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EUROPEAN UNION NEWS

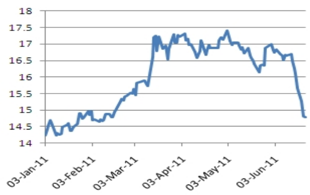
MEPs put off key vote on climate change reduction target

MEPs have postponed a vote on whether or not Europe should toughen its climate targets and move to a 30 per cent emissions reduction target by 2020. At their mini plenary in Brussels they decided to postpone the vote until July, saying their agenda was too long. EPP MEPs called for the voting session to be suspended, with the crucial vote on carbon emissions postponed. The vote for postponement was not recorded so it is impossible to identify which MEPs supported the delay. But there was, broadly, a left-right split, with EPP members supporting a postponement and Socialists voting against. The eagerly-awaited vote had been seen by many as a test of Europe's commitment to cutting greenhouse gas emissions. The EC has set a target of cutting CO_2 emissions by 20 per cent compared to 1990 levels by the end of this decade but many MEPs have been pressing for this to be increased to 30 per cent. Some MEPs had warned that failure to vote for a 30 per cent emissions reduction would undermine the EU's reputation as a leading voice in the fight against global warming. Supporters of the move to raise ambitions from the current 20 per cent reduction target argue that it will guide investment decisions crucial to the development of low carbon energy production and the growth of the green economy. Reaction to the decision to postpone the vote was swift. Environment committee chair Jo Leinen expressed "disappointment" with the delay, saying, "This opens the door for additional lobbying from climate skeptics and interest groups. There had already been a lot of lobbying against a 30 per cent reduction and this postponement is not very helpful." FEVE has worked with the alliance of energy intensive industries to lobby against the 30 percent reduction.
Source: Theparliament.com

Compostable does not mean biodegradable, says EU

Packaging advertised as being biodegradable is misleading for consumers if it does not decompose in the natural environment, the EU has claimed. The EU's ongoing consultation on reducing plastic carrier bag says that rules need to be put in place to make a "clear distinction" between packs that biodegrade in the natural environment and those that need to go to industrial composting facilities. It also suggests that some packs are claiming to conform to existing rules on biodegradability when in fact they do not. The consultation, published last month, says that under current laws a packaging product is "acknowledged to be biodegradable if it biodegrades in composting industrial facilities in controlled conditions", even if it does not biodegrade in "natural conditions in the environment". The document states: "Advertising a packaging product as biodegradable when in fact it will not biodegrade in natural conditions can be misleading for the consumer and can contribute to the proliferation of littering of products that will persist in the environment." It also raises concerns over a "wide potential variation in degradability of common packaging materials" for household products, especially for plastic packaging. "These aspects need to be further specified to avoid misleading the consumer and reinforce the protection of the environment," the document says. In the context of carrier bags, the debate over compostability and biodegradability is likely to focus on the plant-based bioplastics sector, whose materials are widely advertised as being compostable.
Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

'Carnage' in European carbon market as prices fall to 15-month low



EU carbon prices have slumped 15% in one week, as a slew of bearish news took its toll on the markets. The benchmark EU allowance (EUA) contract for December 2011 delivery has suffered an eight-day losing streak, dropping to €13.29 in trading, a low not seen in the December futures contract since April 2010. Concerns over the Greek debt crisis hit many financial markets, but carbon has fared far worse than other energy commodities it is commonly traded alongside, such as coal, natural gas and power. Carbon markets have also had to contend with an increasing supply of carbon credits, while political wrangling in the EU has led many to think that demand for carbon will weaken. An EU vote approving the new regulation on registries in Phase III (2013-2020) of the EU ETS created more certainty that extra supply – some 300 million EUAs for use in Phase III – will begin hitting the market in the fourth quarter of the year.
Source: Environmental-finance.com

Measuring sustainable development and supplementing GDP

An agreement on better monitoring and reporting of environmental data should be a first step towards measuring the EU economy on a wider basis than GDP, according to MEPs, who approved legislation on "environmental economic accounts" and a non-binding resolution on "Beyond GDP" in June. Member States' reporting of "environmental economic accounts" to Eurostat will, from 2012, cover air emissions, material flows and environmental taxes that are levied. The legislation aims to aid the collation and comparability of this data, which is already collected by most Member States on a voluntary basis. Further 'modules' - for example on the use of water and forest resources - may be added in future, following a review. Rapporteur and Environment Committee Chair Jo Leinen said, ""Environmental accounts are a missing piece of the puzzle in terms of better understanding economic activities. I am pleased that the EU is taking a step towards properly accounting for its natural capital. This is an important contribution to a new welfare index, comprising economic, environmental and social progress in a society." The text had already been informally agreed with Council, which also will need to give its formal approval for it to enter the EU law books. MEPs also adopted a non-binding resolution on "Beyond GDP" in response to a 2009 EC communication of the same title. MEPs indicated they support the EC's groundwork towards supplementing this economic measure with social and environmental indicators.
Source: Press Release European Parliament

EU to start taxing road freight to contain pollution

EU member states have been given final approval to start applying the 'polluter-pays' principle when setting road tolls for heavy goods vehicles. But the freight sector is complaining of an additional burden as countries are not obliged to reinvest the tax revenues in greening road transport. The EU Parliament endorsed on 7 June a compromise deal on the revision of Eurovignette Directive, finalised at the end of May after trialogue discussions between the EP, the Council and the EC. The final vote will allow member states to charge all vehicles above 3.5 tonnes not only for infrastructure costs but also for noise and pollution. Member states are free to exempt vehicles below 12 tonnes if they wish, but must notify their reasons for doing so to the EC. The revised Eurovignette Directive is the first EU law to implement the bloc's wider strategy of internalising the external costs of transport. The EP's rapporteur on the dossier, Belgian Socialist MEP Saïd El Khadraoui, described the achievement as an important milestone that "can dictate the direction of our transport policy for the future". But he also noted that the final deal, approved with 505 votes in favour, 141 against and 17 abstentions, is "a compromise" both between and within the institutions.
Source: Euractiv.com

***Erratum:* ‘Commission sets out new rules for phase III of ETS’.**

In the last (June) edition of the FEVE News was quoted information from the European Environment & Packaging Law (EEPL) which had wrongly reported that 80 percent of ETS allowances would be given for free to sectors exposed to carbon leakage. In the article ‘Commission sets out new rules for phase III of ETS’ it reads: *‘While power generators will have to start buying allowances through auction, other sectors at risk of carbon leakage will benefit from a transitional free allocation period. They will receive up to 80 per cent of their allowances for free in 2013, falling to 30 per cent by 2020.’* This is not correct. Instead it should read: ‘*‘While power generators will have to start buying allowances through auction, other sectors at risk of carbon leakage will benefit from free allocation, amounting to 100 per cent of the ambitious benchmarks (average 10 per cent of the best installations in Europe)*.
EEPL was informed and asked to correct this information.
FEVE

CONTAINER GLASS INDUSTRY

Europe

2010 much better year for container glass production

Production data 2010 published from FEVE show a general recovery from the drop of the previous year. In 2010, the European industry produced 20.7 million tonnes of glass compared to 20.1 million tonnes in 2009 marking an increase of 3.5%.The biggest increase in production was recorded in Turkey (27%) and UK (9.5%). In Italy (5.2%), Poland (5.7%) the increase was more important than in Portugal (1.9%), Spain (2.7%) and North & Central countries (1.7%). In Germany the situation was stable (0.2%) as well as in France where a slight decrease was recorded (-0.1%). *“The industry was able to react firmly to the impact of the previous year’s financial crisis – says FEVE President Niall Wall – and to maintain its place as a key player in the packaging market notwithstanding the harsh competition. This is important if we are to offer consumers choice because glass is their preferred packaging thanks to its environmental, health and taste preservation qualities. For some natural and healthy products like milk, yoghurts, baby food or mineral waters, consumer demand for glass packaging is not being met because of the lack of choice on supermarket shelves”.* The industry continues to make efforts to improve the efficiency of manufacturing process, to reduce environmental impacts and to reduce costs to ensure that brands are provided with a premium packaging solution at competitive prices when compared to other materials.
Source: FEVE Press Release/ GlassGlobal

Saint-Gobain cancels Verallia IPO – for now

Saint-Gobain has dropped the planned IPO of the world’s second biggest glass manufacturer Verallia. The French giant said that it had postponed the floatation of much of the business due to “very adverse” market conditions. A statement from Saint-Gobain said: “The offering received strong support from institutional investors in Europe (especially in France) and North America, as well as a significant demand from retail investors. “However, given the underlying level of market uncertainty and volatility, Saint-Gobain considers that the conditions are not met to ensure a clear success for the IPO of Verallia.” The group had been planning to raise around €1bn from the IPO. It has given no indication as to when it may attempt a new IPO of the business. Saint-Gobain’s statement looked to reassure investors, however. It said: “The outlook for Verallia is favorable and the company will continue to pursue its growth and operational excellence strategy.”
Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

Vidrala invests in six factories until 2016

Vidrala will invest 200 million Euros until 2016 in six plants (half of them in Spain). Carlos Delclaux, president of the Basque group, said that each center will receive a share of the investment "according to their profitability and industrial performance". The plant that will receive a larger share of the investment is Marinha Grande (Portugal), which is below the productivity standards of the corporation and and the Ghlin plant (Belgium), which last year had to cut its staff by 70 workers. Delclaux expects to increase group sales in 2011 because of increasing demand in European markets. In 2010, turnover for Vidrala was 405.9 million Euros (6% more than in the previous year) with a record net profit (49.6 million Euros, an increase of 21%). The Vidrala shareholders meeting approved a dividend of 0.54 Euros per share (5% more than in the previous year). Vidrala reported to the Market Commission (CNMV) an amortization of 550,000 shares held in treasury which account for 2.30% of the capital.
Source: Cincodias.com

O-I launches first-ever global campaign to champion glass

CEO's, environmentalists, parents join Glass Is Life™ to share their love for glass and encourage brands to choose glass. Owens-Illinois announced the launch of *Glass Is Life*™. The marketing campaign is designed to showcase the unique and unmatched qualities of glass packaging to build successful food and beverage brands. A first-ever global initiative, O-I's *Glass Is Life* campaign also highlights the inherent love consumers have for glass. "O-I's extensive research shows a strong demand for glass among consumers, but the marketplace does not adequately reflect this interest. We aim to influence the food and beverage industry's packaging decisions by showing the power of glass," said Al Stroucken, Chairman and CEO of O-I. "As the leading maker of the purest and most sustainable packaging, O-I is excited to spearhead a movement that demonstrates the unique attributes of glass packaging and brings brands back into glass."
Source: O-I

Beatson Clark: over 40 years of good customer service

As good customer service is key to business success, glass-packaging manufacturer Beatson Clark is celebrating after achieving 99% supplier performance with one of its long-standing clients, Bart Spices of Bristol. Beatson Clark supplies Bart Spices with a range of four proprietary jars for its premium own brand herbs and spices range, as well as several jars from its extensive general sale range. Charlotte Taylor, marketing manager for Beatson Clark said: "Bart Spices' supplier performance survey is based on quality of product and on time, in full deliveries and we are pleased to have achieved a remarkably high score during 2010 and are on target for the same success in 2011. After supplying the company for over 40 years we are proud that our customer service still hits the mark and has established us as Bart's main supplier of glass packaging. We believe that excellent customer service is essential for any business relationship to continue and the fact that we have been supplying Bart Spices over such a long time as well as achieving consistently high ratings is a testament to our own business practices."
Source: Glassonline.com

CPIV will become 'European Glass Alliance'

On 27 June at the Annual General Assembly of CPIV, the Standing Committee of the European Glass Industries, it was agreed to open a new chapter of the glass representation in Europe. CPIV will be transformed into a new 'European Glass Alliance'. Aim is to work on EU wide common issues related to the glass industry. The common platform brings together national associations of twelve European countries (incl. Turkey) and the European glass sector associations.
Source: CPIV

USA & Canada

Verallia: award honors energy performance at plants

Verallia North America, a producer of glass containers in the United States, has had three of its manufacturing plants honored as the first and only in the industry to earn the 2010 ENERGY STAR from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for superior energy performance. The three plants, located in Dunkirk, Indiana; Milford, Massachusetts; and Port Allegany, Pennsylvania, have demonstrated best in class energy performance and, on average, use nearly 25% less energy when compared to similar plants across the country. "We are very proud to operate the only three glass container plants in the country to be recognized for advanced energy performance", said Joseph R. Grewe, President and CEO with Verallia North America. "This special recognition from the EPA validates our efforts and drives our commitment to reach new levels of achievement". Compared to average glass container plants, these ENERGY STAR certified facilities annually save 1,342,742 million Btus of energy and prevent approximately 61,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents, which is comparable to eliminating the emissions from almost 12,000 cars.
Source: Glassonline.com

O-I cuts Q2 forecast on weak Australasian data and high US shipping costs

O-I has reduced its second quarter profits forecast due to higher shipping costs in the US and weakness in the Australasian beer and wine industries. O-I had previously forecast that earnings would be flat for the period but the company now expects profits to be down on last year. And operating profit margins are expected to decline by between 3 and 6 percentage points from Q2 2010. Significant cost inflation had been expected but O-I said manufacturing and delivery costs in North America were higher than anticipated. Low inventory levels and difficulties increasing output from a smaller number of sites meant that O-I struggled to meet higher demand in some locations. *"As a result we have had to ship glass long distances to meet customer demand – this has led to higher transportation costs which was further exacerbated by the recent run up of fuel prices,"* explained CFO Ed White recently at the Deutsche Bank Global Industries and Basic Materials Conference. In addition, O-I has run into problems in Australia and New Zealand where the strength of the local currencies has hit wine exports. As a key supplier of glass packaging for wine that is shipped for export, O-I has struggled in the region. Compounding the difficulties in the wine industry, O-I said beer consumption in Australia was down as high interest rates have eaten into disposable incomes. Weakness in the region had been anticipated but O-I said demand has deteriorated over the quarter more than expected resulting in "unabsorbed manufacturing costs" not forecast at the start of the period. Outside of Australasia the company said demand remains strong and global shipment levels are still expected to increase by between 5 and 10 per cent in the second quarter. Several acquisitions made in 2010 are expected to drive this growth. Further details of the second quarter performance will be revealed at a quarterly earnings conference call scheduled for 28 July.
Source: ap-foodtechnolgy.com

Saint-Gobain unveils Verallia's first industrial presence in Algeria

Saint-Gobain announced the acquisition of the public company Alver by Verallia. As part of the Algerian privatization process, Verallia inked an agreement for the 100% purchase of the public company Alver. Oran-based Alver's sales were around 7.0 million Euros in 2010 and the company employs 474 people. Verallia has also committed to making the necessary investments to increase production capacities and to improve the performance of the plant in Oran, as well as establishing an employee training program. Pierre-André de Chalendar, Chairman and CEO of Saint-Gobain stated, "This confirms the growth strategy of Verallia. It establishes Verallia's first industrial presence in the South of the Mediterranean Basin, a market that offers an

important potential for the filing of food jars and beverage bottles."
Source: Rttnews.com

O-I pays $140M for part of joint venture in Brazil

Owens-Illinois Inc. has acquired a portion of its southern Brazil operations from a joint venture partner, the glass maker said. O-I spent about $140 million in cash on the deal with Monteiro Aranha SA, which held 21 percent of Owens-Illinois do Brasil Industria e Comercio SA. The Brazil operations include two plants in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. O-I in Perrysburg said the deal will allow the company to reflect full financial results from the two Brazilian plants in its earnings.
Source: Toledoblade.com

Vitro America sale approved

Mexican glassmaker Vitro SAB has received bankruptcy-court approval to sell Vitro America LLC and three other US units, including Super Sky Products, to Sun Capital Partners affiliate American Glass Enterprises, according to a June 13 report from Dow Jones & Co., Inc. Sun Capital has said it intends to integrate the US subsidiaries of Mexico's largest glassmaker to Arch Aluminum & Glass LLC, according to the report. Sun Capital Partners is a private investment firm specializing in leveraged buyouts and investments. It purchased Arch Aluminum & Glass in February 2010, and more recently acquired United Glass Corp. The announcement follows an auction process that began this spring after Vitro SAB subsidiaries Vitro America, Super Sky International, Super Sky Products and VVP Finance Corp. filed for relief under Chapter 11 of the US Bankruptcy Code. At that time, officials also announced they had entered into an agreement to sell substantially all of the assets of Vitro America and Super Sky to an affiliate of Grey Mountain Partners, a private equity firm in Boulder, Colorado, for a purchase price of USD 44 million. Shortly thereafter, Sun Capital affiliate American Glass Enterprises LLC expressed interest in purchasing the subsidiaries as well. After hours of intense negotiations, and 23 rounds of bidding on 1 June, Sun Capital Partners outbid Grey Mountain Partners for the Vitro SAB US subsidiaries.
Source: Glassonline.com

Classic glass bottles return for "Vintage Summer"

The 'Modern Vintage' marketing trend has taken a hold on consumer products, including foods and beverages, also spurring a notable return to glass bottles for many classic products for the summer of 2011, including Heinz Ketchup, Orange Crush, Coca-Cola, and Hershey's Hot Fudge Topping. "We're pleased to see major brands revisiting glass this summer as a way to appeal to their customers," says Lynn Bragg, the Glass Packaging Institute (GPI) president. "Consumers obviously know the benefits of glass for maintaining the quality, purity, and taste of products. We're hopeful these companies will continue offering their products in glass for the foreseeable future." One standout is Heinz Ketchup, which is bringing back its 14-ounce glass bottles to store shelves for the first time in 10 years. "In response to consumer demand and to inspire memories of and relive good times from summers past, we wanted to bring back the glass bottle with a limited edition design that gives a nod to the product's 135-year history," says Noel Geoffroy, vice president of Heinz Brands, of the O-I produced bottle.
Source: Glassonline.com

Ontario sets maximum bottle weight limit

Canadian province Ontario will set a maximum weight on the wines it approves. The state-controlled Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) has said it will not stock any wines packaged in a bottle weighing more than 420g from 1 January 2013. In a letter seen by Decanter, Bob Downey, sales and marketing senior vice president for LCBO, says: 'The maximum glass weight will be 420 grams for wines packaged in non-hock 750 ml bottles at or below a retail price of CAN$15.' Champagne bottles and wines selling at more than CAN$15 will not have to comply with the new regulations but the LCBO

admits any suppliers offering lighter weight bottles at premium price points will have an advantage over competitors. 'For all wines with retail prices CAN$15 or over, we would still encourage suppliers to reduce weight of bottles. Given the environmental impact associated with producing, shipping and recycling glass, we'd ideally like to see all of our containers come down in weight. 'While we do not anticipate the development of a standard maximum weight for CAN$15 or over wines at this time, favourable consideration will be given to product offers that are lower in weight,' Downey adds.
Source: Decanter.com

Asia

$1 billion worth Indian container glass industry gearing up to meet demand

Glass packaging industry in India is buoyant with downstream demands from food & beverages, alcobev, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics industries. The industry is experiencing a huge surge in demand owing to the growing awareness about health and hygiene among the consumers. The Indian container glass industry is currently estimated to be worth US$1 billion, and is progressing with an approximate growth rate of 12%. Market analysis and research indicate that the trend will continue or even improve in the times to come due to rising disposable income and GDP rate. The Indian economy has been a major aid for the container glass industry enabling the industry to prosper even during the worst financial crisis in history. The container glass industry in India is a mature sector occupying more than 10 large and medium container glass manufacturers that supply packaging solutions to the various food and beverage, liquor, beer, pharmaceuticals, soft drinks and cosmetics companies. A key player in this segment is Hindusthan National Glass & Industries Ltd producing more than 15 million containers a day. We have an installed capacity of 2,825 TPD at present and plan to expand further with new facilities (both greenfield and brownfield) coming up in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra asserts Saran. Naidupeta is one of the upcoming projects by HNG, which is set to be the largest glass hub in Southeast Asia. The project is being set up with an initial cost of Rs 700 crore and will house three container glass and two float glass plants.
Source: Fnbnews.com

Indian glass-makers line up Rs 7,000-cr investment over next 2-3 years

Anticipating a surge in domestic demand, Indian glass manufacturers are ramping up their capacities and infusing new technologies, having lined up a cumulative investment of over Rs 7,000 crore for the next two to three years. The domestic glass industry, estimated to be about Rs 18,000 crore, expects per capita consumption to nudge up from the current levels of 1.2 kg in the container glass segment and 0.8 kg in the float glass segment. The Indian glass industry currently produces about 7,000 tonnes per day of container glass. "We expect a 10 to 12 per cent growth in demand for various categories of glass products in the next two to three years, which is why the industry is investing significantly in capacity addition and, more importantly, technology infusion," says Mr Mukul Somany, Vice-Chairman of Hindustan National Glass & Industries, and President of the All-India Glass Manufacturers' Federation. HNGI has lined up a Rs 1,500-crore expansion for the next 12 to 18 months to add a capacity of 1,000 TPD through a new plant at Naidupetta and brown-field expansion of its Nasik facility. Similarly, AGI Glaspac is investing Rs 600 crore to add 450 TPD capacity at its Andhra Pradesh unit. "We expect to wrap up the expansion project by February 2012," Mr Arun Kumar, the company's President, said.
Source: Thehindubusinessline.com

FLACONNAGE

New standard launched to certify cosmetic product life cycle

According to the US "GCI Magazine," nonprofit organization, Green Seal Inc. has

created GS-50, reportedly the first U.S. certification standard for cosmetic and personal care products that covers the whole product life cycle. To achieve the standard, manufacturers must satisfy performance, health and environmental requirements as well as social responsibility, packaging and labeling requirements—in addition to providing definitions for common claims such as natural, organic and bio-based. Once these standards are met, manufacturers can feature the 'Green Seal label'.
Source: GPI Competitive Report

Schott Inaugurates new pharmaceutical packaging production in Russia

SCHOTT glass made of ideas

Schott has officially inaugurated a production site for primary pharmaceutical packaging located in Zavolzhe, near the Russian city of Nizhny Novgorod. The new production site will employ around 60 employees initially and will produce premium quality ampoules and vials. "We are the first international group which manufactures primary pharmaceutical packaging made of glass to open a production facility in Russia," said Professor Dr. Udo Ungeheuer, Chairman of the Management Board of Schott AG, at the plant inauguration in Zavolzhe. "With this new plant, we are further expanding our position as the leading supplier to the pharmaceutical industry in Russia." With its packaging expertise and quality commitment, Schott will support Russian pharmaceutical companies in meeting the requirements of "Pharma 2020". The company has been selling ampoules, vials, cartridges and syringes to the Russian market already since the beginning of the 1990s. To date, Russian customers have been mainly supplied from the existing pharmaceutical packaging site in Hungary. "With our new facility in Zavolzhe, we are able to satisfy local demands even better than before," said Dr. Juergen Sackhoff, Executive Vice President of Schott Pharmaceutical Systems. The new plant for primary pharmaceutical packaging is Schott's second production site in Russia. The company already runs a flat glass processing plant in Bor, near the city of Nizhny Novgorod, that supplies the household appliance industry. Furthermore, Schott established a delegate office in Moscow, the Russian capital, in 1995.
Source: Foodingredientsfirst.com

Pochet buys Solev

Pochet

Pochet has taken over its compatriot company Solev, which specialises in the decoration and protection of bottles. Solev brings Pochet know-how in the field of decoration, particularly metallisation on glass and plastic, along with innovative finishing methods such as laser decoration and internal lacquering. The company employs 450 people on two sites, one at Martel in France's Lot region and the other in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Solev posted sales of €21m in 2009. Earlier this year Pochet acquired the former Lisi subsidiary Lisi Cosmetics, now renamed Qualicosmetics. The two acquisitions reinforce the group's position as a global leader in premium packaging for the perfume and cosmetics industry. "Our acquisition of Qualicosmetics and Solev completes our technological expertise, thus enabling us to offer our clients a comprehensive service and strengthen our international presence," says Irene Gosset, president of the Pochet Group's board of directors. Qualicosmetics provides expertise in the conversion and decoration of aluminium, plastic injection and metal stamping. It employs around 500 people at three plants in France. The Pochet Group says it can now provide clients with a comprehensive service: bottles, glass or plastic jars, stoppers combining plastic and metal, make-up compacts, accessories and promotional items among others, all making use of specifically tailored multiple finishing techniques. The company says it now generates a revenue of around €500m and employs nearly 6,000 people spread across 20 sites worldwide including 13 in France. "The prospects are really exciting", continues Gosset. "And as we have always done, we will continue to emphasise the satisfaction of our customers in accordance with the family culture that has always been the cornerstone of our success".
Source: Cosmeticsbusiness.com

TABLEWARE

Fire at Durobor plant in Soignies

Soignies firefighters were called on 16 June for an incident at French glass company Durobor, specializing in the manufacture of bottles and glasses. Apparently a furnace broke and the glass flowed into the plant, said the firefighters. The firefighters of Soignies received reinforcement by their colleagues in Braine-Le-Comte and La Louviere.
Source: Lavenir.net

Reorganisation of Durobor

An application for a judicial reorganization procedure was filed by French glass tableware manufacturer Durobor in Soignies to avoid bankruptcy. The procedure should allow Durabor for six months to find a new trading partner and new markets. For the time being, no job losses are announced. "We have avoided the suspension of payments," said Manu Morais from the French socialist trade union SETCa Centre. "We had already informed about the situation two years ago." According to the SETCa the accumulated losses amounted to 10.6 million Euros. The procedure for judicial reorganization was in agreement with the major creditors of the company. “Five million Euros will be invested in a new furnace, but further investments must be made,” said Manu Morais. "The marketing department must find new markets (…) to reach the objective of a turnover of 40 million Euros in 2011 to 44 million Euros in 2012 and 47 million Euros in 2013”, he added.
Source: Lavenir.net

COMPETING MATERIALS

Cans

TV star launches new can recycling competition

TV star Miquita Oliver has linked up with Beverage Can Makers Europe (BCME) to launch a new competition encouraging more people to recycle beverage cans. The competition is called ‘I luv my can’. It is encouraging everyone aged 16 upwards to turn ordinary beverage cans into “beautiful creations for a chance to win an amazing prize fund and help a worthy charity”. BCME said: “Whether you’re a budding Picasso, a Vivienne Westwood in the making, or dab-hand at arts and craft, this is your opportunity to shine. All you need to do is use empty beverage cans to make a canny creation.” The winner of the competition will get a £1,000 cash prize and a year’s supply of the winner’s favourite canned drink. The winning designs will be auctioned off to raise money for UK charity the Art Fund. Supporting the campaign, Miquita Oliver said: “Everyone wants to do their bit for the environment and help make a difference. This competition is a fun way of encouraging more people to recycle, take a fresh look at the packaging of their favourite drink and support a good cause.”
Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

Study shows Brits and Italians are open to wine in cans

Rexam commissioned online research company T-poll to undertake a piece of independent research to better understand the wine preferences and how appealing wine in cans was to the target audience of 18 to 34 year olds. Having surveyed a 1,000 people, both men and women, split between the U.K. and Italy, in April 2011, the research concludes that apparently there is a appetite for wine in cans as a packaging option for wine consumers. When asking how appealing participants found the concept of wine in cans, 58 percent of people sampled thought the idea was appealing, with 67 percent of these finding it highly appealing. When breaking the sample into genders, 65 percent of female respondents agreed that the idea of wine in cans was an appealing

concept. Younger wine consumers have shown an increasing interest in alternative packaging for wine, particularly when it comes to convenience. Out of those surveyed, 62 percent of respondents agreed that wine in a can would be a very convenient format, with a further 54 percent finding the speed at which cans chill, and therefore the wine inside, appealing, which is an important factor at BBQs and parties. Although wine in cans is suited to both at home and outdoor drinking occasions, 55 percent of participants agreed that wine in cans would be great for picnics and out of home drinking. The need for convenience among consumers was further shown in the results around multipacks and single-serve options. 58 percent of people sampled thought that a wine in can multipack would be appealing for drinking single-serve portions, allowing them to enjoy wine without having to open a whole bottle, which is great for portion control and keeping track of what has been consumed.
Source: Packagingdigest.com

APEAL reports record European steel packaging recycling rate

The Association of European Producers of Steel for Packaging (APEAL) reports that the recycling rate of steel packaging in Europe reached 72 percent in 2009, a two percent increase from the prior year. APEAL reports that the steel package recycling rate tops the rate of other packaging materials such as plastics, which reported a 30 percent recycling rate; beverage cartons, a recycling rate of 34 percent; and glass, which showed a 67 percent recycling rate. For the ninth straight year Belgium reported the greatest recycling rate, 98 percent. Other successful recycling rates were achieve by Germany and the Netherlands, both of which posted a steel packaging recycling rate of greater than 87 percent. APEAL reports that Germany and the Netherlands have both benefited from an efficient national system of curbside collection. APEAL also notes that during 2009, the most recently reported year, there were noticeable increases in the recycling rates among other European countries. Among these, APEAL singles out Poland, which has achieved an increase of 20 percent in the recycling rate of steel packaging, a substantial part of which can be attributed to the introduction of ferromagnetic sorting methods in several waste sorting facilities in 2009.
Source: Recyclingtoday.com

Amcor sets new environmental targets

Amcor has announced new reduction targets for greenhouse gas emissions, water use and waste to landfill. Using FY 2010/11 as the baseline year, the Melbourne-based packaging giant's new environmental targets are:
-10% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions intensity by FY 2015/16;
-50% reduction in waste to landfill intensity by FY 2015/16;
-25% reduction in potable water use intensity at Amcor's Australian sites by FY 2015/16; and having active water management plans in place at all other sites by the end of 2011.
In addition to the new short-term targets, Amcor will continue with the long-term emissions reduction target of 60% by FY 2029/30, using the baseline year of FY 2005/06. Greenhouse gas emissions include scope 1 & 2 and scope 3 and are reported against the ISO 14064 Greenhouse Gas Reporting Standard. Progress against targets is reported annually in Amcor's sustainability report, which is assured by an independent third party. Environmental data is also supplied on an ongoing basis to third parties for indices such as the Carbon Disclosure Project and the Dow Jones Sustainability Index. "As the world's largest packaging company, we have the opportunity to take the lead on packaging sustainability," said Amcor managing director and chief executive Ken Mackenzie. "Our approach to sustainability continues to evolve and move beyond compliance and operational efficiencies to one that will drive sustainability across the supply chain of packaged goods."
Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

Plastics & Bioplastics

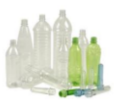
Nampak eyes 50% UK growth with milk bottle tender

Nampak has said it is looking to increase its activity in the UK plastic milk bottle market as it awaits the outcome of a contract tender for a new super dairy. The packaging firm said that should it net the in-plant contract to supply HDPE bottles to the new dairy, based in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, its UK business could leap by more than 50%. Group investor relations manager Graham Hayward said "We have a good business in the UK, a very solid business with good profits and cash flows. "If we get the tender this could increase our UK business by more than 50%." Hayward said that Nampak had exited the paper side of its business in order to focus on the plastic milk bottle side. Nampak highlighted the opportunity for growing its UK plastic bottle share as it announced an 18% rise in first half year profits. The company said the increase had been underpinned by stronger performance in its European and Sub-Saharan operations. While its European plastic segment saw year-on-year revenue rise from £54m to £63m, profits, fell from £4.4m to £3.3m. Hayward also explained that there was not a "huge amount of growth in the UK market" although the UK market was steady. Hayward added that oil prices did have an impact on polymer price which has been passed on to customers but there has been "a time lag in doing so". Nampak also said that it is forecasting significant growth in its business in the rest of Africa, particularly in Nigeria and Angola. Hayward said that its focus will be on a range of packaging including beverage cans, folding cartons and milk bottles.
Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

New BSI standard targets biodegradability of plastic

The British Standards Institution (BSI) has published a "major breakthrough" for the ox-biodegradable plastics globally. The BS8472 is the first standard in Europe for the biodegradability of plastic litter in the environment. BS8472 was five years in the making and the BSI was assisted by Symphony Environmental Technologies. According to Symphony, the standard provides tests for biodegradation in the soil and simulates the real-world behaviour of plastic products, which get into the environment and can't realistically be collected. The company added that the standard ends the confusion over claims that plastic could not be described as biodegradable unless it complied with the EN13432 standard.
Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

New process moves 100 percent bio-based PET bottle 'closer to commercial reality'



Skyrocketing resin prices have intensified the race to create plant-based PET bottles as replacements for petroleum-derived ones. This led to recent dual announcements, first by H.J. Heinz Co. of plans to use Coca-Cola's 30 percent plant-based PET PlantBottle for packaging its ketchup, and then by PepsiCo which announced a 100 percent plant-based PET bottle in the laboratory. Bio-based ethylene glycol is available and replaces 30 percent of the fossil fuel. The more challenging issue has been how the other monomer of PET, namely the PTA component, can be replaced by a bio-based version to cost-effectively achieve 100 percent renewable PET packaging near-term. The "holy grail" of a bio-based PTA may finally be a reality with the announcement by Virent on June 6, 2011, that it successfully made para-xylene (PX) from 100 percent renewable plant sugars. A patented catalytic process is used to convert the plant-based sugars into PX, identical to that made from petroleum. The conversion of PX to PTA is widely used in commercial chemistry. In essence, the bio-based PX fills in the "missing piece" to make a 100 percent bio-based PET bottle. Especially noteworthy is that the PX was made in Virent's 10,000 gal/year demonstration plant. Others who claim to have converted biomass directly to aromatic intermediates (including PX) are believed to have done so only in a lab environment. Virent used U.S.-grown beet sugar as the feedstock in this demonstration. A similar process has been demonstrated at smaller scale with a variety of feedstocks.
Source: Packagingdigest.com

Hart gazumps Silgan in bid for Graham Packaging

Graham Packaging is set to become part of billionaire Graeme Hart's packaging empire after he outbid rival Silgan's $1.3bn attempt to buy the plastics multinational. Hart's Reynolds Group Holdings has negotiated "definitive terms and conditions" to buy Graham for $25 a share, or $1.64bn cash, and assume the target's debt, it said in a statement. Graham Packaging's board has recommended that shareholders accept the Reynolds Group offer and back out of a previous agreement to sell itself to Silgan Holdings, announced in March.Graham Packaging said on 14 June that it had determined that Reynolds' buyout offer of about $1.64 billion was superior to Silgan's, and that it had informed Silgan of its decision on 13 June. Silgan has also said that Graham will have to pay a $39.5 million breakup fee if it backs out of the Silgan deal. In March, Graeme Hart's Reynolds Group revealed overall sales of nearly $10bn in 2010, catapulting it into the world's ten biggest packaging companies for the first time. The Reynolds Group, which is owned by the Rank Group, owns carton packaging firm SIG Combibloc, US packaging firm Pactiv, and Evergreen. Hart bought Pactiv in March. In contrast, Graham Packaging has five plastics facilities in Europe including one in Chalgrove, Oxfordshire. It employs over 8,300 people in 15 countries through 97 manufacturing facilities.
Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

Cartonage

A&R Cartons and Flextrus merge to create €500m IPO candidate

Pan-European carton group A&R Cartons and Scandinavian flexibles business Flextrus are to merge in preparation for possible stock market flotation. The two businesses' operations are being combined by their owners, Ahlström Capital and the Accent Equity 2008 investment fund, into a single business, Arch Packaging Group. Under the deal, Finnish investment house CapMan is selling its 32% stake in A&R Cartons to Ahlström. Arch will have turnover of around €500m and around 2,000 employees, with 18 facilities in 8 countries across Europe. In the UK, Flextrus runs a factory in Highbridge, Somerset, while A&R Cartons owns a majority stake in Rotherham packaging supplier SP Containers. However, the two companies will continue to trade under their own existing brands. A statement on the deal said that the change was "a step in the direction of a possible future IPO". Morten Ahlström of Ahlström Capital, while will chair Arch's board, said: "The new group creates added value for customers via a broader offering and a deeper knowledge of packaging. "The new ownership structure will give two strong companies with similar values greater resources to grow both organically and by acquisition." Accent Equity Partners' Jan Ohlsson, who will be deputy chairman, added that while the companies would continue to do business separately, they would "collaborate" where it offered benefits. "This will give the companies a stronger base for development of new innovative packaging solutions and in the ongoing restructuring of the packaging market."
Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

CONTAINER GLASS ACCESSORIES & SUPPLIERS

Berry Plastics claims Rexam closures for $360 million

Plastics packaging processor Berry Plastics has acquired the beverage and specialty closures business of Rexam PLC, for $360m in cash. Berry's acquisition string began in 1988 with the purchase of aerosol closure molder Gilbert Plastics. The purchases since then include Venture Packaging, the dairy closures product line of Clayton Corp., Poly-Seal Corp., Alcoa Flexible Packaging, Captive Plastics and more. In 2006, the investment groups, Apollo Management and Graham Partners Inc., purchased Berry Plastics from Jack Berry Sr. The purchase of Rexam's closures business is expected to close in Q3 2011 and is conditional on regulatory approvals. The new Berry business employs about 1500 and is focused on the North American market. Rexam has planned the divesture for more than a year; the business was reported on Rexam's books as

discontinued, with sales of £343 million ($553 million) and an underlying operating profit of £22m, but with a loss before tax of £177m including exceptional and other items. Rexam acquired the closures business as part of its acquisition of O-I's plastics business in 2007. Rexam's closure business performs both compression and injection molding.
Source: Packagingdigest.com

Why corks are popping once more

Cork-makers are feeling buoyant as the wine industry turns away from screw-top bottles and back to traditional corks. Corks are on the way back, as 70% of winemakers favour them over screw-tops or plastic stoppers. At Vinexpo, the world's biggest wine fair in Bordeaux, traditional cork-makers were feeling buoyant. "Today, 70% of winemakers have chosen cork over screw-caps or plastic wine stoppers," said Carlos de Jesus, head of communication at Amorim, the world's biggest cork producer. So why the sudden comeback? Are consumers increasingly associating screw-caps with cheap wine? Not according to Valérie Hamon, of the wine retailer Nicolas. Light summer wines are still preferred in screw-cap bottles and, she argued, "cork doesn't always mean quality". Nonetheless, winemakers from South Africa to California are making the switch back from screw-caps to cork. Proof, according to De Jesus, that cork is back and here to stay.
Source: Guardian.co.uk

RETAILERS

UK consumer economy at 30-year low, says Sainsbury's chief executive

Justin King, the chief executive of supermarket J Sainsbury, said that the consumer economy is the toughest he has known it in his near-30 year career in the food retail sector. Consumer confidence has been subdued for three years, Justin King said, and he expects the difficult economic environment to continue for the rest of the year. Mr King, who joined Sainsbury in 2004 said: "I have been doing groceries for 28 years. It's the toughest it has ever been for consumers." Rising petrol prices have "punched a real hole" in Briton's weekly shopping budgets, he added. Barring a small blip during the general election last year, consumer confidence has been subdued for three years, said Mr King. He expects the difficult economic environment to continue for the rest of the year. His comments came as the retailer reported first-quarter sales growth below City forecasts. The supermarket said that like-for-like sales over the 12 weeks to June 11 rose by 4.8pc, or 1.9pc excluding fuel. Some analysts had expected this latter figure to be closer to 2.5pc.
Source: Telegraph.co.uk

CUSTOMER INDUSTRIES

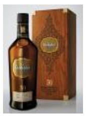
Soft drinks

New Folkington's fruit juices in glass bottles

Folkington's has launched this new range of juices aimed at adults. The premium Folkington's brand is owned by Metro Drinks. It is available in three flavours – orange, apple and tomato – and is made from fruit grown in Spain. Metro Drinks owner and managing director Paul Bendit said: "We had a specific look for this product in mind and Chadwicks was able to give the bottles a high-quality finish, while also working with the designs to minimise distortion during production." The juices are all NFC (not from concentrate) and come in 250ml glass bottles with a long shelf life.
Source: Packagingnews.co.uk/

Spirits

Glenfiddich's uniquely-coloured bottle



Glenfiddich has turned to Stolzle Flaconnage (STO) to create this new bottle in a uniquely-coloured glass for its 30 Year Old Single Malt. The bottle's colour, according to STO sales director for prestige spirits and design Neil Robson, has been created to "reflects the notes of sherry, fig and seductive dark chocolate" in the whisky. The heavyweight glass bottle's design links it to Glenfiddich's range of aged whiskys and carries the same embossed '1887′ shoulder cartouche, which was created as part of the moulding process. Each bottle bears a gold silk screen label in precious metal, which is applied by STO, while the bottle is presented in a bespoke-designed wooden presentation box.
Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

India: EU spirits and wines to get cheaper as India willing to cut duty

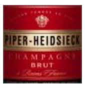
Imported liquor is likely to get cheaper, with the government willing to lower import duty on alcohol from the European Union in return for easier visa norms and greater market access to Indian products there. India and the European Union (EU) are in the final leg of talks for a free trade agreement (FTA), reports The Economic Times.
Source: Winebiz.com.au

Sparkling Wine

Champagne 2011 harvest could be earliest since 2003

August holidays have been cancelled in Champagne in anticipation of a very early harvest, possibly the earliest on record – especially if the warm weather of March to the end of May continues. Flowering was generally completed before the end of May and in some places the vines were in full flower by 21 May. Adding 92 days – the average time over the past decade in Champagne between flowering and the start of the harvest—picking could start on 22 August. However because August is usually warmer and has more sun than September, it is possible the period between flowering may be even shorter, at just 80 days, which means the first grapes may be cut on August 16. The lack of rain also tends to accelerate the date, **Louis Roederer** winemaker Jean-Baptiste Lecaillon said, adding that he 'would be ready to start from August'. Didier Mariotti, winemaker at GH Mumm**,** said he would also be ready to start on 16 August – or earlier: 'Based on our model of 80 days [from flowering to harvest] with Chardonnay we could start as early as August 11.'Dominique Moncomble, director of technical services at Champagne trade council the CIVC said flowering has taken place around three weeks in advance of the average in Champagne and was especially early in the Côte des Blancs. The earliest harvest on record came in the 'heatwave summer' of 2003 when the secateurs were out in the Côte des Bar village of Bligny, in the southernmost part of the appellation, on August 18 and many producers had completed harvesting before the end of August. This was partly because picking didn't last the usual two weeks as severe frosts had decimated the crop.
Source: Decanter.com

Remy Cointreau sells Piper-Heidsieck for 412 mn euros



French wine and spirits group Remy Cointreau said it had sold its Piper-Heidsieck and Charles Heidsieck champagne business to EPI for 412.2 million Euros ($590 million). Remy Cointreau said the sale also includes the Piper-Heidsieck and Piper Sonoma brands in the United States as well as debt of some 240 million Euros, reports Expatica. Additionally, Remy Cointreau and EPI, a French firm with a stable of brands, agreed on global joint distribution of the Piper-Heidsieck and Charles Heidsieck brands as well as Piper Sonoma in the United States. The deal should be concluded shortly, the company said in a statement.
Source: Expactica.com

Wine

Global wine production falls, but consumption remains stable and exports increase

If the world lost about 0.8% of its vineyard surface during 2010 and wine production fell to 1998 levels (263.8 millions of hectolitres or Miohl), the wine sector can still rely on consumers: global wine consumption increased a 0.4% reaching 238 Mio hl, thus breaking the trend downwards started in 2007. Among the top five wine markets, US, Germany and China are the ones fuelling this slight increase. The previous is just an outline of the global wine sector portrait disclosed on Monday 20th June by Mr. Federico Castellucci, Director General of the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV). “After an uninterrupted period of growth since 2000, global wine exports registered the effects of the world economic crisis in 2008 and started a downward trend in 2009. However in 2010 the trend has shifted upwards and, the global volume of exported wines is still largely superior to that recorded in 2006 and the previous years” declared Mr. Castellucci.
Source: Finchannel.com

French wine consumption drops by three billion bottles

Researchers fear the culture of wine drinking is being lost in France, with younger generations less likely to savour a bottle over food and more prone to drink simply for pleasure. They are also less aware of its cultural significance to France, The Telegraph reports. Just 16.5 per cent of the French population are now regular wine drinkers, according to research from the ESC Pau research centre and Toulouse 1 Capitole University.
Source: Winebiz.com.au

UK: Scientist blasts supermarket red wines

Professor Roger Corder, author of The Wine Diet and an expert on dietary polyphenols, has spoken out against supermarket red wines dubbing them “cheap imposters” and “little more than white wines pretending to be red,” reports The Drinks Business. “A large percentage of supermarket red wines have just enough contact with grapes to extract colour from the skins and contain virtually no grape pip polyphenols,” Corder said.
Source: Thedrinksbusiness.com

Discount wine crippling the industry, says Pernod Ricard

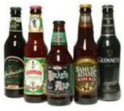
Britain's wine market is losing its appeal as the downturn accelerates heavy discounting, according to the owner of Jacob's Creek. "We're facing a decline in sales in wine," in the UK, said Gilles Bogaert, the chief financial officer of Pernod Ricard. "The wine business is less attractive than it used to be," Mr Bogaert told The Sunday Telegraph. The fragile economic backdrop has sharpened a tendency to discount in the country's £13bn wine industry that existed before the recession hit. A litre of wine fetched an average price of £6.40 for the producer in 2005 compared with £5.95 in 2010, according to Euromonitor, a research group which tracks the industry. "It's got into a vicious circle where consumers expect a discount," said Jeremy Cunnington, an analyst at Euromonitor. "It's been exacerbated for the past two to three years," he said. Jacob's Creek, which is made with grapes from southern Australia and was first launched as a brand in 1976, suffered a 19pc drop in volume sales last year as its average price climbed 25p to 5.15pounds, according to Euromonitor. Blossom Hill, a brand owned by rival Diageo, enjoyed a 10pc increase as it cut its average price from £4.35 to 4.29. However, Pernod Ricard, which also owns Absolut Vodka and Jameson Irish Whiskey, insists that its strategy of preserving the premium status of a brand such as Jacob's Creek is the right one even in a market as competitive as the UK. "It has a negative impact on the volumes but that's the only strategy in the longer-term," said Thierry Billot, the head of brands at Pernod Ricard.
Source: Telegraph.co.uk

Beer

Carlsberg changes recipe of its lead brand

Carlsberg recently announced that is has changed the recipe of its lead brand. As part of its rich heritage in scientific discovery and the continuous aim to improve the quality of its beer, a new strain of barley, Null-LOX barley, has been developed and is being rolled out across Carlsberg's markets. "Carlsberg is produced using only natural products and we are continually trying to improve them. Null-LOX barley, allows beer to stay fresher longer and provides better foaming characteristics. These benefits are further enhanced when combined with Carlsberg's new fastacting strain of yeast (234). Your fresh Carlsberg just got fresher," comments Khalil Younes, Carlsberg's Senior Vice President of Global, Sales, Marketing and Innovation. Jean-Yves Malpote, Head of Group Research and Development in Carlsberg, adds, that the new yeast strain cuts the amount of diacetyl produced in fermentation by a factor of ten, which helps to cut maturation time by as much as 25 per cent. This gives not only an advantage in the taste of the product but also in terms of economics. To most of the consumers the change in recipe becomes apparent only three months after packaging: The newly developed beer tastes fresh longer and is protected from aging which "is the most important part", according to Malpote.
Source: Globalmalt.com

Ireland: decline of beer market has slowed, shift to off-trade consumption



The share of beer sold in Irish pubs fell significantly in 2010 according to the Irish Brewers Association (IBA). Despite the fact that the Irish beer market showed signs of stabilisation in 2010, following a decade of falling consumption, there was a 4.4% marked shift in volumes from the on-trade to off-licenses and supermarkets. The Irish Brewers Association now calls for supports for pubs, bars, and restaurants. According to the Irish Beer Market 2010 report released on Monday, per capita consumption in Ireland decreased from 91 litres in 2009 to 90 litres in 2010. Total consumption last year amounted to 4,814 thousand hectoliters, down from 4,855 thousand hectoliters in 2009. Lager is still the preferred beer in Ireland with a 60.2% share of the market in 2010 (2009: 58.5%), followed by Stout which slightly decreased from 35.5% to 34.1%. The share of Ale was 5.7% last year, down from 6% in 2009. 48% of the alcoholic drinks consumed in Ireland was beer (2009: 51%), followed by wine with 26% (2009: 23%), spirits with 19% (2009: 18%) and cider with 8% (2009: 9%).
Source: Globalmalt.com

SABMiller shares hit after Foster's rejects £6.2bn offer

The latest round of global brewing consolidation has kicked off after SABMiller unveiled a A$9.51bn (£6.2bn) offer for Australian rival Foster's but the UK company saw its shares hit amid fears it could overpay to seal a deal. Observers suggested SABMiller would play a long game, waiting to see whether Foster's shareholders force the company to the negotiating table. Foster's rejected the long-anticipated takeover proposal, priced at an 8.2pc premium to its closing share price on Monday, claiming it "significantly undervalues" the Australian brewer. Despite the rejection, SAB chief executive Graham Mackay said he was "anxious" to talk with the Foster's board and distanced himself from suggestions of a hostile bid. "We expect to engage with [the board]. This is not a hostile offer," he said. Foster's shares rose 13.5pc to A$5.14, eclipsing the A$4.90 cash offer price, amid speculation of a second higher offer from SAB or the involvement of a counter-bidder. However, analysts remained divided about the prospects of a counter-bid. Mexican brewer Modelo had been studying a potential joint-takeover with US rival Molson Coors but the two are believed not to have been able to reach an agreement. Modelo, which is 50pc owned by brewing giant AB Inbev, could make an offer on its own but industry sources expect its part owner to block such a move.
Source: Telegraph.co.uk

RECYCLING/ COLLECTION

New report finds packaging waste declining rapidly – EU data shows

A new report on the analysis of official EU data on packaging shows that over the past 11 years the amount of packaging waste going to final disposal in EU-15 has fallen by 43%. Higher recycling levels and other forms of packaging waste recovery are largely the reasons says EUROPEN, the European Organization for Packaging and the Environment. In 2008 in the EU 27 member states just over 17 million tonnes of packaging were sent for final disposal. To put this into context, it is estimated that 89 million tonnes of food are currently wasted in the EU 27, more than five times the amount of packaging waste. The analysis of data from 1998 to 2008 by EUROPEN also shows that in EU-15 growth in packaging waste is clearly decoupling from growth in GDP, an objective of the EU waste strategy. In the 11 year period studied, despite an ageing population and a trend throughout Europe towards smaller households (all of which led to the purchase of a greater number of packaged goods) the amount of packaging placed on the market (excluding wood packaging) rose by only 10% and the amount of packaging waste disposed of (also excluding wood) actually fell by 43%. The report: *Packaging and Packaging Waste Statistics in Europe 1998-2008* contradicts widely held perceptions that packaging has led to a mountain of waste across Europe. Instead, it confirms an earlier EU Commission assessment of the EU Thematic Strategy on Waste Prevention and Recycling which showed that packaging waste from households and commercial sources accounts for only about three per cent of total waste. Commenting on the findings in the report, EUROPEN Managing Director, Julian Carroll said “The data supports our view that the 1994 Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste is clearly one of the most successful pieces of EU environmental legislation, something in which all participants can take pride. This is particularly true for consumers who, across the EU, are increasingly accepting the sorting of packaging in their homes for recycling as a routine activity”.
Source: EUROPEN

FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS

European Environment Agency to slam EFSA on BPA

Two of the EU's key agencies could be heading for a clash over the controversial food packaging material bisphenol A (BPA). The showdown will come in November when the European Environment Agency (EEA) publishes Volume II of its “Late Lessons – Early Warnings” series in which a chapter on BPA will criticise the way the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) drew up its opinion on the chemical. The report will attack EFSA for ignoring any study that was not done according to good laboratory practice (GLP), EEA Senior Advisor David Gee told said after a session on ‘Greener chemicals, cleaner resources through reducing and replacing' at last week's Green Week conference in Brussels. Gee had hit out at EFSA over its stance on GLP prompting a question about whether the EEA was going to say something about ignoring non-GLP studies. Gee replied, “Yes, in our chapter on BPA in Volume II which will be published in November.” Gee had been answering a question from a participant about whether there was an independently funded body to test chemicals, to which Jack de Bruijn, Director of Risk Management from the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), had replied that the REACH chemicals regulation puts the onus on industry to demonstrate safe use of their chemicals. He said “that doesn't mean they can just go out in the back yard and just test,” adding that tests had to be in line with GLP, which he described as a “worldwide standard”. De Bruijn said it was a “pretty well controlled way these tests were done” and that regulators checked the laboratories carrying out the testing. Gee came in then to point out that “the GLP just mentioned doesn't say anything about the quality of the science.” He said that when it came to bisphenol A, EFSA would not look at anything that was not GLP, which was a “big

mistake." The US Food and Drug Administration by contrast looked at academic studies, which were not done in line with GLP due to the costs involved, but demonstrated good science. "GLP is administratively very expensive but says nothing about good science," Gee explained. In his presentation, Gee had also come up with a series of reasons why scientists will disagree and come to different conclusions on whether a particular substance was hazardous, including either funding or intellectual bias. He argued that "Funding bias is critical" and that there were large differences between industry and publicly funded research. This is not the first time Gee has criticised EFSA over BPA. In March last year he spoke at a EP hearing hosted by the Liberal group, where he accused EFSA of cutting and pasting its opinion on BPA from industry studies.
Source: European Environment & Packaging Law

STUDIES/RESEARCH

Bioplastics pose green hazard, claims US study

Research carried out at North Carolina State University has challenged the green credentials of biodegradable plastics. According to the study, the decomposition process needs to be better managed in order to capture the resultant methane, a greenhouse gas capable of trapping more heat than carbon dioxide. "Biodegradable materials, such as disposable cups and utensils, are broken down in landfills by microorganisms that then produce methane," said Dr Morton Barlaz, co-author of a paper describing the research and professor and head of NC State's Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering. "Methane can be a valuable energy source when captured, but is a potent greenhouse gas when released into the atmosphere." This problem may be exacerbated by the rate at which biodegradable materials break down, he added. The US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) guidelines call for products marked as "biodegradable" to decompose within "a reasonably short period of time" after disposal. But such rapid degradation may actually be environmentally harmful, because federal regulations do not require landfills that collect methane to install gas collection systems for at least two years after the waste is buried, Barlaz explained. If materials break down and release methane quickly, much of the gas will likely be emitted before the collection technology is installed. This means less potential fuel for energy use, and more greenhouse gas emissions.
Source: Europeanplasticsnews.com

RAW MATERIALS

Solvay and Tianjin Soda Ash Plant set up joint soda ash plant

Solvay has announced that it has concluded an agreement with Chinese soda ash producer Tianjin Soda Ash Plant under which Solvay will invest EUR 16 million in two steps to acquire a 30% participation in the soda ash plant built in Bin Hai near the city of Tianjin, China. Solvay will also provide guarantees on loans, bringing the total committed and invested amount to almost EUR 60 million. The plant, with a yearly capacity of 800,000 tons of soda ash and related products such as bicarbonate and 800,000 tons of ammonium chloride, is in the start-up phase. The plant in Bin Hai will be fully operational by the middle of this year. Solvay will commercialize 220,000 metric tons soda ash and 30,000 metric tons bicarbonate yearly under its own brand name.
Source: Glassonline.com

PEOPLE

Paul Jarrell to lead O-I's global human resources function

O-I has named Paul Jarrell the company's new senior vice president and chief human resources officer. Jarrell succeeds Steve Malia, who retired at the end of May. Jarrell will be responsible for leading the global human resource function by developing and implementing people strategies that enable O-I to achieve its business objectives. Jarrell will be accountable for global talent management and strengthening leadership and organizational development programs, while also supporting O-I's expanding operations in Asia Pacific and Latin America.
Source: Prnewswire.com

New CEO at Libbey

Stephanie Streeter, former president and CEO of Banta Corp., will take over from John Meier, who announced his retirement in February, as CEO of glass tableware maker Libbey Inc. as of 1 August 2011. Ms. Streeter will also be elected to the company's board of directors. Mrs. Streeter brings a diverse background, having led consumer-facing, industrial manufacturing and service businesses.
Source: Businessweek.com

Paolo Giacobbo reelected as CPIV President

Mr. Paolo Giacobbo from the Italian glass association Assovetro was reelected as President of CPIV, the Comité Permanent des Industries du Verre de l'Union Européenne, for a second term. Ing. Giacobbo is Managing Director of Zignago Vetro SpA since April 2011. CPIV is currently being restructured and will become the 'European Glass Alliance', a glass industry wide alliance aiming to work on common issues related to the glass industry on EU level.
Source: CPIV/FEVE

Johan Overath elected CPIV Vice President

Dr. Johan Overath, Director General of the German glass association Bundesverband Glas (BV Glas), was elected Vice President of CPIV, the Comité Permanent des Industries du Verre de l'Union Européenne.
Source: CPIV/FEVE

EVENTS

Fachpack

FachPack 2010

15 September – 29 September 2011
Nuernberg, Germany

Simei

Fiera Milano City
22 – 26 November 2011
Milan, Italy

ANUGA

8 - 12 October 2011
Cologne, Germany

Luxe Pack 2011

October 2011
Grimaldi Forum, Monaco

Vitrum 2011
26-29 October 2011
Milan, Italy

ProWein 2012
4 - 6 March 2012
Düsseldorf, Germany

Barcelona Food Technology & Hispack International Packaging Exhibition
15–18 May 2012
Barcelona, Spain

Fachpack
25 -27 September 2012
Nuernberg, Germany

Glasstec
23 - 26 October 2012
Duesseldorf, Germany

Emballage
19-22 November 2012
Paris Nord Villepinte, France

DrinkTec
16-20 September 2013
Munich, Germany

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FEVE wishes all its readers nice summer holidays!
The next FEVE News will be published after the summer break by the beginning of September 2011.

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