

VACUUM INSULATION PANEL



GLOBAL ASSOCIATION

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

### DECEMBER 2016

#### In This Issue

1. Association news
2. Policy news from Europe
3. Upcoming events

VIPA International is a  
Build Up Partner



Dear VIPA International Member,

2016 has been an interesting year for VIPA International, with the election of a new Board of directors and very important initiative such as the agreement concluded with the GSH for the use of the VIP RAL label. To summarize the achievements of VIPA International, we have prepared a brief summary of the activities undertaken in 2016 and some information on our plans for 2017.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season and a happy new year

With best regards,

Gregor Erbenich

President VIPA International

#### 1. Association News

##### 1.1. New President elected in Barcelona

VIPA welcomes Gregor Erbenich (Porextherm) as the new President of the association. He succeeds Roland Caps from va-Q-tec, who decided to step-down following his two-year tenure as President of VIPA. Gregor Erbenich was appointed President of VIPA International during the General Assembly of the association which took place in Barcelona on 12 October this year.

Continue reading [here](#).

##### 1.2. Co-operation agreement on the usage of the RAL VIP Quality Mark signed in October

VIPA International signed on 12 October a co-operation agreement with the European Association of Thermal Insulation Manufacturers (GSH) for the use of the RAL VIP Quality Mark. The agreement has a twofold objective: to offer the members of VIPA direct access to the VIP quality mark and to allow the association's members to participate at the drafting process of the quality assessment criteria governing the label.

Continue reading [here](#).

### **1.3. Summary of 2016 activities**

The Board of directors of VIPA International held a conference call on 5 December 2016 to wrap up the activities of 2016 (additional details are available in the [2016 Work Plan](#)):

#### **Governance**

In 2016, the Task Force on Bylaws prepared some changes to the Bylaws that were approved by the General Assembly on 12 October. The General Assembly meeting was also the occasion to restructure the Working Groups of the association, with the creation of the new Working Group on Asian matters and the merger of the Working Groups on Public Affairs and Communication.

#### **Quality label**

The agreement with the GSH for the use of the VIP RAL label was signed on 12 October in Barcelona and will enter into force on 1 January 2017. In the coming months VIPA will work with the GSH to review the quality assessment and the testing regulations. All members of VIPA International will have access to the label free of charge

#### **Communication**

VIPA published several documents in 2016 (Annual Report, 9 press releases, 3 Newsletters, 2 case studies) to raise awareness to the potential of VIPs and to communicate the activities of the association. The website was enriched with 3 new sections (Science on VIPs, IVIS, events). VIPA sponsored the IEA Annex 65 SIM 3rd plenary meeting in Turin on 25-26 February and had a speaking slot at the QUALICHeCK conference.

#### **Technical activities**

In 2016 VIPA was particularly active on technical studies: in October FIW delivered the final report of the compressive strength measurement study, which was presented during the General Assembly in Barcelona. Two other studies are ongoing: Hanita already delivered the interim report for the study on water vapour permeation. Another contract was signed with Hanita and FIW for a joint study on calibration of the lift-off technique for measuring the internal pressure of fumed silica VIPs and determination of boundary conditions for the lift-off measurements and processing of measurement raw data

#### **Public Affairs**

A delegation of VIPA International had a meeting on 28 July with Laurent Deleersnyder, European Commission DG Energy, Unit C3 (energy efficiency). The meeting was a good occasion to discuss the new energy efficiency package, present VIPs, the activities of the association and the position paper with policy suggestions to stimulate the deep renovation of European buildings and the use of superinsulation materials (available [here](#)).

VIPA monitored the main activities of the European Commission and published three press releases on the energy labelling proposal ([here](#)), the study on environmental performance of buildings ([here](#)) and the new energy efficiency package ([here](#)).

#### **1.4. 2017 activities**

The Board also discussed the plans for next year and approved the draft 2017 budget of the association. The Board agreed on the following priorities for 2017:

- Increase membership
- Raise awareness to VIPs:
  - Continue publishing case studies and press releases
  - Contact associations of architects, building designers, etc
  - Participate at IVIS 2017 in France
- Monitor discussions about EU buildings energy efficiency package (no active involvement)
- Promote GSH Quality Label and review GZ 960 document
- Support standardisation:
  - Finalise studies on water vapour permeation and lift-off technique

#### **1.5. New members: Rockwool and BSH Hausgeräte**

The Board of directors approved on 5 December the application for associate membership of BSH Hausgeräte and Rockwool. The membership of the two companies will become effective on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017, after the payment of the membership fees.

#### **1.6. VIPA website soon available in Mandarin**

The Secretariat is working on the translation of the website of VIPA International to Mandarin, as agreed during the General Assembly of 12 October. The translation will be online in January. In addition to the translation, a Chinese website domain name will also be available in 2017.

#### **1.7. IVIS 2017**

The [13th International Vacuum Insulation Symposium](#) will take place on 20-21 September 2017 in Paris (Cité Universitaire de Paris). VIPA International will sponsor the event with an open contribution of 10,000 EUR and it will be present with a stand at the exhibition area. The early registration to the event will open on 31 March 2017, while the call for abstract opened in August 2016 and will close on 13 January 2017. VIPA International will also organise its General Assembly in Paris on 19 September (date to be confirmed).

#### **1.8. Asian Working Group**

The Board decided during the meetings in Barcelona in October to create a Working Group on Asian matters. The first conference call took place on 9 December and it was attended by representatives of Hanita, Porextherm, Kingspan and Qingdao Kerui New Environmental Materials.

The Working Group agreed on its mission: to work on issues of interest to member companies in Asia and make recommendations to the Board of Directors on eventual actions that could be taken by the association.

The group discussed the standardisation work going on in China at the moment. A group of companies led by Nanjing Fiberglass Institute is reviewing the current standard and plans to draft a more complete one which would be extended to all VIP applications. Participants also shared thoughts about increasing VIPA's visibility in Asia. The translation of the website to mandarin which will be available in January 2017 is a first step to raise awareness to VIPA in China and hopefully in nearby countries. Participation at the Asian Working Group is open to all VIPA members. In case you are interested in joining this group, please contact the VIPA secretariat.

#### **1.9. Technical activities**

The Technical Working Group had a conference call end of October to review what was achieved in 2016 and discuss activities for 2017.

In 2016, the Working Group approved two new studies:

- Hanita study on the development of an advanced technique for measuring the effect of moisture content on the thermal conductivity of VIPs
- Hanita and FIW project: calibration of the lift-off technique for measuring the internal pressure of fumed silica VIPs and determination of boundary conditions for the lift-off measurements and processing of measurement raw data

Both studies are on-going and will be finalised early to mid-2017. The study commissioned to FIW in 2015: compressive strength measurement of VIP according to EN 826 was completed in September 2016 (download final report [here](#)).

With regards to 2017 activities, a few options are under consideration:

- Internal pressure measurement devices
- Thermal conductivity measurement devices
- Foil-lift-off method for fiber-filled core VIPs

The Working Group will continue reviewing these options at the next meeting of the Technical Working Group which is scheduled for spring 2017.

With regards to standardisation, the CEN TC 88 WG 11 finalised the draft text for the standard.

There are no more meetings planned for the moment. The draft standard will now undergo approval by all the national standardisation bodies in Europe.

## 2. Policy News from Europe

### 2.1. "Clean Energy for All Europeans" published on 30 November 2016

The European Commission published on 30 November 2016 its package on initiatives on energy, titled "[Clean Energy for All Europeans - unlocking Europe's growth potential](#)". The jumbo package (more than 4.000 pages, 8 legislative proposals) includes the proposals for the review of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and the Communication on the Eco-design Working Plan for 2016-2019.

The [proposal for a revised energy efficiency Directive](#) contains a binding 30% energy efficiency target to be achieved at European Union level by 2030. There are not pre-established binding targets at national level. The new target is a step forward compared to the 27% target agreed by the Council of the European Union in 2014, but it is considerably less ambitious than the 40% proposed by the European Parliament. The incoming negotiations between Council, Parliament and Commission are likely to be focused on the amount of this target.

The [proposal for a revised energy performance of buildings Directive](#) includes some interesting developments for VIPA: according to article 10, financial incentives for energy efficiency improvements will have to be linked to the energy savings achieved due to renovation. Besides, new buildings will only have to take into account minimum energy performance requirements, removing the obligation to consider also locally available high efficiency alternatives (heat pumps, renewables), potentially releasing resources for better insulation.

VIPs are quoted in the [Staff Working Document](#) accompanying the EPBD: the Commission acknowledges that the market for advanced insulation (aerogel and VIPs) is at an initial stage (less than 5% of sales), but it is anyway more advanced than in other parts of the world.

The Commission also launched a new database on the EU's building stock to monitor the energy performance of buildings across Europe. The [EU Building Stock Observatory](#) will provide information on buildings' characteristics including their construction period, energy use, onsite renewable energy and renovation rates.

With the [Communication on an eco-design working plan 2016-2019](#), the Commission illustrates its planned activities on eco-design until 2019. There will be no eco-design requirements for thermal insulation, since it is already covered at national level. However, the review of eco-design requirements for domestic refrigerators and freezers is due by 2019, while a new product group for refrigerated containers (or reefers, refrigerated containers for transport of perishable goods, usually 20 or 40 foot long) will be launched in the coming months.

## 2.2. Energy Labelling

After the approval of the European Parliament on the [text](#) for the new energy labelling regulation, the Parliament and the Council have started negotiations in September to reach an agreement. The negotiations were supposed to be finished before the end of 2016, but the Council and the Parliament have not been able so far to agree on some points of the regulation and the negotiations will be extended to the first part of 2017. Talks are still ongoing about when exactly the new labels should be rolled out for product groups, with the Council pushing for a delayed implementation. However, talks have been held up mostly by procedural questions on the type of instrument for developing secondary legislation.

## 3. Upcoming events

- 16-21 January, Munich, Germany: [BAU 2017](#)
- 17 January, Lyon, France: [QUALICheck International Workshop - Renewable heating and cooling systems for buildings](#)
- 24-26 January, Bordeaux, France: [European Energy Transition Conference](#)
- 28 January - 1 February, Las Vegas, USA:
- 30 January- 1 February, Las Vegas, USA: [AHR Expo 2017 - Air-Conditioning, Heating, Refrigerating Exposition](#)
- 8-10 February, Funchal, Portugal: [Energy for Sustainability International Conference - Designing Cities & Communities for the Future](#)
- 13-14 February, Ankara, Turkey: [International Symposium on Energy Efficiency in Buildings](#)
- 14 February 2017, Malta: [Smart Buildings for a greener Europe: Emerging Policy and Practice](#)
- 15-17 February 2017, Wien, Austria: [Bauz! Vienna Congress on Sustainable Building](#)
- 1 March 2017, Wels, Austria: [World Sustainable Energy Days](#)
- 7-9 March, Sofia, Bulgaria: [South-East European Exhibition and Conference on Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy](#)
- 7-9 March, London, UK: [Ecobuild](#)

## VIPA International Secretariat

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