

**Vacuum Insulation Panel Association
Public Affairs & Communications Working Group
Conference Call
1 September 2017, 14:00 to 15:00 CET**

Participants:

John Garbutt, Kingspan
Gregor Erbenich, Porextherm
Gary Chalkley, Camvac
Reiner Wartusch, Evonik Industries

Francesco Gattiglio, VIPA International Policy Officer

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 13 June 2017 and review of action items

The minutes of the conference call of 13 June 2017 were approved with no changes. Francesco reviewed the action items: the secretariat published a [press release](#) on the energy efficiency package on 3 July 2017. No new case studies for the website were provided since April. The members highlighted that it is starting to be difficult to gather new case studies, also because the case studies are often related more to the customers than to the companies. In the case of appliances, for instance, manufacturers do not want to reveal data on performances. The members suggested to think again on the possibility to have extra content on the website, for instance news from the companies. This kind of news would ensure fresh content for the website and would bring some traffic, and it would be also good marketing for the companies. Francesco said that this possibility was already discussed in the past by the Board, but of course it can be re-discussed during the next Board meeting.

2. Legislative update

2.1 Energy efficiency package: state of play

Francesco Gattiglio gave an update on the state of play of the energy efficiency package, including the revised Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) and Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD). The European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) is currently discussing the amendments to the draft reports on the two directives. The final vote of the ITRE Committee on both the EED and the EPBD will take place on 10-11 October 2017. Francesco briefly compared the draft proposals of Commission, Council and Parliament on both directives, highlighting that there are no important changes compared to the state of play in June. In particular, all participants were of the opinion that VIPA International should promote the original 40% energy efficiency target proposed by the Parliament.

Participants discussed the next steps for VIPA. The Board decided last year to limit PA activities, monitoring the state of play without active involvement. All participants agreed that VIPA should publish a press release on the state of play after the vote of the ITRE Committee on the two directives, and then keep monitoring the debate.

Action:

- Secretariat to publish a press release on the energy efficiency package after 12 October 2017.

2.2 Framework for the assessment of the environmental performance of buildings

Francesco reported that the European Commission published two [reports](#) on the development of a common framework for the assessment of the environmental performance of buildings (Level(s)), with a set of indicators for the measurement of the sustainability performance of buildings throughout their life cycle. This framework is not a new building certification scheme or a common EU performance benchmarks, but a voluntary reporting framework across the EU, with the the general objective of:

- Reducing the environmental impact of buildings by improving the overall resource efficiency;
- Raising awareness of and demand for better environmental performing buildings;
- Improving knowledge and information regarding resource use and related environmental impacts in relation to buildings.

The scope of the Level(s) framework is office and residential buildings. This scope encompasses both new and existing buildings at the point of major renovation. Stakeholders can participate in testing Level(s) from Autumn 2017. The test period will last for two years and the European Commission will provide technical support during this process. For building elements and materials, Level(s) will include data on quantities, emissions, costs and lifespans of materials used in buildings.

VIPA already participated to the preparatory public consultations on the reports, highlighting how it will be important to ensure coherence with existing tools, like the Environmental Product Declarations (EPD). All participants said that indeed it will be important to make sure that the new framework does not represent an additional administrative burden for the industry. However, the framework seems to be less comprehensive compared to the EPD. They all suggested that VIPA International should monitor the evolution of the framework and assess its relevance for the VIP industry.

Action:

- Secretariat to monitor the evolution of the framework and assess its relevance for the VIP industry

2.3 Asian affairs

Francesco reported that Miaotian Sun of Qingdao Kerui volunteered to provide some information on Chinese legislation on buildings and appliances of relevance for the VIP industry, following the example of what the secretariat is doing in relation to the “news from Brussels” section. This information will be included in the VIPA internal newsletter. All members appreciated this offer, and said that any news related to the general targets and policies of the Chinese government on energy efficiency, cooling, buildings and controlled appliances would be helpful.

3. Communication update: IVIS2017

Francesco reported that all promotional material for IVIS2017 (roll-up banner, flyers, posters) is now ready. The secretariat is currently contacting prospect members to arrange bilateral meetings at IVIS and invite some of them to the General Assembly of VIPA. Participants suggested to organize these meetings during coffee breaks at the stand, so that also the members can attend. However, some members will be also available during IVIS sessions, if needed.

4. AoB & date of next conference call

Participants agreed to schedule the next conference call via email. No other item was discussed. The conference call finished at 15:00.