



## Cooperation of the social partners of the European Chemical SSDC and VinylPlus<sup>®</sup> on the European PVC Industry

Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee of the European Chemical Industry Working Group

22 February 2018, Brussels

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- **Introduction**

- PVC Value Chain and main figures
- EU Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy

- **Cooperation Agreement of the Social Partners of the European Chemical SSDC and VinylPlus on the European PVC Industry**

- **Project social dialogue 2018 - 2020**

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## Introduction

- PVC Value Chain and main figures
- EU Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy

# PVC value chain



Chlorine (57%)  
(Derived from salt)

Additives – wide range  
of ingredients



EDC

VCM

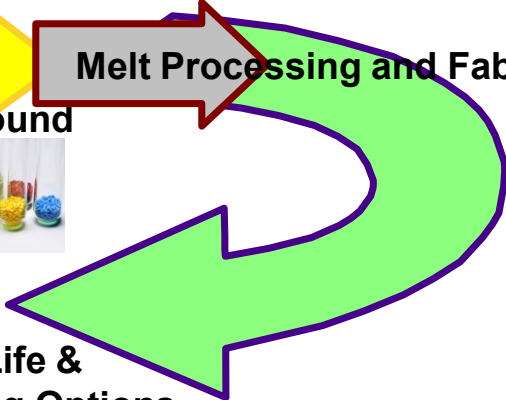
PVC

PVC-  
compound

Melt Processing and Fabrication

PVC-  
Products in use

Ethylene (43%)  
(From Oil)



End-of-Life &  
Recycling Options



# Where is PVC (Vinyl) used?

## Pipe Applications



## Rigid Profiles e.g. window profiles, rainwater goods



## Flooring



## Tensile Fabrics



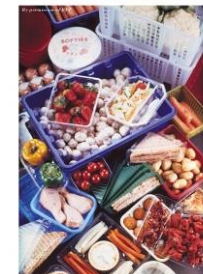
## Cabling – diverse range



## Disposable Medical devices



## Packaging



PVC is widely used for packaging in the food industry - variety of products: PVC packaging (DIP)

## Key figures of the European PVC industry ( EU 28+2)

- Turnover : 20 billion €
- 20 000 companies ( most of them SMEs)
- Direct employment : 160 000 jobs (excluding installers)

+



1. Plastics industry voluntary commitments
2. VinylPlus® and Circular Economy (inc. traceability)



VinylPlus

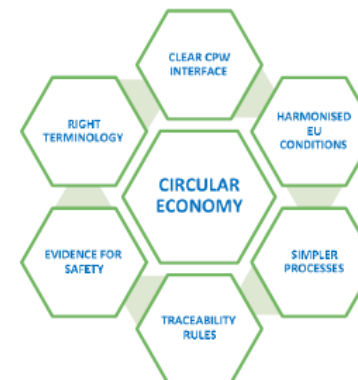
Vinyl Circular Solutions (ECVM)

## Enabling PVC to play its full part in the EU Circular Economy

The European Commission can help stimulate growth, innovation, and investment by supporting sustainably sourced materials with a lower carbon footprint. VinylPlus® trusts that EU law makers will provide a pragmatic legislative framework to allow recycling to fully exploit its potential.

VinylPlus, the European PVC industry's voluntary programme, is a living example of voluntary industry action leading to a more circular economy with more than 3,000,000 tonnes of PVC recycled since 2000<sup>1</sup>.

### OUR VISION FOR A STRONGER CIRCULAR ECONOMY



#### 1. Clarifying the interface between waste, chemical and product policies

To ensure an efficient legal framework facilitating the safe recycling of plastics containing legacy additives, we strongly believe that EU harmonised criteria on hazardous classification of secondary raw materials are necessary. The interface between waste, chemical and product policies must be clarified, resolving the conflict between circularity and resource efficiency on one side and the constraints of the current waste legislation on the other side.

#### 2. Harmonised conditions for the "waste" and "product" status

We support the development of clear and harmonised EU conditions to define when the recovered plastics cease to be waste. The different interpretations regarding the conditions under which waste ceases to be waste may complicate the recycling business and limit recycling options for both recyclers and converters.

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## Cooperation agreement for the PVC industry



# Cooperation agreement for the PVC industry

- New cooperation agreement of the social partners of the European chemical sectorial dialogue committee (ECEG and IndustriAll) and the European PVC Industry (VinylPlus) signed in February 2017
- Coverage:
  - 1. Health and safety
  - 2. Education / training
  - 3. Knowledge transfer
  - 4. Sector evolution
- During 2017 VinylPlus worked with ECEG and industriAll Europe to define the programme (2018-2020)



# Implementation process and deadlines

- For each of the four topics listed in the cooperation agreement we agree to identify beginning of 2018, one or two priorities to be developed and implemented over the period 2018-2020
- In each case
  - Analyse / investigate the current situation / status
  - Evaluate the potential added value and contribution of our partnership to a potential improvement in terms of efficiency/effectiveness and costs
- Partners (to be) involved



## 1. Health and Safety

- Current proposal amending Dir. 2004/37/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work
  - Potential added value and potential impact on the PVC industry compared to what is already existing, consequences, contribution of our partnership ( in particular for SMEs)
  
- Recycling facilities
  - Organisation of a comprehensive workshop gathering all partners , opening the door for additional workshops in several EU Member States to disseminate findings and information
  - Brochure providing a detailed updated overview of health and safety aspects in the plastics recycling sector

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## 2. Education and training

- As part of the EU Strategic Framework – Education and Training 2020 program, prepare a commitment to ensure within the PVC industry Education and Training over the whole professional life, signed by all European partners

## 3. Knowledge transfer

- As part of the same EU Strategic Framework – Education and Training 2020 program, prepare a commitment to create within the PVC Industry a formal process to ensure Knowledge Transfer.
  - Knowledge transfer is the process by which experienced employees of a company share or distribute their knowledge, skills and behaviors to the employees expected to replace them short or middle term, and vice-versa.

## 4. Sector Evolution

- The sector is submitted to a significant evolution ( digitalisation, automation, ...) which can have an impact on health and safety of the workers.
  - The issue of the isolated worker is one of the aspects
- The idea is to launch a study on industrial changes and their consequences in the converting sector and/or the recycling sector, which could deal with sectoral policy developments, evolution of R&D, innovation, and the requested competencies

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## Project social dialogue

2018 - 2020

- Focus → PVC converting and recycling industry
- Goal → Health and safety: analysis of available information, focus on converters and recyclers, identification of knowledge gaps and subsequent studies
- In parallel VinylPlus® will support the ECEG digitalization project.



Partners (to be) involved:



Kick-off  
Workshop  
29th May 2018



Studies



Communication,  
good practices &  
HSE advice



Continuous  
knowledge  
transfer

## ■ Step 1: Workshop on status quo

- **Who:** PVC sector HSE managers, national associations, trade unions HSE specialist DG GROW and DG EMPL
- **Target:**
  - Share available knowledge of EU associations and trade associations
  - Identify knowledge gaps and list question areas of research for subsequent studies
- **Date:** May 29, Brussels (venue tbc)
- **Participants:** ± 50 participants
- **Preliminary agenda:** 9:30 – 16:00



## ▪ Step 1: Workshop on status quo

Preliminary Agenda	Topics	Potential speakers	
Session 1	<b>Introducing the social charter, objectives</b>	ECEG, ETUC, V+, PRE and EC	60min
Session 2	<b>HSE at producers, converters and recyclers: legislative framework</b> -CMR at work directive: applicable to PVC sector? -OELs, -REACH		60min
Session 3	<b>Assessing risk of workers in the plastics industry:</b> -Plastics Exposure Scenario Team Project and PESTOOL -Safety of recyclate: SDS-R tool -Understanding of a safety data sheet		60min
Session 4	Practical experience of converters and recyclers Perspective of the unions	Converters, recyclers and unions	60min
Session 5	Break out session: analysis of data gaps and recommendations		60min
End of the workshop	Wrap up and next steps		15min



Kick-off  
Workshop  
29th May 2018

## ▪ Step 2: Studies

- **Scope:** for the field where knowledge gaps are identified, make survey at the level of member organizations and companies
- **Possible topics to be investigated:**
  - Actual use and understanding of safety instructions such as SDS by workers
  - How is information transferred?

## ▪ 2018 - 2019



Communication,  
good practices &  
HSE advice



Continuous  
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Kick-off  
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Studies

- **Step 3: Communication, good practices & HSE advice**
  - **A) Development of guidance, good practice – Q1 2019**
  - **B) Good practices – 2019**
    - Transfer knowledge from studies and best practice in National workshops
    - Identify common action points
  - **C) HSE advice – Pilot Q3 2019**
    - HSE advice at member companies level with focus on SMEs
  - **2019**



Continuous  
knowledge  
transfer



Kick-off  
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Studies



Communication,  
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## ▪ Step 4: Continuous knowledge transfer

- More long term programs follow up of actions identified in workshops (platforms)
- Services and toolbox to stakeholders (e.g. HSE advice trainings)
- **2020**

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# The VinylPlus Sustainability Forum

## Meeting Societal Needs

16-17 May 2018 Madrid, Spain



# Thank you for your attention

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