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BioStruct technical

meeting kicks off

On the 16-17 December 2008, BioStruct partners met



in Valencia (Spain) for the first technical kick-off meeting and Steering Committee meeting.



The participants discussed in detail the work planning for the next 12 months and the tasks of each partners. An info *labtour* was organized by Aimplas, after the meetings.

In this European project EuCIA is part of the Work Package 9 (WP) whose tasks are targeted towards dissemination, exploitation and training.

Thorough its large European network EuCIA will communicate the impacts and the importance of using the next generation of enhanced wood based composites.

From the President

Delivering a bright future for the composites



Dear Colleagues,

The old year has passed and we are already very active in 2009. Let me ask you sincerely: do you remember all the important events of 2008?

Do you remember all the work done by you and your company last year?

Amazing, isn't it? Amazing how fast we forget.

The same questions can be applied to EuCIA. Do you remember the last General Assembly meeting? Do you remember the applications for the Framework Program? Is the discussion with new member groups still present in your memories?

Last year -2008- was one of the most important years in EuCIA history. Many activities were accomplished under our new image - Grow- Know - Show - the World of Composites. We laid ground for a solid financial future. Our market perception improved, the Sector Head (General Manager) succession plan was realized, and we performed 2 good exhibitions with great interest from our industry.

Moreover, EuCIA achieved a final definition where COMPOSITES are considered recyclable, which represented a major step for EuCIA advocacy efforts. These are only a few examples. I would like to point out that many other issues are on the agenda for 2009.

Should one mention a few examples? Impossible to do so.

As president and speaker of the EuCIA Board, I like to thank all of you, who participated towards achieving a successful 2008. Thanks for supporting us, thanks for working with us and investing time and money in us.

We hope our good cooperation will be continued this year, as well. Be certain: if we continue in this way, there is a bright future for our COMPOSITE organisation.

Volker Fritz,

President EuCIA

NATEX Work Package

leaders meet in Poland



On the 15-16 January EuCIA participated to Natex technical meeting, which took place in Poznan (Poland). The meeting was organized by the Polish Institute of Natural Fibers (INF) (<http://www.inf.poznan.pl/>) and it discussed issues related to hemp and flax fibres specifications.

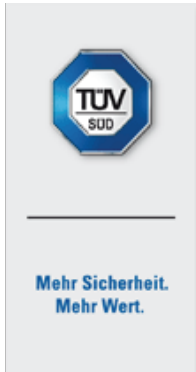
The INF tasks under Natex are linked to the development of natural fibre textile preforms for composites.

The next Natex meeting will take place on the 11-12 February 2009. The meeting will be organized by EuCIA and it will take place at EuPC offices in Brussels.

For more information please contact us.



TÜV SÜD Academy organizes conference on Fibre Reinforced Plastics in industrial applications



On 4-5th March 2009, the TÜV SÜD Academy will organize its 6th international conference in Munich (Germany). The conference will be dedicated to experiences sharing using FRP components and their sustainability. Other issues such as certification and standardisation in different countries will also be addressed during the conference.

Participants will have the opportunity to display their products in an exhibition which will run in parallel with the conference. The languages of conference will be both English and German (simultaneous translations).

For a program of the conference and additional information please visit. <http://www.tuev-sued.de/> or contact us.



EuCIA partner in a new advanced wood based composites European project - Woody

The end of January will mark the beginning of another European project which will be run during the next 4 years and where EuCIA acts as a partner. The new project - *Woody* (Innovative advanced WOODbased Composite Materials and Components) gathers together 19 partners in a balanced effort from researchers and industrial players.

Woody Project is coordinated by CETMA, a private research centre located in Italy. Its activities are directed towards specialized services for concept design and 3D virtual prototyping through CAID (Computer Aided Industrial Design), CAD (Computer Aided Design), CAE (Computer Aided Engineering) and RP (Rapid Prototyping).

The goal of *Woody* Project is to develop new composite panels and laminates from wood derived renewable materials. This process will provide competitive performances with regard to traditional composites. Within *Woody* - a fully innovative paradigm will be introduced and it will cover fibres, matrices and cores. What makes *Woody* so unique is its innovative approach - the so called - *Composite Thinking* - which starts from the phase of conception, to production and installation. This process is expected to fully exploit and re-think the potential offered by composites.

While *Woody* aims towards the optimization of natural resources it also expects to increase the potential of wild forest areas recovery. The targeted applications of *Woody* were identified in the following sectors:

- transportation (thanks to the lightweight, mechanical resistance as well as recyclability of the composites);
- building and construction (for the combination of rigidity, adaptability and thermal -sound insulation);
- other fields (as for the production of furniture, toys, or musical instruments).

Within *Woody*, EuCIA tasks are the following:

- testing of prototypes and providing industrial scale to the technical results of the project (Work Package Leader 7)
- dissemination activities (Task leader in the context of WP 9)

For more information on *Woody* Project please contact us.

From the General Manager

Dear Members,

A New Year -2009- has started! I hope you had a good end of 2008 with your beloved ones!

But now back to work. We have a full year ahead of us with a lot of challenges. For many companies in our industry 2009 will be a year with a lot of uncertainties. Will we keep our business upright? Are our customers strong enough to survive the current climate? How about financing our investments? There are enough questions to ask.

EuCIA has a year of exiting activities ahead. We are now involved in three European R&D projects, called NATEX, BioStruct and Woody. These projects are focused on the use of renewable materials (resin matrices as well as fibres) for the production of composite products.

In the projects, companies and research institutes from several European countries will work together towards the development of sustainable new materials to use by our industry. EuCIA will play a major role as the leading association for the dissemination of the results of the projects.

It gives us a lot of exposure and a lot of new networking possibilities, which at the end benefits the composites industry in general and you as a member in particular.

Another exiting new development is the joint organisation together with JEC of a high level strategic conference about the future of the composites industry. This conference will take place in June this year. You will hear a lot more about it in the coming weeks.

EuCIA will also participate again to the JEC exhibition and Composites Europe. And of course, we will keep an active eye on what is cooking in the political arena in Brussels in order to defend our interests.

EuCIA is on the right track and we are more than happy to serve you as our distinguished Members in 2009 again!

Ab Kasper
General Manager



4th European Trade Fair & Forum
for Composites, Technology and Applications

Neue Messe Stuttgart, Germany
27-29 October 2009



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

15-16 January 2009	NATEX Project Meeting	Poznan, Poland
22 January 2009	EuCIA Working Group Education	The Netherlands
29-30 January 2009	Woody Project kick-off meeting	Brindisi, Italy
11-12 February 2009	NATEX Project Meeting	EuPC Offices, Brussels
24-25-26 March 2009	JEC Composites	Paris, France
June 2009	The European Composites Forum	TBC
27-28-29 October 2009	Composites Europe	Stuttgart, Germany

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