

**Vacuum Insulation Panel Association
Public Affairs Working Group Conference Call
Monday 21 March 2016, 12:30 to 13:30 CET**

Participants:

Gregor Erbenich, Porextherm
Roland Caps, va-Q-Tec
John Garbutt, Kingspan
Francesco Gattiglio, VIPA International Policy Officer

Apologies:

Pascal Rousset, Rexor
Gary Chalkley, Camvac

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 10 September and review of action items

The minutes of the conference call of 19 November were approved with no changes. Francesco Gattiglio reminded the participants to share information on national legislation on insulation, if available. The preparation of the advocacy case is still ongoing: participants discussed the advocacy case under agenda point 4. All other actions were completed.

2. Governance

2.1 Terms of Reference of the Working Group

Francesco Gattiglio reported that in the meeting of 2 December 2015 the Board approved the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the three working groups of VIPA International. The ToR explains the mission and work organisation of the WG and require each WG to elect a chairman for a one-year period. The chairman will act as liaison between the WG and the Board, communicate to the wider stakeholder community where necessary and review agenda and minutes of the meeting.

2.2 Election of the chair of the Public Affairs WG

Gregor Erbenich volunteered to take the role of chairman of the Public Affairs WG. All participants in the call unanimously approved his candidature. This nomination will have to be approved by the Board in the next Board meeting.

Decision:

- **Gregor Erbenich will be the chairman of the Public Affairs WG, upon confirmation by the Board of VIPA International.**

3. European Commission 2016 Work Plan

3.1 Energy Efficiency

Francesco Gattiglio informed the participants on the activities of VIPA International. VIPA International replied to the Public Consultation on the Review of Directive 2012/27/EU on Energy Efficiency (EED). The European Commission has published a report on the results of the consultation. The report directly quotes a paragraph from the reply of VIPA International on the need to extend public procurement requirements to all publicly

owned buildings, irrespective of their size. A press release on the consultation was published on the website of VIPA International and on the online newspaper Euractiv.

Francesco reported that the European Parliament is currently discussing a non-legislative report on the implementation of the EED. A first discussion took place on 16 March in the ITRE Committee and was focused on the level of flexibility granted to the Member States in implementing the Directive. Participants agreed that VIPA should only monitor the discussion, without taking any specific action.

In February the Commission published its Heating and Cooling Strategy. The Strategy is a non-legislative document, but it will be considered in the review process of the EED/EPBD and shows the general orientation of the Commission on this topic. The key target is the decarbonisation of the Heating and Cooling sector, to be achieved through several suggested measures, including insulation and renovation of buildings. However, this means that insulation is only one option to decarbonize the building sector, and in some cases other options (cogeneration, storage) might be preferred. The Strategy identifies shortage of funds and lack of information as key obstacles to the renovation of buildings: to address these problems, the Commission will launch a smart financing for smart buildings initiative.

Participants agreed that it would be important to show that insulation is a cost-effective solution to decarbonize the building sector. Therefore, the advocacy case of VIPA should include some reference to existing studies on the benefits of insulation: the Renovate Europe campaign and PU Europe have some studies on this topic. Participants suggested contacting these stakeholders to have more information on the topic and possibly establish some cooperation with them.

Decisions:

- **VIPA International to monitor the discussion on the EP Report on the implementation of the EED.**

Actions:

- Secretariat to look for studies and reports on the cost-effectiveness of insulation;
- Secretariat to contact PU Europe and other Brussels-based stakeholders to establish some cooperation on advocacy activities.

3.2 Energy Label

Francesco gave an update on discussion on energy label. The ITRE Committee is now discussing the draft report presented by the rapporteur Dario Tamburrano. The report is facing more opposition than initially expected, also for political reason. Discussion is mostly focused on the rescaling system, the data to be shared in the new online database of energy products and on the overall principle of having a new label. As a consequence, the vote in the Plenary has been postponed after summer. The ITRE Committee will vote the report on the 24th of May. Participants agreed that VIPA International will publish a press release on this topic before the vote.

Action:

- VIPA International to publish a press release on the energy label before the vote of 24th of May.

3.3 Sustainability

The Commission presented its Circular Economy Package in December. The package will encourage the creation of a secondary market for building waste, improve building design and eco-design requirements. For VIPAs, an important issue will be the development of indicators to assess the environmental performance of buildings. The Joint Research Center is currently working on these indicators with the "Resource Efficiency for the Building Sector" project. In the course of 2016, the JRC will work to develop indicators based on 6 macro-objectives.

More efficient use of space is included in two of the additional macro-objectives that may be considered in the medium to long term for the identification of performance indicators. A public consultation will be launched in 2016 (June, July and August). Participants agreed that VIPA International should reply to the consultation and advocate for the development of these indicators.

Action:

- VIPA International to reply to the consultation on Resource Efficiency for the Building Sector.

4. Advocacy case for VIPs

Francesco presented the structure of the advocacy case and its key principles, based on the feedback received from the members in the previous weeks. The document will be divided into three main sections: VIPA and VIPs, VIPA position on energy efficiency of buildings (EED, EPBD, financing), sustainability. As agreed under agenda point 3.1, information on the cost-effectiveness of insulation will be included in the section on energy efficiency of buildings.

Participants suggested highlighting sustainability topics by moving the section on sustainability after the introduction on VIPA and VIPs. This section should be expended to include recyclability of VIPs, availability of resources, key benefits of VIPs and VIPA's position on circular economy.

Francesco suggested that an easy way to communicate our presence in Europe would be a map with the location of European factories of VIPA's members. It would also be good to contact MEPs coming from the area of the factories. Not all members replied to the request for information on this topic. The Secretariat will collect this information during the Board meeting.

Participants approved the general principles highlighted in the presentation on EED and EPBD. For additional details, see the presentation attached. Participants remarked that space should be included in the Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs), but so far the EPCs are not having a real impact. Participants remarked that it would be good to have some additional information on how much space do VIPs save. It would not be easy to quantify this information, but the case for advocacy might include just the space saved in some particular case studies. Gregor Erbenich reported that Porextherm might have some cases on this topic and will share it with the group.

The Secretariat will prepare a first draft of the advocacy case for VIPs, to be circulated to the PA WG members in the coming weeks.

Action:

- Gregor Erbenich to share cases on space saved by VIPs.
- All members to share information on the location of VIPs factories in Europe.
- Secretariat to prepare a first draft of the advocacy case for VIPs.

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 13:30.
