

EPDLA celebrates 30 years of successful advocacy

“EPDLA is a 30-year-old success story. Its achievements have been driven by the continuous cooperation of our members, even throughout the pandemic, the intensified contacts with the downstream user associations, and the strong link and short lines we have established with Cefic colleagues in dealing with public affairs. More importantly, our engagement with EU policymakers has led to a mutual understanding of our goals” Martin Klatt, President of the European Polymer Dispersion and Latex Association (EPDLA), a sector group of Cefic, commented.

Since its beginning, the open and constructive collaboration between the members was key to successful advocacy to promote the safe and sustainable production and use of polymer dispersions and re-dispersible powders thereof. In the past five years alone, the group has:

- Discussed with authorities and supported the EU Commission in its missions by contributing to open questions:
 - Provided input to the EU Commission initiative for polymer registration together with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)
 - Shared views on the proposed restriction on microplastics via the public consultation of the Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) and the Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC) and presenting a position on polymer dispersions and microplastics
 - contributed to the ongoing advocacy activities for in-can preservatives and provided comments on the Harmonised Classification and Labelling (CLH) consultation for BIT via the public consultation
- Initiated the creation of a new life cycle analysis (LCA) for polymer dispersions, based on the newest requirements by the EU.
- Issued guidelines and position papers:
 - a guideline regarding the Poison Center Notifications
 - a new statement about polymer dispersions for food contact materials
 - a position paper on polymer dispersions and the Single Use Plastics Directive
 - a position on polymer dispersions and nanotechnology

The collaboration of EPDLA with different stakeholders does not end here. Upcoming regulations due to the European Green Deal and the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability will create new challenges and opportunities which we will take on as a group.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the 30-year anniversary will not be celebrated as a face-to-face meeting. The plan is to postpone this event until the bi-annual General Assembly in spring 2022. The EPDLA members nevertheless are proud of the achievements of their dynamic, vocal, and proactive association and look forward to increased cooperation in the future.

In name of the Steering Committee:

Susana-Beatriz Lores Tercero (Sector Group Manager)

Martin Klatt (President)

Fabio Abbà (Vice-President)

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European Chemical Industry Council - Cefic sisbi

EU Transparency Register n° 61879142323-90



Note to editors:

EPDLA (European Polymer Dispersion and Latex Association), a Cefic Sector Group founded in 1991, is dedicated to promote the safe manufacture, transportation, distribution, handling and use of waterborne polymer dispersions, in compliance with regulatory requirements and industry guidelines. EPDLA members are committed to Responsible Care® principles and have implemented risk management according to the precautionary principles.

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About Cefic

Cefic, the European Chemical Industry Council, founded in 1972, is the voice of large, medium and small chemical companies across Europe, which provide 1.2 million jobs and account for 16% of world chemicals production.