

EuroWindowor met Michele Canova (European Commission, DG ENV) to discuss implementation of RoHS II Directive for fenestration products



EuroWindowor met during its Directing Council meeting on November 14th, 2017 in Brussels Michele Canova from the DG Environment to discuss items of the RoHS II Directive related to fenestration products with electrical equipment. Mr. Canova gave important information about the development and the plans for the future concerning restriction of certain hazardous substances. There was an effective exchange about the exemption request "Lead and cadmium in PVC profiles of electric windows and doors" of EuroWindowor (see article below on the right).

EuroWindowor explained why the recommended duration of exemption for 3 years is much too short. As well EuroWindowor pointed out that only the FAQ of the European Commission is stating that construction products (e.g. windows and doors) shall belong to Category 11 ("Other EEE not covered by any of the categories"). Mr. Canova requested EuroWindowor to send special cases that shows the problems concerning the RoHS II Directive with electric fenestration products. Furthermore the concerned parties discussed about impacted materials and developments of the RoHS II Directive affecting the fenestration sector. EuroWindowor thanks Mr Canova for the

very productive meeting and his interests in the point of view of the European window, door and facade (curtain walling) sector.



Michele Canova from the European Commission (in the middle), EuroWindowor Vice President Franz Hauk (on the right) and EuroWindowor Secretary General Frank Koos

Revision of the Energy performance of buildings directive (EPBD) – WHAT'S IN FOR WINDOWS?



One year ago European Commission presented the Clean Energy for all Europeans package consisting of 8 legislative proposal (4500 pages in total), amongst which the most relevant represents the revision of the EPBD.

Some facts:

- **40% of energy consumption in the EU comes from buildings.**
- **80 million Europeans live in unhealthy buildings spending 90% of their time indoors.**
- **54 million European suffer from energy poverty.**

Therefore EuroWindowor campaigns to create a broad understanding and urgent need for policy makers to act and recognize the potential of buildings and especially of windows. EuroWindowor is very vocal to also assure consistency amongst different files to create meaningful and predictable legislative framework.

EuroWindowor had several meetings with European and national authorities on different levels and succeeded to bring relevant amendments into the political process. Especially the items **daylight** and **healthy buildings** were adopted in the amendments by the European Parliament. Only the **Energy Balance approach** failed, because a short majority didn't support it by political reasons, although the advantages of solar gains next to the pure U_w approach are obvious. EuroWindowor advocated following three key points for the revision of EPBD:

- 1 Assess the energy performance of windows based on the energy balance approach
- 2 Grasping the benefits of daylight and indoor climate to ensure that Europeans live and work in healthier buildings
- 3 Stimulate the EU building renovation rate by acknowledging the non-energy triggers of renovation (e.g. health, comfort, update of design)

BiPRO recommends RoHS II exemption request of EuroWindowor



EuroWindowor requested in 2016 the exemption "Lead and cadmium in PVC profiles of electric windows and doors". After the European Stakeholder Consultation the final BiPRO recommendations are published now: "Cadmium in plastic profiles containing mixtures produced from PVC waste, used for electric and/or electronic windows and doors, where the concentration in the plastic homogeneous material does not exceed by weight 0.1% Cd and 1% Pb, provided that the components concerned are visibly, legibly and indelibly marked with the statement 'Contains recovered PVC' or with a pictogram:



The duration of exemption is recommended for 3 years, which is much too short as it will endanger PVC recycling in general. The EC will come up with their recommendation in the next step.



The recast of Construction Products Regulation (CPR) - close cooperation with DG GROW



EuroWindoor had a constructive dialogue about the possible revision of the CPR with Tapani Mikkeli (DG GROW) at the Directive Council meeting in July in Stockholm. As a follow-up EuroWindoor representatives met once again Mr. Mikkeli in August. At that time, the feedback period for the Impact Assessment review of CPR had ended and Mr. Mikkeli informed that there was not much support from stakeholders to withdraw the CPR.

EuroWindoor once again expressed their support to the CPR and their willingness to provide further input and comments to the European Commission on this important subject, e.g. ideas for simplification.

There has still not been taken any decision as to whether the CPR is going to be revised or not. According to the information EuroWindoor has on this matter, further investigations has been initiated so it could still take some time before anything is settled. In the meantime EuroWindoor continue to follow the development closely.

EuroWindoor strengthen influence of Europe in the standardisation work of ISO/TC 162

EuroWindoor campaigned in close cooperation with other European associations to strengthen the influence of Europe in the standardisation work of ISO/TC 162. The Technical Committee 162 of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) works on international standardisation for windows, doors and curtain walling. EuroWindoor as observer of ISO/TC 162 is represented by the Secretary General Frank Koos. With some dedication of the European participants two new Working Groups with Convener

from Europe were settled at the ISO/TC 162 meetings on October 23rd and 24th, 2017 in Berlin despite Japanese and Chinese lead:

- WG 4: Windows and doors
Convener: Frank Koos (DIN assist)
- WG 5: Curtain walling
Convener: Paolo Rigone (UNI assist)

The European leadership of these Working Groups will help to have European interests taken into account during the elaboration of new work items and preparation of international standards for windows, doors and curtain walling.



The ISO Technical Committee 162 at the meeting on October 24th, 2017 in Berlin

Appointments 2018

- 20/03/2018: EuroWindoor Directing Council and General Assembly, Nuremberg / Germany
- 21-24/03/2018: Fair fensterbau frontale 2018, Nuremberg / Germany
- 21-22/06/2018: EuroWindoor Directing Council, Prague / Czech Republic
- 12-14/09/2018: EuroWindoor Study Tour 2018, Germany
- 21/11/2018: EuroWindoor Directing Council, Brussels / Belgium



Study on End of Life treatment of wood



EuroWindoor decided to work on a **Screening Study "Wooden Doors and Windows EoL Treatment"**. Many regulatory initiatives on EU and member state level are investigating how sustainable use of natural resources, for construction products among others, can be enhanced by laying down requirements on dismantling, reuse, recyclability or energy recovery to reduce end-of-life impact. For standardisation (e.g. rules to deliver environmental product declarations) and public affairs activities product EoL knowledge is needed.

Today limited quantitative and qualitative documentation exists for wooden doors and windows for Europe, which put this material in an unfair competition in the EoL perspective.

Main topics for screening:

1. **Situation of EU Directives and legal acts**
2. **Implementation of requirements in national law**
3. **Treatment in reality**
4. **Evaluation of data quality**
5. **Political trends for the future**

Currently a steering committee of different experts conducts discussions with different consultants on the draft project description for the Screening Study.

It is the idea to determine the final confirmation on project scope and executing consultants until January 2018 and to submit the final report and execution of presentation/ seminar of project partners in the 2nd quarter in 2018.

Imprint

EuroWindoor AISBL
Schuman Business Center
40, Rue Breydel
1040 Bruxelles / Belgium
Phone: +32 (2) 502 3396
www.eurowindoor.eu

President
Joachim Oberrauch
Secretary General
Frank Koos

Images: EuroWindoor, DIN

