



NEWSLETTER – May 2011 – N°395

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Published by the European Container Glass Federation – FEVE AISBL

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EUROPEAN UNION NEWS

Potočnik eyes taxes to make EU more resource efficient



Taxation and other market-based instruments need to be “used more effectively” to achieve a resource efficient Europe, the EU Environment Commissioner has said, hinting that such tools might be included in the forthcoming roadmap on the issue. Presenting the roadmap to be published this summer to the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Janez Potočnik said that the EC also intended to extend the scope of the ecodesign directive to “all manufactured products with significant environmental impact”. “Shifting the burden of taxation from labour towards resource use or environmental impacts would push our economies in the right direction. We cannot shy away from addressing how market-based instruments, in particular taxation, can be used more effectively,” he said. Potočnik welcomed the fact that resource efficiency, which appeared on the EU’s political agenda less than a year ago, was now “a central element in the Europe 2020 strategy”. He said that the EU needed to “make sure our policies are good enough – good enough because we cannot underestimate the scale of transformation needed. And because of that we will need to be flexible and sophisticated in our approach.” DG Environment’s top priority will be to implement existing legislation and “make the existing rules more effective”. “I don’t think our first priority should be to come up with many new legislative initiatives,” he said. While Potočnik named the Waste Framework Directive and the recast WEEE (waste from electrical and electronic equipment) directive as the most important legislation to implement, he also mentioned the need to do more on waste prevention and getting rid of landfills. For this, he said, the solution lies on developing markets for secondary raw materials, making them “work properly and making waste too valuable to waste”. Achieving this, he said, “would take us a long way towards improved material resource efficiency, as well as helping the climate and creating jobs”. The EC also intends to ensure that “under-used existing instruments” such as eco-design, certification schemes, eco-labels and environmental management auditing schemes are scaled up while Sustainable Consumption and Production instruments are strengthened.

Source: European Environment & Packaging Law

European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register – update



The European Commission and the European Environment Agency (EEA) have updated the information on releases and transfers from industrial installations reporting to the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR). The E-PRTR is a comprehensive online register which contains information on emissions of pollutants released to air, water and land by industrial facilities throughout Europe (32 countries: EU27, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Serbia). It includes annual data for 91 substances and covers more than 28 000 facilities across 65 economic activities. The register also provides additional information, such as the amount and types of waste transferred from facilities to waste handlers both inside and outside each country. The new dataset now contains information for 2009 and includes updates for 2007 and 2008 data. Voluntarily reported data from Serbia, covering 2009, are also included in the register for the first time. **More on the E-PRTR website: <http://prtr.ec.europa.eu/>**

Source: EEA.europa.eu

EC to prepare initiative on European Waste Enforcement and Implementation Agency



The Commission intends to come forward with an initiative to set up an EU Agency to support the implementation and enforcement of EU waste legislation. The EC apparently intends to start preparing the initiative during the second half of 2011 following the completion of a second feasibility study and the completion of a wider review of the implementation EU environmental law and policy. The Commission carried out the first feasibility study for an EU waste enforcement Agency in 2009. Source: EU Issue Tracker

European Parliament sets out 'clearer rules' on food labelling



Food labels on packaging should include mandatory nutritional information, according to new rules from the European Parliament. The Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee amended draft EU legislation with the aim of ensuring labels do not mislead and that they provide information that helps consumers make informed choices about the food they eat. The MEPs agreed that key nutritional information, such as energy content, and amounts of fat, saturated fat, carbohydrates, sugars, protein and salt, must be indicated in a legible tabular form on the back of the packaging. The draft legislation, voted at the second reading by the committee, would change existing rules on the information that is compulsory on all labels – such as name, list of ingredients, 'best before' or 'use by' dates. To ensure the labels are legible, the MEPs said that a list of wide factors needed to be taken to account by the Commission, which will have to establish binding rules. For instance, the origin of certain foods, such as beef, honey and olive oil must already be stated on the label. Elsewhere, the committee felt that alcoholic drinks should be exempted from the new rules. MEPs argued that the issue of 'alcopops' could not be addressed until they had been defined. Once the legislation is adopted, food businesses would have three years to adapt to the rules. They would also have two additional years to apply the rules on the nutritional declaration. Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

CONTAINER GLASS INDUSTRY

Europe

St-Gobain's Verallia unit takes step towards IPO



French glassmaker Saint-Gobain said that its Verallia glass packaging unit had taken the first step towards an initial public offering by filing documents with the French AMF regulator. "Saint-Gobain is thus pursuing the process announced last October with regards to the contemplated initial public offering of Verallia, subject to market conditions and to the AMF's approval 1634476033 of the offer prospectus," Saint-Gobain said in a statement. The packaging unit, which makes bottles and jars for food and drink products, has long been seen as out of step with Saint-Gobain's overall focus on residential and construction goods, the company has said. Previous attempts to sell or spin off the unit were scuppered by the financial crisis. Source: Reuters/CNBC.classic.com

Beatson Clark supports Wiltshire chutney education project



Beatson Clark is helping to encourage a new generation of pickle makers by providing the jars for an annual education project. The Rotherham-based glass group has supplied the packaging for mustard and preserve firm Tracklements' project, in which Wiltshire school children learn how crabapple jelly is made. Tracklements' scheme is designed to teach the children about food and where it comes from. They pick the apples and then learn how it is turned into the jelly through boiling and straining through muslin. For every jar of crabapple jelly sold, 25p is then donated to the school. Beatson Clark's jars are also used in a second Tracklements project, in which it

commercially produces the winning chutney in the annual Chutfest, an event at the National Trust's Barrington Court in Somerset. Tracklements managing director Guy Tullberg said: "This type of environmental awareness education fits in perfectly with the containers we use from Beatson Clark."

Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

Zignago Vetro: net income of 6.1 million Euros in 1st Quarter 2011



For the first quarter 2011 Zignago Vetro reported a net income of about 6.1 million Euros (+17.5% year to year), with an increase in 9.2% of revenues. Consolidated revenues for the group are 66 million Euros (+10.8%), sales outside the country amounted to 21.7 million Euros (17 million Euros in the first quarter 2010, +27.7%). The operating profit was 9.9 million Euros (+18%) and represents 15% of revenues (14.2% at March 31, 2010). The group's net debt at 31 March 2011, which includes the acquisition of 79% of HSC, was reported to be 7.6 million Euros, amounted to 76.8 million, compared to 74 million Euros on 31 March 2010 and 75.5 million Euros on December 31, 2010. According to the company an increase of demand is expected to continue and will result in a positive trend in sales.

Source: Milanofinanza.it

Verallia: robust organic growth in packaging



Saint-Gobain posted a strong rise in its consolidated sales for first-quarter 2011, up 12.2% to €9,799 million from €8,737 million in first-quarter 2010. Exchange rates accounted for a 2.6% increase in sales, mainly attributable to sharp gains in Scandinavian currencies and most emerging country currencies (particularly the Brazilian real) against the euro. Changes in the Group structure had a neutral impact overall, with sales contributions from acquisitions carried out over the past 12 months fully offset in the first quarter by the impact of the Advanced Ceramics divestment at December 31, 2010. Overall, and in line with the Group's economic assumptions as presented at the end of February, Saint-Gobain benefited in the first quarter of 2011 from a combination of favorable trends on most of its main markets, as well as an additional working day compared to 2010. Emerging countries and Asia continued to enjoy vigorous trading, bolstered by a clear return to growth across Eastern European countries. Businesses related to household consumption (Verallia) also reported growth gains in both Europe and the US, on the back of an improved economic environment.

Source: UK.finance.yahoo.co.uk

Invitation to FEVE Webconference: "Find out why 'green foodies' prefer glass"



A new EU wide survey reveals how glass compares to other packaging materials when it comes to taste and environment friendliness. Recent developments such as an increase in glass recycling in Europe, a recommendation from the European Commission for parents to use glass baby bottles as amongst healthiest options, fit into current trends such as a healthy and sustainable lifestyle, responsible consumption, a resource efficient Europe. FEVE organises an online press conference to release the results of a large scale survey held amongst 9,000 European consumers in 17 markets about their perception of packaging materials and on how glass can help consumers to live sustainably. The Web conference will take place on 10 May, 11 am – 12 am CET. For participation and more information, please contact FEVE

Communications Manager Michael delle Selve: m.delleselve@feve.org

Source: FEVE

Anglo not to sell Quinn assets

QUINNglass Anglo Irish Bank will reportedly wait at least five years before selling the core elements of Sean Quinn's manufacturing empire, after the dramatic takeover of Quinn's cement, radiator and glass business on 14 April. The effective ownership of the new manufacturing company will be 75% Anglo and 25% other Quinn Group lenders. The Quinn Group released a statement stressed in which it said that all 2,600 jobs would be

protected under the new structure. Anglo, which is prepared to invest a significant amount of cash in the manufacturing jobs, may create additional jobs over time. The new company will have about EUR 760 million of debt and pre-tax earnings of about EUR 100 million. Major sales, either through a flotation or trade sale, will not be considered for five years. "There's an agreement . . . that the glass company will not be sold off for five years," Finance Minister Michael Noonan confirmed, adding that: "Other elements of the company cannot be sold unless certain prices are achieved." Noonan also said this meant there was now "potential to build up value in these companies". "That's good for the Irish taxpayer because when (the stake) . . . is sold, that will help pay off the debts," he added. Anglo is taking control of the manufacturing group as part of a bid to secure repayment of some EUR 2.88 billion owed by Quinn Group founder Sean Quinn, and will also have to share any proceeds it recovers from the Quinn Group with the group's own lenders, who are owed EUR 1.3 billion in total, including hedge funds and international banks. As per a deal with Anglo Irish Bank, only EUR 760 million of that figure will be owned by the manufacturing business, while the rest is being shifted over to the other parts of Quinn Group. This figure of approximately EUR 500 million is still owned but will be paid back out of asset disposals.

Source: Glassonline.com

Astorg Partners to invest in Saverglass?



Saverglass have signed - according to several media - an agreement with Astorg Partners that would make Astorg Partners become the largest shareholder of Saverglass. Astorg Partners is an independent private equity firm with over €1 billion of funds under management. The deal is apparently worth about 350 million Euros. The glass company, specialized in high-end bottles for spirits and wines as well as bottles for the perfume and cosmetics sector, has been held since 2006 by Nixen Partners. President of Saverglass, Loic Gromard Quentin, did not comment on the rumours. Astorg partners did also not comment.

Source: Emballagedigest.com

USA

O-I : recent acquisitions and improving market conditions drive strong volume growth



Owens-Illinois reported financial results for the first quarter ending March 31, 2011. O-I reported first quarter 2011 earnings from continuing operations attributable to the Company of \$0.44 per share (diluted), compared to \$0.48 per share (diluted) in the prior year. Adjusted net earnings (non-GAAP) were \$0.47 per share, compared to \$0.48 per share in the first quarter of 2010. Flooding in Australia negatively impacted first quarter 2011 earnings by \$0.04 per share. Net revenue increased from the prior year as recent acquisitions and improving market conditions drove a 7 percent increase in tonnes shipped. Volumes improved across all regions. Higher shipment and production levels increased segment operating profit to \$199 million in the first quarter of 2011, compared to \$193 million in the prior year, despite additional costs including elevated cost inflation. First-quarter net sales were \$1.719 billion in 2011, up from \$1.546 billion in the prior year quarter primarily due to higher sales volume and favorable foreign currency translation effects. Net earnings from continuing operations attributable to the Company in the first quarter of 2011 were \$73 million, or \$0.44 per share (diluted), compared with net earnings from continuing operations in the prior year of \$82 million, or \$0.48 per share (diluted). Exclusive of the items not representative of ongoing operations listed in Note 1, first-quarter 2011 adjusted net earnings were \$79 million, or \$0.47 per share (diluted), compared with adjusted net earnings in the prior year first quarter of \$82 million, or \$0.48 per share (diluted). Commenting on the Company's first quarter, CEO Al Stroucken said, "Our shipments were up from prior year levels across all regions and end-use categories. Higher volumes reflected last year's acquisitions in South America and China as well as improving economic conditions. Stronger volumes boosted our production levels and capacity utilization rates. However, the benefit of greater shipments was offset by higher costs including elevated cost inflation and interest

expense on additional borrowings to fund recent and future acquisitions. We are also investing in our sales and marketing capabilities to drive future profitable growth."

Source: Pnewswire.com

Africa

Nampak invests in bottle manufacturing



South African container glass manufacturer, Nampak Wiegand Glass, is to invest almost ZAR 500 million in rebuilding and expanding one of its furnaces at its glass bottle manufacturing facility in Johannesburg. According to the company, Furnace 2, which was nearing the end of its useful life, will be rebuilt at a larger capacity and improved bottle-forming equipment will also be installed. "This will enable Nampak Wiegand Glass to meet customer demand and enter new markets from which it was previously excluded." Commissioning has been planned for the first quarter of 2012. "Nampak Wiegand Glass is part of Nampak's core metals and glass segment and this investment strengthens our position as a reliable supplier to the growing glass packaging market," Andrew Marshall, Nampak CEO said.

Source: Glassonline.com

Frigoglass expands glass operations



Frigoglass, the largest glass bottle producer in West Africa and leading player in the global Ice Cold Merchandisers (Beverage Coolers) market, has announced that it has reached an agreement to acquire 80% of the shareholding in the Dubai-based glass bottle and jar manufacturer, Jebel Ali Container Glass Factory Fze (JAG). JAG is located in the Jebel Ali Free Zone and, since the start of operations in 1997, has been a competitive player in the international market with exports to South and East Africa, Asia and Europe. JAG has a 68,000 sq.m. facility with state-of-the-art machinery and equipment, including a highly energy efficient Sorg end-fired twin-pass regenerative furnace with a capacity exceeding 360 tons per day, and 340 employees. JAG achieved sales of USD 41.6 million in 2010. Frigoglass will acquire 80% of Jebel Ali for USD 6.8 million cash, assuming USD 23 million net debt. The transaction, together with additional working capital requirements, is expected to be financed through new debt. Frigoglass Glass Operations, based in Nigeria, has three furnaces and capacity exceeding 600 tons per day, making the company the largest manufacturer of glass bottles in West Africa for major beverage companies as well as domestic wine, pharmaceutical and cosmetic companies.

Source: Glassonline.com

Asia

India eyes more plastics bans



After instigating a ban on plastic packaging of tobacco products, the Indian Supreme Court is now considering introducing a ban on other plastic packaging such as for milk, milk products, oils, soaps, shampoo, fertilisers and chips. A Public Interest Litigation has been filed in the Supreme Court on 31 March and the move has been notified to the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). The litigation argues that the ban on tobacco plastic pouches can only marginally help the plastic waste problem, as "toiletries, oil and milk and food items" also tend to be packaged in plastics yet "are still not covered under the ban". Environment minister Jairam Ramesh said recently that he was against a blanket ban on plastic as, he claims, it would be disastrous for India's plastics industry. Instead he would prefer regulatory measures encouraging consumers to think about the "judicious use of plastic and how to dispose of them in a more environmentally friendly way".

Source: European Environment & Packaging Law

Australia

O-I working to bring back the glass milk bottle



The Australian arm of O-I, has released results of new consumer research that shows Australian consumers would seriously consider buying their milk in glass bottles if it was back on the shelves. The research commissioned by O-I and conducted by Ipsos Australia, showed 50% of all white milk buyers and 51% of flavoured milk buyers found the concept of milk packaged in glass bottles appealing. The study also revealed 42% of white milk buyers and 28% of flavoured milk buyers believed milk would taste better in glass versus other packaging types. O-I conducted the research to examine the habits of Australian milk buyers and the attitudes of consumers towards milk packaged in glass bottles. Availability of milk in glass is currently limited but O-I believes it is on the verge of a comeback. Other key research findings included:

-58% of white milk buyers cited the 100%, recyclability of glass as a benefit of milk packaged in glass.

-46% of flavoured milk buyers identified the ability of glass to keep milk colder for longer as a benefit of milk packaged in glass.

-63% of 30-34 year-olds found white milk packaged in glass appealing.

-68% of 25-39 year-olds found flavoured milk packaged in glass appealing.

-49% of white milk buyers were considered medium users and purchased three to seven litres of white milk per week.

-42% of flavoured milk buyers were considered medium users and purchased two to four bottles or cartons of flavoured milk per week.

Brian Slingsby, General Manager O-I Australia, said the research identified increasing consumer desire for more milk to be packaged in glass. "Australians love a comeback and we expect to see the application of glass packaging across a number of milk brands in the near future," said Mr Slingsby. "The research indicates milk packaged in glass is associated with a wholesome, quality image due to the ability of glass to keep beverages colder for longer and not interfere with taste." In response to the consumer research which highlighted milk as a regular, habitual purchase, O-I has launched a new 750mL glass bottle for the milk industry. The bottle has been designed to fit standard Australian and New Zealand milk crates ensuring convenient storage and transport. "Glass packaging presents a significant opportunity for brands to differentiate their products by using a material that is 100% infinitely recyclable in a closed loop, from milk bottle to milk bottle," said Mr Slingsby.

Source: Packagingmagg.com.au


FLACONNAGE

Gerresheimer gets off to good start in new financial year

GERRESHEIMER Gerresheimer AG got off to a good start in the new financial year. "We continued on our successful course in the new financial year. We expect particularly strong growth over the coming years in the emerging countries. Our latest acquisition of the Brazilian company Vedat strengthens our position in the emerging markets and expands our product portfolio," says Uwe Röhrhoff, CEO of Gerresheimer AG. In the first quarter of the financial year 2011 (December 1, 2010 to February 28, 2011) Gerresheimer substantially increased its revenues, with a 5.2 percent rise to EUR 236.6m. At constant exchange rates the growth rate was 2.9 percent. The main growth drivers were products like pharma bottles, injection vials, ampoules, insulin pens and inhalers. There was also a further rise in demand for cosmetics products. "The worldwide demand for medicines will continue to rise in the coming years. Demographic change, increasing incidence of acute and chronic diseases, growth of self-medication and the need for healthcare in the emerging countries will contribute to this. These megatrends provide the basis for our future growth. With our products and services we can contribute to improving health and well-being," says Röhrhoff.

Source: Direktbroker.de

Pochet confirms Lisi acquisition

 Packaging supplier the Pochet Group has confirmed its acquisition of 100% of the shares and votes of Lisi Cosmetics via its Qualipac subsidiary. "We are pleased to welcome a company well known among its customers in our group," said Irene Gosset, president of the board of the Pochet Group, who added that the acquisition would allow the group to "strengthen its position on its key markets" and "offer its Qualipac subsidiary opportunities to go on with its developmental strategy". Qualipac currently has six plants globally and employs 2,800 people. Commenting on the deal, Gosset said: "Thanks to the addition of Lisi cosmetics' specific know-how, especially in the field of aluminium transformation and decoration, Qualipac follows its development and will complete its portfolio of technologies and services offered to its customers."

Source: Cosmeticsbusiness.com


Gerresheimer exhibits its fancy fragrance flacons



Gerresheimer has displayed its latest range of designs for the perfume and cosmetics industry at the Cosmopack event in Bologna. Gerresheimer revealed its range of celebrity collaborations for the first time, as well as fragrance packs for Mexx and S.T. Dupont. S.T. Dupont selected Gerresheimer to create the glass flacon for the latest fragrance in its range. The design for the Miss Dupont fragrance bottle is a transparent, tapered glass flacon which Gerresheimer claims is adorned with Guilloché-inspired lines to reflect the fragrance's ultra-feminine, as well as to demonstrate the diversity of the packaging company's production line. French fashion retailer Mexx chose Gerresheimer to create the bottles for its Magnetic fragrance range. Designed in pink and blue, and round and rectangular, the bottles were made to appear as though they are magnetically attracted. Cosmopack will also be the first time that the bottle designer's celebrity lines will be displayed to an international audience, with fragrances from models Paris Hilton and Naomi Campbell, and music star Shakira. The S by Shakira bottle is an oval-shaped container has a luminous surface and a radial base. The flacon specialist produced slimline bottles with brightly colored, fancy, anime-inspired images of Paris for Passport, for the hotel heiress' new trio of fragrances. Procter & Gamble fragrance Naomi has been designed in a tall slim bottle with feminine contours and detail. The company says the show was the best place to display its range of designs for the perfume market, and announce itself on this international stage.

Source: Cosmeticsdesign-europe.com


LVMH posts 14% sales increase

 The LVMH luxury products group has posted a 14% rise in sales for first quarter 2011 to €5.2bn, boosted by improved business momentum in the Asian, US and European markets. Sales of perfumes and cosmetics rose 9% to €803m. Organic growth in the sector was 11%. Dior reported an excellent quarter based on growth across its flagship ranges. The Dior Addict lipstick enjoyed a successful launch as did the new Miss Dior perfume. Rapid growth came from Guerlain's Shalimar perfume and from the Orchidee Imperiale skin care range while Play for Her fuelled Givenchy's growth. Despite the serious problems in Japan, the market has remained the second largest for the LVMH group worldwide and last year accounted for 9% of Dior and Ruinart sales. The selective distribution arms of the group – Sephora and DFS – also returned strong performances in the first quarter with sales up 20%, helped by high levels of Asian tourism.

Source: Cosmeticsbusiness.com

TABLEWARE

Libbey announces first quarter 2011 results

 For the quarter-ended March 31, 2011, sales were \$181.0 million, compared to \$173.9 million in the year-ago quarter. Sales in the Glass Operations segment were \$162.1 million, an increase of over 4 percent, compared to \$155.1 million in the first

quarter of 2010. Primary contributors to the increased sales included sales increases in excess of 50 percent in the China sales region and over 5 percent in the U.S. and Canada region. Sales in the U.S. and Canada region grew as the result of an over 12 percent increase in sales to U.S. and Canadian business-to-business customers and sales increases of almost 7 percent to U. S. and Canadian retail customers, compared to the prior-year quarter. Sales to U.S. and Canadian foodservice glassware customers increased less than 1 percent in the quarter, as severe winter weather in January and early February adversely impacted sales of foodservice glassware. Sales in February and March of foodservice glassware rebounded slightly, increasing over 4 percent compared to February and March 2010. Other Operations segment sales were \$19.2 million, compared to \$18.9 million in the prior-year quarter, as sales to World Tableware customers increased over 6 percent during the quarter and the total sales of Syracuse China and Traex products were lower by approximately 5 percent versus the prior year.

Source: www.4-traders.com

ARC International: profitable again



Resulting from a strong presence in emerging markets and the acceleration of its transformation plan, Arc International is profitable again. Sales went up by 8% compared to 2009, current operating profit was reported of €41 million and net profit of €10 million. In 2010, Arc International recorded gross sales of €1.1 billion, up 8.1% compared to 2009. The past year was positive for the Group as a result of the implementation of its on-going transformation plan and strong brand recognition, particularly in emerging markets (Russia, China, Middle East and South America), which account for 36% of global sales. The considerable growth in sales in these countries (+26%) is in contrast to the weak performance in Western Europe. The distribution between the Group's business units (Consumer Goods, Food Service, Business to Business) remains balanced.

Source: ARC International Press Release

COMPETING MATERIALS

Silgan to acquire Graham Packaging for US\$4.1bn



Silgan Holdings Inc has announced it is to buy Graham Packaging for US\$4.1bn to create a global food and beverage packaging powerhouse with combined annual revenues reaching \$6.2bn. The US-based company produces rigid consumer goods and closures across the food and personal care sectors, as well as container sleeves. Graham Packaging, with a wider product reach, manufactures plastic containers for the food, beverage, personal care industries, as well as the automotive and chemical sectors. Silgan said the deal, expected to close in the third quarter of this year, will see it grow into a leading player on the world's packaging stage with total annual sales of over \$6.2 billion and over 17,000 employees operating in 180 manufacturing facilities in 19 countries. The firm said it expected the acquisition to be accretive to earnings within the first year. Synergies from the takeover would net Silgan \$50m by the third year due mainly to "reductions in administrative expenses, procurement savings and a more efficient manufacturing cost structure", it added. "This acquisition creates the premier Food and Specialty Beverage packaging company, allowing Silgan to significantly broaden its ability to serve these important markets with multiple rigid packaging options," said Tony Allott, Silgan's president and CEO. The move has been approved by both boards and awaits only shareholder approval before being implemented.

Source: Foodproductiondaily.com

Cans

Rexam to build can plant in Brazil

REXAM Rexam has announced plans to build a new canmaking plant in Brazil as it aims to further cash in on growth in the booming country. The London-based multinational is to build the facility near the city of Belém in the north of the country. It will be

operational by mid-2012 and will have an annual production capacity of 1.2bn cans. The investment will bring Rexam's canmaking capacity in Brazil to around 14bn cans per year. It also comes after Rexam identified Brazil as a key growth market in its 2010 financial results, which were published in January. Volumes grew 18% in the country 2010, while the group said that the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympics would underpin further economic growth. Rexam has also recently signed a long-term contract with its biggest customer in Brazil which, it said, would "underpin returns on current and future capital investment plans". In a statement on the investment, Rexam said: "The building of the new plant will allow Rexam to meet growing customer demand in the coming years and to optimise logistics. "The north and north east of Brazil have about a third of the country's population and are the fastest growing regions in the country. Around a third of new investments by Rexam's Brazilian customers are concentrated to these regions."

Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

Metal packaging body to launch at Interpack

'Metal Packaging Europe' (MPE), a new trade body representing the united interests of producers and suppliers of metal packaging across Europe, will launch at this year's Interpack. MPE brings together metal packaging manufacturers, metal producers and their existing trade associations (APEAL, BCME, EAA, EMPAC) from Europe to promote metal packaging, to address the social and environmental and policy challenges faced by the industry. Established by chief executives from the major aluminium, steel and packaging converter companies in the metal packaging industry, MPE will work to establish metal packaging as a contributor to sustainability in public policy and through the supply chain. Chris Homfray, Chairman of Metal Packaging Europe and President of CROWN Europe, will be hosting the launch for Interpack on Friday 13th May. Commenting on the launch of Metal Packaging Europe, Homfray said: "We are really excited to be launching at Interpack this year. All those involved in MPE believe in the unique qualities of metal packaging, and want to share these with the policy makers, customers and retailers. Metal Packaging Europe is perfectly positioned to reinforce these benefits across the whole supply chain, addressing current and future concerns around the environment and ever more complex regulations."

Source: Ceepackaging.com

Rexam's two-piece, one litre beer can hits Western Europe

REXAM Carlsberg has released a new king size beer can in Germany that brings Rexam's two-piece one litre can into Western Europe for the first time. Rexam said the King Can has already been used in Russia and its popularity there gave Carlsberg the confidence to use the pack for its Tuborg Pilsener beer in Germany. "The popularity of the 1 litre can in Russia proves that consumers enjoy having the option to purchase the larger size, encouraging Carlsberg to release it into the German market," said Welf Jung, business development director at Rexam Beverage Can Europe and Asia. Jung said that Carlsberg is also releasing the can in response to growing demand for an alternative to the three piece non-aluminum 1 litre can range – already available in some parts of Germany. Two piece DWI (Drawn Wall Ironed) are a popular format for normal sized cans but are new in the extra large one litre format. Rexam is the only manufacturer to produce the can type.

Source: Foodproductiondaily.com

Crown to launch 'revolutionary' closure at Interpack



Crown is to launch a new easy-open system that it has said will be a 'revolution' for openability. The new easy-open closure that requires less power to open than previous technologies. In a statement, the company described the closure as "revolutionary" and said: "Its unique design significantly reduces the torque required to remove the closure, enhancing convenience for consumers of all ages." In addition to the new launch, Crown's various divisions will be showing at Interpack a range of decorative techniques for cans as well as other recently-launched closure technologies. The closure allows consumers to remove the entire lid of the can, turning the can itself into a drinking cup.

Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

Heineken designs new glow-in-the-dark bottle.



Heineken has designed a new glow-in-the-dark bottle. The aluminium can combines the feel of a metal can with the classic glass bottle shape. It is designed to entertain party goers. According to Heineken, the glow-in-the dark bottle was launched in Milan at the design trade show Salone del Mobile (12-17 April).

Heineken also announced plans for another new design initiative called “Open Design Explorations.” The project aims to create new concepts for bars, clubs and social spaces, one of which will be a pop-up club at the city’s 2012 furniture fair. The design brief for this concept club asks designers to become part of a multidisciplinary team that will study social interaction in clubs around the world. This exploration will provide authentic insights that will help create the pop-up club.

Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

Plastics & Bioplastics

Coca-Cola: We’ve made 100% plant-based PET bottle (in the lab) too ...



Coca-Cola has successfully road tested “several” ways of creating a 100 percent plant-based PET (polyethylene) bottle in the lab, but says more work is needed before it can be scaled up to work at an industrial level. Its comments came hot on the heels of an PepsiCo announcement from arch rival Pepsi that it would test market a fully plant-based PET bottle made from orange peel, potato peel, oat hulls and other by-products from its food and drink operations in 2012. But Coca-Cola, which announced a national rollout of its 30 percent plant-based PET PlantBottle for single-serve Dasani and a 100 per cent plant-based HDPE (high density polyethylene) PlantBottle for Odwalla on April 4, said it was confident it could “*crack the code*” to create fully plant-based PET bottles and was also experimenting with raw materials such as bark and fruit peel.

Source: Foodproductiondaily.com

Coca-Cola shuts US PET recycling plant



The joint-venture PET recycling plant that Coca-Cola opened with great fanfare two years ago in South Carolina, the US, has apparently closed. Several sources confirmed that NURRC closed the first week in March, that all 50 factory workers were laid off, and that virtually the entire office staff was laid off two weeks ago. Sources also said that NURRC is remiss in its payments to its brokers and materials recovery facilities, and that at least one lawsuit has been filed by a supplier of PET bottles seeking payment. The plant had been ballyhooed as the shining star that would enable Coke to achieve its goal of incorporating 10% recycled content in its PET bottles by last year and 25% by 2015. But Coke did not meet that goal of 10% recycled content for its PET bottles in 2010, and sources said that only about 0.45 million kilos of recycled PET from the NURRC Spartanburg plant — which is only a fraction of the plant’s nameplate capacity of 24 million kilos — actually wound up back in PET bottles. “I have heard for a long time that the plant could not meet the specifications for bottles,” said one source. Sources said the plant had undergone three engineering redesigns in an effort to make its process profitable. “The technology might have been the best several years ago, but it doesn’t work as well as other technologies with the newer, lightweight bottles,” one source said. The plant never added the second line that it had planned to bring online by the end of 2009 or early 2010. Coke’s initial investment in the plant was estimated to be between \$45-50m (€31-35m). One source said the majority of the plant’s output ended up in lower-end fibre and strapping. The source said one Coke bottling plant had two silos worth of output from the plant that was unusable for bottles. “In the long-run, it has to work in the marketplace,” said one source. Coca-Cola still has PET recycling plants in Mexico, France, Austria, Switzerland and the Philippines.

Source: Europeanplasticsnews.com

Waste chicken feathers used to make biodegradable plastic



According to “Eco Geek,” researchers at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln say that the protein keratin in chicken feathers, which is strong and durable, as well as

the fact that so many of them end up as unused waste, is what makes them such an appealing packaging material. When making the plastic, the scientists heat-treated the feathers to clean them and then pulverized them into a fine powder. They then added chemicals that made the keratin molecules join together into long chains and create a polymer. The resulting plastic was stronger than other bioplastics made of soybeans or starch and it stood up to water. The material is a thermoplastic, which means that heat can be used to mold it into various products and can be melted and remolded many times. It could be used for plastic plates and cups or even furniture and when those things are no longer usable, the plastic is biodegradable.

Source: GPI/Ecogeek.org

Cartonage

Tetra Pak publishes new environmental targets



Tetra Pak has unveiled a new set of environmental targets, including a goal to keep carbon emissions from increasing beyond 2010 levels through to 2020. Assuming that Tetra Pak grows by 5 per cent a year, capping emissions at 2010 levels would require a 40 per cent relative reduction in carbon emissions over the decade. The new emissions target comes just weeks after the carton packaging specialist revealed how it had performed against its previous CO₂ reduction goal. Working against a 2005 base line, Tetra Pak had set a target of achieving a 10 per cent drop in absolute carbon emissions from its operations by 2010. In the end, the company reduced emissions by 11 per cent during a period when sales grew by 23.1 per cent. Unlike the old target, the new goal for the next ten years has a broader scope, looking beyond Tetra Pak operations to the entire value chain and therefore involving both suppliers and customers. But that does mean that Tetra Pak has decided not to set an absolute emissions target this time.

Source: Foodproductiondaily.com

Tetra Pak nearly reaches annual sales of €10bn



Tetra Pak has reported a 5.2 per cent increase in sales last year taking the company just short of the €10bn annual turnover mark. The increase in net sales to €9.98bn came despite a 0.7 per cent decline in the processing business, which accounts for around a tenth of company turnover. Meanwhile, emerging market growth drove a 5.9 per cent increase in packaging sales. Double digit growth was recorded in Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, China and South America. Alongside the financial figures, Tetra Pak revealed how it had performed against the carbon emissions target it set five years ago.

Source: Foodproductiondaily.com

Cartons multinational A&R ups stake in SP Containers



Swedish cartons group A&R Carton has become the majority shareholder of food and retail packaging supplier SP Containers after buying another 34% of the company. A&R, which has 14 factories across 8 countries in Europe, now owns 67% of SP Containers. The deal comes two and a half years after A&R first invested in the Rotherham company. SP Containers specialises in paperboard-based containers and cups for products such as ice cream, dairy, confectionery and pet food. As well as supplying the UK, the company has export markets in continental Europe, Scandinavia and the Baltic countries. Paul Nixon, managing director of SP Containers, said: "Both companies have common strategies and growth ambitions. "With the assistance of A&R Carton's resources, SP Containers will be able to develop at a much faster rate than previously. We look forward to further cooperation with A&R Carton."

Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

CONTAINER GLASS ACCESSORIES & SUPPLIERS

Portuguese wine company opts for screwcap



Portuguese giant Sogrape is putting one of its major wines under screwcap. Portugal produces half of the world's natural cork and supplies over 80% of cork closures for wine. Over the last decade natural cork has seen its market share decline. It accounted for 69% of the 18bn wine closures sold in 2009, with screwcaps taking 11% and plastic corks 20%. Ten years ago, over 95% of bottles used natural cork. In regions which have embraced screwcap wholeheartedly, such as New Zealand, more than 90% of wines are sealed with it. Sogrape's entry-level brand Terra Franca is under screwcap, but it is highly unusual for Portuguese wines to be sealed with anything other than natural cork. In parts of Portugal – for example the Douro – it is illegal to use synthetic closures. Sogrape export director Júlio Martins told Decanter.com they were responding to 'market requests' and had taken no 'pro-active position regarding closures'. Apcor, the Portuguese cork association, said one winery switching one brand to screw cap did 'not represent the overall picture'. It said that the cork industry had had an 8.5% yearly increase in exports, followed by a double digit increase in the first two months of 2011, and moreover Amorim, the market leader, had just posted its best results in 140 years. 'Natural cork's continued success is firmly based on three key advantages: technical performance, added value and sustainability. In export markets – whether it be the US, the UK or China – these factors are becoming ever more important.'

Source: Decanter.com

RETAILERS

Tesco restructures wine team



Tesco has reshuffled its wine team so that buyers are focusing on product types rather than countries of origin, and has recruited two new buyers. The new structure sees buyers and product development managers working in the following teams: own-label and UK-packaged wines; brands and exclusive brands; and Finest and fine wines. Tesco Wine by the Case has been integrated into the main buying process rather than having a separate team. Wine category manager Claire Lorains said: "Changing focus away from country and towards product type will enable us to continue our industry-leading work of providing value at every price point. The team has a huge amount of experience and expertise in both wine and retailing, and this refined structure will ensure we always have the broadest and strongest offer for our customers." BWS category director Dan Jago said: "Claire has the best buying team in the business and this change to the way we buy continues our reputation for being both industry leading and totally customer focused." The two new team members are wine buying manager Sarah Cook and buyer Freyja Kenny.

Source: Officencenews.co.uk

Call on retailers to ban 'BOGOF' deals to reduce food waste



Supermarkets are under pressure to abolish 'buy-one-get-one-free' offers amid claims, by the Local Government Association, that they are creating a £13.7bn a year mountain of wasted food. Town hall leaders claim that council tax-payers are throwing away £520 worth of uneaten food to landfill each year. The LGA said that the supermarket multi-buy deals are fuelling the problem. LGA Environment Board vice chairman Councillor Clyde Loakes said: "The average family in England spent £520 last year on food and drink which wasn't eaten. That is a heartbreaking figure in a world where hundreds of millions of people go hungry every day. "While campaigns like Love Food, Hate

Waste are encouraging people to make better use of the food they buy, the source of the problem is not being adequately addressed. With more than five million tonnes of edible food thrown out each year, way too much food is being brought into homes in the first place. Retailers need to take a large slice of responsibility for that. "Buy-one- get-one free deals, which give consumers a few days to munch through 16 clementines, are not about providing value for money. "They are about transferring waste out of retail operations and into the family home. Retailers should scrap multi-buy deals which encourage people to take more than they need and replace them with discounts on individual products which will help reduce excess consumption and increase customer choice." The LGA is also calling on retailers to set ambitious waste goals to "bring them into line with the big improvements in waste management being produced by local authorities and residents". It said the total amount of packaging waste being produced each year since 2005 had remained the same. Retailers have hit back at the LGA's claims. BRC head of environment Bob Gordon, said: "There's a simple solution to the problem of food waste going to landfill – local councils need to collect it separately so it can be turned into compost or helped to biodegrade. The sound financial argument for such a move has been made by the LGA itself. "Let's give shoppers the credit they deserve. Customers are smart and they know how to make the most of the deals which work for them. There's no evidence that the food ending up in landfill is a result of promotions." Packaging Federation chief executive Dick Searle added: "To suggest that consumers are so lacking in self-will that retailers are to blame for everything is clearly nonsense. These comments are not helpful. "Clearly, this is more about politics than facts." Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

Tesco reports £3.8bn profits, but UK can "do better"



Tesco has reported underlying profit before tax up by 12.3% to £3.8bn with strong growth in Asia but has admitted that the UK retail environment will remain challenging for the rest of 2011. For the year to February 26, Tesco reported trading profit up 7.8% to £3.7bn and group sales up 8.1% to £67.6bn. In the UK, like-for-likes sales for the year excluding petrol and VAT were flat, with a fall of 0.1% in the second half, comprising 0.5% up in the third quarter, and down 0.7% in the fourth. UK total sales were up 5.5% to £44,571m and trading profit up 3.8% to £2,504m. The retailer said that the generally improving global economic environment provides a helpful background for Tesco in most of its markets in Asia, Europe and the US. But it said in the UK, as "consumers deal with higher taxes, public sector contraction and rising fuel costs, demand growth remains subdued". It continued: "In these markets, we are assuming that the retail environment will remain challenging in 2011, particularly in the more discretionary product categories, but we have strong plans for growth, supported by improved productivity, which will help increase our competitiveness for customers." However, Tesco did state that in food and drink categories it continued to perform ahead of the market. It also said that it was "well positioned to trade through these challenges successfully". New chief executive Phil Clarke said he had set out some immediate objectives for Tesco. This includes keeping the UK strong and growing, becoming outstanding internationally, becoming a multichannel retailer and developing the potential of retailing services. Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

CUSTOMER INDUSTRIES

European food and drink industry shows mild recovery signs



Signs of mild recovery in the EU food and drink sector came with the confirmation of 1.5 per cent growth in the in 27 member states during the last three months of 2010 compared with the previous quarter, according to latest CIAA Economic Quarterly Bulletin. Growth within the euro zone, the area of 17 EU member states which have adopted the euro as their common currency, reached 1.84 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year compared with the previous three months. Leading the way was Estonia

which achieved output growth of 10.17 per cent, according to the statistics compiled by Eurostat. The second highest growth rate of west European countries was achieved by the Netherlands which managed 3 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year. Germany, France and the UK showed growth of 2.74 per cent, 0.86 per cent and 0.77 per cent respectively. Six countries showed negative growth with Ireland's food and drink sector showing a 2.45 per cent decline. Portugal reported a 1.63 per cent fall followed by Denmark at -1.3 per cent and Hungary at -1.11 per cent. The Italian food and drink sector contracted by 0.43 per cent during the last quarter of 2010 while Greece fell by 0.65 per cent. But the CIAA Economic Bulletin noted: "Signs of mild recovery in industrial orders are also shown by Greece, where industry output is slowly increasing despite remaining in negative digits (-0.65%) whereas after experiencing a positive quarter in its output growth, figures for Italy are decreasing slightly once again." Meanwhile, industrial production increased by 0.6% during the last quarter of 2010 in the euro area and by 0.5% in the 27 EU member states compared to the previous quarter. Industrial orders aggregated for the EU 27 climbed by 1.6% and by 1.9% for countries in the euro zone. There was a slow increase in retail trade volumes in the Euro area during the last quarter of 2010 with 0.3 per cent growth in the euro area but a fall of 0.1 per cent in EU 27 compared with the previous three months.

Source: Foodanddrinkeurope.com

Food

Impact of UK cuts will determine organic market recovery



The UK organic sector is 'cautiously optimistic' that the market is leveling off after a year of slowing decline in sales, but much depends on consumer confidence after the government spending cuts are implemented this month. In its annual report the Soil Association put UK sales of organic products at £1.73bn, a drop of 5.9 per cent. However it points out that the rate of decline is falling: last year the drop was almost 13 per cent. The organisation has said it is "cautiously optimistic" about 2011 sales. "The market is on course to level off," says the report, with premium retailers Waitrose and Marks & Spencer anticipating modest growth and mid-range retailers Tesco, Sainsbury's, Morrisons and the Co-operative predicting level sales year on year. All the same, it is aware that consumer confidence is fragile, and with the coalition government enforcing a slate of severe spending cuts this month it remains to be seen how this will impact peoples' food shopping habits. "The impact of public spending cuts in April will be crucial in determining the timing and strength of recovery in the organic market," it says, with the threat of widespread redundancies among public-sector workers being an "acid test for the recovering organic market". "Unemployment and the fear of unemployment are clearly key factors in consumer confidence." However the January VAT hike, from 17.5 to 20 per cent, "appears to have had only a marginal impact on the organic market so far". Food is exempt from VAT in the UK, but rising costs of other goods does have an impact on overall grocery budgets. After falling to an all-time low of 8.6 per cent in 2006, the proportion of UK household income spent on food and drink has grown to almost 10 per cent in the last two years. In addition to consumer confidence and the wider economic picture, the Soil Association cites retailer commitment as one of the crucial factors that will determine how organics perform in 2011. Overall sales through multiple retail, which accounts for 72.3 per cent of the market, fell by 7.7 per cent to £1.25bn in 2007. However the impact on independent retail sales was lower, at just 0.7 per cent decline, and sales through organic vegetable box schemes grew 1 per cent. "Multiple retailers account for around three-quarters of the organic market, so their approach to organic," says the report. "In 2009 and 2010 most retailers responded to a dip in consumer demand by reducing organic ranges and shelf space dramatically, and this depressed sales further by reducing availability for those who still wanted to buy." It points to some indications that retailer interest is reviving, however. Price and multi-buy discounts are showing success for milk and beef sales, two of the three best performing organic categories (with baby food). "A number of retailers are considering the consistency of messages across their organic ranges. Packaging/branding changes are anticipated to address this issue in the course of the year." Some retailers, such as Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose and Planet Organic, have also given support to the Why I love organic campaign – a sector-wide advertising campaign

with has attracted £1m EU funding and aims to boost awareness and understanding amongst consumers.

Source: Foodproductiondaily.com

Soft drinks

O-I quenches Italy's thirst with La 70 in glass bottles



Glass container manufacture O-I helped Spumador to launch San Carlo Spinone premium mineral water brand in a new 70cl glass bottle aimed at Italy's on-trade horeca (hotels, restaurants and catering) channel. The innovation is thanks to the country's recent relaxing of packaging capacity regulations. Using La 70 as the trademarked brand name highlights the novelty of the new bottle size in the Italian market, says O-I. O-I designed the bottle, which features a soaring conical shape with subtle shoulders for a smooth profile, heightened by a long neck, while the bottom of the bottle is 'graceful and curving'. The spring water, sourced in the Alps' Tuf valley, is said to be rich in minerals, which the glass container protects up to the point of consumption, says O-I. The company adds that La 70 bottles are returnable and can be used up to 30 times before being recycled to make new bottles of exactly the same quality. Spumador's marketing manager Fiorenza de Gennaro says: "By creating a new product for restaurants, we aim to strengthen the San Carlo Spinone brand, which is why we decided to create an innovative capacity and differently-shaped bottle, offering an exclusive product to the horeca channel."

Source: Packagingtoday.co.uk

O-I bottles used in new Baco fruit juices



Baco has launched four new flavours of its Apple Tree fruit juice range in O-I glass bottles. The bottles include an applied ceramic label (ACL), which states the bottle typically uses 30% recycled content, reduces carbon emissions by around 15% and creates an energy saving of close to 10%. Baco's Managing Director, Mark Epstein, said O-I's glass bottle also helped create an environmentally responsible brand. "We believe people intuitively know fruit juice tastes better in glass but we think there is an important environmental story to tell too as glass is made from natural materials, mainly sand which is abundantly available in Australia," said Mr Epstein. "Glass is 100% infinitely recyclable and is the perfect packaging choice for our Apple Tree juices which are made from 100% Australian fruit juice and contain no added sugar or preservatives and no artificial flavours or colours." O-I Asia Pacific's General Manager of Marketing and Sales, Jacqueline Moth, said customers continued to recognise glass as a sustainable packaging choice. "We recently conducted a complete life cycle assessment (LCA) to examine the carbon footprint of different packaging types including glass, aluminium and PET," said Ms Moth. "The LCA demonstrated glass packaging produced the least amount of carbon dioxide and any increase in recycled content (cullet) further improves the CO2 footprint of glass packaging." Apple Tree fruit juice packaging features an ACL label helping to create a clean, fresh visually appealing product which complements the bottles' contents. Not made from concentrate, Apple Tree's new flavours include Apple, Blueberry and Blackcurrant, Apple and Honeydew Melon, Apple and Pomegranate, and Valencia Orange.

Source: Packagingmag.com.au

Spirits

Frosted, silk-screen bottle offers tactile appeal for ultra-premium vodka



When Crystal Spirits Distillery, Dayton, Ohio, introduces an ultra-premium vodka to the U.S. marketplace, it engaged the services of Saxco Intl to create a bottle with an upmarket look and feel. Saxco sourced and supplied a 750 ML flint Bordeaux-shaped bottle with a flat bottom from Owens Illinois-Europe. The bottle was then spray frosted and silk screened with three-color red, white and blue labeling on the front and back. The frosting and silk screening was completed by Hanes Erie. Owens explains that the silk screen displaying Buckeye's bold classic red floral design went through several

evolutions of refinement in order to achieve its ultimate look and feel. According to Jim Finke, president of Crystal Spirits Distillery, Buckeye Vodka will first be introduced in the Ohio marketplace before being rolled out to surrounding states.

Source: Packagingdigest.com

O-I behind latest bottle for Dewar's whisky



Dewar's has called on O-I and a range of suppliers to produce packaging for a new premium blended Scotch whisky. Glass group O-I's Scottish facility has teamed up with label printer Labelgraphics and closure suppliers Rankin and Ramondin to create the bottles for the 18 Year Old whisky, which were designed by New York agency Spring Design Partners. The new packs incorporate a 'wave', which is also a feature of Dewar's White Label and 12 Year Old whiskies and is intended to symbolise the well-rounded flavour of Dewar's. However, the 'wave' feature of the new bottle also incorporates a series of medals won by Dewar's in international competitions. Individual cartons for the whisky have been produced by Presentation Packaging, while Saica has created the outer shipping boxes. Scott Gibb, sales manager for O-I in Scotland, says, "The Dewar's range shows how effectively glass can be utilised in an innovative way to improve brand standout for a family of products attacking a variety of price points and targeted at different audiences. The 'wave' has been created without losing any strength from the finished container and creates a natural protection for the embossed medals."

Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

Sparkling Wine

VINITALY: Prosecco, forecast to outperform Champagne in 2012



Prosecco is getting ready to outperform Champagne in 2012 as leader in number of bottles produced. The announcement was made by the Veneto Region Councillors for Promotion Marino Finozzi and for Agriculture Franco Manzato at the inauguration of Vinitaly at the Verona Trade Fair. The progress made by Prosecco in the competition with the French-made Champagnes clear-cut and persisting, as its average annual production is of around 320 million bottles. This year, roughly 286 million bottles of Prosecco will be placed on the market and will be up to 353 million next year, exceeding 400 million bottles marketed worldwide by 2013.

Source: Agi.it

Wine

Top wine producers fear EU free-for-all on vine plantations



Top wine-producing nations led by France want EU regulators to put a cork in plans to end vine-planting restrictions across the European Union. Nine states wrote to the European Commission calling for a planned 2015 free-for-all to be halted, with a producers association warning against a glut of wine hitting markets and arguing that the move would devalue their product. The other eight countries are: Austria, Cyprus, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal and Romania.

Source: Expatica.com

Young Italians 'drink less wine than ever'



Younger Italians are drinking less wine than ever before, according to recent research. The statistics, by market research firm Unicab, showed 69% of Italians over 65 drink wine every day, while only 13% of 16- to 35-year-olds do the same. Giovanni Brunetti of Unicab said one of the main reasons for the decline was 'social evolution'. 'Italian families have become more and more fragmented in the last 10 years. They're not eating meals together and so wine is no longer a form of food. Wine no longer has a nutritional function.' The research also found that 30% of Italians no longer consider wine to be a symbol of Italian gastronomy. The cost of wine has also played a part in the drop in consumption. Nearly half of the Italian population (48.8%) spends less than €3

on a bottle of wine for everyday drinking, a situation exacerbated by Italy having the highest rate of unemployment among young people in Europe. Nearly 35% of wine in Italy is now bought in supermarkets, which are introducing in-store educational schemes, such as touch-screen terminals, or wine experts on hand in the supermarket aisles. The research also showed that nearly half of the 22% of Italians who have reduced their wine consumption in the last two years have done so for health reasons.

Source: Decanter.com

Beer

Carlsberg launches new global positioning



While Carlsberg's famous green logo is known all over the world, its sales don't always measure up to its brand recognition. Carlsberg is launching a new global positioning to help the brand unleash its full potential, the company announced on Tuesday. Carlsberg, one of the world's most well-known premium beers, is investing significantly in repositioning its brand to support its ambition "to be the fastest growing global beer company". At the heart of this is a redefinition of its brand proposition – a proposition which celebrates Carlsberg's heritage and values, while connecting with today's active, adventurous generation of beer drinkers. The proposition encourages consumers 'to step up and do the right thing', rewarding themselves with a Carlsberg for their efforts and it carries the tagline "That calls for a Carlsberg". Carlsberg's visual identity has been modernised, distribution channels are being widened and a completely new range of packaging is being rolled out across more than 140 markets. The changes to both the brand proposition and the visual identity will help to make the Carlsberg brand more consistent, appealing and distinctive to its consumers in both its established and newer markets.

Source: Globalmalt.com

French beer consumption declines by 1.7% in 2010



In France an overall decline in beer consumption by 1.7% to 19.73 million hectoliters is recorded in 2010, said Pascal Chèvremont, new managing director of Brasseurs de France, said. According to him, after a rise in consumption in 2009, the French beer market had reached a plateau around 20Mhl/year. The french brewer's turnover nevertheless was up 4.5% in 2010 yoy to 2.3 billion euros thanks to special beers and specialties. Specialty beers (beer abbeys, white, brown, or flavored), the most expensive, are now the largest sector with 36% market share (by value), up 9.6%. Specialty beers above 5% alcohol also derive their game: they have seen their market share (by value) to increase by 5.4% in 2009 to represent 33.3% of the sector. In contrast, conventional beers are struggling. They lost 5.3% market share (by value) to 26.4%. They are now in third place in terms of sales even though they are still the most widely consumed (38% by volume). The decline in beer consumption is not new: in 30 years, consumption has dropped by 30% in France. With a per capita consumption of 30 liters per year, the French are low consumers of beer.

Anadolu Efes' net profit rises 19% in 2010



Anadolu Efes announced its total sales volume increased notably by 14% to 8.8 mhl in 4Q2010 year-on-year, the highest quarterly growth achieved during 2010, contributed by superior performances in Turkey beer and soft drinks operations both heavily supported with exceptionally good weather in Turkey. As a result, consolidated volumes recorder as 43.2 mhl in FY2010 compared to 2009, up 11.1%. Beer and soft drinks volume achieved growth rates of 9.2% and 13.5% respectively in FY 2010 y-o-y.

Source: Globalmalt.com

RECYCLING/ COLLECTION

German cabinet adopts proposal to amend waste law



The German federal government approved a proposal to amend the country's basic waste management law, the Closed Substance Cycle and Waste Management Act, on 30 March. The proposal, which will now be forwarded to the Federal Council and the Federal Parliament for adoption, transposes central aspects of the revised EU Waste Framework Directive such as the five-stage waste hierarchy. It sets a minimum recycling target of 65 per cent for municipal waste by 2020, and makes the separate collection of biowaste, paper, metal, plastic and glass waste across the country mandatory from 2015 on. Furthermore, the proposal addresses the division of competences and tasks between municipal bodies and private waste management operators

Source: Euwid-recycling.com

New President for Pro Europe



Luis Veiga Martins has been appointed the President of Packaging Recovery Organisation Europe (Pro Europe), the umbrella organisation for more than 33 green dot schemes for the recovery of packaging. Martins, managing director of Portugal's green dot scheme, Sociedade Ponto Verde, takes over from Henri Meiresonne, formerly head of Belgian green dot scheme Fost Plus – who was President for the last two years. Joachim Quoden, Pro Europe managing director, welcomed the news: "Luis brings a wealth of experience and knowledge of the resource management sector to his new position," he said following last week's Pro Europe meeting in Rome. "Under his leadership, Sociedade Ponto Verde successfully promoted the concept of producer responsibility in Portugal. I would also like to thank Henri Meiresonne for his leadership and vision as President over the last two years. He made an invaluable contribution to Pro Europe's work."

Source: European Environment & Packaging Law

FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS

BEUC calls for widespread BPA phase out

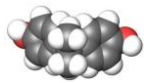


The European Consumers' Organisation, BEUC, is calling for the new EU ban on baby bottles containing bisphenol A (BPA) to be extended to other consumer goods. The EU introduced the ban on production of polycarbonate plastic feeding bottles, which contain BPA to ensure rigidity, on 1 March and will extend it to imports and all sales on 1 June. The ban is controversial as health campaigners claim it does not go far enough, while it came despite an assessment from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) finding that there was not enough evidence of risk to justify changing EU safety limits or to recommend restrictions. Despite this, the Commission decided to go with a ban in line with the precautionary principle and to head off a potential trade crisis in the internal market as individual member states moved to ban BPA. Moreover, EFSA had said that the studies warranted further consideration. Now BEUC has added its voice to the anti-BPA lobby with a position paper urging the Commission to propose an extension of the ban to all consumer goods, pointing out, "A growing body of evidence links the exposure of endocrine disrupting chemicals including Bisphenol A to adverse health effects and negative effects on wildlife." BEUC notes that BPA was first developed in 1936 as a synthetic oestrogen with the aim of using it in medicine, but after the more potent oestrogen Diethylstilbestrol (DES) was produced in 1938, BPA was never used for medical purposes. However, since 1957 it has been used in many everyday products because of its ability to harden plastic. It is also widely used as a coating inside food and drink packaging to protect it from corrosion. Nevertheless, BEUC says that the phase out should be conditional on safer alternatives being available for

each of the many applications for BPA. Here, BEUC says, "We need to make major progress within the next two to three years."

Source: European Environment & Packaging Law

Coca-Cola urged to issue report on bisphenol A



Coca-Cola will face more calls to publish a report on how it will seek to dispel customers concerns over bisphenol A, and what plans it has to develop replacements for the chemical used in its can linings. The resolution is due to be introduced at US company's annual meeting in Atlanta by shareholder advocacy groups As You Sow, Domini Social Investments and Trillium Asset Management Corporation. It calls on Coca-Cola chiefs to: "issue a report to their investors disclosing how it is responding to public concerns about the safety of BPA in products; outline a plan to develop alternatives to BPA in can linings; and address what the company is doing to maintain leadership and public trust on this issue". "BPA can pose reputational and competitive risks to companies that use it in their products or packaging because of heightened public concern," As You Sow senior program director Michael Passoff said "Coca-Cola has failed year after year to provide investors or consumers with sufficient evidence that it is taking steps to address these very serious public health concerns." A similar motion introduced by the coalition last year and received 22 per cent shareholders' votes, which represents very strong support from mainstream shareholders, he added. Passoff said that usually a 10 per cent vote in shareholder vote was usually enough to sway companies sufficiently to take action. "Coke's refusal to address this issue proactively - and its willingness to blatantly ignore the concern of 1 of 5 of its shareowners - is why it is the only company targeted with a BPA container shareholder resolution and why it has gained a reputation as the industry laggard on this issue," he said. Continued use of the chemical in food contact materials is a cause of growing controversy, with a host of studies raising concerns. However, the food packaging industry stresses that major regulatory agencies such as the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) have said it poses no health threat to humans. But its use has been banned in Europe in polycarbonate baby bottles. Earlier this month Swedish safety agencies proposed that BPA be phased out in food and beverage can linings. The Government is likely to make a decision on this proposal within 12 months.

Source: Foodproductiondaily.com

Sweden signals intent to banish bisphenol A in can linings



Sweden has signaled its intent to become the first country in world to phase out the use of bisphenol A (BPA) in food and beverage can linings as part of a government strategy to curb human exposure to the controversial chemical.

Under new proposals put forward today by two official agencies, Swedish food processors and packaging companies would have to submit plans by the end of the year on how they intend to substitute current epoxy linings in cans with BPA-free alternatives – or get such a roadmap from their suppliers. Importers and manufacturers would also be obliged to outline when such alternatives could come to market and be available to the food industry. They would also be required to deliver an assessment on the likely impact of the move on food production and manufacturing. The report by Swedish Chemical Agency (KEMI) and the National Food Administration (SLV) said exposure to BPA was widespread but that sources of overall exposure were not well-known. However, it added: "*Migration of BPA has been shown primarily for materials coming into contact with food (polycarbonate plastic and the inside surface of epoxy resins in metal packaging for canned food and beverages).*" The proposal appears to support fears voiced recently by plastics and metal packaging trade groups that the EU ban on BPA in baby bottles could trigger a domino effect leading to wider prohibition of the chemical in food packing. The UK Metal Packaging Manufacturing Association said: "*Any prohibition, however focussed, will likely lead to an escalation of action into other packaging areas, such as epoxy-based coatings for metal packaging.*"

Source: Foodproductiondaily.com

STUDIES/RESEARCH

French consumers would choose practical over green packaging



French consumers expect packaging to be practical rather than environmentally-friendly, according to a new survey by the French Institute of Public Opinion on behalf of the national association of beverage carton manufacturers, Alliance Carton Nature. The survey published on 5 April found that 60 per cent of those questioned looked at the practical aspect of packaging before anything else, while 31 per cent were interested in the environmental impact of the packaged product. The weight criterion was only considered as a purchasing factor in seven per cent of cases and the aesthetics in two per cent of cases. As an incentive to encourage people to sort their packaging waste more, half the respondents said they were in favour of an information logo on the packaging and 41 per cent said that they would like more dustbins for selective collection around where they lived. For 37 per cent, a financial incentive would encourage consumers to sort their packaging waste.

Source: European Environmental & Packaging Law

RAW MATERIALS

Sanyou Chemical: soda ash project



Tangshan Sanyou Chemical Industries and Qinghai Wucui Mine Limited will reportedly jointly invest in one of Qinghai Wucui Soda Ash Limited's soda production facilities, to raise its registered capital from CNY 183 million to CNY 745 million. Sanyou will invest CNY 380 million, accounting for 51% interest while Qinghai Wucui Mine Limited will invest CNY 365 million for a 49% stake. The soda production facility has an annual capacity of 1.1 million tons.

Source: Glassonline.com

Solvay acquires Rhodia to create chemical giant



Belgian chemicals and plastics company Solvay has announced plans to acquire Rhodia in a deal valuing the French company at €3.4bn. Solvay is offering €31.60 for each Rhodia share in cash as part of a friendly deal. The new group will have sales of €12bn. "We have a shared vision in that we want to create a new group to achieve our goal of sustainable growth and development in chemistry", Christian Jourquin, CEO of Solvay, said in a statement. "We see the possibility of doubling our Rebitda to almost €2bn and creating a major global chemicals platform under the banner of Solvay." The acquisition will be earnings accretive from 2011, with annual cost synergies of €250m expected within three years, which will be achieved through the reduction of external costs and "without major downsizing plans". The aim of the deal is to create a global chemical company with an enlarged business portfolio. Solvay is a leader in high performance specialty polymers, soda ash and hydrogen peroxide, while Rhodia is strong on specialty materials (silica and rare earths), products for consumer markets and engineering plastics based on polyamide 6,6. Solvay says the group will also concentrate on growth in emerging markets, which already generate 40% of sales for the combined group. Jean-Pierre Clamadieu, chairman and CEO of Rhodia, will take on the role of deputy CEO once the offer is closed. He is also expected to succeed Solvay's current CEO Christian Jourquin when he retires. The deal is conditional upon approval from EU and US anti-trust authorities. During the recession, Solvay announced major reorganisation plans, including the sale of its pharmaceuticals business to focus on chemicals and plastics. Last year it reorganised further, reducing annual costs by €65m and making 800 redundancies. France-based Rhodia has 14,000 employees worldwide and generated sales of €5.23bn in 2010. Solvay had sales of €7.1bn last years. Source: Europeanplasticsnews.com

PEOPLE

Gerresheimer: new manager for technical pre-sales support in Tubular Glass Division



On April 1, 2011, Bernd Zeiß commenced work in the function of Manager Technical Pre-Sales Support in the Tubular Glass Division. After graduating from university with a biology degree he worked for many years at Danish pharma company Lundbeck, where he advanced to the position of Area Sales Manager. In his most recent position he established the German subsidiary of an English medtech company specialized in optoelectronics. Bernd's responsibilities with Gerresheimer include technical support for the global Tubular Glass sales team in close cooperation with the product development and product management teams.

Source : Gerresheimer Customer Update 0.3

EVENTS

FEVE Web conference



FEVE
The European Container
Glass Federation

11 a.m. - 12 a.m., 10 May 2011

Brussels, Belgium

Interpack



12 - 18 May 2011

Duesseldorf, Germany

Glassman Europe – meet FEVE at Glassman Europe



25 - 26 May 2011

Hall 5, Montjuic, Palau de Congressos

Barcelona, Spain



FEVE AGM and Discussion



FEVE
The European Container
Glass Federation

16 June 2011

Brussels, Belgium



Vinexpo



19 - 23 June 2011

Bordeaux, France

Fachpack



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

Barcelona Food Technology & Hispack International Packaging Exhibition

Hispack 15–18 May 2012
Barcelona, Spain

Glasstec



23 - 26 October 2012
Duesseldorf, Germany

Emballage



19-22 November 2012

Paris Nord Villepinte, France



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