

EFIBCA is the voice of the European FIBC industry.

In this issue:

CONFERENCE REVIEW

- EFIBCA AGM and EFIBCA Food Contact Seminar held in Berlin/Potsdam

EVENT PREVIEW

- EFIBCA Reception on 7th May 2014

LEGISLATION, STANDARDS & TECHNOLOGY

- Dangerous Goods FIBC
- The perils of packaging – safe transport of FIBC
- Discussion on Plastics Waste continues

FIBC MARKET NEWS

- FIBC Import Statistics 2012

INTERNAL NEWS

- Staff change at EFIBCA
- New EFIBCA members

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Preview EFIBCA Reception on 7 May 2014
- FIBC Calendar

CONFERENCE REPORTS

EFIBCA AGM and Food Contact Seminar held in Berlin/Potsdam

EFIBCA members were invited to join the EFIBCA Annual General Meeting on 15/16 October 2013 in Berlin/Potsdam.

Two new instruments of the EFIBCA quality scheme, EFIBCA Q and the EFIBCA Code of Conduct, were presented and welcomed by the members. Both initiatives are voluntary commitments to entrepreneurial responsibility and quality management.

During the meeting, Oliver Grütters (Boxon) was reconfirmed unanimously as President of EFIBCA for another period of two years.

Theodor Burckhardt from Burckhardt of Switzerland was newly elected as a co-opted Council member. Further members of the Council are Dr. Amir Samadijavan (Greif), Christian Leeb (Star-

linger), Mumit Abdul (Sinobangla Industries), Arnaldo Carbognani (Carbognani), Joan Climent (Climesa) and Roelof Veld (NNZ).

After the Annual General Meeting, the first EFIBCA workshop on „Food Contact Materials“ took place.



As the complexity of the EU legislation framework keeps on growing, manufacturers and traders of FIBC are not always fully aware of their obligations. In order to raise the awareness of the EFIBCA members, Dr. Fang Luan (IK Industrievereinigung Kunststoffverpackungen) and Dr. Angela Berner (Wipak) shared detailed insights on the current EU legislation on food contact materials by dealing with case-studies from the FIBC industry. i.schmidt@efibca.com

EVENT PREVIEW

EFIBCA Reception on 7 May 2014

On May, 7th 2014, the day before the opening of the Interpack Trade Fair in Duesseldorf, EFIBCA will hold its first reception with a key note from the industry followed by a dinner. Please save the date, we will announce more details on the venue in due time.

INTERNAL NEWS

New EFIBCA members

EFIBCA warmly welcomes two new members: The Machine manufacturer **BSW Machinery Handels GmbH** from Vienna in Austria, decided to join as new EFIBCA associated member in September 2013.

Delta Plast for Packing Nabil Attallah & Co from Egypt will join the EFIBCA network as regular member with effects of January 2014.

Staff Change at EFIBCA

As of February 2014 Allison Bouchat will be joining IK as Public Relations and Project Manager for EFIBCA. After her studies of International Relations and Economics at Johns Hopkins University, Allison worked at GE Global Exchange Services and GXS in the IT-industry



for 13 years. She brings with her extensive experience in project management, quality management and customer relationship management. She will work part-time from her home office in Krefeld, Germany and assume the responsibilities previously performed by Annette Schäfer. Please join us in welcoming Allison to EFIBCA and supporting her in her new role.

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LEGISLATION, STANDARDS & TECHNOLOGY

Dangerous Goods FIBCs

For more than two years now the UN in Geneva has been discussing the harmonization of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Orange Book) with the GHS-system (Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals).

It becomes more and more apparent that there is a serious problem to harmonize the classification criteria for substances corrosive to skin. This harmonization would lead to reclassification in Packaging Group I of 90% of all those chemical substances which are today classified in Packaging Group II or III.

As IBCs and FIBCs are not admitted for the transport of substances in Packaging Group I this would have consequences also for the use of FIBCs for the transport of corrosive solids. This fact was clearly underlined by Dr. Jürgen Bruder in his presentation on the Open Meeting in Delhi in spring 2013.

During the last meeting of the rule-setting UN committees in Geneva in July 2013 the representatives of authorities became for the first time aware of the dramatic consequences for transport and storage of substances corrosive to skin after such a reclassification. An important decision was made to avoid reclassification of existing corrosive substances and mixtures.

Possibly there will be more stringent approaches for the future reclassification of substances in packaging groups than before. Consultations about possible solutions of this harmonization problem are continued and will go on at least until end 2014.

Experts from ICPP International Confederation of Plastics Packaging Manufacturers attended the meeting in Geneva; after preliminary discussions with government representatives they are involved in the elaboration of solutions for principal decisions together with colleagues from the chemical industry. As ICPP member EFIBCA has direct access to all information from the regulatory committees at UN, via ICPP it has also the possibility to submit own proposals to the UN.

For more information please contact i.schmidt@efibca.com.

The perils of packaging – safe transport of FIBC

The HCB magazine reports that shippers are urged to do more to prevent accidents and incidents arising as a consequence of improperly packed containers, particularly those carrying dangerous goods.

Experience shows that 65 per cent of all incidents involve loss or damage to cargo and, of these, more than one-third result from poor packing. Accident investigations frequently identify poor weight distribution, improperly packed cargo and inadequate dunnage, chocking and securing.

The Q&As on EFIBCA's homepage give a first overview on safety related questions around the proper use, transport, storage and stacking of FIBC. Please also refer to the corresponding professional article in EFIBCA newsletter no 1 (Sept 2010). i.schmidt@efibca.com

Discussion on plastics waste continues on European level

As reaction to various activities at EU level regarding reduction and recovery options of plastics waste, a vivid European discussion on different policy options has started.

Green Paper on Plastics Waste in the Environment

In March 2013, the EU Commission published a Green Paper on Plastic Waste in the Environment, stating that waste is a grave global problem. The objective should be to improve waste streams and to establish an effective waste management throughout Europe.

This Green Paper also highlights the significant contribution of plastic waste to marine litter. Here, the authors pay particular attention to the use of plastics bags. Vittorio Prodi, member of the environmental committee within the EU parliament, now called to limiting the use of plastics bags. Additionally, he claims to raise the recycling quota for plastics waste to 75% in 2020.

Whereas the German IK Industrievereinigung Kunststoffverpackungen e.V. is criticising the recycling targets and the idea of limiting the use of plastics bags, Prodi's further calls for zero landfill and the ban of oxo-degradable plastics is welcomed by the plastics industry. First decisions on this issue will be taken in 2014.

Results of the EU consultation on plastics waste in the environment

EU- commissar for the environment Janez Potočnik sees a large consensus for a reduction of landfill, an improved recycling infrastructure in Europe and an increasing need for more information on recycling.

These findings result from a public hearing on plastics waste in the environment, which was conducted by the EU commission in early 2013.

Meanwhile, the commission launched another consultation on the reduction of marine litter. In close cooperation with other associations, the IK will enter this dialogue and participate in this public examination.

The variety of consultation activities regarding plastics waste and increased recycling activities suggest that legislative changes are in preparation. i.schmidt@efibca.com

MARKET NEWS

FIBC Import Statistics 2012

Compared to 2011, the value of FIBC imports to the EU dropped by 2.3% to a total of 331.5 million Euro in 2012 (see table 1). This is the equivalent to 134 million kgs, a figure that we introduce with this newsletter.

Table 1 Total Import of FIBC to the EU27

	2012	2011	growth
	m €	m €	
Imports to the EU27	331.5	339.2	-2,3%
Total Imports to EU27 in 100 kgs	1.341	N. A.	N. A.

Source: EFIBCA 2013 (based on Eurostat)

The decrease of exports to the EU affected the absolute production figures in the top 6 exporting countries. Nevertheless, in turnover Turkey consolidated its leadership as FIBC exporter to the EU with a slight increase of market share to now approx. 40% (see table 2).

India remained in second place with stable export figures, followed by China. These three main exporting countries together assume approx. 85% of the total import value to the EU27 zone. Remarkably, Vietnam was able to increase the value of imported FIBC to the EU despite of the general drop. In the contrary, Thailand has lost market shares and lost its position among the top 6 exporting countries to the EU.

By looking at the quantities in kgs, India switches rankings with Turkey: India is importing 40% of all quantities to the EU, Turkey follows with 31%. The rankings of China, Bangladesh, Serbia and Vietnam remain the same.

Table 2 Total FIBC Imports from individual to the EU27 (value)

	2012			
Country	m €	Import Share based on € (Rank)	In 100 kgs	Import Share based on kgs (Rank)
Turkey	132.5	40% (1→)	418.4	31% (2)
India	118.0	35,6% (2→)	567.3	40% (1)
China	30.5	9,2% (3→)	128.3	9,6% (3)
Bangladesh	17.7	5,3% (4→)	92	6,8% (4)
Serbia	10.3	3,1% (5→)	38.9	2,9% (5)
Vietnam	5.8	1,7% (6↗)	30	2,2% (6)

Source: EFIBCA 2013 (based on Eurostat)

→ no change in rank compared to the previous year

↗ up in rank compared to the previous year

↘ down in rank compared to the previous year

For more details please contact i.schmidt@efibca.com.

FIBC Calendar

Interplastica

28. – 31. January 2014, Moskow, Russia
www.interplastica.de

Chinaplas

23.-26. April 2014, Shanghai, China
www.chinaplasonline.com

1st EFIBCA Reception

07. May 2014, Duesseldorf
www.efibca.com

Interpack 2014

08.-14. May 2014, Duesseldorf, Germany
www.interpack.de/

Orange: EFIBCA meetings

Lilac: external conferences

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