

European Composites Industry Association Newsletter Activities and Issues Overview

- **Know-Show-Grow**

The mission of EuCIA can be explained with three key phrases:

We Know the world of Composites.

We Show the world of Composites.

We Grow the world of Composites.



In the Newsletters from now on we want to make a direct reference to the three key phrases for every activity we want to report on. It is therefore good to explain the three key words again:

We Know the world of Composites:

EuCIA

- represents approx. 8.000 companies in 12 countries Europe, active in the composites industry.
- shares knowledge on the market and technologies in the composites industry
- is involved in training and education programs throughout Europe
- is partner in EU-funded R&D projects

We Show the world of Composites:

EuCIA

- lobbies for the interest of the composites industry in Brussels
- is in the forefront of new EU legislation
- is part of EUPC, an important and powerful association for the plastics industry
- supports the industry on long term interests and sustainability.

We Grow the world of Composites:

EuCIA

- is the platform for growth of the composites industry
- initiates replacement of conventional construction materials by composites
- works on a pan-European arena for the composites industry
- helps the composites industry with the development of new and clean technologies

We show the World of Composites

In this issue of the Newsletter two important news items under the heading **We Show the World of Composites:** Recycling and the VOC directive

Recycling definition favourable for Composites.

As you may know we have been lobbying together with EUPC for a long time to reach a good definition for recycling in the Waste Framework Directive (WFD). This directive is under revision at the moment. Last month the European Parliament has adopted a new revised text of the WFD.

The new definition for recycling in the WFD is as follows:

Recycling means any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes. It includes the reprocessing of organic material but does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or for backfilling operations.

This definition is crucial for us as we, together with ECRC, are studying a recycling route by offering composite waste to a cement kiln. In the cement kiln route we are reprocessing materials into other products. Thus means that the cement route fits well in the new definition for recycling. Next to that ECRC has studied together with the SMC Alliance the energy part in the cement route. In this study it has been proven that the cement route is the best option, compared to incineration, from an environmental point of view. We will publish on this study more in the coming months.

Styrene and the VOC Directive

In 1999 the EU issued a directive for the limitation of volatile organic compounds by the industry. This directive (Council Directive 1999/13/EC of 11 March 1999 on the limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds due to the use of organic solvents in certain activities and installations) has created a lot of confusion in the composites industry. Frequently UP resin processing companies in several EU countries are faced with a severe limitation of their styrene emissions based on this directive. EuCIA and the UP Resin Group of Plastics Europe together have come to the conclusion that this directive should not be used to regulate the emission of styrene from a polyester plant.

There are two important reasons for that:

- The directive talks about lamination as an industrial process. This lamination has nothing to do with the (hand-) lamination that is used in a polyester plant.
- Styrene does not fit in the definition of an organic solvent which is used in the directive.

We have issued a position paper in which our opinion is clearly explained. This position paper can be found at the following link:

<http://www.eucia.org/publications/publications>

This position paper can be used in discussion with local authorities about the limitation of emissions.

• Composites Europe



Have you reserved September 23 – 25 in your diary already for a visit to Composites Europe? Don't forget to go there. It will be bigger and better than ever. We expect more than 300 exhibitors and 7.500 visitors. The show is organised in combination with the Aluminium Show in Essen. Visitors to the Aluminium show get a free admission to the Composites Show. This is a splendid opportunity to present the advantages of Composites in comparison to Aluminium. If you want to be an exhibitor and have not yet booked a space, go quickly to the website of Reed Exhibitions and check the possibilities.

EuCIA will have its own booth in the well known yellow outfit. Our sector groups EPTA and the SMC Alliance will also present themselves in their own booth.

• From the General Manager

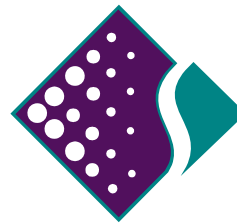
Last month June, 25, we had our General Assembly in Brussels. It was a very lively and informative meeting. We were particularly

pleased with the contributions from our member countries. It shows your commitment to EuCIA! In many of the country presentations a few items are coming back every time again. Recycling, Education, Innovation, REACH. These items are very vital for the composites industry. EuCIA will focus its activities very much around these themes. During the General Assembly we also had two interesting presentations about new developments in the composites world. One presentation from Michael Carus (Nova Institut) was about the potential of natural fibres for the composites. Ignaas Verpoest of Leuven University talked about research on nano-, meso-, bio- and design- aspects of composites. Very challenging and promising subjects! Summer time is coming. At the moment I write this, many of you are preparing for their summer holidays or have gone already. Enjoy it and come back safely!

I hope to meet you all during Composites Europe in Essen.

• Introduction of the European Alliance for SMC/BMC

As recently announced the European Alliance for SMC/BMC joined EuCIA as a sector group.



The Alliance, founded in 1993, is an industrial association of European companies and institutions involved in the field and product chain of SMC/BMC with a concerted commitment to SMC/BMC and the technological advancement of these materials.

The mission of the Alliance is seen in

- promoting the use of SMC/BMC and their advantages
- increasing the awareness of SMC and BMC in Europe through a broad range of various marketing measures and activities
- establishing SMC/BMC as *the* composite material and broaden the market for its applications
- strengthening the understanding and acceptance of and the technical competence in the field of SMC and BMC applications and advise the advantages in comparison with competing materials
- assisting designers and manufacturers in the application of SMC and BMC in the transportation-, electrical-, construction-, sanitary and other industries

- improving the awareness of the excellent environmental and recycling properties of SMC/BMC

Following this mission the activities and goals of the Alliance are focused on two areas:

Marketing towards third parties by:
promoting the use of SMC/BMC and their advantages

increasing the acknowledgement and awareness of SMC/BMC in the market by technical working groups, workshops, seminars (mostly in cooperation with end-users), roadshows (at end-user facilities), information brochures, press releases and other educational materials bringing knowledge on SMC/BMC to the educational institutions and their students (as the composite technicians of tomorrow)

providing and distributing technical information
performing lobby-work at commissions and institutions

Solving of common technical issues by:

Elaboration of concepts and solutions for technical items, which are of common interest

Involvement in procedures and regulations causing effects on the SMC/BMC industry (Norms and standardisations, IMDS, REACH,..)

Elaboration of technical documentations and technical studies

Currently, the alliance consists of 20 members in three different types of member status. Full membership in the Alliance is open to all European companies directly involved in the product value chain of SMC/BMC (raw materials, compounds, moulded parts). Today 14 companies, which are acting as suppliers of SMC/BMC raw materials like resins, glass fibre reinforcements, additives and others, as SMC/BMC manufacturers or as moulders of SMC-/BMC parts are active full members. Associated membership is open to companies not being directly a part of the production chain of SMC/BMC, but being involved in development, processing or final applications; at present one engineering company

is an associated member. Finally scientific institutes and universities with a distinct interest in the SMC/BMC sector can join the Alliance as scientific members; currently 7 institutes are listed.

CD`s with manuals and brochures are available, the reworked design manual can be downloaded from the Alliance website (www.smcalliance.com), which will be updated soon.

The organisation of the Alliance consists of the general assembly of all members and the steering committee as the coordinative organ. Additionally working groups are active institutions e.g. the Marketing working group, which conducts all „operative marketing“ activities of the association like organising and carrying out seminars, fair participations, preparing and giving papers on events or at universities, preparing and distributing press releases, drawing up and/or updating of manuals and other documentations and all other market related actions of the Alliance. Besides this regular working group others dedicated to special items are put in place case by case e.g. for IMDS, LCA/Eco-Balance.

After the recent organisational restructuring under the European umbrella the Alliance is now on course to realign and renew also its market appearance, presence and exposure and its marketing approach as well as its internal activities towards present and potential members. Therefore the steering committee has started a basic project work with support and consultancy of its member companies and by involvement of end-users of SMC-/BMC applications.

For more information please contact Peter Schmidt, European Alliance for SMC/BMC Chairman of the Steering Committee

• CALENDAR OF EVENTS

22 September 2008	AVK Tagung	Essen, Germany
22 September 2008	Composites Night AVK	Essen, Germany
23-25 September 2008	Composites Europe Show	Essen, Germany
29-31 October 2008	Computec	Marina di Carrara, Italy

