawal from the EU.

The list of tariff quotas should be divided between the EU27 and the UK by 30 March 2019. The method advised considers the share of British use for each tariff quota, expressed as a percentage of the EU, and for a representative period of three years.
The Commission should now obtain agreement on the powers enabling it to divide these tariff quotas unilaterally, by changing their tariff concessions. Its proposal should also give it the power to change this division later, through delegated acts.

In the interest of maintaining clarity and predictability in the multilateral trading system, the EU needs to be able to proceed unilaterally to the dividing up of the TRQs for the period between the UK's withdrawal from the EU and the conclusion of a final agreement within the WTO.

Three months after the proposal was submitted to the WTO, around 20 WTO member countries expressed reservations about the method of dividing up these TRQs, which involves a negotiation being led with these WTO members.

The EU is indeed already committed in the negotiations to seal agreements with around 20 WTO members who have a substantial interest or hold an initial right of negotiation on tariff quotas, and who have expressed reservation about the method of dividing the quotas (*read following article*)

The inter-institutional trilogue negotiations are expected to start very quickly, the ultimate objective being the adoption of the regulation before the end of 2018, to prepare the necessary implementing acts immediately afterwards.

21522/Press Release – 2018.10.31 & 11.05

British Quota Extraction System Dissatisfied with EU's Trading Partners

The European Union's main trading partners in the WTO are opposed to the apportionment of its tariff rate quotas with the United Kingdom.
This system, which concerns 196 individual concessions covering more than 365 tariff lines, is based on the respective share of quota utilisation by both parties.

However, more than 20 WTO members said they were harmed by this distribution key at a meeting of the Council for Trade in Goods on Monday 12 November in Geneva.
Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Mexico, New Zealand, Paraguay, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States and Uruguay co-signed a communication requesting an appropriate compensation mechanism from the EU.

According to a Geneva source, this communication notes that the EU has made no commitment on how to account for trade between the United Kingdom and other EU countries, a figure that WTO members also use to qualify the type of market access to which their products will be subject.

Finally, the twelve countries behind the initiative are concerned that the EU will implement this system before the negotiations with its WTO partners are concluded, as the EU wants to ensure a default system as of *Brexit* day, scheduled for 29 March 2019.
Fifteen other countries, including Switzerland and Korea, also took the floor to express their reservations.

21523/Press Release – 2018.11.13

EU / Indonesia and EU / New Zealand

The European Commission published two progress reports on the ongoing trade negotiations with Indonesia and New Zealand.

- The sixth round of EU/Indonesia negotiations, which took place from 15 to 19 October in Palembang, made progress on issues such as customs, health standards and technical barriers to trade. Next round is planned for 11 to 15 March in Brussels.
- The talks with New Zealand, which took place from 8 to 12 October in Wellington, allowed for getting closer on some positions and identified follow-up actions for the upcoming negotiations in February in Brussels.

21524/Press Release – 2018.11.05

EU / Japan

The economic partnership agreement with Japan was approved by the European Parliament's international trade committee (INTA) on 5 November.
The MEPs voted in favour of the draft resolutions and report by Pedro Silva Pereira (S&D, Portugal), which recommends that the Parliament give its consent to the ratification of the agreement, underlining its major economic and geographical impact.

On the EU side, the agreement will remove, in the long term, 99% of customs duties on European exports to Japan, which account for nearly €1 billion.
Some MEPs on the left of the political spectrum nevertheless deplored the fact that the agreement's chapter on sustainable development does not contain any binding mechanism to ensure implementation.
The MEPs thus ask the European Commission to work to consolidate the application of social and environmental standards during a re-examination of the agreement's chapter on sustainable development. Many MEPs called on Tokyo to ratify two conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO).
The MEPs want to optimise the opportunities of the free trade agreement for small and medium-sized enterprises, calling for the creation of specific contact points.

The report will be voted upon at the European Parliament's plenary session on 11 December. If the Parliament gives its consent, this 'exclusively EU' agreement will only require the completion of the EU's ratification procedure in order to enter fully into force.

21525/Press Release – 2018.11.05

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

Commission Strategy for Climate Impacts

Adapting the EU regions and economic sectors to the impacts of climate change is now more urgent than forecast in the EU's 2013 adaptation strategy. This is one of the key findings of the **Commission's evaluation of its published strategy**. The analysis results in a report on lessons learned and reflections on improvements for future action.
In the context of the Paris Agreement and EU climate and energy policies, the EU needs to cut greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the ongoing global warming. The urgency of global climate action was further highlighted by the international scientific community in the recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which announced that temperatures have already risen 1°C because of human activity, and the planet could pass the 1.5°C threshold as early as 2030 if emissions continue at the current rate.

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

Key findings:

The current strategy is still relevant and the Commission will be guided by its objectives. Knowledge, adaptation modelling and region-specific intelligence has been generated by the EU's Horizon 2020 research programme and projects and by the Commission's own internal scientific services (Joint Research Centre).

Major infrastructure projects financed by the EU budget have become climate-proof and will withstand sea level rise, flooding or intense heat.

In the future, an effort must be made to ensure most or all EU cities count on a thorough adaptation plan to protect citizens from both extreme and slow-onset climate hazards, like protection of biodiversity, sustainable growth, reliable standardised data, incentives provided by Copernicus and other European Earth Observation initiatives.

The evaluation also suggests areas where more work needs to be done to prepare vulnerable regions and sectors, aiming to provide food for thought for the UN climate change conference (COP24) in December in Katowice, Poland, and adaptation reporting requirements in the context of the governance of the Energy Union.
The evaluation package contains assessments of each of the Member States' national adaptation strategies (or the process leading to those strategies, when they are not yet adopted).
The report has been sent to the European Parliament and to the Council of the EU.
Read more on *https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/europe-ready-climate-impacts-commission-evaluates-its-strategy_en*

21526/Press Release – 2018.11.12

Clean Planet for All (Decarbonisation Strategy)

The **European Commission** published on 28 November its communication COM(2018)773 (1)*: **A Clean Planet for all: A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy***.
The Commission's strategic vision is an invitation to all EU institutions, the national parliaments, business sector, non-governmental organisations, cities and communities, as well as citizens and especially the youth, to participate in ensuring the EU can continue to show leadership and encourage other international partners to do the same. This EU-wide informed debate should allow the EU to adopt and submit an ambitious strategy by early 2020 to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as requested under the Paris Agreement.

A joint press-release of the Energy intensive industries and Eurelectric in reaction to the communication has been adopted and published on GAE website (2).
You can find the documents on
(1) DG CLIMA website: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies/2050_en
(2) GAE website: : https://www.glassallianceeurope.eu/images/cont/joint-call-to-enable-industrys-contribution-to-the-eu-long-term-ghg-goals_file.pdf

21527/Press Release – 2018.11.28

Clean Energy for All Europeans Package

New rules on **renewables, energy efficiency and the governance of the Energy Union** have been signed off by the **European Parliament** – an important step in enabling the European Union and its Member States to embrace the clean energy transition, follow up on the already adopted 2030 climate legislation and meet the Paris Agreement commitments.
The European Parliament have thus completed the parliamentary approval of half of the eight legislative proposals in the 2016 Clean Energy for All Europeans package, following the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive, which came into force on 9 July. The package is a key element of the Juncker Commission's political priority of "a resilient Energy Union with a forward-looking climate change policy", aimed at giving Europeans

access to secure, affordable and climate-friendly energy and making the European Union world leader in renewable energy.

The new regulatory framework, in particular via the introduction of the first national energy and climate plans, brings regulatory certainty and enabling conditions for essential investments to take place in this important sector. It empowers European consumers to become fully active players in the energy transition and fixes two new targets for the EU in 2030: **a binding renewable energy target of at least 32%** and **an energy efficiency target of at least 32.5%,** which will stimulate Europe's industrial competitiveness, boost growth and jobs, reduce energy bills, help tackle energy poverty and improve air quality. When these policies will be fully implemented, they will lead to steeper emission reductions for the whole EU than anticipated– **some 45% by 2030 compared to 1990, instead of 40%**. To strive towards a long-term greenhouse gas reduction objective, the framework sets up a robust governance system of the Energy Union.

Main achievements

Renewable Energy

1. Sets a new, binding, renewable energy target for the EU for 2030 of at least 32%, including a review clause by 2023 for an upward revision of the EU level target.
2. Improves the design and stability of support schemes for renewables.
3. Delivers real streamlining and reduction of administrative procedures.
4. Establishes a clear and stable regulatory framework on self-consumption.
5. Increases the level of ambition for the transport and heating/cooling sectors.
6. Improves the sustainability of the use of bioenergy.

Energy Efficiency

1. Sets a new energy efficiency target for the EU for 2030 of at least 32.5%, with an upwards revision clause by 2023;
2. Will extend the annual energy saving obligation beyond 2020, which will attract private investments and support the emergence of new market actors;
3. Will strengthen rules on individual metering and billing of thermal energy by giving consumers - especially those in multi-apartment building with collective heating systems – clearer rights to receive more frequent and more useful information on their energy consumption, enabling them to better understand and control their heating bills.
4. Will require Member States to have in place transparent, publicly available national rules on the allocation of the cost of heating, cooling and hot water consumption in multi-apartment and multi-purpose buildings with collective systems for such services.

Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action

1. Puts in place a simplified, robust and transparent governance for the Energy Union which promotes long-term certainty and predictability for investors and ensures that EU and Member States can work together towards achieving the 2030 targets and the EU's international commitments under the Paris Agreement.

2. Calls for each Member State to prepare a national energy and climate plan for the period 2021 to 2030, covering all the five dimension of the Energy Union and taking into account the longer-term perspective.
3. Aligns the frequency and timing of reporting obligations across the five dimensions of the Energy Union and with the Paris Climate Agreement, significantly enhancing transparency and reducing the administrative burden for the Member States, the Commission and other EU Institutions.

This endorsement needs also the approval of the European Council. Then it will be followed by the publication of the texts in the Official Journal of the Union, and the new legislation will enter into force 3 days after publication.

21528/Press Release – 2018.11.13

Total Decarbonisation of Danish Economy by 2050

Danish Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen mentioned four priorities for the future of the European Union, including carbon neutrality by 2050.
Chronologically, the politician cited the control of migration flows. In this area, the EU has already done a lot, according to him, but it can still act by fighting smuggling networks, by encouraging the return of illegal migrants. Mr Rasmussen said that mandatory redistribution of asylum seekers is "*not the best way to solve the problem*", but said he was ready to help front-line countries, including through increased resources at the European Coast Guard and Border Guard Agency.
He recalled that Denmark is one of the "*four or five*" Member States that provide 0.7% of its wealth to development aid.

A strong supporter of the Paris Climate Agreement, Mr Rasmussen gave the example of his country, which has set itself the objective of achieving a net CO2 emission target of 0% by 2050 and welcomed the Commission's support for a similar objective at the EU level *(see other news)*. In my country, "*by 2035, every new car will have to be electric or of another type*", he added, convinced that such objectives push the industry to innovate.

Third priority: the modernisation of the internal market by adapting it to an increasingly dematerialised service economy. "*Innovation must be stimulated, not killed by regulation*", warned the Danish liberal. Finally, Mr Rasmussen urged Europeans to defend free trade in the face of ongoing international tensions triggered by the United States.

The Danish Prime Minister also invited political decision-makers to "*listen to*" European citizens and to answer their questions, particularly those raised by *Brexit*.
"It is a mistake to think that the Danes are Eurosceptic", he said, noting that his fellow citizens thought Europe in a pragmatic way, as an entity capable of solving problems peacefully, giving opportunities to Danish companies and preserving fundamental values such as the rule of law.

21529/Press Release – 2018.11.28

EU Strategy on Plastics,

Voluntary pledges from recycling companies under the EU Plastics Strategy would provide enough recycled plastics to meet the EU target by 2025, according to the Commission's preliminary assessment published on 20 November.
The pledging campaign focused on recycling 10 million tonnes of plastics into new products in Europe. It was announced last January when this strategy was presented, aiming to ensure that 100% of plastic packaging placed on the EU market is recyclable or reusable by 2030.

The main pledges, out of the 65 received by the institution, came from plastics recyclers, industry associations for Expanded Polystyrene and brand owners mainly for PET packaging.

The Commission is now carrying out a more detailed study of these pledges to analyse their impact per plastic types on supply and demand aspects.
The results of this in-depth analysis will be published in the first quarter of 2019. They will identify gaps between supply (recyclers) and demand (producers, converters and manufacturers) and guide future actions.

An assessment of regulatory or economic incentives in targeted sectors such as automotive, construction and packaging is underway.
The Commission encourages other companies that are preparing their pledges to submit them, even though the campaign ended on 30 September.

21530/Press Release – 2018.11.20

SOCIAL ISSUES

Second Revision of 'Carcinogens' Directive: Support of Limit Values for Diesel

MEPs of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee (EMPL) almost unanimously supported (41 votes in favour, 4 abstentions), on 15 November, in the margins of the plenary session, the interinstitutional agreement on the directive on the protection of workers from carcinogens and mutagens. As a reminder, the co-legislators agreed to set the limit value for diesel fumes at 0.05 mg/m3 (with some sectoral derogations), as well as an extension of the implementation period.

Thus, only for diesel fumes, the transposition timing remains two years, but two more years have been granted for all sectors for the implementation apart from tunnelling and mining, which will have five more years. The latter two sectors use explosive engines whose fumes are difficult to control.

The directive adds upper limits for five other carcinogens: trichloroethylene, epichlorhydrin, ethylene dibromide, ethylene dichloride, 4.4'-methylene-bis.

21531/Press Release – 2018.11.15

Unemployment Rates

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

Eurostat estimates that 16.574 million people in the EU28 were unemployed in September 2018, a decrease by 35,000 in the EU28 and increased by 2,000 in the euro area compared with July 2018.

Czechia	2.3%	Ireland	5.4%
Germany	3.4%	Lithuania	6.2%
Poland	3.4%	Belgium	6.3%
Netherlands	3.7%	Sweden	6.5%
Hungary (Aug.)	3.8%	Slovakia	6.6%
Malta	3.8%	Portugal	6.6%
UK (July)	4.0%	Latvia	7.2%
Romania	4.1%	Finland	7.3%
Denmark	4.8%	Cyprus	7.4%
Austria	4.9%	Croatia	8.2%
Luxembourg	5.0%	France	9.3%
Slovenia	5.2%	Italy	10.1%
Bulgaria	5.3%	Spain	14.9%
Estonia (Aug.	5.4%	Greece (July)	19.0%

Elsewhere

USA	3.7%	Russia	4.5%
Canada	5.8%	Brazil	11.5%
Japan	2.3%	Australia	5.0%
Switzerland	2.4%	India	3.5%
Turkey	11.1%	China	3.8%

21532/Eurostat Press Release – 2018.10.31

GENERAL ISSUES

G20 Buenos Aires Summit on 30/11 & 1/12/2018

The 2018 G20 Buenos Aires summit will be the 13th meeting of Group of Twenty (G20). It will be held in 2018 in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, the first G20 summit to be hosted in South America. WTO reform, climate change and digital taxation are on the agenda.
The world's top 20 economies will take stock of trade tensions (between China and USA) and the fight against climate change, the conclusion of the projects launched by the Argentine Presidency in 2018 - the future of work (WTO reform), development infrastructure and a sustainable food future.

According to a draft, the G20 reiterates its support for the **multilateral trading system**, but makes no direct reference, at this stage, to the 'protectionism' promoted by the US administration.
However, a report on the trade measures of the 20, published by the WTO on 22 November, reveals an escalation of measures restricting imports over the last six months. These measures are estimated at $481 billion, a massive increase, six times greater than the value of the measures recorded in the previous period.

But the EU is not ready to accept a watered-down statement. "*We have clear commitments on trade, on fighting protectionism, on the issues at stake, on the WTO reform. This is already included in the Hamburg Communiqué*", said a European source, referring to the 2017 G20 summit.
In Hamburg, G20 leaders called for, in addition to WTO reform, the maintenance of *reciprocal and mutually beneficial*" trade relations that combat "*unfair trade practices*", while recognising "*the legitimacy of trade defence instruments*". It is now necessary to "*have clear language on what we aim at*", and then to obtain "*an operational commitment from the leaders to instruct their Ministers,'Sherpas' , advisers to work on these issues in order to update the rules*".
"*We hope than we can have this kind of dialogue to define a clear road from Buenos Aires and Osaka* [where the 2019 summit will take place]".
The EU wants to avoid creating an anti-American front on these issues. As EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström recalled, "*the US and the EU agree on the definition of problems, but not always on the solutions*".

Climate. Having reneged on the United States' commitment to implement the Paris Agreement, US President Donald Trump will not attend these exchanges.
The European Union will continue to fight for a reference to the Paris Agreement in the Communiqué, without finger pointing at the US in an exaggerated way.
Digital taxation. The thorny issue of adequate taxation of the digital sector will also be one of the topics of discussion at the Buenos Aires Summit.

Europeans will also call on their counterparts to commit themselves to global rules to tax the digital economy, in order to ensure fair taxation of digital platforms where their activities generate profits.
A proposal for a directive is on the table of European finance ministers, but its adoption, which France strongly supported at the Ecofin Council, remains subject to formal acceptance by countries such as Germany and Ireland.
Migration. The G20 summit will also discuss the Global Compact for Migration.
On this point, the Europeans are advancing in a dispersed order while five Member States refuse to sign the compact. Other countries, such as Argentina or Turkey, have taken a proactive approach to this issue.

21533/Press Release - 2018.11.23

Launch of European Parliament's 'What Europe is doing for me' Website

The European Parliament is stepping up its initiatives to bring the European Union closer to its citizens. While voter turnout in the European elections has been steadily declining for 30 years, the legislature launched a website on 14 November to show the EU's positive impact on its citizens.
Under the name '***What Europe is doing for me'***, this site contains 1,800 examples of EU-funded projects and actions that can be searched by location or area of interest. These 'sheets' are divided into 3 sections: territories (1,290 localities), social groups (professions, hobbies, etc.) and close-ups (detailed briefings on EU action).

The website '*What Europe is doing for me*' was created by the Research Service of the European Parliament, in collaboration with the Communication and Translation Services of the European Parliament.
It will be launched in the coming weeks.

21534/Eurostat Press Release – 2018.11.14

FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

EP 2019

European Green Party sets out twelve priorities for European elections in May 2019
A draft political document from the European Green Party sets out twelve priorities for the European Union after the European elections in May 2019 and it sounds like the beginning of an election campaign, approved by delegates at the Party Conference which took place in Berlin from 23 to 25 November.
Among the main points to note are that environmentalists want an end to the use of coal by 2030, a '*Green New Deal*' involving investments for a green economy, a minimum income in all EU Member States, the protection of the rule of law, tax justice and access to quality education for all. Emphasis is also placed on the need for gender equality, '*at the heart of Green policies*', and to stop arms exports to dictators and warring parties.

As mentioned in the draft political priorities, environmentalists will only support the presidency of the future European Commission if a candidate has nominated *Spitzenkandidate* on behalf of his political family and wishes to support the ambitions of the EGP.
And hoping that their political priorities can be implemented, environmentalists say they '*will seek to form progressive alliances and majorities in the next European Parliament*'.
Asked about the European Green Party's expectations regarding the number of seats of the future Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament, Mr Bütikofer replied that "*60 seats would not be a bad number*".

21535/Eurostat Press Release – 2018.11.16 & 27

110 Social Democratic Measures to Combine Sustainable Development and Social Equity

Several social democratic politicians presented 110 measures to be taken at European level to achieve 'sustainable equality' in the European Parliament.
The report was prepared by a group of 30 leading figures, 'experts', group members of parliament and members of civil society close to the Social Democrats, in preparation for the announcement of the strategy for a long-term reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the EU, which was presented on 28 November by the European Commission.
The 200-page text "could be a basis of reflexion by all progressive parties," according to Louka Katseli, former Greek Minister of Economy and co-chair of the expert group.
Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, former Danish Prime Minister and co-chair of the expert group, listed the key measures in the report, from the creation of a new Europol specialising in the fight against money laundering and tax fraud, to the introduction of a minimum corporate tax, to the conditioning of large companies' access to the common market on their 'ecological responsibility'.
"It's not possible to save the planet without going to a new social and economic model," said Udo Bullmann, head of the S&D group in the European Parliament. He cited the example of the 'yellow vest' movement in France, which he said revealed the impossibility of "try[ing] to make environmental change against the people".

21536/Eurostat Press Release – 2018.11.27

European Commission

EU Commission's President for 2019-2023

Based on the results of the European elections, a lead candidate will be elected President of the Commission by the European Parliament, after being formally proposed by heads of state or government, who will take account of the outcome of the European elections in May 2019.
This was the case for the first time in 2014, when the European People's Party's lead candidate Jean-Claude Juncker was appointed Commission President. Ahead of the 2014 elections, five European political parties had named their "lead candidates" (or also named as "Spitzenkandidaten").

Here are the candidates already proposed by some parties:

Party of European Socialists (PES)
Commission Vice-President **Frans Timmermans** (NL) will be the lead candidate of the Party of European Socialists in next year's EU 2019 elections.

PES chief Stanishev welcomed the decision, praising Timmermans as the "leading defender of democracy and the rule of law in the European Union, known as a dedicated champion of equality, fairness and women's rights."

European People's Party (EPP)
On 8 November, in Helsinki (Finland), the 734 delegates of the European Christian Democrat Party, the EPP, overwhelmingly cast their votes in favour of **Manfred Weber** of Germany, who is leader of the EPP Group at the European Parliament.

The Bavarian candidate spoke of a very strong moment and a very clear mission to be carried out by the European elections of May 2019, namely to create a robust group that will become the dominant force in Europe. His main ideas are to defend European values, with a more secure Europe and fight against illegal immigration.

Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE):
The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party will open nominations for its 'lead candidate' on 8-10 November in Madrid during the Congress. Delegates from all the EU member parties can nominate potential candidates; however they should also be supported by three member parties in different EU states. If the candidate gets the majority of votes during the Council being held at the end of February 2019 (tbc), he/she becomes the Party´s 'Spitzenkandidat'.

European Green Party (EGP)
German MEPs Ska Keller and Dutch MEP Bas Eickhout (pictured) **were appointed co-Spitzenkandidates of the European Green Party** for the May European elections on 24 November in Berlin after a vote by 99 delegates from the Green Parties in Europe.

"There is no other political force that is pro-European and for change. We are the only ones who can change the game," said Ska Keller. "It will be a campaign about Europe, not for or against Europe. It will be a question of what Europe we want," said Bas Eickhout. The Green family kicked off its campaign for the May 2019 European elections, focusing on the theme of "*green and progressive change*", at the *European Green Party* (*EGP*) Congress held from 23 to 25 November in Berlin.

"*There is a clear need to have more green and progressive change across Europe", said* German Reinhard Bütikofer, co-chairman of the party. The European Green Party also sees itself as the political family of the break with traditional political life and the refusal to turn in on itself.
Mr Bütikofer spoke in favour of a second referendum in the United Kingdom, while admitting that "*probably the deal Mrs May has succeeded in achieving is the best one she could have made in the context of the contradictions*" surrounding *Brexit*.

European Conservatives (ECR)
Pro-European, but anti-federalist, **Jan Zahradil** will be *Spitzenkandidate of* European Conservatives. The only candidate for the post of *Spitzenkandidate* of the European Conservatives, the Czech Jan Zahradil received by acclamation the support of the ERC group, which he chairs in the European Parliament.

For Mr Zahradil, there is a third option after the one calling for 'more Europe' from European federalists and the one calling for 'zero Europe' from europhobes, namely: 'a better Europe'.

The top Conservative candidate has three priorities if he becomes President of the Commission, in the event of his political family winning the European elections in May 2019. First of all, he wants the European Commission to embark on the biggest review ever of European regulation to determine what is ineffective and unnecessary and what works and needs to be improved.
A strong supporter of free trade, the MEP wants the European Union to finalise as many trade agreements as possible with its global partners and deepen the single market. It is not policies that create wealth, he says.
Thirdly, Mr Zahradil is of the opinion that the EU budget must be modernised, in particular in order to focus on protecting the EU's external borders. But, according to him, this does not mean placing European border or coastguards with European flags on their arms.

21537/Press Release – 2018/11

BREXIT DEVELOPMENTS

Habemus Brexit!

From London, British Prime Minister Theresa May and, from Brussels, EU Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier considered on 14 November that the Twenty-Seven and the United Kingdom had made major progress towards an orderly withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU, without hiding the fact that many difficulties remained.
"*After a long, detailed and impassioned debate*", Ms May received the support of her government to recommend that the National Parliament ratify the draft text of an orderly *Brexit* on the table. According to her, this, “*the best agreement that can be negotiated*" is "*in the best interest of our entire UK*".

Welcoming the fact that the British government has assumed "*its responsibilities*", Mr Barnier welcomed this "*fundamental*" step, "*the foundation of trust to build a new partnership*" between "*allies*", once the United Kingdom has once again become a non-member country, on 29 March 2019.

The margin for Ms May is extremely small given the initial hostile reactions of both the fiery *Brexiters*, Northern Ireland leaders in the government coalition and Scottish leaders hostile to *Brexit*.
The draft UK withdrawal agreement is the precondition for a post-*Brexit* transition period until the end of 2020, during which the United Kingdom will have the same rights and obligations as a Member State.
The main elements of the 585-page agreement are as follows:

- the rights of European citizens residing in the United Kingdom and British citizens residing in the EU;
- the balance of British budgetary commitments until the end of 2020;
- a dispute resolution mechanism, first political and then via an arbitration panel, the EU Court of Justice being called upon to interpret EU law;

- a legal solution to avoid the return of a physical border between Ireland and Northern Ireland. The Irish question was the Gordian knot to be cut, the *Brexit* recreating a land border in the island of Ireland.
    - If an EU/UK free trade agreement is sealed by the end of 2020, the problem will be definitively resolved.
    - Failing agreement, in July 2020, the two sides may jointly decide to extend the transition period, and such a decision would have budgetary implications for the EU budget for 2021-2027.
    - Third option: the hypothetical establishment of a safety net ('*backstop*'). The whole of the United Kingdom would remain bound by a customs agreement with the EU ('*EU/UK single customs territory*') in order to avoid a border between Northern Ireland and Great Britain, an unacceptable supposition for London.
      Northern Ireland would remain "*aligned*" with Single Market rules and the Community Customs Code would apply to it, with Northern Irish products then benefiting from "*unrestricted*" access to the Single Market.
      The Twenty-Seven have obtained guarantees that the United Kingdom, which would have access to the internal market without customs duties and quotas, will not enjoy an excessive competitive advantage.
- Clauses prohibiting London from weakening certain standards (state aid, taxation, social and environmental policies) aim to "ensure that European and British companies compete on a level playing field", Barnier said.

One unknown issue remains regarding the access of EU fishermen to British waters and of British fishery products to the internal market. This "*essential condition*" for the safety net will be negotiated in the context of future relations, according to Mr Barnier.
If the *backstop* were to be put in place, the United Kingdom would not be able to give up unilaterally and would no longer have autonomy in its external trade policy.

The Ministers for European Affairs approved this draft agreement on 19 November, generally considering it to be a fair agreement. They endorsed the principle of renewing the transition period "for once", i.e. until the end of 2022.

The final green light to the withdrawal agreement was given by the Heads of States at the European Summit on 25 November.

See the text of the agreement:
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/files/draft-agreement-withdrawal-united-kingdom-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-european-union-and-european-atomic-energy-community-agreed-negotiators-level-14-november-2018_en

21538/Press Release - 2018.11.14, 19, 26

Special Meeting of the European Council (Art. 50) on Brexit

The divorce between the EU and UK scheduled for 29 March 2019 became a little more concrete on Sunday 25 November in Brussels, at an extraordinary summit at which the 27 Member States gave the **green light to the withdrawal agreement reached between European and British negotiators** and to the outlines of the EU/Post Brexit United Kingdom relationship.

Only not to express her sadness, UK leader Theresa May also validated, on Sunday in Brussels, the results of the negotiations on behalf of her government, assuring that this agreement was 'the best available' for her country. She rejected speculation of a second referendum, assuring that the agreement was the only one to solidify the result of the June 2016 referendum.

The British Parliament will be called upon in mid-December before the December European Council, potentially on 11 December, to vote on the two agreed texts.

Attention had focused in recent days on resolving the difficulties raised by Spain around Gibraltar. On the eve of the summit, Madrid was satisfied by obtaining a right of scrutiny over any developments in the post-Brexit relations of the rocky promontory with the European Union.

The **draft withdrawal agreement**, which sets out in particular the rules for citizens' rights, the UK's financial commitments to the EU budget and the issue of the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland, and the political declaration, which outlines the future bilateral economic and strategic relationship, were adopted in thirty minutes.

The Twenty-Seven have attached to both documents another statement in which they stress the red lines that European negotiators will have to follow when negotiating future economic and trade relations that will be the subject of a new mandate earlier this year. They thus insist on their vigilance regarding the rules of competition and the importance of a 'level playing field', including environmental standards.

The EU's expectations in the fisheries sector, a 'high priority' for France, Spain or the Netherlands, have also been articulated. Although the political declaration on future relations mentions the need to have a sectoral agreement by 1 July 2020, nothing has been settled in practice concerning the access of fishermen from these countries to British territorial waters.

The President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, noted the many challenges that remain before the United Kingdom once again becomes a 'friendly' third country cooperating closely with the EU. And not the least: "a difficult ratification process" of the withdrawal agreement. Congratulated on maintaining the unity of the Twenty-Seven, the EU's Chief Negotiator, Michel Barnier, whose task is coming to an end, expressed his wish that the United Kingdom remain an *"ally, friend and partner"* country.

EU leaders avoided talking about 'plan B' in case the withdrawal agreement was rejected, repeating in unison that this agreement was the only one possible.

*In the European Parliament, several political groups including the EPP, S&D and Greens/EFA have made it clear that the institution will not challenge the agreement. President Tajani said that Parliament would probably vote in January or February 2019.

21539/Press Release - 2018.11.26

Stephen Barclay Appointed New Minister of Brexit

The British Secretary of State for Health**, Stephen Barclay**, has been appointed as the **new UK minister responsible for the UK's exit from the EU**, replacing Dominic Raab, who resigned his post loudly on 15 November, to protest against the draft agreement reached between London and Brussels and validated by the May government on 14 November. Mr. Barclay is a supporter of the 'Leave' and will be responsible for continuing to prepare for the exit while Prime Minister Theresa May will lead the negotiations.

21540/Press Release - 2018.11.16

The UK Parliament's vote on divorce agreement and terms of future relationship confirmed for 11 December

On 11 December, the British Parliament will vote on the negotiations on the United Kingdom's exit from the EU, approved by Prime Minister Theresa May and the EU Twenty-Seven in Brussels on 25 November. According to the timetable set out by the leader in a letter to parliamentarians, MPs will debate the *Brexit* agreement for five days starting on 4 December, and the vote will be held on 11 December. On Monday, Mrs May called on British MEPs to support the divorce agreement she has obtained in the national interest. It is the "*best" and "the only [agreement] possible* ", she said, in the face of a torrent of criticism. Rejection would be "*a return to square one"* that would "*open the door to more divisions and uncertainty*", she added. The leader will devote her time to campaigning for this agreement and has suggested holding a televised debate with Jeremy Corbyn, the leader of the *Labour* party, on 9 December.

Chancellor Philip Hammond admitted that the UK will be poorer under every possible form of Brexit compared with staying in the European Union.
The Chancellor said that "there will be a cost to leaving the European Union because there will be impediments to our trade. Taking an economic hit from quitting the EU was inevitable since it introduces some level of friction in our trade".
But he insisted the deal agreed by the Prime Minister "reduces to an absolute minimum the economic impact of leaving the EU whilst delivering us the political benefits".

21541/Press Release - 2018.11.27-28

Inflation Rate

Latest Eurostat figures show that the annual inflation rate was **2.2% in October 2018 in the Euro area**, up from 2.1% in September. **The EU28** annual inflation was **2.2% in October,** up from 2.1% in September.
The largest contribution to the annual euro area inflation rate came from energy (+ 1.02%), followed by services (+ 0.65%), food, alcohol & tobacco (+0.42%) and non-energy industrial goods (+0.11%).

Denmark	0.7%	Germany	2.4%
Portugal	0.8%	Austria	2.4%
Ireland	1.1%	Sweden	2.4%
Poland	1.5%	UK	2.4%
Croatia	1.7%	France	2.5%
Italy	1.7%	Slovakia	2.5%
Finland	1.7%	Lithuania	2.8%
Greece	1.8%	Luxembourg	2.8%
Cyprus	1.9%	Belgium	3.2%
Netherlands	1.9%	Latvia	3.2%
Czech Republic	2.0%	Bulgaria	3.6%
Malta	2.1%	Hungary	3.9%
Spain	2.3%	Romania	4.2%
Slovenia	2.3%	Estonia	4.5%

Elsewhere

USA	2.5%	Russia	3.5%
Canada	2.2%	Brazil	4.6%
Japan	1.2%	Australia	1.9%
Switzerland	1.1%	India	3.3%
Turkey	25.3%	China	2.5%

21542/Eurostat News Release – 2018.11.16

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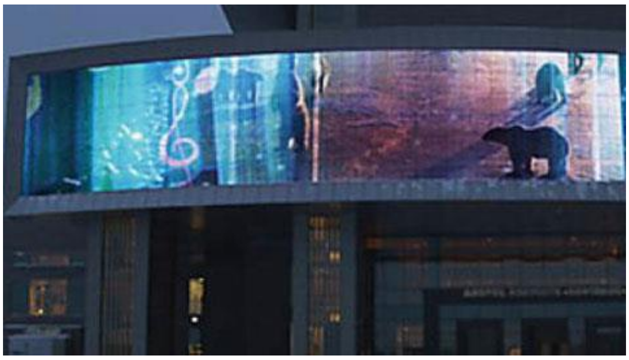
GLASS NEWS

FLAT GLASS

Glass Companies

AGC

AGC Interpane offers many options in the Glassiled product line, using active glass products fuse style and technology.



The term “active glass” describes glass products that perform additional functions thanks to a combination of technical components.
AGC Interpane offers various products with integrated LEDs under the brand name Glassiled.
New to this product range is **Glassiled Uni**, which provides evenly illuminated glass surfaces coupled with high energy efficiency. Unlike the other Glassiled products, the LEDs are not glued onto the surface of the insulating glazing in the space between the panes, but are integrated into the surround. The monochrome or RGB LEDs illuminate the glass from its edges, resulting in a uniform light effect from the inside out. The colour and colour temperature can be selected freely, so façades can easily be adapted to match the corporate design.
Glassiled Motion is an insulating glazing with controllable monochrome or RGB LEDs for the custom design of large media façades. The LEDs are located directly on the surface of the glass panes. The product is especially energy efficient, which both protects the environment and ensures the durability of the electronic components and the technical characteristics of the insulating glass. The wires are concealed in the surround. All the electronic parts and LEDs are protected from the weather inside the insulating glazing. Glassiled Motion is suitable for any façade construction.
Glassiled Sign uses only monochrome LEDs to integrate a timeless and permanently installed “signature” into the overall impression of a façade.

21543/News Release – 2018.10.31

NSG

1. Innovative Solution Award for Pilkington UK at the Glass Focus 2018

Pilkington UK received the award for their **Pilkington AviSafe™** development - an innovative coated glass which aims to prevent occurrence of bird/window strikes. Developed by Pilkington's UK-based research and development technology centre, Pilkington AviSafe™ utilises a patterned UV-enhanced coating to make the glass visible to birds while maintaining the optical transmission of the glass.

Simon Slade, a keen ornithologist based at the R&D Technical Centre, was a key driving force behind the project and described the issue:

"Millions of birds die each year when they fly into glass in homes, offices, and bus shelters. This is a growing challenge for the glass industry, architects and specifiers. *Reflection strikes, when birds fly toward something reflected by the glass as the sky or vegetation, are the main cause of the problem: some existing products are effective, but reduce the transmission of the glass and the view from inside the building".*

Although Pilkington AviSafe™ has not yet been commercially released, it has been tested on jumbo plates of glass and Pilkington expects the coating to be applied in other applications including solar control, safety and security, and noise control.

Philip Marsh, Development Manager at Glass Technology Services Ltd., presented the award and "*congratulated Pilkington UK on this innovation, which through research comparing human and avian vision in the visible and ultraviolet spectrum enabled a patterned coating to be developed and applied to the glass that is visible to birds without any significant detriment to the aesthetic properties of facades and glazing*".

21544/Press Release – 2018.11.26

2. Pilkington OptiView™ Protect OW to protect Titian's "Annunciazione di San Rocco."

A 1539 masterpiece by Titian entitled "Annunciazione di San Rocco" was the inspiration for a more modern-day interpretation by German artist Gerhard Richter. Works from the two artists are currently on display in Italy, and thanks to Pilkington OptiView™ Protect OW, the original Titian masterpiece is being exhibited in complete all-round clarity and safety.

With its very low light reflection – less than two per cent – Pilkington OptiView™ Protect OW creates a clearer view of the object on display as well as enhancing its key features. The ability of the glass to shield more than 99 per cent of UVA and UVB ultraviolet rays, which over time would cause deterioration in colours in paintings and works of art, means protection throughout prolonged public exposure.
Furthermore, this exceptional coated and laminated product protects the goods on display from vandalism, according to UNI EN 12600 – 1 (B) 1 and UNI EN 356 – P2A.
Ever-popular in many museums around the world for these valuable features, Pilkington OptiView™ Protect OW is often also the product of choice for automotive showrooms as well as commercial showcases.

The exhibition at the Palazzo Te in Mantua is being held until 6 January, 2019, where the Annunciazione di San Rocco is one of two Titian masterpieces on display together with Richter's paintings, so that they can be compared to the original influence.

21545/Press Release – 2018.11.29

Miscellaneous

Glass for Europe and the Long-Term Decarbonisation of Europe

Glass for Europe, the trade association of Europe's flat glass sector, welcomes today's release by the European Commission of the **'Clean Planet for All' communication** on a European strategic long-term vision for a climate neutral economy [1], which marks the start of an inclusive debate.
Europe's flat glass sector, which has set itself on a path to maximize its contributions to a low-carbon society back in 2012 [2], is well placed to apprehend the scale of the technological and industrial challenges, the enormous emissions reduction potential at hands in sectors like buildings but also the complex interactions and trade-offs between sectors.

Building on this, Glass for Europe intends to take an active part to this debate to highlight the following:

1. **A net-zero GHG emissions Europe cannot be achieved without robust and coherent energy efficiency policies.** A future EU pathway must be based on the realisation of a high energy-efficiency potential while acknowledging that, in some cases like that of energy-intensive industrial processes, decarbonisation may lead to increase energy use.
2. **Considerable investments in the energy-efficient renovation of buildings are urgently needed.** Nearly-zero energy buildings will need to be the norm by 2050, which requires tripling the renovation rate. Support to building renovation investments and a serious upgrade in efficiency standards for products like windows are urgently needed.
3. **A deep industrial and energy transition is needed** and must be facilitated by an integrated industrial strategy. This strategy must help define the adequate framework and investment conditions, as well as provide support to R&D in new manufacturing processes. It is an unprecedented transformation in a very short length of time that is required on industry, hence the importance to preserve its competitiveness on a global scale.
4. **Decarbonisation pathways must take into account the interactions between different sectors of the economy and offer a model of sustainable growth that profits Europe's citizens and industry.** For instance, models must allow for growth in industrial output and economy to generate the required wealth and jobs in Europe. This, together with financial support to low-carbon solutions, will be essential to facilitate social acceptance of decarbonisation.

The long-term decarbonisation of Europe will require vast amount of flat glass to upgrade glazing in all European buildings, to power Europe with photovoltaic technologies, to deliver digital technologies and to produce greener vehicles. To Glass for Europe, it is essential that this flat glass can be produced in Europe.

'When defining an EU carbon neutral strategy, it is essential to embrace a holistic thinking to ensure the coherence of models and policy choices. In Glass for Europe, we will be vigilant precisely about this so that the long-term decarbonisation becomes the promised engine of sustainable prosperity in Europe's flat glass sector.' concludes Bertrand Cazes, Secretary General of Glass for Europe.

[1] European Commission – COM(2018)773, A Clean Planet for all: A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy – November 2018.
[2] Glass for Europe – Europe's flat glass industry in a competitive low-carbon economy – February 201221546/Press Release – 2018.11.28

CONTAINER GLASS

Glass Companies

O-I

1. A major O-I shareholder wants the company to sell its European business.
In a letter sent in mid-September, hedge fund Atlantic Investment Management suggested O-I should sell the business and initiate a $1 billion share buyback programme to boost what the investor said was an undervalued share price.
New York based Atlantic owns a 5.93% share of O-I.
In the letter, Atlantic Investment President Alexander Roepers said the sale of the European operations could fetch between $3.2 billion and $3.8 billion.
That money that could be used to cut O-I's nearly $2 billion debt, reduce the exposure to currency fluctuations, and fund the stock buyback.
Mr Roepers added that despite a decline in the US beer market for mass producers, O-I has increased US container tonnage by 20% over the past five years.
The gains have been made through further diversification into food, non-alcohol, alcohol, and craft beer segments, he added.

21547/Press Release – 2018.11.06

2. Results by end of September30, 2018
Owens-Illinois, Inc. reported financial results for the third quarter ended September 30, 2018, which are considered in line with management's guidance, despite headwinds from foreign currency and transitory volume trends.
Highlights

- For the third quarter of 2018, earnings from continuing operations were 0.75 USD per share (diluted), compared with 0.77 USD per share in 2017. The adverse impact of foreign currency exchange rates was 0.04 USD in the quarter.
- Net sales were 1.7 billion USD, which was 3 percent lower than prior year third quarter, largely due to the adverse impact of the stronger U.S. dollar.
- Shipments declined compared with prior year, primarily due to the transfer of production to our joint venture with Constellation Brands and the impact of the poor 2017 grape harvest in Europe. These headwinds were partially offset by price gains, which were reported in all segments.
- Earnings from continuing operations before income taxes were 168 million USD for the third quarter compared with 172 million USD for the same period in 2017.
- Segment operating profit of reportable segments for the third quarter of 2018 was 255 million USD, 5 million USD lower than prior year period. Excluding the 9 million USD adverse impact from foreign currency, segment operating profit was up 2 percent. Improved pricing, which modestly outpaced operating costs in the quarter, was a key factor driving results. In line with management

expectations, segment operating profit in Europe was higher year-on-year, nearly flat in the Americas and lower in Asia Pacific.
- The Company repurchased approximately 0.7 million shares in the quarter. Through the third quarter of 2018, the Company repurchased a total of 5.4 million shares.

Outlook
For the full year 2018, the Company expects earnings from continuing operations to be in the range of 2.26 USD to 2.32 USD per share.
Excluding certain items management considers not representative of ongoing operations, the Company expects adjusted earnings to be in the range of 2.72 USD to 2.78 USD, based on foreign currency exchange rates as of the end of third quarter 2018.
The Company expects cash provided by continuing operating activities for 2018 to be in the range of 750 to 775 million USD and adjusted free cash flow to be in the range of 350 to 375 million USD. These estimates are 25 to 50 million USD lower than prior guidance. The impact of currency continues to weigh on cash generation translated into US dollars.

21548/Press Release – 2018.11.06

3. O-I in €119 million acquisition of Mexican manufacturer
Owens-Illinois (O-I) has acquired nearly half (49.7%) of Mexican container glassmaker Empresas Comegua from Fabricación de Màquinas (FAMA), a Vitro subsidiary, in a €119 million deal.
Empresas Comegua is a manufacturer of glass containers for the Central American and Caribbean markets.
The business serves many of O-I's global strategic customers and various segments including food, soft drinks, beer, spirits and pharmaceuticals.
Operations include two glass manufacturing facilities - one in Costa Rica and another in Guatemala.
Andres Lopez, O-I's chief executive officer, said: "The Comegua transaction builds off the acquisition of O-I Mexico in 2015 and complements our existing footprint across the Americas which now extends from Canada to Argentina.
“With this move, O-I is expanding into new and growing glass markets in Central America and extending its market presence in the Caribbean."

21549/Press Release – 2018.11.12

Verallia

1.**Verallia Deutschland** has invested in an **additional production line** at its Wirges, Germany site. It means the container glass factory now has six production lines and has increased its production capacity by 20%.
It has also created 20 new jobs as a result of the multi million investment.

21550/Press Release – 2018.11.20

2. **Verallia Q3 2018 results show improving operational performance**

In its third-quarter results, Verallia reported revenue decreased year-on-year (-4.3%), but posted a robust 4.3% growth between Q3 2017 and Q3 2018. This growth was driven by volume/mix improvement, supported by price increases aiming at mitigating rising energy costs.

In **Europe**, reported revenue decreased by -2.7% in value but increased by 1,6% year-on-year excluding exchange rates (-0.6%). This growth was driven by volume/mix improvement and higher prices, in particular in Germany, Eastern Europe and Iberia.

In **South America**, reported revenue decreased by -15.2% because of negative exchange rates variations. The growth is significant at +22.5% supported by a good level of activity, notably in Brazil, as well as higher prices in an inflationary context in Argentina and Brazil.

Highlights of the third quarter:

- decreasing reported revenue year-on-year (-4.3%) at EUR 599.5 million;
- robust 4.3% revenue growth at constant foreign exchange rates and excluding IFRS15 impact; strong adjusted EBITDA of EUR 147.6 million, with a major growth of 12.6% year-on-year (+20.0% at constant foreign exchange rates);
- significant Adjusted EBITDA margin expansion reaching 24.6%, up 370 bps compared to Q3 2017 (of which 70 bps is linked to IFRS 15);
- highly positive operating Cash-Flow generation of EUR 92.1 million and very good level of cash conversion at 80.0%.

Outlook: In an increasingly challenging environment (energy cost continuous increase and unfavourable exchange rates evolution in Latin America), Verallia confirms its yearly objectives announced in March, i.e.

(i) Positive organic growth and adjusted EBITDA increase
(ii) Further adjusted EBITDA margin expansion
(iii) Additional deleveraging and
(iv) Recurring capex amount around EUR 200 million (ca. 8% of revenue). The macro-economic environment and continuous operational improvements shall contribute to achieving Verallia's 2018 objectives.

Verallia has successfully completed the sale of its minority stake in the IVN joint venture (Brazilian company named "Indústria Vidreira do Nordeste") on 26 October 2018.
Annual results are expected to be released on 14 February 2019.

21551/Press Release – 2018.11.21

Vetropack

Swiss container glass manufacturer Vetropack plans to build a facility in Italy. It has signed a preliminary purchase agreement to buy a plot of land in Boffalora sopra Ticino to construct new glassworks.

It will replace the existing plant in Trezzano by the end of 2021. Vetropack plans to invest around €200 million in the next three years.

Vetropack Italia subsidiary was acquired in 2015 and is based in Trezzano sul Naviglio. In the future, however, the plant will no longer be able to meet the increasing demand and technical requirements, as well as the planned growth targets.
“We have therefore decided not to upgrade the existing facility at the end of its furnaces’ service life in 2021, especially as the size of the plot would not support further expansion,” said Johann Reiter, CEO of the Vetropack Group.
“We have looked for a larger site for a new plant nearby. We have found one in the industrial area of Boffalora sopra Ticino.”
The area identified is a former paper mill and owned by RDM Group. The glassworks in Trezzano will be closed once production is under way. The current workforce will be transferred to the modern glassworks.
The groundbreaking ceremony for the new Vetropack glassworks is scheduled for the end of 2019 and the grand opening at the end of 2021.

21552/Press Release – 2018.11.13

Wiegand-Glas

Wiegand-Glas owner Oliver Wiegand has outlined the company’s five-year investment plan. The container glassmaker has embarked on a five-year investment plan which should be implemented by the year 2022. The investment includes new glassworks with two melting tanks which will be built at its Schleusingen site.

21553/Press Release – 2018.11.20

Vidrala

Spanish container glassmaker Vidrala has partnered with MMAAZZ (division of Masitek instruments) to launch the Vidrala Impact Index (VII) and measurement capability using smart in-line sensing technology.
The VII can be measured using MMAAZZ's Shock QC sensor technology and allows glass-packaging operations to optimise its line against breakage and damage from impact during processing.

Eduardo Albaizar, Process Scientist at Vidrala, said: “To provide a single number representing the severity of the impacts received throughout the whole filling line or within a portion of it, it seemed reasonable to develop a weighed sum approach accounting for the different impacts where the weighing factors were based on the relative risk of breakage.”
It is defined as the number of impacts with the same magnitude of the Inches Per Second (IPS) rating of the bottle that would produce similar breakage profitability.
For example, if the VII of a line is 22, the combined impact received by the glass bottle during filling would cause the same increase in the probability of breakage of that bottle than being hit 22 times by an impact with a magnitude equal to the bottle’s IPS rating.

New data, obtained from a study of impact during the processing of glass containers, will quantify what the impacts on a line really mean. This index can be calculated to either individual or multiple impacts. For multiple impacts, the individual impact indexes are added up to obtain the overall index.

21554/Press Release – 2018.11.21

Saverglass

On October 18, 2018, Mr. Loïc Quentin de Gromard, CEO of the SAVERGLASS Group, opened its 5th site for the production and decoration of high-end glass bottles, in the presence of Mr. Jorge Aristóteles Sandoval, Governor of the State of Jalisco, Mexico.
The new plant in Guadalajara, Mexico will service luxury wine and spirits market in the Americas

Saverglass celebrated the opening of its **new plant in Acatlán de Juárez, Guadalajara, Mexico**. The aim of the Saverglass Mexico plant is to respond to the increasing trend for premiumization (sophisticated bottles) in the drinks sector, for example: tequilas and mezcals in Mexico, fine wines and spirits in the United States (whiskeys and bourbons, gins and vodkas), and rums in the Caribbean.

The plant is ideally placed geographically, in the magnificent region of Jalisco, just a few kilometres from the town of Tequila, and 40 kilometres from Guadalajara (the 2nd largest city in the country after Mexico City) and its numerous resources. Furthermore, it is near the ports of Manzanillo (serving the entire Pacific Coast) and Veracruz (on the East Coast), and is also close to major roads and railways leading to the rest of the Americas.

In its initial phase, the Saverglass Mexico plant will operate an oven that is capable of producing 85,000 tonnes, or some 120 million bottles in two colours: Extra White flint and Antique glass. The site and its impressive dimensions (30 ha) are intended to preserve the future of production, whilst favouring quality and consistency. This must be done without compromising tool flexibility and accuracy, and all of these characteristics are essential to the reputation that this (originally French) glassmaking Group has built up. The remarkable machine has been supplemented by a whole range of decorative processes, in which Saverglass is an expert, namely: automatic or semi-automatic screen printing using organic inks, enamel, or precious metals, allowing bottles and decanters to be intricately decorated; organic coatings (opaque or translucent); hot stamping; and, from next year, frosted finishes.

All of these ground-breaking manufacturing methods, which have been developed over the course of 30 years of Research and Development and combined experience, are therefore already available to the alcohol and wine premiumization market in the Americas.

The construction project, which began in July 2017 with an investment amounting to USD 120 million, took only 327 days to complete. The launch of operations at the plant, which began in June, was based on bringing together Mexican employees and their colleagues from France and the United Arab Emirates to ensure a smooth start for both plants (glass and decoration), but also to familiarize the new employees with the Group's quality-oriented production methods.

Finally, the Mexico site enables Saverglass to have a manufacturing presence on three continents, to sell within 80 countries to over 26,000 customers, and to produce 120 million additional bottles each year.

21555/Press Release – 2018.11.08

Miscellaneous

FEVE, FERVER, EXPRA and EuRIC join forces for an ambitious and comparable measurement point for glass recycling

FEVE The European Container Glass Federation

FEVE, FERVER (association of glass recycling companies in Europe), EXPRA (Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance) and EuRIC (Recycling Federations) are committed to increasing the quality and efficiency of the glass recycling value chain through separate collection, quality recycling and closed loop manufacturing of glass. To help achieve this, a single, harmonised, ambitious and enforceable calculation methodology for the reporting of glass recycling in all Member States is needed.

All material streams should have an equal level of ambition when reporting recycling rates, regardless of the complexity of different recycling value chains. In the case of glass, FEVE, FERVER, EXPRA and EuRIC have a common understanding that the measurement point is at the input to the cullet treatment plant, as this is the "recycling operation" where waste is "actually reprocessed into products". They also take the ambition further and propose that non-glass losses and non-targeted materials should be deducted.

"We are delighted to have such a strong partnership calling for comparable and ambitious reporting on glass recycling" stated Adeline Farrelly, Secretary General of FEVE. "Measuring real recycling will drive local implementation of high quality separate collection for glass".

FEVE, FERVER, EXPRA and EuRIC also recommend maintaining a clear and consistent legal framework between the End-of-Waste Regulation, the EU Waste Framework Directive and the EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive, which supports an ambitious and comparable implementation of the reporting.
"The measurement point for reporting on recycling rates in the Directive clearly refers to the actual reprocessing into products, materials and substances and must therefore be consistent with the EU end-of-waste criteria established for glass" insisted Baudouin Ska, Secretary General of FERVER. Emmanuel Katrakis, EuRIC Secretary General, further emphasized that "it is key to show that the entire glass sector agrees on a single, robust and harmonised point of measurement for glass recycling which supports end-of-waste criteria and will further drive quality along the value chain".

The European Commission is still to finalise implementing legislation establishing rules for the calculation, verification and reporting of data for verifying compliance with the recycling targets set in the Waste Framework Directive and in the Packaging & Packaging Waste Directive. EXPRA's Managing Director, Joachim Quoden, commented: "We strongly welcome a uniform definition for the measurement of recycling and believe that recycled waste should be measured at the gate of the recycling plant as the data can only be ascertained until the plant's gate, in order to deliver fair and reliable statistics. We welcome the initiative by the glass sector to agree on the "recycling operation", which is crucial in this respect".

21556/Press Release – 2018.11.22

Anheuser-Busch

Anheuser-Busch announced a USD 250,000 investment in Closed Loop Fund projects to improve glass recycling capabilities in Texas communities. The first of these projects will be announced in early 2019 and will help drive progress toward the brewer's 2025 sustainability goals announced last spring.
Investing in Closed Loop Fund projects will enable Anheuser-Busch to increase the percentage of recycled glass used at its Longhorn production facility as part of its commitment to using 100% majority recycled or returnable packaging by 2025.
"At Closed Loop Fund, we are exploring new regional models to add value and improve the economics for material streams like fibre, plastics and glass," said Ellen Martin, vice president of impact at Closed Loop Fund, in a statement. "In a single stream environment, significant investment is needed to ensure glass maintains its value."

21557/Press Release – 2018.11.26

DOMESTIC TABLEWARE AND CRYSTAL GLASS

Glass Companies

Libbey

Libbey Inc. announced Third-Quarter Results

Net sales grew for fourth consecutive quarter, up 1.8 percent or 2.9 percent adjusted for currency; Company expects to achieve the lower end of full-year profitability outlook.

Highlights

- Net sales were $190.8 million, compared to $187.3 million in the prior-year period, a 1.8 percent increase (or an increase of 2.9 percent, excluding a $2.0 million currency impact).
- Net loss was $5.0 million, compared to a net loss of $78.8 million in the third quarter of 2017. Included in third-quarter 2017 results was a $79.7 million non-cash goodwill impairment charge associated with the Latin America segment.
- New products, defined as products introduced within the previous 36 months, contributed $15.9 million in sales, or 8.3 percent of total net sales, during the third quarter.
- E-commerce sales were approximately 12.0 percent of total U.S. & Canada retail sales, an increase of 46.4 percent compared to the third quarter of 2017.
- Adjusted EBITDA was $16.1 million, compared to $20.0 million in the third quarter of 2017.

Outlook

Today, the Company affirmed its previously provided full-year 2018 sales outlook and expects to achieve the lower end of its full-year profitability outlook.
The Company now expects:

- Net sales increase in the low-single digits, compared to full-year 2017 sales, on a reported basis;
- Adjusted EBITDA margins at the lower end of the previously communicated 10 percent to 11 percent range;

- Capital expenditures near $50 million, which is at the low end of the previously estimated $50 million to $55 million range; and
- Adjusted selling, general and administrative expense in the range of 15.5 percent to 16.0 percent of net sales.

21558/Press Release – 2018.11.06

Steklarna Hrastnik

Steklarna Hrastnik is planning a €45 million expansion of its capacities.
The Slovenian glassmaker said the expansion would enable it to continue developing and ensure jobs with high added value in Hrastnik.

Peter Cas, General Director (pictured), said: "At the moment we are in the engineering stage, the stage of planning a new furnace.
"The value of the total investment including the start-up of the new production capacities is around €45 million. The project will enable us to create high-quality jobs for our employees and to react faster to market demands."

The company's owner believes in the long-term potential of the company and the Slovenian business environment. Despite high bids from foreign investors, he terminated the process of finding a buyer for Steklarna Hrastnik in November this year. Igor Lah, CEO of GlobalGlass Holding, which owns Steklarna Hrastnik, said: "We see the strategy adopted by the new management as an opportunity for further development and growth of Steklarna Hrastnik. The operational excellence of all company processes and the strategic organisation of sales and marketing in foreign markets have a special role in the strategy. The aim is to increase cooperation with globally renowned brand holders".

Ownership of Steklarna Hrastnik was transferred to Swiss-based GlobalGlass Holding on November 12. GlobalGlass Holding was established this year and provides strategic consulting services, particularly regarding strategic investments and international sales and marketing.

21559/Press Release – 2018.11.27

REINFORCEMENT GLASS FIBRES

Glass Companies

Johns Manville

Johns Manville (JM) has released the first-ever fiberglass duct wrap with an installed thermal resistivity rating of R-12: Microlite® FSK. This Formaldehyde-free™ duct wrap is designed specifically to meet new code requirements set forth by the IECC in 2015 that mandate the use of R-12 insulation on ducts in unconditioned spaces in climate zones 5-8.
The new 4.4 inch wrap is the newest addition to the JM R-12 insulation portfolio.
Johns Manville's R-12 Microlite duct wrap comes with an FSK facing designed to help ensure a closed system that prevents moisture drive and offers condensation control. This design helps prevent damage to the insulation and surrounding areas. Additionally, the material is GREENGUARD® Gold certified.
R-12 Microlite and R-12 Linacoustic RC round out the JM R-12 duct insulation portfolio with two, high-quality insulation materials that are the only duct liner and duct wrap on the market to offer a single-layer R-12 thermal performance.

21560/Press Release – 2018.11.01

Lanxess

Following a solid third quarter, LANXESS confirms its earnings forecast for 2018

- Sales increased by 4.4 percent to EUR 1.79 billion in the third quarter
- EBITDA pre exceptionals 1.5 percent higher at EUR 277 million
- EBITDA margin pre exceptionals at 15.5 percent
- Net income from continuing operations increased to EUR 80 million
- Increase in EBITDA pre exceptionals still expected at the upper end of the range of five to ten percent

Sales in the **Advanced Intermediates** segment were EUR 534 million in the third quarter of 2018, 11.0 percent higher than the figure for the prior-year quarter of EUR 481 million. EBITDA pre exceptionals came to EUR 87 million as in the prior year. The strong intermediates business of the Advanced Industrial Intermediates business unit compensated for the persistently weak demand from the agricultural industry in the Saltigo business unit. The EBITDA margin pre exceptionals came in at 16.3 percent, against 18.1 percent in the prior year.

21561/Press Release – 2018.11.12

SPECIAL GLASS

Glass Companies

SCHOTT

1. SCHOTT has introduced **CONTURAN® Tough AS** as an alternative for mechanically stressed display glazing. Thin, stable and anti-reflective cover-glass, the two letters AS stand for aluminosilicate glass. With this basic substrate, the SCHOTT technology group is not only expanding its range of anti-reflective CONTURAN® glasses, but also its list of positive properties. CONTURAN® Tough AS is 50 percent more break-resistant than comparable hardened float glass and is thinner and more lightweight.
Displays that are used outdoors, in industrial environments, and for medical or touch applications are often subject to higher loads. Even toughened float glass sometimes cannot withstand such increased demands or is not able to offer the desired safety. At this point, CONTURAN® Tough AS is recommended as a suitable solution. The AS substrate of the cover glass provides high mechanical stability and increases the break and impact strength by around 50 percent compared to chemically toughened soda-lime float glass, and with a thickness of only 2.1 mm.
"We believe that the attractive mix of advantages promises corresponding market interest. We are confident that this will already be evident at electronica," says Erik Richter, Product Manager Processed Glass at SCHOTT.

21562/Press Release – 2018.11.08

2. SCHOTT AG has taken a lead role in the Series B financing round of **Swiss startup NNAISENSE.**
Founded in 2014 and based in Switzerland and the USA, the company is one of the leading research teams worldwide in the field of artificial intelligence (AI). The team around chief scientist Prof. Dr. Jürgen Schmidhuber leverages a 25-year proven track record in AI to build large-scale neural network solutions for superhuman perception and intelligent automation. The developed solutions can be used for intelligent automation processes to leverage ever more advanced levels of efficiency and control during the complex glass production process.
Dr. Jens Schulte, CFO and Member of the Board of Management of SCHOTT, commented: "This is an exciting investment and partner opportunity for SCHOTT as part of our digitization program. NNAISENSE is at the forefront of international AI research. We are confident that they will be a global leader in applying advanced AI solutions to complex industrial processes. This partnership will help us lift productivity in production processes further. I am looking forward working with Dr. Faustino Gomez, Chief Executive Officer of NNAISENSE, and Prof. Dr. Jürgen Schmidhuber, chief scientist.”

NNAISENSE's self-learning AI performs millions of calculations. The analysis of these huge amounts of data provides new insights into complex industrial processes. Source: Getty Images.

As a part of a wider strategy towards strengthening SCHOTT's global position and growing its business through focused, strategic acquisitions, the company has also recently entered into acquisition agreements with Primoceler Oy, a Finnish pioneer in glass micro bonding, and invested in Smart Skin Technologies, a Canadian company, specializing in the development of Industry 4.0 Big Data solutions.

Further information about NNAISENSE can be found at https://nnaisense.com/

21563/Press Release – 2018.11.21

3. SCHOTT CERAN® is "Brand of the Century" 2019

Every three years, the ZEIT publishing group honours those brands that have managed to become the worldwide standard for an entire industry. SCHOTT CERAN® is one of them – and once again "Brand of the Century 2019".

It is hard to imagine the kitchens of the world without them. With more than 150 million units sold, SCHOTT glass-ceramic cooktop panels are writing a success story that stands for tradition, quality and innovation. "With CERAN® glass-ceramic, SCHOTT not only invented the black glass-ceramic cooktop panel but also ushered in a new era of modern cooking," says Jörg Wingefeld, Vice President of Marketing & Sales for the Cooking division at SCHOTT. "The glass-ceramic material has not only been produced in Germany for almost 50 years, but is also constantly being further developed."

For instance, a CERAN® glass-ceramic cooktop panel no longer has to be black, but also comes in other colors and can be printed in color. Around 5,000 different color combinations are possible.

CERAN EXCITE® glass-ceramic: illuminating the cooking zones of the future
The latest innovation CERAN EXCITE® puts glass-ceramics in a new light: special materials and coatings allow LED light sources mounted under the cooktop to shine through particularly clearly and brightly, so that coloured lighting of the control panels and cooking zones is also possible – even in hot areas. The special feature is that the light is particularly bright and shines through the glass-ceramic with sharp contours – technically speaking, this is not very easy to achieve. However, the new solution enables white light in particular to appear four times brighter than with conventional cooktops. Monochrome or HD-TFT displays can also be placed under the cooktop panel and only appear when the stove is switched on. Otherwise, the cooktop panel appears as black as usual, reliably hiding the technology underneath from every angle.

"We are delighted to have been awarded the Brand of the Century again after 2013 and 2016," says Kathrin Becker, Marketing Director for SCHOTT CERAN®. "After all, we have joined the league of other German premium brands such as Miele, Mercedes-Benz and Montblanc, which have managed to become the global standard for an entire industry. For us, the award is both praise and an incentive to work on the next innovation – true to our mission to 'Never stop inventing.'"

21564/Press Release – 2018.11.20

Corning

CORNING

Corning presented its third quarter 2018 financial results.
In brief,
- Excellent third-quarter results with year-over-year sales and profit growth in each of the company's businesses
    - GAAP and Core sales of $3 billion, up 15% and 16% respectively year over year
    - GAAP EPS of $0.67, up 72% year over year
    - Core EPS of $0.51, up 28% year over year
- All businesses contributed to strong third-quarter growth and margin expansion
    - Highlights included year-over-year sales increases of 22% for Optical Communications; 19% for Environmental Technologies; and 23% for Specialty Materials
    - Display Technologies sales and profits grew year over year as glass pricing remained moderate, reaching the important milestone of a mid-single-digit percentage decline year-over-year, and the Gen 10.5 capacity ramp continued successfully
    - As expected, core gross margin expanded to 42%, a significant improvement over the first half of 2018 and last year; GAAP gross margin was 41%.
- Company now expects sales to exceed $11.3 billion for the full year and 42% gross margin in the fourth quarter as strength continues in all businesses

- Returned an additional $542 million to shareholders, raising total distributions to $11.4 billion since the Strategy & Capital Allocation Framework was announced in October 2015

Corning continues to make excellent progress on its focused portfolio objectives, keeping the company on track to fully achieve its Strategy and Capital Allocation Framework goals. Highlights of the company's progress include:

- Increased customer commitments in Optical Communications that support accelerated capacity expansion and share growth; business continued to progress faster than expected toward goal of $5 billion in annual sales by 2020
- Extended cover glass market leadership with successful launch and adoption of Corning® Gorilla® Glass 6, expanded use of Gorilla Glass for fronts and backs of devices, and innovations in wearables and other new device categories across the global mobile consumer electronics industry
- Sustained leadership in gasoline particulate filters and glass innovation to help auto manufacturers transform their industry
    - Successfully partnered with majority of leading automakers to equip vehicles with gasoline particulate filters to meet European regulations now in effect; announced supply agreement with Changan Automobile, one of the largest Chinese automakers, for gasoline particulate filters to meet upcoming China regulations
    - Strong alignment with efforts to make cars more connected, efficient, and autonomous resulted in increased pull for collaboration from leading OEMs, with Corning Gorilla Glass for Automotive having been awarded more than 50 platforms globally to date
- Increased shipments of Corning Valor® Glass threefold over last year as multiple customers pursue trials for certification of Valor Glass
- Delivered stable returns in Display: extended market leadership and exceeded display glass market growth with successful ramp of Gen 10.5 facility; pricing continued to improve and reached the important milestone of a mid-single-digit percentage decline year-over-year, and company expects its full-year 2019 price declines to further improve from 2018.

21565/Press Release – 2018.10.28

Jenoptik

Jenoptik remains on course for growth and raises full-year revenue forecast again.
All segments contributed to this encouraging performance in the first nine months of 2018. "Demand in our markets remains robust. In view of the positive business performance and the acquisitions of Prodomax Automation and the Otto Group, we expect a strong fourth quarter. The purchased companies already made a good contribution to revenue in the third quarter. Due to the acquisition and consolidation effects now we are raising our revenue guidance for this year to EUR 820 and 830 million", Stefan Traeger, President & CEO of Jenoptik AG, summarizes the business development and the outlook for Jenoptik.

Group revenue rose significantly, by 12.6% in the first nine months of 2018, to EUR 593.4 million (prior year: EUR 526.8 million). The organic growth was 8.5%. This increase was due to good demand for optical systems for the semiconductor equipment industry, as well as for systems from the Healthcare & Industry unit. The traffic safety area also contributed considerably to this growth. In addition, the acquisitions in the automotive area contributed EUR 21.8 million to the group revenue.

In the German market, revenue increased by a total of 19.4% to EUR 180.1 million (prior year: EUR 150.9 million), in particular due to the delivery of toll monitoring systems in the Mobility segment.

In the Americas, revenue rose by 24.7% to EUR 149.7 million, which was in part attributable to the acquisitions (prior year: EUR 120.0 million).
In the first three quarters of 2018, EBIT improved at a significantly faster rate than revenue. At EUR 66.7 million, the operating result was 27.8% up on the prior year (prior year: EUR 52.2 million). In addition to revenue growth, this is attributable to a slower increase in functional costs. All segments contributed to this good performance. The EBIT margin of 11.2% was significantly higher than in the prior year (prior year: 9.9%). EBIT of the newly acquired companies came to minus EUR 0.2 million. This figure includes impacts arising from the purchase price allocation (PPA), which according to provisional calculations amounted to minus EUR 6.3 million. EBITDA grew by 21.7% to EUR 89.0 million (prior year: EUR 73.1 million), and includes PPA effects of around minus EUR 4.8 million.

21566/Press Release – 2018.11.21

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DIVERSE

GLASS & SUPPLIERS

BV GLAS – News from Germany

1. The German glass industry opposes a lower mercury emission limit being incorporated in TA Luft

On 15 October 2018 BV Glas attended a meeting at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs (BMWi) on the planned introduction of a lower mercury emission limit in TA Luft (Technical Instructions on Air Quality Control). It pointed out that lowering the emission limit would jeopardise cullet recycling because the cullet flow has mercury contamination due to missorting. The ministry representatives emphasised the importance of waste glass recycling and assured their support in the further proceedings. The cabinet decision on TA Luft is expected in spring 2019.

2. New defect evaluation list published for primary packaging made of moulded glass.

The BV-Glas "Flaconnage" committee met on 18 October 2018 in Neuhaus am Rennweg. Participants discussed key energy and environmental policy issues affecting the pharmaceutical and cosmetic glass sectors. They welcomed the new Defect Evaluation List for Primary Packaging made of Moulded Glass recently published by the renowned Editio-Cantor-Verlag, which BV Glas actively collaborated on and contributed to. It provides the industry with an up-to-date and very practical standard reference work.

21567/BVGlas Management Report – 2018/10

Şişecam Glass Symposium: "The Future of Glass"

Şişecam Group hosted the leading names of the world glass industry at the 33rd Annual Glass Symposium in Istanbul on 14 November 2018. Şişecam Group Vice Chairman and CEO Prof. Ahmet Kırman (pictured) drew attention to the rapid development of the functions and the use of glass products in his opening speech.

525 participants attended the Şişecam Glass Symposium to discuss the future of the glass industry and new technologies.

"Scientists and industrialists state that this century will be the age of glass"

Şişecam Group Vice President and CEO Prof. Ahmet Kırman stated the importance of the organization that brought the glass professionals and academicians together in Istanbul, "First held in 1985 with the objective of sharing the in-house knowledge, strengthening skills and competencies within our Group, the Şişecam Glass Symposium has become the most important synergy of the glass industry in our country in recent years that brings scientists, industrialists and executives together. The increasing interest of the national and international universities, research institutions and companies in the Şişecam Glass Symposium and the number of participants which honors us are strong indications that the steps taken so far have been in the right direction," said Prof. Kırman.

The symposium began with a special opening session and lasted with six parallel sessions, 14 speakers invited from abroad and locally sharing their knowledge and information.

21568/Press Release – 2018.11.20

Glass Technology Services (GTS)

According to a recent project carried out by Glass Technology Services and Sheffield Hallam University, the **EnviroGlass project** proposed that substantial costs savings may be possible, along with reductions in CO_2 emissions through batch reformulation.

The EnviroGlass project has successfully demonstrated proof of concept for the substitution of raw materials with waste streams from other sectors – reducing energy demands, emissions and waste and contributing towards the circular economy.

In one amber glass example these waste streams could replace raw materials at up to 8wt% while reducing furnace temperatures by up to 39°C. Further benefits included a reduction in NO_X emissions, refractory wear, landfill and transportation as well as a faster melting rate due to the form of elements in the wastes studied.

Across the wider float and container glass industry, potential benefits could amount to a reduction of more than 150,000 tonnes of CO_2 emissions and GBP 5 million in energy costs in the UK alone.

Glass Technology Services routinely work with manufacturers to troubleshoot and optimise batch and melting operations, but the EnviroGlass project set out specifically to investigate the challenges identified within the glass industry's 2050 decarbonisation roadmap and identify cost-effective routes to achieving decarbonisation.
In partnership with Sheffield Hallam University (SHU), Glass Technology Services secured a grant of GBP 156,645 for this work under the Energy Catalyst Initiative from Innovate UK – the UK government's innovation agency. The British Glass Environmental Steering Group awarded a further GBP 30k to support the project and to cover some of the additional costs incurred in carrying out the project.

Full details of the EnviroGlass project are available on the Glass Technology Services Ltd website at www.glass-ts.com/projects/enviroglass-decarbonisation-and-batch-reformulation

21569/Glass Technology Services Press Release – 2018.11.14

British Glass Focus Awards

Ardagh, O-I, Saint-Gobain, Pilkington and Nippon Electric Glass Fiber were the winners at the British Glass Focus awards last night.
The glassmaking companies won the awards in a variety of categories at the Glass Focus event, held in the Millennium Gallery in Sheffield, UK.
Judge Dr Nick Kirk, Technical Director of the organisers and hosts British Glass, praised the quality of all the entries and said it was difficult to decide the winners.
"All the entries were excellent. There were many intriguing and beautiful designs, and amazing ideas, and we could clearly see that the sector's businesses believe strongly in developing their people for the future."

Winners in each category were:

- **Design of the year**: **O-I**
- **Innovation: Pilkington UK with Avisafe**
- **Health and Safety: Ardagh Group**
- **Apprentice of the year: O-I's Gareth Owen**
- **Strengthening business through people: Saint-Gobain Glass UK**
- **Company of the Year: Electric Glass Fiber UK**

All details at: https://www.britglass.org.uk/news-comment/glass-focus-2018-winners-revealed

21570/British Glass Press Release – 2018.11.23

Magma Vietnam

Magma Vietnam has completed its first container and float glass forehearth projects in the past year. This concludes a successful transfer of skills and knowledge from its UK operations in order to offer customers the same quality products at a more competitive price.
David Collinge, Magma Vietnam's General Manger said: "We are delighted at the completion of these projects and are looking forward to supplying high quality container and float glass refractories back into Europe and North America. Looking forward, we are excited about the future growth prospects in the South-East Asian region."

21571/ Press Release – 2018.11.26

SEMINARS / CONFERENCES / WORKSHOPS

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

British Glass has announced its latest knowledge transfer event, *Future energy options for glass melting*, will take place on 4 December in Wakefield. The glass sector, alongside all manufacturing industries, is being challenged to decarbonise and radically improve energy efficiency. Meeting this challenge will take new ways of thinking.
Government have not decided on a definitive way forward and in fact the transition to a low carbon future is likely to involve a number of solutions depending on individual company and future innovations.

Many of the options identified in the glass sector decarbonisation roadmap rely on alternative energy sources. It is important to examine the most viable options and to stimulate discussion so the glass sector is in the best position to make decisions on future investments.

This seminar will focus on the future low carbon energy mix in the UK and current and future melting technologies that will need to be adopted for the glass sector to meet its 2050 decarbonisation goal.

What's the programme?
The first half of the seminar will focus on energy policy and look at how the availability of low carbon electricity, gas and hydrogen is likely to change between now and 2050. The second half will look at low-carbon melting technologies and explore the barriers to full scale implementation.

Who should attend?
This day will be valuable to anyone with a role connected to the glass manufacturing sector in one of the following capacities:

- senior management
- environmental and energy managers
- project engineers/technical staff
- equipment suppliers
- investment/financial managers

Location: Tuesday 4 December 2018 (9.30-16.00) at The Rowan Suite, Cedar Court Hotel, Wakefield
Cost: British Glass members (£40) – Non-members (£175)
Booking Form: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/future-energy-options-for-glass-melting-tickets-51016951074

21572/British Glass Press Release – 2018.10.05

ICG Conference in Japan

The ICG 2018 Conference in Yokohama, Japan had the theme of *Innovations in Glass and Glass Technologies*.
A total of 588 delegates from 29 countries attended the four-day event held at the end of September.

The ICG Conference was run in conjunction with the 59th Meeting on Glass and Photonic Materials together with the 14th Symposium of the Glass Industry Conference of Japan. The first morning included two Plenary talks. Prof Akio Makashima spoke on the subject '*Scientifically really important or Technologically really important*?' while Takuya Shimamura of AGC Inc., Japan spoke on '*The Past, Present and Future of Japan's Glass Industry – Its contribution to our Sustainable Society*.'

The opening session was concluded by a talk from the winner of last year's Gottardi Award, Dr Ashutosh Goel, of Rutgers University.
For the main programme, 60 invited speakers spoke on one of six sub-themes: Glass Production Technology; Radioactive Waste; Glasses for Photonic Technologies; Electric and Magnetic Functions; Crystallisation and Glass Ceramics and Atomistic Views of Glass.

A feature of the conference was its focus on young people. Every lunch time a room was set aside for a talk and to link students to available mentors.
The short talk by a different younger glass technologist each day gave a feel for available career paths and how to approach job hunting. Students then gathered in groups around an allocated table to discuss their thoughts and questions at a more personal level with an allocated mentor.
Of the delegates 376 were from Japan with 29 from China. Germany and the USA were close behind with 24 delegates each. A further 95 came from 17 European countries and 30 from other Asian countries while six were from Russia and four from Brazil.

ICG also held meetings of several of its committees and at the Council Meeting Prof Alicia Duran was elected as its 25th President for 2018 - 2021. The previous incumbent, Prof Manoj Choudhary, had completed his term of office.
Prof Durán is a Research Professor of the Institute of Ceramics and Glass (CSIC), the Spanish Research Council and has a PhD in Physics.
It is the first time that Spain has accessed this role in its 85 years, and Prof Durán is the second woman to be awarded the role among the 25 presidents of the association.

Pictured: ICG Ex-presidents with the new president Alicia Duran (right)

Her new objectives will include: the promotion of Education through the ICG Summer School, the ICG Winter School, and a new ICG North America School; the continuing support for the initiative on Young Scientists and Technologists, and the reinforcement and promotion of the activities of the Technical Committees, accepted as the backbone of the ICG. She will also promote the ICG2030 project as the tool to adapt the structure of the association to the new challenges of the world of glass and develop a new initiative for the Promotion of Women in the field of glass and in the ICG.
Prof Durán is the leader of the glass research group in the Department of Glass. She has also been Secretary of the Glass Section of the Spanish Ceramic and Glass Society for more than 25 years.
In 1988, she received the Gottardi Award dedicated to the promotion of young researchers in glass. Soon after, she assumed the scientific secretariat of the 16th International Congress on Glass held in Madrid in 1992.
She has participated in the association's Technical Committee on Education (TC23) for more than 20 years. She is also part of the Editorial Board and has published several books on the history of the ICG, three editions of 'Making Glass Better' and 'Teaching Glass Better'.
In 2002, Prof Durán was appointed as Honorary Treasurer, which involved moving the ICG headquarters to Madrid. She took on the role until 2015, when she was elected as Vice-President.

The final act of the conference was for the representatives of the American Ceramic Society to issue an invitation to all those present to participate in the 25th triennial ICG Congress in Boston, USA, from 9-14th June 2019.

21573/Glass Technology Services Press Release – 2018.11.13

SteklоSoyuz: Glass and Modern Technologies – XXI Forum

The Glass and Modern Technologies – XXI Forum, taking place on **11 December 2018 in Moscow**, will focus on increasing the effectiveness of glass making: machines, equipment, control systems, raw materials, refractories, furnaces, problems and solutions, Industrial processing of sheet glass.
SteklоSoyuz of Russia will be hosting the Glass and Modern Technologies at the International Industrial Academy building.
The task of the" Glass and modern technologies – XXI Forum is the analysis of the current state and prospects for the growth of the glass industry until 2025, along with the development of consumption and production, and training issues.
The International Glass Conference will provide scientific dialogue-discussions between consumers and producers, business people, scientists, teachers and practitioners of Russia, the CIS and foreign countries.
The given conference will, alongside overcoming professional difficulties, enable to achieve united efforts on precise technological parameters, successfully develop business contacts, understand technical requirements and react in due time to consumer enquiries.

Those who wish to participate in the Forum, can send their completed application to the Organizing Committee: by e-mail: palchikov@steklosouz.ru
Tel: +7 (495) 963- 67-36, +7 (495) 411-68-40.

21574/Press Release – 2017.08.03

GPD Finland 2019

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21575/Press Release – 2018.09.04

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