



PRESS RELEASE

Major Success on 2003 Sustainability Targets for PVC Industry

BRUSSELS, April 21, 2004 – Vinyl 2010's fourth annual Progress Report shows that its members – the PVC resin producers, additive and plasticiser manufacturers, and converters – have attained their 2003 recycling targets for window frames, profiles, pipes and roofing membranes.

This achievement shows how the industry is on track to meet all of its interim targets in 2005 for the Voluntary Commitment, The European PVC industry's 10-year plan to deliver sustainability throughout the PVC lifecycle.

“Many sectoral projects in PVC waste management have made significant progress in 2003 and are ahead of plan in many areas,” said Vinyl 2010 Secretary General Jean-Pierre De Grève. *“I believe that targets for 2005 are now within reach. There is still a lot of work to do, of course, but this is an excellent result and one to be proud of.”*

Among the highlights of the year were the launch of a number of major projects throughout Europe, in particular regarding the collection and recycling of roofing products, pipes and window profiles, and the final preparations for PVC waste recycling at the Stigsnaes plant in Denmark.

As part of its efforts to involve stakeholders in a fully transparent way, Vinyl 2010 has established a Monitoring Committee to oversee the operation of the industry's Voluntary Commitment. The Committee, which comprises representatives from the European Parliament, the European Commission, Trade Unions and industry, has fully reviewed the latest Progress Report.

Vinyl 2010, meanwhile, has actively begun involving stakeholders in new states joining the EU this year.

“I am especially pleased about the participation of members from outside industry. They are helping Vinyl 2010 to succeed and therefore to move toward sustainable development as a practical reality,” said the Committee's chairman, Professor Alfons Buekens from the Free University of Brussels.



Note for editors:

Vinyl 2010 is the Brussels-based international non-profit association that brings together the entire European PVC industry – producers of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) resins, stabilisers, plasticisers and plastic converters – to implement the Voluntary Commitment they signed in March 2000. The Voluntary Commitment is a 10-year programme to meet the challenges of sustainable development and continuous environmental improvement throughout the European PVC sector.

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