

## KNOW-SHOW-GROW



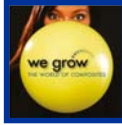
### The Mission of EuCIA

In the last Newsletter we have explained once again our three key phrases:



### Know-Show-Grow

We Know the world of Composites  
We Show the world of Composites  
We Grow the world of Composites



In our future Newsletters we will make a direct reference to the three key phrases for every activity we will write about. Each article will be equipped with one of the three logos of the key phrases, so it will always be easy to see where it fits in the strategy of EuCIA.



## NEW CORPORATE IMAGE FOR THE EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR SMC- BMC

The European Alliance for SMC-BMC, an industrial association of European companies and institutions involved in the field and product chain of SMC / BMC has improved their corporate identity. Their new image was presented during the COMPOSITES EUROPE fair in Essen.

The association introduced a new logo and a clearer mission statement. SMC-BMC materials are used in many manufacturing sectors including transportation, construction, electronics, sanitary engineering, industrial products and consumer products.

When compared to other industrial material groups such as metal and aluminium and thermoplastics, SMC-BMC materials offer three primary performance-based values to manufacturers and other businesses along the value chain: no design limits, sustainability and best performance. These are the key messages that the organization will send out from now on.

For more information please visit [smc-alliance.com](http://smc-alliance.com)



## COMPOSITES EUROPE FAIR –BIG AND BETTER THAN EVER, SAYS AB KASPER

Last month's (23-25 September) **COMPOSITES EUROPE** fair was a success and an event "big and better than ever" according to Ab Kasper. EuCIA President Volker Fritz noted: "Since the fair was held for the first time two years ago, the European industry association has been the co-operation partner of COMPOSITES EUROPE". He also added that an increasing number of companies from the carbon-fibre reinforced plastics (CFRP) sector took advantage of the fair.

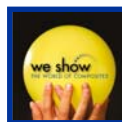


The fair gathered 270 exhibitors and more than 8.000 visitors which is a considerable increase from last year. The visitors came from automotive sector (49%), wind energy plant and rail vehicle sectors and they covered both the composite and applications sectors.



Next year's fair will take place in Stuttgart (27-29 October) and it will be organised in collaboration with EuCIA and the international trade journal Reinforced Plastics.

For more information on this year's fair and Outlook 2009 please click here: <http://www.composites-europe.com/>



## EUCIA PRESENT AT THE JOHNS MANVILLE ACADEMY FORUM

Our sponsor, Johns Manville is organising on 25-26 November 2008 the JM Academy Forum, for the first time. The purpose is to forge a common understanding of the challenges faced by the composites industry concerning sustainable development. Also, the Forum will be seen as an unique networking opportunity for all interested parties.

The forum aims to bring together corporate leaders, senior governmental officials, academic, environmental and composites technology experts from the whole European composites industry.

The theme of the Forum 2008 is 'Environmental aspects and sustainability in composites'. The JM Academy Forum will be a yearly symposium for the composites business leaders and experts.

The following speakers should not be missed.

- Claudia Kemfert, Head of department Energy, Transportation, Environment at the German Institute of Economic Research (DIW Berlin) and Professor of Energy Economics at Humboldt University, Berlin
- Serge De Gheldere, CEO Futureproof
- Ab Kasper, General Manager EuCIA
- Astrid Scomaker, Head of Unit of the chemicals unit in DG Environment.
- DR. Ivo Mersiowsky, Senior Consultant Five winds International
- Ed D'Hooghe, Leader of Dow Automotive Plastics global development
- Prof. Ignace Verpoest, Head of Research Composites at KULeuven University

## BIOSTRUCT : A NEW EUROPEAN R&D PROJECT

As you know, EuCIA is involved in a number of European R&D projects, which have a strong emphasis on the sustainability of composite materials. BioStruct is one of these projects. It had its kick off meeting at the 1<sup>st</sup> of October.

BioStruct is being coordinated by the Fraunhofer Institute for Chemical Technology, Fraunhofer ICT in Pfinztal near Karlsruhe.

EuCIA is one of the 20 partners from 10 countries in Europe, involved in the project. The task of EuCIA will be to disseminate all results of the project. This means that we will inform the industry about the project, what is the content of it, what do we expect from it, etc.

This dissemination will be done in many different ways. This can be through a special website, publications, the organisation of workshops, etc. The timeframe of the project is 4 years.



### Plastics processing: EuPC says prices must rise

European Plastics Converters (EuPC) has warned that plastics consumers must accept the need for increased

prices if they want to retain a healthy supply chain. Many of Europe's 50.000 plastics converters are on the margins of viability following across the board cost increases particularly in raw materials and energy. EuPC cites reports of hikes in production costs from several national member associations, with figures indicating the largest increase, 90% since January 2004, for PE in France.

To read the full press release please visit:

<http://www.plasticsconverters.eu/>

### What is BioStruct all about?



Wood-based composites (WPC) have attracted a lot of activity in Europe in recent years, mainly because of the commercial success of these materials on the US-market and the constantly increasing prices for standard polymers.

Wood in decking, flooring or fencing applications is mainly seen as a cheap filler, so often waste wood from the wood industry is used in combination with recycled polymers. The varying low quality, poor optical appearance and sometimes very low durability of these products has up to now limited their application in Europe to niche markets.

Nevertheless market interest is growing, also due to the public's increasing interest in these more sustainable materials.

For high value technical applications with higher revenue, where better and consistent mechanical and thermal properties are needed, such as semi-structural applications in the automotive industry, in technical packaging for logistic equipment or for the construction sector, conventional WPC materials are often technically not suitable.

**BioStruct** will develop **eWPCs**, the next generation of advanced wood-based composites that can be used in demanding, high-value technical applications. **eWPCs** will be developed by an integrated approach, combining material and process development, in the following fields.



### ECRC COMPOSITES RECYCLING SEMINAR

On 18 February 2009, the ECRC together with EuCIA will organize an important one day seminar about the status of composite recycling projects in Europe.

Participants to the seminar will be able to get more information about the activities of ECRC, European legislation, recycling projects & initiatives in different industries, etc.

The seminar will be held at the EUPC offices in Brussels. More information about speakers, programme and registration will be available soon.

### EU CIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND BOARD MEETING

On **3 December 2008** the EuCIA **General Assembly and Board meetings** will take place in Brussels at the EuPC offices. **The Board meeting will start at 08:30 – 11:00 and it will be followed by the EuCIA GA meeting in the afternoon (13:00 – 18:00pm).** More information about the draft agenda and travel arrangements will be circulated soon.

***Don't forget to add the dates in your agenda !***

- Advanced chemical modifications for wood and cellulose fibres to increase compatibility with polymers and improve fibre-polymer interaction by controlled cellulose extraction and functionalisation
- Insertion of functionalities into cellulose fibres, e.g. electrical conductivity or flame retardancy, allowing the use of eWPCs in technically demanding automotive, construction, packaging and electronics applications
- New bio-based engineering polymers e.g. bio-based polyamide or modified polyesters enabling the use of the new composites under harsh conditions
- Flexible, energy-efficient, integrated compounding processes that realise the full potential of the new materials
- Advanced processing technologies for **eWPCs** such as bio-hybrid-technology, local reinforcement, foaming and sandwich technologies



- Economic and ecological assessment of these new materials for an optimal ecological/cost/benefit ratio

In BioStruct project describes the activities in which cooperation between the involved parties is needed such as:

- Treatment and improvement of wood fibres
- Modification and characterisation of cellulose fibers
- The use of bio-based matrices, such as PLA, bio-based polyamide, lignin, etc.
- Improvement of compounding of eWPCs
- Shaping of eWPCs
- Foaming technologies

In the project four case studies will be developed for applications in the automotive, construction, packaging and the electronics industry. EuCIA will keep you posted on all news regarding BioStruct. If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

## WELCOME



We welcome Alisa De Backer, who will start working for EuCIA as project manager. Alisa has worked in various functions in trade associations in Brussels before and gained experience in the environment of European legislation. She will assist us in the work we have to perform for the European R&D projects and will also work on an improved communication with our members. Please give her a warm welcome in the world of Composites. Alisa can be reached at [alisa.de.backer@eucia.org](mailto:alisa.de.backer@eucia.org).

## FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



*Composites Europe is over! It was again a good exhibition with a fast growing number of exhibitors, compared to last years exhibition in Stuttgart.*

*EuCIA was again very visible with a booth at a strategic location in the exhibition. Our image with the yellow balloons and the focus on our key words Know, Show, Grow really pays off.*

*I am also very happy with the start of Alisa De Backer as project manager in EuCIA. She will help us improving our communication with our members. She will also become the focal point for the EU projects we are now starting to work on.*

*We'll keep in touch!*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>14-16 October 2008</b>	Materialica & Composites	Munich, Germany
<b>22-23 October 2008</b>	19th International Conference on Composite Materials	Barcelona, Spain
<b>22-24 October 2008</b>	JEC Composites Asia	Singapore
<b>29-31 October 2008</b>	Compotec	Marina di Carrara, Italy
<b>3 December 2008</b>	<b>EuCIA Board and General Assembly</b>	<b>Brussels, EuPC offices</b>
	<b>08:30 – 11:00 Board meeting</b>	
	<b>13:00 – 18:00 General Assembly meeting</b>	
<b>18 February 2009</b>	ECRC Recycling Seminar	Brussels, EuPC Centre

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