



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER MAY 2016

In This Issue

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

VIPA International is a Build Up Partner



On this Newsletter, you will find a brief summary of the work done the past months to achieve all objectives and milestones set forth at the end of last year for 2016.

We hope you will find this information useful and remain at your disposal if any queries arise.

With best regards,
Roland Caps
President VIPA International

1. General News

1.1 Co-operation agreement with the GSH for the use of the VIP Quality Mark approved

Last month, VIPA's Board approved the co-operation agreement with GSH (Güteschutzgemeinschaft Hartschaum e.V.: European association of manufacturers of thermal insulating products). The agreement will be signed the next weeks.

VIPA International's mission statement adopted when the association was created in 2014 stated our commitment to promote and raise the quality of the VIP industry. During the past two years, the Board has discussed how to address this objective and evaluated existing quality schemes on VIPs. After consideration it was decided to approach the GSH and to see how VIPA members could use the existing GSH Quality Mark for VIP products. Currently three members of the association are members of the GSH and use the GSH Quality Mark.

The co-operation agreement just approved gives VIPA International the following advantages:

- Possibility to change the Quality and Testing Regulations for VIPs (RAL-GZ 960 document). A VIPA Quality WG (open to all VIPA members) will be created to review the existing document and suggest modifications to the existing provisions, as deemed necessary by the membership. All changes to the current document will then be submitted to the RAL for approval
- Membership to the GSH
- Free access to the GSH Quality Mark to all VIPA members (without this agreement the GSH Quality Mark has an annual cost of 2900 EUR per company)

It remains up to each company to decide whether or not to apply for the GSH Quality Mark. VIPA International will strongly encourage its members to apply to the label but it will not make this a condition for membership. During the next weeks more information will be available about the signature of the agreement and date of enter into force.

1.2 Global Gypsum Magazine publishes article about VIPA and VIPs

VIPA President, Dr Roland Caps gave an interview to the magazine Global Gypsum. The editorial and interview "A focus on vacuum insulation panels" was published on 16 May. In the interview, Caps speaks about the VIP market, main applications, barriers and incentives and some of the achievements of VIPA International.

Read article here (page 30): <http://www.globalgypsum.com/pdf/eGGMay2016ns.pdf>

1.3 VIPA International website refreshed with new sections

Science on VIPs, Events and IVIS. These are the new sections of the VIPA International website.

The association aims to be a knowledge portal about vacuum insulation panels where consumers, decision-makers, stakeholders and the general public can find the latest information about VIP technology. With this in mind, three new sections were added to the website:

- <http://vipa-international.org/ivis>: all presentations and proceedings of the previous editions of the International Vacuum Insulation Panels Symposium
- <http://vipa-international.org/events>: events attended/sponsored by VIPA
- <http://vipa-international.org/science-on-vip>: a listing of over 80 articles and studies on VIPs. All publications are available upon request.

1.4 New case study released

VIPA International publishes case studies provided by its members. These showcase the advantages of VIPs. The Communications & PR Working Group is leading this effort together with the VIPA secretariat. Should you wish to send a case study from your company, please feel free to contact the secretariat in Brussels. VIPA International released recently one new case study:

VIP technology checks in at the Premier Inn - case study provided by Kingspan - [download here](#)

This case study describes the construction of a Premier Inn next to Harrogate's International Centre (HIC) in North Yorkshire, UK. A roofing system with VIP technology was installed ensuring high thermal performance while guaranteeing a functional drainage.

2. Association News

2.1 Board Update

The VIPA International Board had a meeting in Frankfurt on 14 April.

In Frankfurt, the Board discussed the following items:

*Co-operation agreement with the GSH for the use of the RAL Quality Mark

*VIPA Bylaws included a two years transition period which will come to an end in 2016. As a result, the Board reviewed the membership structure. New categories will be presented and put up to vote at the next General Assembly.

*The 2016 Work Plan was reviewed and the different Working Groups reported on the progress achieved so far ([for a detailed updated, please click here](#)):

o **Governance:** new membership categories were discussed and approved by the Board on 14 April. These will be submitted to the General Assembly for approval

o **Finances:** not all members have already paid the 2016 membership fees. We invite all our members to proceed with the payment as soon as possible. Failure to pay the invoice within 3 months after they become due will automatically restrict your rights as member (logo dropped from the website, no voting rights, no access to reserved area, etc)

o **Representativeness:** the secretariat is in constant contact with the prospect members to explain the advantages of joining the association

o **Communications:** see WG update below

o **Quality label:** the Board approved the agreement via written procedure on 29 April. The agreement will be signed the next weeks

o **Technical/standards:** see WG update below

o **IVIS 2017:** the Board decided not to co-organise the event with the CSTB anymore. VIPA will certainly attend the event and contribute with the promotional activities and sponsorship, but it will not be involved in the organisation

o **Public Affairs:** see WG update below

2.2 Update Technical WG

The Technical WG had two conference calls in February and in April. Two new studies have been approved:

- * Develop an advanced technique for measuring the effect of moisture content on the thermal conductivity of VIPs. Hanita Coatings, 1 year, 25,000 EUR

- * 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. FIW and Hanita Coatings, 8 months, 25,000 EUR.

The study on compressive strength measurement which started end 2015 is delayed due to the late arrival of some specimens. FIW is working on an interim report which should be ready the next weeks.

In addition to the studies, the Working Group also reviews the activities of the CEN TC88 WG 11. A new draft of the standard will be reviewed at the next meeting in June. The WG 11 is expected to deliver the standard in the course of 2017.

2.3 Update Communications & PR WG

The Communications & PR Working Group did not have a conference call or meeting in the past months. Only one case study has been published in 2016. We invite our members to submit more case studies so we can cover all VIP applications.

Three sections have been added to the website: events, IVIS and Science on VIPs (80+ publications). The Working Group worked on an article which was published on the Global Gypsum Magazine, May edition ([read here](#)).

VIPA sponsored the IEA Annex 65 meeting in Turin, end February 2016. The meeting was very well attended and VIPA sponsorship gave extra visibility to the association.

2.4 Update Public Affairs WG

The Public Affairs WG had one conference call in March. The WG drafted a reply to the Public Consultation on the review of the EU Directive on Energy Efficiency. In view of the publication of the new proposal on energy efficiency, to be published by the European Commission after this summer, the WG is preparing a document to be used in advocacy activities to be shared with key stakeholders at EU level.

The WG is monitoring the ongoing work of the European Parliament on a new Regulation on Energy Labelling and on the Circular Economy package. Additional details are available in the section "Policy news from Europe".

3. Policy News from Europe

3.1. Energy labelling

The Industry, Research and Energy Committee of the European Parliament (ITRE) is finalizing its work on the new Regulation on Energy Labelling. If the new Regulation will be approved, a single scale from A to G will replace all existing labels for energy efficient products such as refrigerators. Dario Tamburrano, the rapporteur for the ITRE Committee, already presented its [report](#). Key issues under discussion in the Parliament are the rescaling system, the type of information to be included in the database of products and the number of empty classes for newly rescaled labels.

The final vote in the ITRE Committee, originally scheduled on the 23 May, was postponed to 14 June. The Council and the Parliament will have to approve an identical text.

3.2. Energy Efficiency

The European Commission launched in the past months two public consultations on the review process of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), the two key pieces of legislation on energy efficiency. The objective of the Commission was to gather feedback from the stakeholders in view of the publication of the Commission proposal on energy efficiency after summer. VIPA International replied to both consultations ([EED](#) - [EPBD](#)). The European Commission published a synthesis report with the feedback received, directly quoting part of VIPA's reply on public procurement. Overall, participants remarked that the EED successfully established an energy efficiency framework at EU level, but they also highlighted how national guidance and implementation remain insufficient.

The report of the European Commission is available [here](#).

3.3. Circular Economy

The [Circular Economy Package](#) was presented by the European Commission in December. It is a broad initiative ranging from landfill to food waste, with the general objective of "closing the loop" and ensure that waste are reused/reduced. For the building sector, the package has the objective of improving the building design and ecodesign requirements of buildings. However, the new ecodesign strategy will not be presented by the Commission until autumn 2016.

The Commission will develop indicators to assess environmental performance throughout the lifecycle of buildings. The Joint Research Center (JRC) is conducting a study to identify these indicators. A public consultation on the results of this study will be launched by mid-2016. Interestingly for VIPA, the draft report quotes "more efficient use of space" as one of the area with the greatest potential to reduce environmental impacts. Space is also included in two of the additional macro-objectives that may be considered in the medium to long term.

The draft report on the Resource Efficiency for the Building Sector study is available [here](#).

3.4. European Energy Efficiency Platform

The Joint Research Center of the European Commission presented in April the online European Energy Efficiency Platform (E3P). The Commission wants to use the Platform as a tool open to external contributions to gather data and information on energy efficiency products and best practices. The Platform will support knowledge sharing among stakeholders, policymakers, industry and consumers and support the conception, implementation and monitoring of energy efficiency policies in Europe.

The Platform, still in its beta version, is available [here](#).

3.5. National Building Renovation Strategies

The Joint Research Center of the European Commission published a report to analyse the building renovation strategies of the EU Member States as requested by the Energy Efficiency Directive. Overall, the JRC gave a positive judgement on the policies of the EU Member States: according to the JRC, 74% of the national policies addresses the Directive in a satisfactory way, and 10 policies are considered exemplary.

The report received criticisms from some EU stakeholders for being a mere "tick-the-box" exercise, incapable of really addressing the lack of ambition in several Member States policies on energy efficiency.

The JRC report on National Building Renovation Strategies is available [here](#).

3.6. Horizon2020 funding available for energy efficiency projects

The European Commission opened its 2016-2017 energy efficiency call under the Research and Innovation Programme Horizon2020. With this call, the European Commission will finance projects able to deliver energy efficiency benefits in the area of consumers, buildings, products, industry and services, finance for sustainable energy. Additional details on the individual calls and on the application process are available [here](#).

3.7. Study on cost-benefit analysis on energy efficiency

The Coalition for Energy Savings, a platform of different stakeholders advocating for higher energy efficiency targets and better energy efficiency policies, published a report on the impact assessment of EU 2030 energy efficiency targets. The report, produced by Ecofys, criticizes the approach of the European Commission on its impact assessment, too focused on private and short term perspectives. The study suggests that a more comprehensive cost-benefit analysis would show that an energy efficiency target of up to 40% would deliver energy bills savings able to exceed the investment costs.

The study is available [here](#).

4. Upcoming events

- 24 May, Dublin, Ireland: [Future Shape: conference for a sustainable built environment](#)
- 30 May-3 June, Tampere, Finland: [CIB World Building Congress 2016](#)
- 6-8 June, Toronto, Canada: [Building lasting change](#)
- 7-8 June, London, UK: [Vision: the future of the built environment](#)
- 13-17 June, Brussels, Belgium: [EU Sustainable Energy Week](#)
- 13-14 June, New York, USA: [North American Passive House Network \(NAPHN\)](#)

Conference & Expo

- 23-24 June, Italy: [Challenges and Opportunities on Add-Ons in Deep Renovation of Existing Buildings](#)
- 24 June, Brussels, Belgium: [2016 Annual Conference of the European Builders Confederation \(EBC\)](#)
- 25-28 June, Washington, USA: [BOMA International Conference & Expo 2016](#)
- 8 September, Birmingham, UK: [Zero Carbon Buildings Today and in the Future \(ZCB 2016\)](#)
- 11 September, Turin, Italy: [International Conference on Sustainability in Energy and Buildings SEB-16](#)
- 26-27 September, Hamburg, Germany: [11 Global Insulation Conference & Exhibition](#)
- 5-7 October, Los Angeles, USA: [Greenbuild International Conference and Expo 2016](#)
- 10-11 October, Bern, Switzerland: [Advanced Building Skins Conference 2016](#)
- 18-19 October, Berlin, Germany: [Thermal Insulation Products - KEYMARK Conference](#)
- 17 November, London, UK: [CIBSE Building Performance Conference and Exhibition 2016](#)

VIPA International Secretariat

For any queries please contact the office in Brussels:

Raquel Ponte Costa
Francesco Gattiglio
Bénédicte Lambert

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