

**Vacuum Insulation Panel Association
Public Affairs Working Group Conference Call
Monday 27 April 2015, 10:30 to 11:30 CET**

Participants:

Gregor Erbenich, Porextherm
Adrian Pargeter, Kingspan
Raquel Ponte Costa, VIPA International Executive Director
Francesco Gattiglio, VIPA International Policy Officer

Apologies:

Richard Burnley, Kingspan
Roland Caps, va-Q-Tec
Pascal Rousset, Rexor
Gary Chalkley, Camvac
Qiang Liu, Fujian Super Tech

Minutes

1. Welcome

1.1 Governance rules

Francesco Gattiglio welcomed participants to the first call of the Public Affairs Working Group of VIPA. Francesco reminded participants of the VIPA Antitrust Compliance Statement.

1.2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved with no changes.

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

2.1 Status of information gathering

Francesco Gattiglio reported that following what was decided in the Board meeting in January, the secretariat looked for more detailed information on how certain countries are implementing legislation on energy efficiency of buildings. The secretariat, as well as some members, contacted national insulation associations and government authorities to ask for this information. All data collected was sent with the agenda to the meeting:

- Germany: information sent by the German Energy Agency (DENA)
- UK: information collected by the VIPA secretariat
- France: no information available
- North America: information sent by Prof Phalguni
- China: information sent by Prof Chen
- Japan: Hanita is liaising with Kindai University to get detailed update – nothing received so far

Francesco mentioned that he already asked Prof Phalguni to provide more information about the outlook and how the US looks like in terms of legislation in the short-medium term. Prof Phalguni will provide this information in the coming weeks.

Francesco asked participants in the call if they went through the content of the documents circulated and if they consider this is enough information to have a discussion on next steps. The next steps would be to either continue monitoring the situation in these countries without taking any active role; or alternatively to decide to take an active role in the process and to start an advocacy campaign in any of the countries with a clear objective of influencing legislation.

Gregor Erbenich mentioned some of the documents are good, but overall what is missing is the outlook and a mapping of possible opportunities to change existing legislation. Gregor mentioned that in his view, VIPA does not have the resources to go ahead with a thought-through campaign to influence legislation in one Member

State or even at EU level, at least with regards to buildings. Gregor added that it would be useful to do the same exercise with legislation in the appliances sector.

Adrian Pargeter asked for more time to review the documents circulated. He highlighted that legislation can be influenced in many ways; one of these is to educate the legislator about new technology breakthroughs and new products such as VIPs and their outstanding performance. Hence, when the time is right, the legislator will on his own take the initiative to make regulation more demanding in result of existing technologies in the market that can meet these requirements. In Adrian's view, VIPA should work to promote VIPs towards the technical decision-makers like standardisation bodies.

As next steps, members agreed that the Board should have a strategic discussion on whether or not VIPA should invest in an advocacy campaign in Europe or in other parts of the world; if it has the resources for it; if the investment would be worth, etc

3. VIPA engagement with Brussels-based stakeholders

3.1 Review of the list of stakeholders

Francesco Gattiglio explained that the secretariat prepared a stakeholders mapping which was presented to the Board during the meeting of December 2014 in Brussels. This mapping document (see attachments sent with meeting documents) identifies a list of stakeholders involved in the debate on energy efficiency of buildings in Brussels. The stakeholders have been grouped in six different groups according to their type of organisation and mission: horizontal associations; technical advisory type of organizations; hybrid groupings on energy efficiency; insulation-related associations; associations representing materials/substances used in VIPs; users of VIPs.

Francesco mentioned he prepared an overview of each group of stakeholders with a short description, the value of VIPA of engaging with them and also the costs (the membership fee if applicable).

3.2 Recommendations on VIPA engagement in view of Board meeting

Similar to what was discussed on agenda item 2.1, members felt this discussion should be part of a strategic decision taken by the Board on which geographic area to focus and which activities to invest time and efforts. Gregor Erbenich mentioned that from the list, Renovate Europe seems the most appropriate campaign but the membership fee is quite considerable (25,000 EUR). EuroAce, EURIMA and ActiveHouse are also interesting partners.

Raquel Ponte Costa explained that VIPA has the following options:

- Engage with all stakeholders in a passive way: keep them on the mailing list and send them our press releases and Newsletter so they are aware of the association
- Select a limited list and set-up a meeting with the Executive Director to introduce the association and see where collaboration would be appropriate
- Engage actively with one of two stakeholders by becoming a member and participating actively in the association (Renovate Europe would probably be the best choice, but it is a pricey membership)
- Use VIPA member companies that are part of these associations (Knauf Insulation, Kingspan, etc) to position the interest of VIPs within the activities of the association.

Participants in the meeting agreed with these options. Adrian Pargeter promised to check with his colleagues that are involved in EU affairs what would be their recommendation of the best association to engage with to promote VIPs.

Action:

Adrian Pargeter to ask his colleagues for a recommendation on the best association (based in Brussels) for VIPA to engage with.

4. VIPA involvement in EU projects

Raquel Ponte Costa mentioned that as a result of the press releases that VIPA published recently and that have been sent to our list of external contacts (includes all stakeholders based in Brussels from associations to Commission and Parliament representatives), VIPA has received three invitations to take part in projects or consortiums, all European and related to the debate on energy efficiency of buildings.

Raquel added that the Public Affairs Working Group should make a recommendation to the Board on which project to take part, based on analysis of the value it will bring to the association and the resources needed to take part on it.

4.1 PEFCR (Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules) on thermal insulation

Raquel Ponte Costa explained that the European Commission is now taking a different approach with regards to policy. Parameters like performance and consumption are no longer the centre of attention, but the whole lifecycle of the product, analysed from a resource efficiency point of view.

As such, the European Commission is financing a series of PEFCR on different products to agree on a methodology to perform the product environmental footprint studies which now every industry and different companies are carrying out. The fact is that there is a multitude of LCA studies being performed which all use different methodologies.

The PEFCR on thermal insulation will focus on pitched roofs with massive timber rafters structures or non-accessible flat roofs with a concrete structure.

Raquel summarized that this project would be nice to participate at. The consortium working on the project showed interest in having VIPA in the consortium and asked for a call to discuss more details.

Gregor Erbenich volunteered to take part in the call to find out more information like eventual costs of participating. Both participants in the call agreed that it could be interesting to take part, but the Board needs to evaluate the value against the costs.

4.2 tISEP (towards improved standards for increased energy performances of retrofitted existing buildings)

Raquel Ponte Costa explained that Huygen, a consulting engineering company, is drafting a proposal for a EU-funded project (Horizon 2020 funding programme) and asked if VIPA wants to take part on it. Huygen gave examples of VIPA's contribution:

- providing cases (projects) where products of VIPA members can be used but face barriers for a proper assessment in energy performance regulations – we can test our developed methodology for a better assessment
- providing input for business plans/e-market for deep renovation with your innovative products

No financial contributions were mentioned. The proposal still needs to be submitted to the European Commission for approval. Participants mentioned the project looks interesting and if the contribution of VIPA is just providing case studies that would not be too difficult. Adrian Pargeter highlighted that EU-funded projects are very bureaucratic and even if most of the expenses are covered, there needs to be a good record of all time spend on project activities and all out-of-pockets as well. The administrative burden is quite significant.

4.3 Resource Efficient Buildings' study

Due to lack of time, this topic was discussed very briefly. Raquel Ponte Costa explained the European Commission wants to create a study group to review a list of indicators on resource efficient buildings. There is a limit of 50 stakeholders and we need to submit our interest in participating at this group before 8 May. This initiative will be active until June 2017. VIPA participation would involve reviewing documents and providing input and attending the meetings (2 a year) which take place in Brussels. From a resources point of views, Raquel explained this should not be too costly for VIPA. In terms of value, it is a great opportunity to participate at a high level debate and have the possibility of engaging with other stakeholders (key people at the European Commission, but also other European associations).

Members agreed this could be a good project to participate at and asked for more information like for instance an overview of the meetings a year.

Action:

VIPA secretariat to include information about the meetings of this study group in the presentation for the Board meeting.

5. 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 11:45.
