

EFIBCA is the voice of the European FIBC industry.
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EFIBCA NEWS

Staff Change at EFIBCA

Since the beginning of July 2018 Torben Knoess has been working at IK Industrievereinigung Kunststoffverpackungen e.V. (German Association for Plastics Packagings and Films) as General Secretary for EFIBCA. After his studies of plastic engineering at the university of applied science in Darmstadt, Torben worked at Frank GmbH as a product manager for industrial plastic piping systems for 15 years. He brings with his extensive experience in plastics processing, quality management and customer relationship management.

Torben will work in the IK office in Bad Homburg, Germany and assume the responsibilities previously performed by Allison Bouchat and Dr. Isabell Schmidt. In

addition to EFIBCA, he will also deal with the topic packaging of dangerous goods at IK.



Torben Knoess can be reached at:

Tel.: +49 (0) 61 72 92 66-20

t.knoess@efibca.com

LEGISLATION, STANDARDS & TECHNOLOGY

EU ban on single-use plastics: a lot of symbolism instead of real environmental benefit

The EU Commission, the EU Parliament and the Austrian Presidency of the EU Council have agreed on a single-use plastics directive. Certain disposable products such as drinking straws will in future be banned in Europe. "We are of course concerned when we see images of dead marine animals and see the urgent necessity for action to deal responsibly with resources," says IK General Manager Dr Jürgen Bruder, explaining the association's stance. "Nevertheless, we must not allow ourselves to be driven in the wrong direction by emotional reactions, but must keep a cool head. We therefore do not consider the planned measures to be particularly expedient, demonstrating activity that will not contribute in any way to solving the problem of marine litter."

Anti-littering directive would be more expedient for environmental protection

While IK thinks that the bans currently at the centre of attention will not bring about any changes in consumption or in dealing with waste, measures that have been given little attention aimed at educating the public and increased recycling offer far greater potential.

"Information, education and above all the transfer of knowledge to the countries most affected would achieve better results, but are being pushed out in favour of these apparently popular bans," Dr Bruder states.

The IK contributes to this very exchange of ideas for example with associations from Indonesia, Malaysia and South Africa via the Global Plastics Alliance. "If we create infrastructures for the sustainable use of plastics in Asia, we will gain more than the European ban on drinking straws." 80 per cent of marine litter originates in Asia.

The IK considers an even greater focus on the circular economy with corresponding investment in sorting and recycling and increased consumer education to be important. The industry is again making the adjustments open to it: recycling design and the increased use of recycling material.

On the other hand, the IK rejects the supposed reinforcement of the polluter-pays principle through involving manufacturers in the costs of cleaning up beaches. "The industry does not produce any "throwaway items" and the packaging manufacturers do not cause littering," Dr Bruder continues. "Plastic packages can easily be disposed of in Germany via the yellow bag scheme.

Warning against simplistic thinking when it comes to environmental impacts

What is sometimes forgotten in the frequently emotional discussion are factual arguments about the energy inputs or CO₂ emissions when substituting plastics with other materials. And the sustainable function of single-use plastic products is completely ignored in across-the-board discrimination of a specific material. "If I can no longer take my colleagues their lunchtime soup in insulated bowls, their meal will be cold. No other material provides this plastic-specific performance. And there would be no ecological benefit in using supposed alternatives to disposable tableware such as coated cartonboard or aluminium," explains Dr Bruder in summary of the consequences.

Commitment to appropriate national implementation

Despite the clear criticism of single-use bans, the IK will now of course strive to achieve an implementation of the directive in national processes that is as reasonable as possible and make a constructive contribution to the relevant debate – in the interests of the industry, consumers and the environment. mh

CONFERENCES AND FAIRS

EFIBCA Open Meeting 2019

EFIBCA is planning its next Open Meeting in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, for 15 October 2019 (the day before the first day of the fair K2019). Anyone with an interest in FIBCs is welcome to attend this conference.



All updates you will find on our homepage in due course: www.efibca.com

INTERNAL NEWS

New EFIBCA members

EFIBCA warmly welcomes 10 new members in 2018:

Simplemak S.A. (January 2018) is specialized in machinery for the Woven Polypropylene, Sack, FIBCs, and Bulk Bag industry, based in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Mondi Styria GmbH (April 2018) headquartered in Vienna, Austria, produces co-extruded barrier films (with up to 18 layers) in a high-class hygiene environment and on state-of-the-art extrusion lines.

Rossi Imballaggi S.r.l. (August 2018) is focused on the production of industrial flexible intermediate containers, Bulk Bags and located in Casale Monferrato, Italy.

Unique Cement Fibre Industries Limited (August 2018) sells and manufactures a wide variety of FIBC types based in Meghna Ghat in Bangladesh.

Bir Dunya (September 2018) is the first private producer of FIBCs in Turkmenistan for pharmaceutical, food and petrochemical industries headquartered in Ashgabat.

Has Sentetik Dokuma San. ve Tic. A.Ş. (September 2018) is a PP fabric and woven bags producer based in Gaziantep, Turkey.

JUTA a.s. (October 2018) produces Big Bags of all types and designs as well as many other products, for example in the fields of geosynthetics and roofing and is located in Dvůr Králové nad Labem, Czech Republic.

Özdağ Group (October 2018) from Pazarçık, Türkiye, is a manufacturer of PP fabric, other sorts of sacks and big bags.

ÜNAL SENTETİK (October 2018) is working in the PP sack and fabric sector with a wide range of products, based in Şehitkamil/Gaziantep, Türkiye.

PETECOFLEX LTD (October 2018) will be the first company to produce tape fabric and FIBC from 100% recycled PET flakes located in Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

An overview of all members can be found here: www.efibca.com/the-association/member-list

EFIBCA 2018 Annual General Meeting in Frankfurt, Germany



On 31 October 2018, EFIBCA invited members to its Annual General meeting (AGM) in Frankfurt. EFIBCA President Roelof Veld welcomed more than 40 participants to the AGM. Fortunately, many new members who had joined EFIBCA only a few weeks before had travelled to Frankfurt. The keynote speech by Dr Isabell Schmidt was primarily concerned with the topic of circular economy, about which she presented the attendees with some information on the current status

and plans of the EU Commission for the plastics industry in Europe. The participants agreed that this topic will continue to accompany EFIBCA in the coming years and a discussion followed concerning what projects could be carried out by EFIBCA in this field.

Some very interesting discussions and some further points were taken up again and deepened further at the joint final lunch.

MARKET NEWS

Import of FIBC to the European Union: Results for 2017 show very strong growth

The statistics for 2017 is showing a significant increase in value and volume based import of FIBC to the EU28 of 17.5% and 12.1 % based compared to 2016. This is the first time, that the total value rises above 500 million Euro.

Table 1 Total FIBC Imports to the EU

	2017	2016	Growth %
Imports to the EU28 in m €	511.8	437.6	17.5
Total Imports to EU28 in 1000 kg	210,397	187,617	12.1

Source: EFIBCA 2018 (based on Eurostat)

The top 6 importers remain unchanged in 2017 as well (see table 2). India extends its 1st place further and with nearly 121,000 t imports three times more than Turkey that is on the 2nd place. Nevertheless, both have further increased their market shares. Bangladesh has recovered slightly again and was also able to show increases. Only China has losses among the top 6 and has exported a little less to the EU28.

After these strong increases in 2017, the upswing slowed significantly in 2018. As a result, the growth of value based import of FIBC to the EU28 in the first half of 2018 was 4.5%. The volume based imports have grown by almost 6.4% based compared to the same period last year.

Table 2 Total FIBC Imports from individual countries to the EU28

Top 6 by quantity (1000 kg)

Rank	Country	2017		2016	Growth (%)
		Share of total imports to the EU (%)	FIBC exports to the EU (1000 kg)	FIBC exports to the EU (1000 kg)	
1 →	INDIA	57.5	120,966	104,766	15.5
2 →	TURKEY	18.5	38,929	36,161	7.7
3 →	BANGLADESH	8.3	17,441	16,557	5.3
4 →	CHINA	3.5	7,266	7,312	-0.6
5 →	SERBIA	3.0	6,415	5,909	8.6
6 →	THAILAND	2.2	4,576	4,012	14.0

Top 6 by value (million Euro)

Rank	Country	2017		2016	Growth (%)
		Share of total imports to the EU (%)	FIBC exports to the EU (m €)	FIBC exports to the EU (m €)	
1 →	INDIA	49.3	252.5	207.3	21.8
2 →	TURKEY	27.0	138.3	123.2	12.2
3 →	BANGLADESH	6.9	35.5	31.8	11.8
4 →	CHINA	4.1	20.8	19.7	5.7
5 →	SERBIA	3.4	17.6	15.9	10.6
6 →	THAILAND	2.4	12.0	9.7	24.2

Source: EFIBCA 2018 (based on Eurostat)

→ no change in rank compared to previous year

↗ up in rank compared to previous year

↘ down in rank compared to previous year

UPCOMING EVENTS

FIBC Calendar

Interplastica and Upakovka Processing and Packaging
29 Jan – 01 Feb 2019, Moscow, Russia
<http://www.interplastica.de/>
<https://www.upakovka-tradefair.com/>

EFIBCA Council Meeting
26 February 2019, Bad Homburg, Germany
www.efibca.com

Techtextil North America
26 – 28 February 2019, Raleigh, USA
<http://www.techtextilna.com>

PFP Expo Sino-Pack
04 - 06 March 2019 Guangzhou, China
<http://www.chinasinopack.com/>

Propak South Africa
12 - 15 March 2019, Johannesburg, South Africa
<http://www.propakafrika.co.za/>

3P Pakistan
22 - 24 March 2019, Lahore, Pakistan
<http://www.plasprintpack.com.pk/>

Orange: EFIBCA meetings

Lilac: external conferences