

Environmental Social Governance Meeting Minutes

28.11.2024, 15.00 h (CEST) – Online Meeting

Participants:

Jerzy Badura – Anga
Graham Fowler – Clifford Springs
Fredrik Sjödell – DENSIQ
Pavinee Hasselberg – Environdec EPD
Benoit Guillard – Eynard Robin
Hans Dekker - Chesterton
John Morton – ESA - John Crane
Vinay Tripurana – Flexitallic

Francesca Torriani – General Packing
Alberto Rocca - Klinger
Phillip Charlton – Morgan PLC
Stéphane Guignard - Technetics
Mark Neal - ESA
Ralf Vogel- ESA
Sandy Van den Broeck – ESA

- 1. Apologies for absence**
 - Peter Bowden – ESA
 - Phil Mahoney – FSA – Chesterton
- 2. Approval Minutes of the last meeting – Teams meeting 23rd October 2024**
- 3. Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) and LCA - Guest speaker Ms Pavinee Hasselberg – EPD International AB.**

During previous meetings questions were raised about how to develop EPD for the product category of MechSeals, when considering multiple manufacturers, different locations, product methods, raw materials, application sectors, logistics,... would mean different LCA's for each product. However it seems possible to develop EPD's for specific product categories, even when produced at different locations.

Ms Pavinee gave us an interesting overview on the Product Category Rules (PCR) development process for EPD creation. The full PPT will be available in the **Knowledge Base under ESG Initiatives**.

Action:

It's been agreed that a more detailed internal discussion will be necessary to define the further progress on this complex topic during the next Mechanical Seals/ESG meeting.

- 4. Update on PFAS – Sandy V.d. Broeck**

Progress Update on 20th November. For the first time Sealing applications have been mentioned by ECHA in their opinion development on the PFAS restriction process as per below.

Sealing applications: a broad range of fluoropolymer uses in consumer, professional and industrial applications, including seals, pipe lining, gaskets, valve parts, etc. –

Technical textiles: uses of PFAS in for example high-performance membranes, medical applications that are not covered in medical devices, outdoor technical textiles (like tarps).

Printing applications: permanent parts and consumables for printing applications.

Other medical applications (e.g., packaging and excipients for pharmaceuticals).

Fluoropolymers are one example of a group of PFAS with high interest for stakeholders and the consultation has brought further insight into the availability of alternatives for certain uses of these polymers, technical and organisational measures to minimise their emissions in the environment and potential socio-economic impacts of a ban of their manufacture, placing on the market and use. Specific attention is being given to this group by all actors in the opinion development process.

In the **USA** EPA has finalized reporting and recordkeeping requirements for PFAS under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). In accordance with obligations under TSCA, EPA is requiring any person that manufactures (incl. import) or has manufactured (incl. imported) PFAS or PFAS-containing articles in any year since January 1, 2011, to electronically report information regarding PFAS uses, production volumes, disposal, exposures, and hazards.

TSCA Section 8(a)(7) PFAS reporting requirements have been delayed because lack of resources. The reporting database is not ready. The new dates are to open the portal in July 2025 and close in Jan 2026.

Canada has a PFAS reporting requirement. It closes January 29, 2025 and covers 315 or so chemicals (PTFE is in Part 2 of the schedule). It applies to importers of PFAS in Canada.

The more detailed reporting requirements are for mostly consumer goods.

Industrial goods are categorized as 'other' with less stringent reporting requirements.

5. Standards & Legislations - Sandy V.d. Broeck

5.1 No update from EDW

Sandy V.d. Broeck will attend next EDW Plenary meeting on 3rd December and will share the update on the Guidance Document during next ESG meeting.

5.2 EU Industrial Deal Declaration update

Fluoropolymers are poised to play a pivotal role in Europe's clean industrial transformation.

Von der Leyen's vision includes a Clean Industrial Deal that invests in clean, strategic, and cutting-edge technologies to ensure these innovations remain "made in Europe."

Fluoropolymers are indispensable to renewable energy solutions and other sustainability-driven technologies, ensuring the EU remains at the forefront of global innovation.

Recent EU policy documents highlight the need for a balanced and pragmatic approach to regulating chemicals—one that protects the environment while supporting a sustainable and competitive economy. The Draghi Report points out that EU regulations sometimes impose constraints based on theoretical risks rather than actual exposure. The report acknowledges that a broad PFAS restriction would affect the production of critical clean technologies, such as batteries and electrolyzers, for which no alternatives currently exist.

So far 1285 organisations from 25 sectors ; 873 companies and 366 associations and 46 others, signed up incl. ESA !

6. Reducing Carbon footprints – Sandy V.d. Broeck

Plastics Reduction Initiatives

6.1 SWG spacers

SVdB attended the Greener Manufacturing Conference & Expo in Cologne on 14th November.

With following contacts, approached to offer sustainable alternative to plastic SWG spacers;

- Solinatra UK Ltd
- **Bioplasmar GmbH**
- Weidman Fiber Technology AG

- Paques biomaterials

So far only Bioplasmar reacted and are able to offer biodegradable injection moulded spacers.

- Biodegradable granulate derived from organic green waste material.
- Decomposes in soil and enriches the soil
- Shelf life several years – for short term or long-lasting applications
- CO2 reduction
- Reducing plastic waste
- Complies to upcoming DPP
- Samples can be made by injection moulding
- Initial proposal for evaluation purposes:

Cost samples 100 – 1000pcs - approx. €1000,-



This seems a realistic solution which needs to be further discussed during the next FGD meeting.

- **Wax Solutions GmbH**

They produce bio-based coatings for paper and cardboard packaging which creates barrier for water, water vapour and grease and are also working on 100% bio-based flexible and sealable packing solution. **To be continued.**

7. Careers Area webpage

7.1 People within the ESA and their stories

Peter Bowden – ESA has shared his story, which will soon be published on our website.

8. Any other business?
9. Date, time and venue of the next meeting - Wednesday 22nd January 2025 at 15.00 h (CET)

Sandy Van den Broeck 29.11.2024