



FOOD CONTACT PLASTICS SEMINAR

CHALLENGES AND APPROACHES TO
PRODUCT SAFETY MANAGEMENT

23 & 24 APRIL 2015 - BRUSSELS

28 April 2015, Brussels

Press Release

For Immediate release

3rd Food Contact Plastics Seminar by EuPC - Stay updated with regulatory constraints, meet requirements and be competitive on the market

On 23 and 24 April, EuPC, the Trade Association of Plastics Converters in Europe held the Food Contact Plastics Seminar with the support of Polymer Comply Europe. The seminar updated entrepreneurs whom are active in the plastics food packaging industry on the current legislation and gave a basic training to those in charge of regulatory compliance in members companies.

The two-day conference focused on the assessment and management of food contact plastics materials. Practical tools such as the Matrix Web application, Council of Europe Food Contact Materials Database and FACET were presented to the audience, accompanied by live demonstrations of their usage. Methods in approaching substances whose safety assessment and management are of the self-responsibility of business operators in the supply chain were presented, supported by several case studies.

The European Commission gave insight into upcoming legislative work and how enforcement is done in practice at the Commission. "The industry has launched a strategic revision of the legislative framework and how it may be adapted to take into account the latest scientific developments – especially in the field of exposure assessment – and will engage all stakeholders to come to concrete and shared proposals" said Dario Dainelli, Chairman of the EuPC Food Contact Regulatory Experts Panel (FREP).

The seminar also disclosed the concepts that were developed to make authorizations for the food contact plastics recycling processes, which is expected to be enforced by the end of 2016. The participants were also introduced to the "Compliance Monitoring Summary Sheet".

Finally, the seminar explored the legislation in export markets, which are growing at the scale of subcontinents such as Mercosur, ASEAN and the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Such growth will necessitate future developments to be monitored but also represents opportunities due to the increased market size.

Commenting at the end of the meeting, Geoffroy Tillieux, Director of the Technical Department at EuPC concluded: "Developing ever safer food contact materials is challenging. We develop tools to support our members and try to contribute to the training of the industry with events like these. Having a sound strategy for regulatory compliance is not only a must, it will also enable to seize opportunities within EU and abroad in more and more demanding markets."

Speakers: D. Dainelli *Cryovac Sealed Air*, R. Eisert *FCA/PlasticsEurope*, E. Hell *Starlinger*, E. Hendriks *FREP*, E. Constanza *Laurenza FratiniVergano*, J.P. Le Breton *LINPAC Packaging*, M. Neal *CPME*, H. O'Keeffe *Keller and Heckman LLP*, B. Schupp *EC DG SANTE*, M. Syčová *EFSA Representative Slovakia*, G. Tillieux *EuPC*, P. Troisfontaines *Belgian Institute for Public Health*, C. van den Dungen *Poly Recycling*.

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About EuPC

EuPC is the leading EU-level trade association, based in Brussels, representing European plastics converters. EuPC now totals 51 European plastics converting national and European industry associations; it represents close to 50,000 companies, producing over 45 million tonnes of plastic products every year. The European plastics industry makes a significant contribution to welfare in Europe by enabling innovation, creating quality of life for citizens and facilitating resource efficiency and climate protection. More than 1.6 million people are working in EU converting companies (mainly SMEs) to create a turnover in excess of €300 billion per year.

About Polymer Comply Europe

Polymer Comply Europe is a service provider for the plastics industry specialized in EU legislation. Since 1989 we have been closely working with industry developing an in-depth knowledge and wide experience in EU Regulatory Compliance, Association Management and Projects & Studies. Due to increasing complexity of EU legislation, companies need more legal and technical advice. Companies involved in the plastics industry need support on how to cope with this burden and our experts can provide you with the best expertise. You need proper advice from our best EU experts. For this we decided to develop a pool of EU plastics experts under our service company Polymer Comply Europe, based in Brussels.