

**Vacuum Insulation Panel Association
Public Affairs Working Group Conference Call
Thursday 10 September 2015, 10:30 to 11:30 CET**

Participants:

Gregor Erbenich, Porextherm
John Garbutt, Kingspan
Gary Chalkley, Camvac
Francesco Gattiglio, VIPA International Policy Officer

Apologies:

Roland Caps, va-Q-Tec
Pascal Rousset, Rexor

Minutes

1. Welcome

1.1 Governance rules

Francesco Gattiglio welcomed participants to the call. Francesco reminded participants of the VIPA Antitrust Compliance Statement.

1.2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with no changes.

1.3 Approval minutes previous conference call 27 April and review of action items

The minutes of the conference call of 27 April were approved with no changes. Francesco Gattiglio informed the participants that all the actions were completed.

Francesco Gattiglio reported that the Board of VIPA International agreed to engage with Brussels-based stakeholders in a passive way, sending them press releases and newsletters. The Board also decided that the members of VIPA that are part of other European insulation-related associations should defend the interests of VIPs within these associations where possible. Participants commented that often the colleagues taking part in other associations work on different products and they are unlikely to be cooperative. Nevertheless, they will check internally if cooperation is possible.

Francesco Gattiglio also reported the outcomes of the Board discussion on the participation to EU consortium and projects. The Board decided to register VIPA International as stakeholder for the PEFCR (Product Environment Footprint Category Rules). VIPA International will not take part in the group, but will receive information on the status of discussion and will have the opportunity to provide comments.

Participants remarked that their companies are already working on the Environmental Product Declaration (EPD), which has some similarities with the PEFs, and the development of PEF for insulation products would represent an additional cost for them. Francesco mentioned that the Commission is already working on PEF and it will not be possible to avoid its development. Nevertheless, VIPA International will follow the development of PEF for insulation products and suggest where possible to make it compatible with the EPD and promote the EPD approach.

The Board decided to join as observer the project tiSEP (towards Improved Standards for increased Energy Performances of retrofitted existing buildings). There are no direct costs or specific tasks for VIPA, but we will receive information, assess methodologies, use and comment results and provide inputs. A decision on the funding of this project is expected by the end of the year.

Finally, VIPA has not been selected to take part in the stakeholder group for the Resource Efficient Buildings Study (2015-2017) of the European Commission. There will be two public consultations and VIPA will have

the opportunity to provide its comments. The proposed set of indicators will be published in the first half of 2016.

Action:

- Secretariat to follow the development of PEF for insulation products and promote the EPD approach.

2. National legislation on energy efficiency in buildings (US, Germany, UK, France, China, Japan)

2.1 Status of information gathering

Francesco Gattiglio provided an overview on the status of information gathering. Additional information is available in the attached presentation. All the files with the information on national legislation on energy efficiency in buildings will be uploaded in the reserved area of VIPA website.

Participants commented on the status of legislation in the UK. The British government decided to put energy efficiency legislation on hold due to the high cost of such policies. The risk of implementing too ambitious energy efficiency requirements for buildings is to block the construction of new buildings, which is something the current UK government wants to avoid.

3. Updates on EU legislation and VIP case for advocacy

3.1 Energy Performance of Buildings Directive / Energy Efficiency Directive: review process

Francesco Gattiglio informed the participants on the status of the review process of EED and EPBD, the most important pieces of EU legislation on energy efficiency of buildings. In 2015 and 2016 the Commission will launch the review process of these Directives, foreseen to be finalised by 2017. A first public consultation on EPBD was launched by the Commission to evaluate whether the directive has met its aims. The deadline to submit contributions to the consultation is 31 October 2015.

Participants agreed that VIPA International should participate to this consultation and to the discussion that will arise on EED/EPBD in the coming years. Some other associations already provided their comments. Participants agreed to provide their inputs to the consultation by 12 October. If needed, a conference call of the PA WG could be organised for the week of 12 or 19 October to agree on the final text of the reply and send it to the Board for approval.

Action:

- All participants to review the text of the consultation and provide their comments by 12 October

3.2 Public consultation on the Evaluation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

Discussed under agenda point 3.1.

3.3 Public consultation on Circular Economy

Francesco Gattiglio reported that VIPA replied to the public consultation on Circular Economy. The reply was circulated to PA WG members and Board members and approved. The Commission will present a new circular economy strategy late in 2015 or in the first months of 2016. It will comprise a revised legislative proposal on waste and a Communication setting out an action plan to 2020. The secretariat will keep members updated on this.

3.4 Commission proposal on energy label

Participants discussed the proposal launched by the European Commission to change the energy label of product as part of its Energy Union strategy. Francesco Gattiglio explained that all existing energy labels will be replaced with a single energy labelling scale from 'A to G'. The proposal will follow the ordinary legislative procedure and will be discussed by the Parliament and the Council.

Participants agreed that it will be important for the Commission to correctly inform consumers, which are now used to the A+ system. Nevertheless, if the new system will provide more clarity on energy efficient products it should be supported by VIPA. Participants remarked that VIPA should publish a press release to support the proposal when it will be discussed in the Plenary. The press release should also be submitted to relevant stakeholders at EU level.

VIPA International Global Office
142 Avenue Jules Bordet, Brussels 1140
Phone: +32 2 761 1681 Fax: + 32 2 761 16 99
Mail: VIPA-international@kelleneurope.com
Web: www.vipa-international.org



Action:

- Secretariat to follow the legislative process of the energy labeling proposal and prepare a press release in view of the first discussion in the Plenary.

4. AoB & date of next conference call

The date of the next conference call shall be decided via email. No other item was discussed. The conference call finished at 11:30.
