

# EPDA NEWSLETTER

Summer 2000

A Publication of the European Plastics Distributors Association

## Membership News

■ Please welcome the following new members of EPDA:

### *Distributors:*

**Senova Kunststoffe GmbH & Co. KG**

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E-mail: [esavall@barloplastics.com](mailto:esavall@barloplastics.com)

Contacts: Eric Savall, Wilfried Bernard

### *Manufacturer:*

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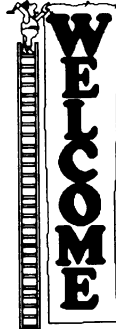
Contact: Antonella Annunziata

### ■ **ISO Certification:**

**Zell-Metall GmbH** of Kaprun, Austria, has received DIN EN ISO Certification 9001/2000 (Certification No. 100500396.) Nick Kraguljac stated, "We believe that our high standard of quality control will benefit our customers and maintain constant quality levels throughout the industry."

## EPDA Annual Conference Recap

■ European managing directors in the plastic sheet, rod, tube and pipe, valves and fittings industry met in Budapest, Hungary, June 9-12 for the 31st EPDA Annual Meeting. Both EPDA distributor and manufacturer delegates congregated to discuss significant issues facing the plastics distribution industry. Issues of primary interest included state of the trade, the pressure equipment directive, the rising cost of



raw materials, and the impact of e-commerce on business with a presentation by Michael Chadwick of The Dow Chemical Company. (Contact Lorraine Cookham at EPDA if you wish to receive a copy of Mr. Chadwick's PowerPoint presentation.)

The ratification of association officers for 2000-2001 was conducted at this meeting. These officers are Chairman Jos Vanoirbeek of Eriks NV, Belgium; Vice Chairman Maurizio Adreani of Adreani SPA, Italy; and Board Member Joe Turley of GBM Plastics Ltd., Ireland.

During the conference, the EPDA introduced its first award, the "EPDA Achievement Award" in honor of those who have furthered EPDA's goals. EPDA Chairman Jos Vanoirbeek presented this award to Gary Sundberg, chairman of Oy Fluorotech Ltd., Finland. Mr. Sundberg has been a member of EPDA since 1976, and has been chairman twice in 1985-87 and 1995-97. It was during his second term that he started negotiations with the IAPD to forge a closer relationship resulting in the merger of the two associations.

Minutes of the EPDA Annual Meeting have been mailed to all members. For copies of the full minutes for the meetings summarized below, contact Lorraine Cookham at EPDA.

## EPDA Sheet Group Meeting Notes

■ This meeting held on June 11 was well attended and began with a presentation by Jurgen Deutsch, Quero H. J. SA of Spain, on how the market has developed in Spain. Members present at this meet-ing then gave a brief talk about the state of trade in their own countries. The general consensus was that members are cautiously optimistic.

Also discussed was the issue of manufacturers' acquisitions of distributors and the effect this will have on the industry. Concerns were expressed about the impact of e-commerce and how this technology will affect the role of the distributor. Manufacturer and distributor members at the EPDA meeting agreed that the future success of the industry will depend on working together for the benefit of the customer.



## **Pipe, Valves and Fittings Meeting**

■ EPDA members representing pipe, valves and fittings companies met on June 11 to discuss issues relative to their segment of the industry. Frans Blok, IBG BV of the Netherlands, chaired this meeting. Subjects discussed included state of the trade in Portugal, France, United Kingdom and the Netherlands; the new pressure equipment directive and the rising cost of raw materials.

The representatives talked about the need for standardization of colors for products for specific applications, e.g., air, chilled water, corrosive products. The members felt that manufacturers should understand that standardization would be helpful in selling systems and solutions.

The PVF group also expressed concerns about the pressure equipment directive for the European community which may cause problems for manufacturers and potentially increase costs.

## **Membership Committee Meeting**

■ The Membership Committee met on June 11 to discuss retention of existing members and the recruitment of new members. Membership Committee Chair Lida Arageorgis, Arageorgis LN of Greece, volunteered to prepare a questionnaire to find out what the current members expect from their membership, in order to develop an EPDA Mission Statement and to formulate strategies for the recruitment of new members.

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## **INDUSTRY NEWS**

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### **Pressure Equipment Directive**

■ The pressure equipment directive was implemented with the objective of repealing technical trade obstructions caused by different types of legislation in each member state of the European Economic Area. It applies to the design, manufacture and conformity assessment of pressure equipment and assemblies with a maximum allowable pressure greater than 0,5 bar gauge above atmospheric pressure.

Manufacturers of this equipment and assemblies who intend to sell, or put their equipment into service in a country within the European Economic Area, must comply with the demands of this directive.

In the directive, essential safety requirements are described, and a manufacturer must have evidence which demonstrates that these requirements have been met. When this has been checked with posi-

tive results by a notified body (a third party that is nominated by the government and approved by the European Commission), the manufacturer must apply the CE-mark on the product to demonstrate that it is in compliance with the directive.

As of November 29, 1999, the directive is effective with a transition period until May 29, 2002, on which it will be mandatory. (See page 3 for a list of governmental organizations where more information on the directive can be obtained.)

### **Global Resin Pricing**

■ According to a notice in *plasticsBRIEF — International Newsletter*, global polyethylene prices are being affected by a South Korea/China trade war. South Korea placed a 300 percent duty on frozen Chinese garlic. China is retaliating with a ban on South Korean polyethylene, which is increasing the amount of spot polyethylene offered to world markets.

Nylon prices will soon be raised again in the U.S. by DuPont by 8 to 10 percent. Don Johnson, group vice president of DuPont's nylon business, says, "We typically don't do it this way, but we have seen an extraordinary run-up in prices of raw materials."

More polycarbonate capacity comes to Europe as GE Plastics starts construction on its second 130,000-tonne/year plant at Cartagena, Spain, and commits to a third plant, to have 140,000-tonne/year capacity, at this same site. Expect most of this production to be for export.

To obtain more information on resin prices, check out *Plastics News*. This weekly publication includes resin pricing charts. Access *Plastics News* web site at [www.plasticsnews.com](http://www.plasticsnews.com).

### **Developing Economies to Lead Growth in Resin Production**

■ Saudi Arabia, China, India, Venezuela and Mexico will lead the world in plastics production growth over the next 10 years, according to a news report published in *Modern Plastics* magazine.

Paul Bjacek, director, World Petrochemicals Program at SRI Consulting, estimated resin production in Saudi Arabia will grow more than 14 percent per year, with both China and India growing in excess of 10 percent annually, and Venezuela and Mexico in excess of 9 percent per annum.

Bjacek added that with increased competition, suppliers with under 1.5 million to 2 million tonnes of polyethylene capacity would have to compete for market niches. He added that the global outlook for polypropylene demand points to annual growth of 6.5 percent through 2010, in particular as the resin competes well with other plastics in the injection molding field.

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## List of governmental organizations where information on the pressure equipment directive (PED) can be obtained:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Austria	BMWA	Wien	H. Bayer	01.711021215
Belgium	Min.v. Arbeid en Tewerkstelling	Brussel	Mrs. M. Mortier	02.2334512
Czech Republic	Office for Standards, Metrology & Testing	Prague	H. Florianova	02.21802168
Denmark	Arbejdstilsynet	Kopenhagen	P. Holmegaard	03.9252366
Finland	Ministry of Trade & Industry	Helsinki	A. Frese	69.66831399
France	Secretariat d'Etat a l'Industrie	Paris	R. Flandrin	01.43195156
Germany	Arbeitministerium	Bonn	H. Kraft	228.5272601
Netherlands	Min.v. Sociale zaken en Werkgelegenheid	Den Haag	A. Wijker	070.3335533
Norway	DBE	Tousberg	E. Knut	033.3223871
Poland	Office of Technical Inspection	Warszawa	M. Walczak	25.722111
Portugal	IPQ	Caparica	Mrs. C. Braganca	0121.2948100
Spain	Ministerio Industrio	Madrid	G. Perez-Herrero	91.3494065
Sweden	Arbetar-Skyddstyrelsen	Solna	J. Martensson	0468.7309481
Switzerland	SVTI	Wallisellen	B. Schüpbach	01.8776138
United Kingdom	Department of Trade & Industry	Victoria	Mrs. C. Chaubert	0207.2151436

As of November 29, 1999, the pressure equipment directive is effective with a transition period until May 29, 2002, on which it will be mandatory.