



NEWSLETTER – March 2011 – N°393

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EUROPEAN UNION NEWS

Commission clears packaging and waste mergers



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Three separate mergers in the packaging and waste area got the green light from the European Commission's anti-trust team in February, which approved the deals under the EU merger regulation's simplified procedure. The Commission first cleared Saint-Gobain Glass France and the Turkish company Trakya Cam to acquire joint control over Trakya Glass Rus ZAO. Saint-Gobain is mainly engaged in the production and sale of glass, ceramics, plastics and building materials, while Trakya, a subsidiary of Turkiye Sis eve Cam Fabrikalari A.S, is active in the production and sale of glass, glassware, glass packaging and chemicals. The new joint venture will be active in the manufacture and sale of glass in Russia. The Commission also granted clearance to the US private equity firm Platinum to acquire Nampak Paper, a UK-based company active in the manufacture and supply of packaging. Finally, the Commission approved Austria's Strabag and Germany's EW4E's plans to acquire a jointly controlling stake in BMG, a newly created joint venture that will be active in the incineration and recycling of non-hazardous waste, specifically sewage sludge. Strabag provides construction services in Austria, while EW4E, which belongs to GDF Suez of France, is active in energy management, energy efficiency, renewable energies, energy trading as well as in providing consultancy services for the construction industry and in operation of energy facilities.

Source: European Environment & Packaging Law

Glass federation organises event in European Parliament



Over 120 European policy makers, members of the European Container Glass Federation (FEVE), consumers and other stakeholders attended on Wednesday night, 9 February 2011, the first ever water-tasting event in the European Parliament. The event, entitled 'Discover the Natural Mineral Waters of Europe', was hosted by Dr Rovana Plumb, Dr Filip Kaczmarek and Dr Theodoros Skylakakis, Members of the European Parliament (MEP). Andreas Larsson, Best Sommelier of the World 2007, invited the guests to experience the diversity and differences in taste of the mineral waters. In her opening remarks MEP Dr Rovana Plumb – Member of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) - highlighted the fact that the event was co-hosted by her colleagues MEPs Dr Filip Kaczmarek and Dr Theodoros Skylakakis from the Group of the European People's Party (EPP) in the European Parliament. "Water stands for diversity and a unique European heritage that we should preserve. Not only is this natural product fundamental to our health and our life but also to our economy, our social and environmental standards." For MEP Theodoros Skylakakis the event was not only a celebration of the mineral waters but also of the glass containers in which they have been packaged for many centuries. "These two traditional products make a great combination. Glass is a resource efficient and sustainable material, but is also safe from a health perspective. This makes it the packaging material for the future, since it also has innovation potential." MEP Filip Kaczmarek experienced the tasting as a revelation. "It was a discovery to analyze the taste of water after listening to the sommelier. Andreas

Larsson also pointed out to us that mineral waters are local products, with a strong link to the local communities. The same can be said of the glass container producers. In my home region of Poznan (Poland) for instance the glass container industry is strongly represented. It is part of our community, our heritage and our future”.

The video of the event can be found on the FEVE website:

<http://www.feve.org/Water2011/EP-naturalwater.html>

Source: FEVE Press Release

No 30 per cent emissions reduction says EU Energy Commissioner



EU energy commissioner Günther Oettinger has quashed the possibility of the EU's emissions targets being increased to 30 per cent, reports the Guardian. Oettinger said that an increase to 30 per cent would cause industry to migrate to Asia. "We are willing to go to 30 per cent if big global partners will follow us, but if not we won't," he said. Research produced by EU climate action commissioner Connie Hedegaard had previously suggested that the drop in CO2 as a result of the financial crisis would make further reductions easier, but this claim was countered by Oettinger. "[It shows] the best thing for CO2 emissions is a crisis, so do we need longer and deeper crises?" he asked. "Look at our deficit – we need growth, and we need more industry." The paper says that the higher target would cost about €81bn a year by 2020, or 0.54 per cent of GDP, according to the European commission's research, compared with a cost of €48bn for the 20 per cent goal. Meanwhile, BBC News reports that Oettinger has said that the EU's new partnerships with energy-rich central Asian countries are not a threat to Russian gas sales. The broadcaster says that Oettinger said "we don't want to block South Stream", referring to a Russian plan to pump gas to the Balkans and Italy via a new southern pipeline.

Source: Theparliament.com

Potocnik says 7th EAP likely



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Environment Commissioner Janez Potocnik appeared to warm to the idea of a 7th Environment Action Programme (EAP) when the current 6th programme ends next year - even though in the past he had appeared reluctant. Potocnik was responding to a question from Austrian Socialist MEP Karin Kadenbach in a 25 January session at the European Parliament's Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee. Kadenbach noted that the 6th EAP was due to expire in mid 2012 but that later this year there would be a report on its implementation, before adding "We are assuming that you will be giving us a 7th EAP." The Commissioner, who only a month before at the Environment Council had seemed to resist unanimous calls from ministers for a 7th EAP, now seems to be coming around to the idea. Potocnik said, "To avoid misunderstandings, I am not against a 7th EAP, on the contrary, I believe there are many good arguments that we will need to have a 7th EAP." He pointed out that in the next six months there were some important issues coming up such as reform of the Common Agricultural, fisheries and cohesion policies as well as "our proposals" on biodiversity and resource efficiency. All these would need to be taken into account when assessing the 6th EAP and future action. Added to that, Potocnik pointed out that the latest European Environment Agency State of the Environment report had shown a very different picture than ten years ago when the 6th EAP was drawn up. All this together meant that by 2012 the Commission would come out with "something like the next stage of the 6th EAP ... it is likely to be the 7th EAP, but I would truly not like to commit at this moment because I think other things have to be answered in the meantime." Potocnik stressed in particular that the EU was currently working on the financial perspectives mapping out spending for the next five or six years. It would be too late to push for the environment once the 7th EAP has come out in 2012.

Source: European Environment & Packaging Law

EU 'low-carbon roadmap' aims for 25% cuts by 2020



Energy savings could slash greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by as early as 2020, according to a draft copy of the EU's long-awaited 'roadmap for moving to a low-carbon economy in 2050'. The EU's current goals for 2020 involve reducing emissions by 20% on 1990 levels, increasing the share of renewables in the bloc's energy mix by 20% and improving energy efficiency by 20%. But in a twist to the debate over whether the economic crisis has made a 30% emissions reduction more realisable, the document says implementing the EU's stalling energy savings goals would reduce emissions by a further 5%. "The analysis shows that the cost-efficient pathway to the necessary reduction in 2050 requires a 25% domestic reduction in 2020," the paper reads. "It also shows, however, that the EU can produce this reduction if it delivers on its existing commitment to increase energy efficiency by 20% by 2020." Sources say they hope that it will be presented in a package with the energy efficiency plan drawn up by the energy department at the European Commission and a white paper on transport.

Source: Euractiv.com

Raw materials strategy thin and weak on recycling, say Greens



The European Commission's raw material strategy should be more focused with a particular emphasis on recycling and resource efficiency, Green MEPs said, following the final release of the initiative. The long awaited text, instead of emphasising raw materials and recycling, dedicated a great deal of space to financial and commodities markets - and their impact on farmers, food makers and consumers. "The Commission has spread the strategy too thin and, in promising all things to all people, resorted to setting out half measures instead of developing a coherent, focused strategy," said Germany's MEP Reinhard Bütikofer, draftsman on the strategy for the Green group. "Recycling and resource efficiency should be cornerstones of any comprehensive raw materials strategy, and the EC communication remains weak on this. "The EU will have to quickly act on recycling and efficiently if we are to tackle our unsustainable raw material dependence;" Bütikofer added. "The failure to do so risks Europe being left behind in the global move towards green innovation and technologies, and at the same time damaging our future competitiveness." On the positive side, the Greens did say the long awaited initiative was an improvement on earlier drafts that had largely ignored recycling and efficiency altogether. "The Commission sets out some worthy concrete proposals like the creation of a global certification system for recycling installations for example. The strategy falls short on the recycling of rare earths though."

Source: European Environment & Packaging Law

Potocnik calls for green taxes



Environment Commissioner Janez Potocnik has unequivocally backed green taxation in a question and answer session with MEPs. Speaking to the EP's Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee, he mapped out the four approaches that Europe needed to adopt to achieve a resource efficient economy, just before the launch of its resource efficiency initiative on 26 January. Among the four was the need to steer the market towards resource efficiency through a range of market-based instruments. Potocnik argued that Europe needed to shift the burden of taxation from labour to resource use and environmental impact as this would push member states' economies in the right direction. "We cannot shy away from a discussion about how market-based instruments, particularly taxation, can be put into place," the Commissioner told the Committee. He called on the MEPs present to ensure that they "take a careful look" at the work coming out of the other parliamentary committees to ensure that they "reinforce resource efficiency objectives."

Source: European Environment & Packaging Law

CONTAINER GLASS INDUSTRY

Fitch: expected stability in packaging as volume recovery continues in 2011

FitchRatings According to Fitch Ratings' "2011 Outlook for Packaging," the sector should show continued stability as volume recovery continues in 2011. Growth will largely come from international/emerging markets where companies have targeted past investments in capacity, and merger and acquisition (M&A) activity. Companies will continue focusing capital allocation with investments on growth opportunities, as most companies will increase their level of capital spending. In addition, companies that have balance sheet flexibility will continue to look at acquisition opportunities, likely through smaller or niche-sized international acquisitions to additionally complement existing assets. Excess cash will also be allocated for share repurchase as Fitch does not expect much emphasis on additional debt reduction. Credit metrics should trend near 2010 levels. Packaging companies should experience low- to mid-single-digit revenue growth rates and flat to slightly improved profitability. Credit profiles are expected to remain stable and bolstered by good liquidity and financial flexibility supported through cash generation, provided companies do not stress the balance sheet with aggressive acquisition targets. The full report 'Packaging Outlook: Expected Stability as Volume Recovery Continues' is available on the Fitch Ratings' website at www.fitchratings.com.

Source: Packagingdigest.com

Europe

Saint-Gobain: sharp upswing in 2010 results



Overall, the Group reported 1.9% organic growth for 2010, breaking down as 1.0% growth in the first half (positive volume and price impacts of 0.9% and 0.1%, respectively), and 2.8% growth in the second half (with both volumes and prices up 1.4%). Despite severe weather conditions in Europe at the end of the year, organic growth accelerated between the third and fourth quarters, from 2.3% to 3.3%. Sales prices held firm over the year in all Business Sectors, offsetting the rise in the cost of raw materials and energy at Group level. Packaging (Verallia) continued to report robust trading conditions and earnings, which remained virtually stable year-on-year. Nevertheless, the Business Sector's operating margin narrowed slightly to 12.2% of sales (12.7% of sales in 2009), with the sharper rise in sales prices in the second half failing to fully offset, over the year as a whole, the slowdown in volumes across Europe and to a lesser extent, the rise in energy costs.

Source: Prnewswire.com

Saint-Gobain said to rebuff buyout approaches for packaging unit



Saint-Gobain SA has rebuffed approaches from buyout firms for its packaging unit in favor of an initial public offering, four people familiar with the situation said. Private equity firms including a group formed by TPG Capital, Blackstone Group LP and Axa Private Equity have renewed interest in conducting due diligence and making an offer, said the people, who declined to be identified as talks were private. Saint-Gobain is considering the IPO option only, they said. Saint-Gobain may sell a minority stake in Verallia, which makes beverage bottles and food jars, in an IPO this year, the company said Oct. 13. CEO Pierre-Andre de Chalendar postponed an attempt to sell the unit because of the onset of the financial crisis in 2008. A share sale may value Verallia at more than 4 billion Euros (\$5.4 billion), two of the people said. Saint-Gobain's listing of Verallia could go ahead from the second quarter, "market conditions permitting," said company spokeswoman Sophie

Chevallon. Leveraged buyout firms including the TPG-led group and Apollo Global Management LLC worked on purchasing the whole unit when it was first put up for sale four years ago. The buyout firms are confident they will get funding as banks are resuming lending, the people said. Under pressure from Saint-Gobain shareholders, including investment firm Wendel, which holds a 17 percent stake, de Chalendar said in November he'll use the proceeds to buy back shares, boost the dividend, and make small- and medium-sized acquisitions in Europe, Asia and South America. The Saint-Gobain unit is the world's second-largest packaging business after Owens-Illinois Inc., which had \$6.63 billion of sales in 2010.

Source: Businessweek.com

Agenda Glas AG applies for insolvency proceedings



One year after commissioning, the agenda AG Glass, in Gardelegen, apply for insolvency proceedings with the competent local court of Stendal, Germany. The company confirmed that it had initial difficulties in production and would not have been possible to achieve the planned continuous utilization of 85-90%. The company has for months been well below these target figures.

Source: Euwid-recycling.com

Beatson Clark produces bespoke bottle for premium malt drink



Beatson Clark has produced a bespoke bottle for a non-alcoholic malt drink that is being launched in the UK this month. African Caribbean product specialist Kato Enterprises has developed Ultimalt after recognising there were few premium malt drinks available in the UK. For the packaging, Rotherham-based Beatson Clark has produced an eye-catching 330ml embossed, amber bottle with a premium design that ensures it stands out on shelf. Kayode Toyinbo, managing director of Kato Enterprises said: "Produced with the most naturally available ingredients, and brewed and bottled here in the UK, every aspect of Ultimalt is created with perfection in mind. "The highest quality brewing processes, the beautifully engineered bespoke bottle, the elegant packaging, and a full malt flavour fortified with B vitamins for nourishing goodness." Ultimalt is set to sponsor a number of African Caribbean events including TV programmes.

Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

The German market for glass packaging



2010 was a good year for many sectors of the packaging industry – this also applies to German glassworks. Individual companies are planning to employ additional staff in 2011, and various investments are also in the pipeline. However, a new furnace is not scheduled to start up on the German market before 2012, according to EUWID respondents. Overall glass producers have a positive outlook for 2011. The companies are anticipating higher production than 2010 and increased turnover. Although the last summer could have been better for glass companies, most of those interviewed in 2011 were satisfied in retrospect.

Source: Euwid.com

Ardagh moots further acquisitions after €200m bond issue



Ardagh Packaging Group has opened the door to further acquisitions after raising €200m through the issue of senior bonds. Ardagh bought metal packaging manufacturer Impress last year creating a €3bn-turnover firm with market-leading positions in both materials. According to Irish media, the firm has now borrowed €200m through the issue of senior bonds that are due to be repaid in 2020. *The Irish Times* reported that that the money would be used for "general corporate purposes" including further acquisitions for the business. Following the Impress

deal, Ardagh employs some 14,000 staff in 81 plants across 29 countries.

Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

UK Packaging Awards 2011



The UK Packaging Awards are organised by Packaging News and are unique in recognising every area of the packaging supply chain. The 20 categories reward not only packaging quality but consistency, business strategy and financial performance and environmental impact. Most of all, the judging process is strictly impartial. The sixth annual UK Packaging Awards are now open for entry. Deadline for entries is 17 June. The UK Packaging Awards will be presented on Wednesday 16 November at the London Hilton on Park Lane, London W1. Last year's winners included the environmental initiative at glass packaging group Beatson Clark. For registration details please follow: <http://www.ukpackagingawards.co.uk/>
Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

ICG Workshop: glass structure and properties



The ICG is organizing the next summer school in Montpellier. The summer workshop will overview key fundamentals in glass science with an emphasis on structure-property relationships. Each day will start with a discussion of available measurement/simulation methodologies and their contribution to our understanding of glass structure, both on different length scales and for a broad spectrum of inorganic glass-forming systems. A significant aspect of the workshop will be student-centred projects that encourage discussion and help you to develop your understanding by applying what you have learned to specific issues. Dates: 4th-8th July 2011. A complete programme will be on the ICG website: www.icglass.org
Source: ICG

USA

O-I expands line of lightweight wine bottles



O-I's line of 750 ml, lightweight claret and burgundy bottles is part of the O-I Lean+Green® initiative designed to create aesthetically pleasing, durable, yet lighter weight bottles using advanced manufacturing techniques. The bottles weigh 14 oz. (397 grams) as a result of an improved design that reduces bottle weight and energy consumption. The Lean+Green line is available in a variety of colors, including Champagne Green, Flint, Emerald Green and Dead Leaf Green. 16-27% lighter than current offerings. With this addition, O-I North America now offers lightweight wine bottles ranging from 11.6-16 oz. The comprehensive lightweight line retains the premium image of glass without noticeable changes in appearance and feel.
Source: Packworld.com

Asia

Hindusthan National Glass invests over Rs 700 crores



Hindusthan National Glass & Industries Ltd., India's largest glass container manufacturing company with a market share of 55%, kick started the first phase of construction of the largest glass manufacturing complex in South East Asia at Naidupeta with an initial investment of more than Rs 700 crore. This Mega Greenfield Glass manufacturing complex is the first step towards HNG's quest to double its capacity in next 3 years. Spread across 210 acres, the complex is set to house the largest batch house in the world, the single largest furnace in India having a capacity of 650 MT per day and the world's

largest container glass end port fired furnace of 175 sq.mt. The facility, on completion, will house three Container Glass and two Float Glass plants, and is expected to be largest glass complex in South East Asia having a capacity of 3500 MT per day. It will employ the latest NNPB technology for the production of light weight glass containers. HNG strategically decided to establish this project at Naidupeta in the Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh to consolidate its foothold in Southern India as well as cater to the growing demand in this region, especially Andhra Pradesh, which is the fastest developing region in India with very high per capita consumption of beer, liquor and soft drinks. As per the 2009-10 survey, all 5 southern states of India, including Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Pondicherry, consume about 1395 lac cases of IMFL (Indian made foreign liquor) and 700 lac cases of beer annually out of which sales in Andhra Pradesh account for 412.55 lac cases of IMFL and 249.92 lac cases of beer. Located at the crossroads of Chennai, Venkatagiri, Nellore and Tirupathi on NH5, the complex lies in close proximity to Ennore and Krishnapatnam ports, which makes it most suited for both imports and exports. Through this project, HNG aims to capture the market demands from Middle East, South East Asia, the US and Europe.

Source: Moneycontrol.com

HSIL Quarter-3 2010-11 Result

HSIL HSIL Limited, India's leader in Building Products and Container Glass, reported a robust performance for the quarter ending December 31st, 2010. With Sales surpassing 297 crores and YoY growth of 38%, HSIL continues strong growth with both business divisions contributing very well to HSIL's performance in Q3 '11. All financial parameters -- EBITDA, Net Profit, PAT Margin and Cash Profit – have improved remarkably, aligned with the business plan and outlook.

Source: Prlog.org

Indian packaging industry: lower production cost and export incentives



The packaging industry, including the glass packaging industry, appealed to Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee to incentivize exports and bring down the production cost as the industry is planning large scale capacity expansion. It argued that the Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) scheme, being an "excellent initiative," needs to be continued and its rates hiked to 10 per cent. DEPB is an initiative which is offered by the government to encourage exports from the country to neutralise the incidence of basic and special customs duty on import content of export product. This is provided by way of grant of duty credit against the export product at specified rates. Its other suggestions for the budget include removal of custom duty on soda ash, which contributes to nearly 30 per cent of the production cost, zero import duty on packaging machinery, reduction of excise duty and input costs on capital goods, infrastructure development and building of new technology.

Source: Newkarala.com

FLACONNAGE

Gerresheimer achieves record earnings for the financial year 2010



Gerresheimer AG, supplier to the pharma and healthcare industry, finished the financial year 2010 with record results. "The financial year 2010 was very successful for us. Our know-how and products are very much in demand from international pharma customers. Our shareholders should participate in this success. We therefore propose to the Annual General Meeting a dividend of EUR 0.50 per share", says Uwe Röhrhoff, CEO of Gerresheimer AG. Gerresheimer achieved a marked increase in revenues in the financial year 2010 (December 1, 2009 to November 30, 2010).

Excluding the Technical Plastic Systems business, which was sold in 2009, revenues grew by 5.6% to EUR 1024.8m. At constant exchange rates, revenues grew by 4.0%. The main growth contributors in the pharma business were insulin pens, inhalers, vials, ampoules and prefillable syringes. Demand for cosmetics packaging revived markedly in 2010. The market for life science research products also recovered.

Source: Gerresheimer Press Release

LVMH breaks €20bn mark for the first time in 2010



LVMH recorded a 19% increase in revenue in 2010, exceeding the €20bn mark for the first time. The company says all business groups saw excellent momentum in Europe, Asia and the US. Revenue was up 20% in Q4 with organic growth up 13%. This performance is in line with the favourable trends observed since the beginning of the year, and compares to Q4 2009 which also grew. Profit from recurring operations increased by 29% to €4,321m. The perfume and cosmetics sector overall recorded revenue growth of 12% in 2010 and an increase in profit from recurring operations of 14%. Highlights in the cosmetics sector in 2010 included strong results from Sephora, which continues to increase its lead over competitors across all regions in which it operates, and momentum at Parfums Christian Dior thanks to the continued success of iconic perfumes such as J'adore, Poison and Eau Sauvage, while maintaining focus on innovation. Guerlain's new Idylle fragrance did well as did Shalimar, which remains solid, and the Orchidée Impériale skin care line. LVMH says the new Play for Her fragrance from Parfums Givenchy was well received while Benefit and Make Up For Ever enjoyed "outstanding momentum throughout the world". "In 2011, LVMH intends to further strengthen its global leadership position in high quality products by relying on its sound long-term strategy," continues Arnault. The outlook for 2011 is considered excellent and LVMH says it is well equipped to continue growth momentum across all business groups. Strategy will remain focused on developing its brands through innovation, quality and expansion in high potential markets.

Source: Cosmeticsbusiness.com

Pochet looks to acquire control of Lisi Cosmetics



The French Pochet group, which makes glass, metal and plastic packaging for the perfumery and cosmetics sector, has issued a letter of intent to the Lisi industrial group via its Qualipac subsidiary, to acquire full control of the Lisi divisional company Lisi Cosmetics. Lisi Cosmetics also produces a wide range of packaging solutions for the cosmetics industry and posted sales of €54.6 m in 2010. It has three production sites in France. Meanwhile, the Lisi group has in return granted Qualipac exclusive rights to negotiate the deal by the end of June this year. Pochet was founded in 1623 and currently produces luxury glass perfume bottles and containers for major cosmetics and perfume producers, including Christian Dior and Calvin Klein. The Qualipac subsidiary, which has global turnover of around €200m, has six plants on three continents. The Lisi group has been pursuing a strategy in the past two to three years of shedding non-strategic assets in order to refocus on its mainstream industrial businesses.

Source: Cosmeticsbusiness.com

TABLEWARE

The best new tools for making old-fashioned jams and preserves



Bormioli Rocco's jars featured in article on best containers for preserves and jams: 'Nothing is both so on trendy and old-fashioned as homemade preserves. Jam technology hasn't evolved much since your great-grandma's days. Still, that doesn't mean new designs of those old tools wouldn't leave her envious.' Specially featured in the article is Bormioli Rocco's Quattro Stagioni jars with traditional twist-on lids.

Source: Fastcompany.com

Libbey Inc. reports 2010 sales and profit increase



Libbey Inc. reported sizable gains in sales and an annual and fourth-quarter profit in 2010, with sales up 7% to USD 800 million, up from USD 749 million the previous year, while 2010 profit was USD 70.1 million, or USD 3.51 a share, compared with a loss of USD 28.8 million, or USD 1.90 a share, for 2009. The company reported a 29% sales increase in China and a 21% increase in Mexico, and 'solid' gains in the US and Canada. Libbey said that for its fourth quarter, sales rose 7% to USD 208 million. It reported a quarterly profit of USD 2.8 million, or 13 cents a share, compared with a loss of USD 7.1 million, or 45 cents a share, for the same period in 2009.
Source: Glassonline.com

COMPETING MATERIALS

Cans

Novelis raises aluminium can price by £70 per tonne



Warrington-based aluminium can recycler Novelis has increased the price it pays to councils and other collectors for aluminium used beverage cans by £70 per tonne. It has raised the price for loose, whole and flattened UBCs from £800 per tonne to £870 per tonne and the price for baled and densified material from £850 per tonne to £920 per tonne. Speaking to *Packaging News*, Novelis UK recycling manager Andy Doran said that the price change had been positive. He said: "We have changed the pricing to reflect overall strong global pricing. This has been increasing in the last couple of months. Demand for good quality UBCs has been consistently strong and we have seen a solid consistent output of UBCs from our plant in Warrington." All cans sold to Novelis are reprocessed in the UK and within as little as 60 days can be remade and back on the supermarket shelf.

Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

Rexam boosted by 45% profit rise

REXAM Beverage can maker Rexam grew underlying profit by a bigger than expected 45% in 2010 and expects further progress this year. Profit before tax and exceptional items increased to £412m from £285m in 2009 on sales up 2% to £4.96bn. Profit from continuing operations soared to £338m from £134m. Rexam chairman Peter Ellwood said: "Our successful focus on the fundamentals – controlling costs, optimising cash and improving our return on capital employed – generated these record results, and led to a much stronger balance sheet at the end of the year." The beverage can business, which accounts for 77% of profit, boosted underlying operating profit by 27% to £394m on sales up 3% to £3.68bn. Rexam said that this increase was down to better pricing, volume growth and cost cutting. Rexam reported that growth trends for beverage cans varied across Western Europe. It said that the UK enjoyed strong growth in standard cans supported by the promotion of multipacks for carbonated soft drinks. In contrast, the Nordic markets continued to grow as the beverage can consolidated "its position in the pack mix supported by successful can recycling systems" in the different countries in the region.

Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

Plastics & Bioplastics

Soft drinks guidelines calls for 100% PET recyclability



Packaging industry trade associations are encouraging their members to follow a new set of guidelines to ensure that PET bottles are compatible with recycling facilities. The *Design for Recycling Guidelines* is a set of criteria established by the European PET Bottle Platform which aims to improve the quality and economic viability of PET recycling, recommending 100% recyclability of PET. The European Federation of Bottled Waters (EFBW) and the Union of Non-alcoholic Beverage Association (UNESDA) are actively encouraging their member companies to implement the guidelines. In a joint statement, UNESDA and EFBW said that encouraging producers to meet the design for recycling guidelines was a “positive step” for the future of bottle to bottle recycling and resource efficiency. According to UNESDA and EFBW, incompatible materials can adversely affect the PET recycling process. For instance, components of packaging design on PET bottles such as barriers, additives, full body sleeves and opaque colouring are leading to deterioration in the quality of recycled PET which is negatively impacting on closed loop bottle recycling.

Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

Czech Plzeňský Prazdroj to open new PET bottle line



Plzeňský Prazdroj will be investing CZK 150 million in a new PET bottling line at its Plzeň brewery, the company announced. The line will be located in Prazdroj's Plzeň brewery in the current packaging hall, and its maximum capacity will be 18,000 bottles per hour. The investment is expected to be completed and the line commissioned during the course of the year. This investment in a packaging line is a response to the changing requirements of Czech beer drinkers for convenient containers in the off-trade segment.

Source: Globalmalt.com

Coca-Cola says biodegradable packaging 'not a viable option'



Coca-Cola said that biodegradable packaging is “simply not a viable option” but a new report suggests that other smaller drinks companies are beginning to take an interest. In its 2009/2010 sustainability report, Coca-Cola gave a hostile assessment of biodegradable drinks packaging. It said: “A one-use bottle is simply not a viable option for our business.” The soft drinks giant explained: “While biodegradable packaging can be a sound choice for products that are not commercially recyclable, the process of capturing the embodied energy and raw materials in beverage bottles for reuse through recycling is, in our view, a much better option.” But according to a new report on drinks biopackaging from Zenith International not all manufacturers agree with Coca-Cola. The food and drinks consultancy said the use of biopackaging, defined in the report as compostable packaging, rose by 47 per cent in Western Europe and North America last year. This takes total volume to over 100 million litres – a small proportion of total volume but a large percentage increase nonetheless. “Despite the difficulties, we foresee continuing strong growth in development projects. If the challenges can be answered, then volume can gain serious market share”, said Jenny Foulds, a senior analyst at Zenith. Foulds said the environmental credentials of compostable bottles, typically made from corn-based PLA (polylactic acid), sit well with green-minded consumers. This provides a powerful basis for future growth but challenges such as price, separation from PET and composting facilities persist. These factors have so far prevented

compostable solutions from becoming the green solution of choice for drinks manufacturers. “The use of recycled PET continues to gain momentum and has overtaken compostable bottle formats,” said Foulds. The analyst said some smaller companies have seen compostable packaging as a way of differentiating themselves. But for bigger companies sourcing high volumes of plant-based material for compostable packaging is problematic and expensive, especially given the controversy surrounding the use of potential food sources for non-food purposes. For that to change and for the likes of Coca-Cola to back biodegradable packaging, Foulds said government backing including the provision of adequate composting facilities, tax incentives and other financial support may be needed. Hasso v. Pogrell, managing director of European Bioplastics, said he is unaware of any drinks package on the market that is truly biodegradable – that is to say that meets the European standard for compostability EN 13432. The trade body head said the broader bio-packaging concept has a promising future in the sector. Pogrell praised the Plant Bottle from Coca-Cola saying it may be considered a bioplastic product because renewable resources are used in its manufacture and it is suitable for recycling alongside ordinary PET. But he warned that some partial solutions like oxo-degradable additives that make packaging fragment and fall apart may do as much harm as good, causing problems at recycling and composting facilities. Source: Foodproductiondaily.com

Heinz and Coca-Cola PlantBottle packaging deal



Coca-Cola and Heinz have announced what they believe is a trailblazing packaging collaboration that will have global eco-implications. Coca-Cola chief Muhtar Kent and William R. Johnson of H.J. Heinz Company unveil PlantBottle deal. The partnership will allow Heinz to produce its ketchup bottles using Coke’s PlantBottle packaging - PET material made partially from renewable plant material. The food giants declared the move to be an industry-first, and said they hoped other companies would follow suit “*to transform how food is packaged around the world*”. Heinz said it would convert to using the PlantBottle on all its 20-ounce ketchup bottles in June 2011 – amounting to around 120m packages this year. Coca-Cola Company said it would use more than 5bn during the same period. The adoption of the packaging was described as “the biggest change” to the ketchup bottles since it began using plastic 27 years ago. The tomato sauce producer said all its bottles would be made using the eco-packaging “in time” without giving a firm date. Heinz has pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, solid waste, water consumption and energy usage at least 20 percent by 2015 and said the deal with Coke was an “*important step*” in this.

Source: Foodproductiondaily.com

BPF warns on plastics product price rises as Du Pont reveals hikes up to €2,000/tonne



Prices for plastics products are set to continue rising as a result of continued increases in raw materials costs, the British Plastics Federation has warned. The warning came on the same day that plastics supplier DuPont announced further price rises of as much as €2,000/tonne. BPF director general Peter Davis said: “All product sectors, be they plastics building products for construction and infrastructure projects, packaging for food distribution or technical components for the automotive and aerospace industries, have been hit and desperately need to pass the increases on to maintain viability”. “Some grades of Polyethylene and Polypropylene have increased by 70% and 80% respectively since January 2009. “In the last year alone Polypropylene registered a 40% increase. Similarly Polystyrene prices have almost doubled since January 2009 and some PVC grades are 40% higher.”

Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

Britvic feels PET pain over “unprecedented” cost hikes



Soft drinks group Britvic has said that the soaring cost of PET in its bottles will hit profits this year. In a trading statement this morning (24 February), the group, which makes brands such as Robinson's and 7UP, said that input cost rises for materials such as PET, steel and sugar had been “unprecedented” in recent weeks. It has revised its outlook for input cost inflation this year to 9%-11% and said that its French business would be particularly hard hit. In today's statement, chief executive Paul Moody said: “Since our last update to the market we have witnessed a rapid and unprecedented uplift in the cost of key raw materials. “This has been driven by a shortage of supply to the market, where, for example, we have seen prices for PET, derived from oil, surge by around 20% in the last month alone. “We do, however, remain confident about the medium to long-term outlook for the business, and we look forward to providing more details on the latter at the annual investor seminar on 23rd March 2011.” Despite its difficulties with soaring raw materials costs – which have hit much of the packaging sector hard in recent months – Britvic said that trading was “resilient” in the UK and France. Volumes in the UK market rose 2.9% year-on-year in the four weeks to 22 January.

Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

Cartonage

Vintner launches wines in cartons



Bota Box announced an extension of its environmentally sensitive portfolio with the launch of Bota 500 mL Tetra Paks, which are tailored to the active modern lifestyle. “We take great care in making sure our wines are packaged in environmentally-friendly packaging, and in doing so, have received an overwhelming response from our customers,” said John Garaventa, Senior Brand Manager for Bota Box. “We knew it was time to push the envelope by bringing something fresh and innovative to quality-and-eco-conscious wine enthusiasts. For us, Bota Tetra Paks are a homerun: quality wine, sustainable packaging, and convenient size.” The packaging is 100% recyclable, unbleached, post-consumer fiber printed with soy-based inks.

Source: GPI.org

Canadian company installs A3Flex certical form/fill/seal to



Canadian company VinFirst Innovative Packaging recently installed a vf/f/s machine that is running premixed cocktails, including Bob Chinn's MaiTais and Jose Cuervo's 1800 mojitos, as well as a wide range of wines, in aseptic paper cartons. “The Tetra Prisma package benefits everyone from the supplier to the distributor to the consumer,” says Kevin Ruddle, vp-operations. It travels well to any activity and can be resealed for added convenience. It won't shatter or drip, and it doesn't allow any light or oxygen transfer for longer shelf life.”

Source: Packaging Digest/ GPI.org

CONTAINER GLASS ACCESSORIES & SUPPLIERS

Coder becomes available for bottling industry



Linx Printing Technologies claims that its Visicode™ technology, developed to deliver a much clearer code onto cold glass, will keep bottlers' running costs low without compromising on line speed. The technology is a central component of Linx's SL301 Scribing Laser coder, which the company believes is the fastest, most cost-effective and versatile coder available to the bottling industry. A change in the pulse frequency encourages the formation of micro cracks in the top layer of cold glass to increase the visibility of the mark. Different types of glass used for specific market sectors (such as perfume or wine bottles) require a specific pulse frequency to produce optimal contrast, but in all cases the strength of the glass is not reduced. To achieve effective contrast, the pulse frequency must also be balanced against the marking speed, to produce the correct amount of micro cracking on the glass.

Source: Ceepackaging.com

RETAILERS

A grocery market growing in central Europe



The grocery market in five Central European countries, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, was worth app. €100bn in 2009, according to the latest report from PMR Grocery retail in Central Europe 2010. In 2009, the worsened economic conditions negatively affected the grocery market in the region, with Poland being the only country reporting an increase of grocery retail sales. However, in 2010 the economic situation improved in Central Europe, and the grocery market in the region as a whole is estimated to grow to €102.8bn in total in 2010.

Source: Ceepackaging.com

Tesco set to outstrip Walmart as fastest growing global retailer




Although Walmart remains the world's largest retailer, statistics released in February show Tesco is predicted to grow its global business by 7.5% a year, becoming the fastest growing global retailer. Tesco is now the second largest global retailer when measured by profits alone. It seems the supermarket chain, which has a market share of 30% in the UK is determined for global domination... at least in the retail sector. With reports of Tesco's UK sales suffering from the harsh winter weather, it has become clear that their international growth will be a vital aspect of the company to watch in the next year. Writing for the Share Centre, **Graham Spooner** states, "Tesco's international presence is its main attraction and it was the saving grace of the [winter 2010] results as international sales rose 14.2%. Asia leapt 24.2%, led by China and Thailand, sales in Europe grew 5.6%, or 9.1% at constant currency, while Fresh & Easy stores in the US increased sales by 36.9%."

Source: Myretailmedia.blog.com

CUSTOMER INDUSTRIES

Weak Euro economies dampen Diageo results

 Diageo has taken a hit in the last 6 months of 2010 from weak performance in the struggling economies of Iberia, Greece and Ireland. Diageo CEO Paul Walsh is banking on a 10 per cent hike in marketing spend translating into better top-line results. Publishing its results for the first half of financial year 2011, the UK-based spirits maker said overall reported sales rose 2 per cent to £5,320m. But growth was dampened by a 13 per cent drop in sales from Greece, the Iberian countries and Ireland. The weakness in Europe meant that Diageo missed market expectations. On the back of the news, shares in the company dropped almost 5 per cent in trading this morning. Giving his reaction to the H1 results, James Edwardes-Jones, an analyst at Espirito Santo said: "A small miss; no substantive mention of cost saving or restructuring, unchanged and uninspiring guidance ... we regard this as a missed opportunity by Diageo." However, Paul Walsh, Diageo CEO, is confident that with the help of targeted increases in marketing spending the company can improve full year organic operating result. "Despite the economic weakness in much of Europe, our first half performance gives me increased confidence that we will improve on the organic operating profit growth we delivered in fiscal 2010."
Source: Foodanddrinkeurope.com

Millennials more open to exploring new and different alcoholic beverages



"Marketing Daily" reports Millennials (ages 21 to 34) are already redefining the alcoholic beverages marketplace, and their distinctive behaviors and attitudes will have an even more pronounced impact going forward. According to a new study, while the majority still prefers beer, they purchase relatively more wine and spirits than older generations did at a comparable age. Thus, while consumers traditionally have tended to show a relative shift from beer to wine and spirits as they age and their lifestyles change, Millennials' future consumption patterns are less predictable.

Source: Marketing Daily

Global organic food and beverages market to reach \$104 billion



A new report, "Global Organic Foods & Beverages Market Analysis by Products, Geography, Regulations, Pricing Trends, & Forecasts (2010 – 2015)" forecasts an estimated compound annual growth of 12.8 percent for the global organic food and beverages market. This will result in a significant expansion of the market, which was estimated at \$57.2 billion in 2010. By 2015, the global organic food and beverages market is expected to reach \$104.50 billion. Researchers state that global organic food and beverages market is driven by key factors such as increasing consumers' awareness towards organic benefits, increased organic farming in the world and implementation of government regulations. The study also notes that demand for organic food and beverages also is increasing in conventional food supply stores because of development of private labels and increasing interest of large retailers such as Walmart, Tesco, and Safeway to sell organic products. North America is expected to witness a CAGR of 11.9 percent from 2010 to 2015. Europe had the largest share in the global organic food and beverages market with revenue of \$27.8 billion. Germany is the biggest consumer in Europe with a share of 32 percent of organic food and beverages in the region. The study is available from global market research and consulting company MarketsandMarkets (M&M): <http://www.marketsandmarkets.com/AnalystBriefing/organic-food.asp>
Source: Packagingdigest.com

Soft drinks

PepsiCo sales up



PEPSICO

PepsiCo has reported a 2% rise in 2010 end of year profits and an increase in sales. However, PepsiCo has cut its earnings forecast for 2011, warning that higher commodity prices will push its costs up and citing a weak economy. PepsiCo said that income before income taxes had risen to £8,23bn on revenues of \$57,84bn. The company said it was mindful that consumer spending could be weak given high levels of unemployment in key developed markets. It is also concerned about high raw material costs, and “a potentially difficult competitive pricing environment, particularly in beverages”. PepsiCo chief financial officer Hugh Johnston said: “In addition to our strong fundamental operating performance in 2010, our businesses also generated strong cash flow. “The company generated \$6.9bn of management operating cash flow, excluding certain items, representing a 23% increase over 2009.”

Source: Packagingnews.co.uk

Spirits

Bulgaria boosts spirits by cutting brandy price



Bulgaria's government is seeking to boost spirits in the recession-hit Balkan country by cutting the price of its favourite brandy. The cabinet said it will apply to register grape rakia - a potent fruit liquor considered the national drink - as a traditional product in the European Union which will allow it to cut excise duties, reports Reuters.

Source: Winebiz.com.au

Chinese vitality invigorates Pernod Ricard



China now accounts for 9% of Pernod Ricard's total sales, Pierre Pringuet, the chief executive, said. He also predicted that it could become the French group's second largest market “very soon, possibly this year.” He said “there is fantastic vitality” in China, where Pernod Ricard now has more than 2,000 people working for it full-time, either as direct employees or through agents and contractors. Pringuet said that in China Pernod Ricard had “strengthened its leadership in the Scotch whisky market,” where it now holds more than a 50% share, and that Martell Cognac had enjoyed a 30% rise in sales compared with the same period in 2009. “We don't sell standard brands in China, only super-premiums”, he added. The Asia/Rest of the World region achieved 23% organic sales growth in the six months to the end of December. That was the prime driver of a strong rise in profits in the first half of the financial year, although all geographic regions, including Western Europe, made gains. Sales in the UK were growing after difficult recent years, the company said. Pernod Ricard's net profits grew by 10%. Its 7% organic sales growth was fuelled by a 13% gain in revenues from its top 14 brands, which now account for almost 60% of its sales. That their volumes grew by a more modest 8% shows that the continued heavy promotional investment behind them is paying dividends in increasing margins; gross margins now top 60% of sales. The weak euro also aided profitability. Pringuet increased Pernod Ricard's guidance for organic profit growth in the year to the end of June. He said it would be “close to 7%”.

Source: Thedrinksbusiness.com

Sparkling Wine

LVMH: Champagne in short supply



Champagne supplies are beginning to run dry after the sector staged a 'remarkable' recovery from the economic downturn, according to luxury goods giant LVMH (Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton). Announcing 19% growth in wine and spirit revenues to €3.26bn during 2010, LVMH chairman and CEO Bernard Arnault said prestige cuvees including Dom Perignon and Krug had been the star performers. 'We found ourselves in a situation where supply and availability becomes short,' Arnault told analysts in a conference call. 'You may remember that back in 2009 all the papers said that it was a Champagne crisis.' Some companies were dumping their stock; we decided to buy more. But we didn't buy enough and now with the recovery and resumption of the market, we found ourselves short. 'Champagne's last two harvests have been restricted by generic body the CIVC (Comite Interprofessionnel du Vin de Champagne), out of fears of a continuing oversupply crisis and tumbling prices. Meanwhile, Arnault distanced himself from buying the Piper-Heidsieck and Charles Heidsieck Champagne brands, which were put up for sale by owner Remy Cointreau late last year.

Source: Decanter.com

UK Vineyard wins world's best sparkling wine trophy



A British vineyard was named the world's best sparkling wine producer - beating competition from traditional producers in Italy, France and Spain. The Camel Valley Vineyard, near Bodmin, Cornwall was given the coveted award at the Bollicini del Mondo wine awards in Verona, Italy. The 2008 Pinot Noir Brut was hailed a 'sensation' when served with a specially designed Parmesan cheese soufflé on a bed of mushrooms. Sam Lindo, the current UK Winemaker of the year, already holds the title for Best Sparkling Rose in the world. The vineyard have previously won gold medals at the International Wine Challenge 2010 after beating competition from France, Australia and the United States.

Source: Dailymail.co.uk

Wine

Wine brand has little importance to consumer choices, UK study



Only 3 per cent of UK consumers opt for the brand of a wine over any other factor, according to new figures from the Wilson Drinks Report (WDR). Only 2 per cent of the wine shoppers who mostly drink red wine chose the brand first when deciding which wine to buy. It is a similar story for those shoppers who mostly drink white wine: only 3 per cent chose the brand first when buying wine. "What is also very interesting is that grape variety is more important in shoppers' decision making than either country of origin or brand," said Tim Wilson, managing director of WDR. According to the research, 9 per cent of shoppers said they decide their wine by grape variety whereas 6 per cent went for country of origin first of all and 3 per cent chose on the basis of brand. The quarterly WDR report claims that 47 per cent of British adults who buy wine for themselves or others in supermarkets or off-licences said that the first thing they decide upon is colour. Price was also found to be important. 18 per cent of British shoppers said that special offers were what initially drew them to a particular bottle and 13 per cent said they chose the retail selling price primarily.

Source: Beveragedaily.com

Global wine market to reach 26.12 billion litres by 2015



Wine, the niche category in the alcoholic beverages market is headed towards a healthy future with a steady growth forecast over the review period. According to a report by Global Industry Analysts, Inc. the underlying health benefits of wine would also enable the segment to encroach the markets of beer and spirit, the other two segments. New players entering the market and greater focus and investments in advertising and marketing campaigns intensified competition in the market place. The market has witnessed an unprecedented increase in wine sales through the Internet over the past few years. Although conventional wine producing European countries such as France, Spain and Italy still dominate the global market, they are facing stiff competition from new world wine regions like China and Australia, to name a few, which are progressing at a rapid pace with large-scale production, clever marketing strategies and competitive pricing.

Source: Winebiz.co.au

Lalande-de-Pomerol estate bought by state-owned Chinese company



Philippe Raoux, owner of Chateau d'Arsac in Margaux and wine tourism complex La Winery, has become the latest Bordeaux winemaker to sell property to a Chinese buyer. Decanter magazine reports he last week completed the sale of his 20-hectare Lalande-de-Pomerol estate, Chateau Viaud, to Cofco, a company 100% owned by the Chinese government, following almost three years of negotiations.

Decanter.com



Bulgaria registers 10% boost in wine exports 2010

Bulgaria's wine exports increased by 10 per cent year on year in 2010, reaching 57.6 million litres, the country's Agriculture Minister Miroslav Naydenov has announced. Naydenov spoke on the professional holiday of vine-growers and wine-makers, reports Balkan Insight.

Source: Winebiz.com.au



Nearly 100,000 ha of vineyards uprooted under EU scheme (Spain)

Since the EU introduced its current scheme for subsidised vineyard removals in 2008, Spain has permanently uprooted almost 100,000 hectares of vines. Almost half of these, the La Journee Vinicole reports, – 43,339 ha – occurred in the programme's first year, when the subsidies were at their highest. The following year, a further 26,630 ha were uprooted and this year, the Spanish authorities have just revealed that applications have been accepted for 26,316 ha more to be removed. Total hectareage uprooted as part of the scheme translates to around 8.5 percent of the Spanish vineyard as it stood in year one. This year, Spain is expected to receive 128 million euros to fund the programme, which represents around 46 percent of the total EU budget of 276 million Euros.

Source: Winebiz.com.au

Beer

Heineken suspends its Egypt operations



Dutch brewing company Heineken has dramatically suspended operations at its six plants in Egypt, blaming the country's political crisis for its decision. The organisation repatriated its 25 European ex-patriate staff and their families back to their home countries, and asked its 2,400 local employees not to come to work during the unrest. The six plants are all situated within 150km from the capital Cairo,

the centre of the unrest. The operations cover two breweries, a malting plant, a winery, and two soft drink plants; they account for less than one per cent of all of the company's volumes. A spokesperson for the company said that the situation was being monitored daily and there were no immediate plans to resume operations. (2 Feb)
Source: Esmagazine.com

Heineken grows net profit by 19.7%



Heineken N.V. announced on an organic basis, a net profit (beia) increase of 19.7% in 2010, driven by solid EBIT (beia) growth and lower interest expense. Net profit was up 41% year-on-year to €1,436 million, partly due to changes in consolidation scope.

Source: Globalmalt.com

Scientists to revive beer from 19th century shipwreck



In the summer of 2010 in the Åland archipelago, divers retrieved well-preserved bottles of champagne and five bottles of beer from the wreck of a ship that likely sank during the first half of 1800s. VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland will determine what kind of a recipe was used in the brewing of the beer.

Source: Globalmalt.com

Asahi Breweries' net profit rises 11% in 2010



Asahi Breweries Ltd., maker of Japan's best-selling beer "Asahi Super Dry", announced its net profit for the fiscal year ended December 31 2010 increased by 11% year-on-year, marking the 10th straight annual increase. The increase is thanks to strength in its domestic soft drink business and higher overseas sales.

Source: Globalmalt.com

Biggest single rise in beer tax in UK in a year ever



A freeze in beer duty and the scrapping of the previous Government's controversial beer duty escalator in the Budget – these are the vital measures needed to restore growth in brewing, pubs, and the UK hospitality trade, and boost the wider economy, according to the British Beer & Pub Association's

Budget submission to the Treasury.

Source: Globalmalt.com

RECYCLING/ COLLECTION

European glass recycling rate increases



Glass recycling in Europe rose to 67 per cent in 2009, according to estimates from the European Container Glass Federation (FEVE).

The forecast, which was published 12 months ahead of the official Eurostat data, said means that around 11 million tonnes or 25 billion glass bottles and jars being collected throughout the region. The figure represents a 1 per cent increase over 2008 recycling rates, added the trade body. "Glass recycling increases each year thanks to the commitment of consumers everywhere," said FEVE president Niall Wall. "Our industry is able to turn this waste into a valuable resource to make new bottles and jars because glass by nature is 100 per cent recyclable." The group added that the 'closed loop' characteristic of glass puts it at the heart in the European Commission strategy to make the bloc a 'circular economy' where recycling is the key factor to waste reduction and where waste is considered

as a valuable resource. "EU Directives set out a requirement to increase recycling rates as they will help to reduce demand for primary raw materials, to reuse valuable materials which would otherwise end up as waste, and to reduce energy consumption," said UK MEP Linda McAvan. "This is fundamental to build a solid resource efficient economy".
Source: FEVE Press Release/ Foodproductiondaily.com

FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS

EC outlaws the use of baby bottles containing BPA



On 1st March, the EU Directive to ban the use of BPA in plastic infant feeding bottles published on 28 January 2011 will take effect in the EU Member States and it will no longer be possible to manufacture polycarbonate infant feeding bottles containing BPA. Starting from 1st June, the ban will cover also imports of baby bottles containing this material. The EC has taken due account of the European Food Safety Opinion of 2006 according to which "infants aged 3 and 6 months fed using polycarbonate infant feeding bottles have the highest exposure to BPA" and that this level of exposure "decreases once feeding from polycarbonate bottles is phased out". In its Directive, the EC therefore refers to glass "as alternative material to polycarbonate" because it does not contain BPA and it is safe for human health as it has to comply with very strict safety requirements set out for food contact materials. FEVE welcomes the ban of BPA in baby bottles.

Source: FEVE Press Release/ European Commission

STUDIES/RESEARCH

Current approaches underestimate contaminant exposure from FCMs



Food contact materials are an underestimated source of chemical contaminants and a "potentially relevant route of human exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDC)" such as bisphenol A (BPA), according to new research. The study by Jane Muncke also raises questions over the accuracy of commonly used testing methods to measure leaching of substances from food contact materials (FCMs) and suggests that children's exposure is not "*always realistically predicted*". The wide-ranging paper, which appears in the Journal of Steroid Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, adds that exposure of whole populations to substances that have migrated into dry foods has been underrated. The research further proposes that the effects of chemical contaminants should be assessed not just according to criteria such as mutagenicity and genotoxicity but also **endocrine** disruption, mixture and developmental toxicity. Muncke said that the exposure assessment for chemicals leaching from food **packaging** is "*currently estimated with apparent uncertainty*". Firstly, given the complex nature of modern polymers it is not always possible to know what substances are incorporated into the final plastic material that could migrate into food. She added that current tests involving using stimulants to ape the chemical properties of foods can either over or underestimate exposure levels. The study also raises concerns that analyses only assess monomers and additives rather than the whole leachate. Taking items such as packaging inks and adhesives into account means "*currently there is no systematic assessments of the whole packaging leachate toxicity*", said the researcher.

Source: Foodproductiondaily.com

RAW MATERIALS

Penrice: after-tax loss; full-year profit unlikely



Penrice Soda Holdings Ltd. says it will report an underlying after-tax loss of AUD 1.2 million for the first half, due to a forced plant shutdown, sending the shares to a record low. The company also says it is unlikely to achieve its full year profit guidance because demand for its soda ash and bicarbonate soda products have been hit by flooding in eastern Australia. The company was forced to shut down its chemical plant in late October 2010, following the failure of its steam supplier's electricity and heating plant, which, along with a previous unplanned closure, had cost the company approximately AUD 5 million before tax. Penrice's half-year report will include the receipt of an AUD 0.5 million progress payment on the company's insurance claims following these losses. Despite this, figures from Penrice's unaudited first half report show an improvement on net operating cash flow, which increased from AUD 2.9 million to AUD 4.5 million. The statement said it: "reflected a substantial reduction in working capital and a turnaround in the Quarry and Mineral business cash flow to AUD 0.1 million from a cash outflow of AUD 1.7 million." The company said the full extent of the floods impact was still uncertain, but a further update would be released regarding Penrice's half-year results.

Source: Glassonline.com

PEOPLE

Emhart Glass appoints new Vice President of Technology



Emhart Glass is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Matthias Kümmerle to the post of VP Technology, effective 1 February 2011. Dr Kümmerle studied mechanical engineering at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, followed by a PhD in Mechatronics at the Federal Polytechnic of Lausanne. As VP Technology, Dr Kümmerle will lead in his function on research, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and application engineering within Emhart Glass, as well as overseeing product management. He will also take on responsibility for the Emhart Glass Research Center (EGRC) in the US. He reports directly to Martin Jetter, President of Emhart Glass.

Source: Industryeurope.net

Ramona Kroner leads Zwiesel crystal glass communication



Ramona Kroner became Head of Corporate Communications at Zwiesel Crystal Glass AG. In this newly created position she is responsible for internal and external corporate communication of the company. Kroner also represents the company in the public as press spokeswoman. In addition, she coordinates communication issues across the enterprise. The external communication of product-related issues is still located in the area of marketing, led by Sabine Weiss.

Source: WuV.de

Vidrala Managing Director steps down



Mr. Javier Gutiérrez Martínez de Compañón steps down due to his near official retirement. Mr. Gorka Schmitt Zalbide will replace Mr. Javier Gutiérrez Martínez de Compañón who will be proposed as a candidate member to the Board of Directors

during the next Ordinary General Assembly. During his career as Managing Director, Mr. Javier Gutiérrez has played a key role in the expansion and transformation process of Vidrala. He has also always been recognized as a reference among his colleagues for his personal value, his human approach and principles. For this reason, Vidrala trusts that by appointing him as member of the Board of Directors, he will keep bringing his valuable experience.

As for the new Managing Director, Mr. Gorka Schmitt Zalbide (42 years old) has a Master's degree in Business Administration by the University of Deusto. Working with Vidrala since 1998, he has been the Sales & Marketing Manager for the past 9 years.

Source: Vidrala

Libbey Chairman and CEO John Meier retires



Libbey said that its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer John Meier announced his intention to retire by the end of 2011. The Nominating and Governance Committee of the Board, with the assistance of an internationally recognized executive search firm, will lead a search process for the successor, noted Libbey.
Source: Rttnews.com

EVENTS

GulfGlass 2011



7 - 9 March 2011
National Exhibition Centre
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

ProWein



27 - 29 March 2011
Duesseldorf, Germany

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 Open Day



16 June 2011
Brussels, Belgium



Vinexpo



19 - 23 June 2011
Bordeaux, France

Fachpack



15 September – 29 September 2011
Nuernberg, Germany

Simej



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

15–18 May 2012
Hispack Barcelona, Spain

Glasstec



23 - 26 October 2012
Duesseldorf, Germany



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