



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMEs
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Industrial transformation and Advanced value chains
Resource Efficiency and Raw materials

**MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
EUROPEAN GLASS INDUSTRY – GLASS ALLIANCE EUROPE
21 JUNE 2018, BRUSSELS**

1. Introduction

In her introduction, Ms Nowakowska (DG GROW) welcomed the delegates from Glass Alliance Europe (GAE) and welcomed this annual opportunity to exchange with the sector.

She acknowledged the active contribution of the glass industry to our activities, including: Cumulative Cost Assessment of Ceramics and Glass; Study on Energy Prices and Costs; participation in the High Level Expert Group on Energy-Intensive Industries.

2. Update on the situation of the European Glass Industry

Mr Overath, President of Glass Alliance Europe (GAE), indicated that there are favourable positive economic trends. In this context, he underlined the importance of regular exchange meetings between industry and the Commission and the need of a stable and predictable environment for industry.

He provided an overview of the economic outlook of European Glass industry. With a very broad range of applications, Glass has a strong and diverse industrial base in Europe, with 500 plants that create some 500.000 jobs in 24 EU countries. The overall production of glass has experienced an average 2.3% increase in production in 2017 compared with 2016, ranging from a top 6% increase in domestic glassware to 2% in flat and container glass. At the same time, a steady increase in imports has been accompanied with a slight increase in exports.

3. Open discussion on different items:

- **Trade issues and investment, including overcapacities**

Mr Pilser (DG TRADE) provided an overview of the overall situation of EU Trade. He illustrated the main aspects of the EU Trade Policy, including the 3 pillars: 1) open market; 2) enforcing trade rules; 3) providing services.

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Situations are contrasted in the different sectors. Evolutions in production and employment, as well as in the origin of imports into the EU, are different between different glass sectors.

Mr Pilser explained the different services provided by the Commission, such as the Market Access Database, the Trade Helpdesk and the SMEs Trade Defence Helpdesk.

DG GROW is currently carrying on a verification exercise of sectors at risk of exports of excess capacity to the EU by third countries. The same exercise was already performed in 2016 and allowed to collect data to raise awareness of the issue and support policy making within the Commission towards third countries.

- **Transition to a low-carbon economy**

Ms Nowakowska explained the work that is being done within the High Level Group on Energy-Intensive Industries. The Commission is currently working with different sectors to develop a comprehensive masterplan for competitive, low carbon and sustainable energy-intensive industries. She thanked the glass industry for their involvement in this exercise.

- **Circular Economy**

Circular Economy is a big opportunity to put forward all the advantages of Glass. This is treated separately by the different glass sectors as the waste and recycling issues are different per sector. Mr Kubicki (DG GROW) made a presentation on the general state-of-play of the Circular Economy Action Plan (85% of actions are now completed).

He illustrated the adopted revision of the waste legislation – key points and recycling targets (including for glass) and the future work on (eg. Guidelines for EPRs).

The glass industry welcomes the recognition of separate collection and stressed the importance of getting high quality cullets.

Mr Kubicki encouraged visiting the website of the CE Stakeholder Platform (with best practices and interactivity). The next coordination group meeting is planned for October and the next conference in March 2019.

Representatives of the glass industry underlined that Circular Economy is a business model for glass, which is fully recyclable. Among the benefits of reusing glass: lower energy use, lower CO2 emissions, no difference in quality, and no difference in safety.

- **Food Contact Materials**

Mr Schupp (DG SANTE) illustrated the time-line of the Food Contact Materials dossier. DG SANTE should be able to consult industry over the summer on a draft text, and have further discussions on 26 September. Glass is intended to be included in the measure (as regulating ceramics will in any case affect glass).

He also explained those industries/operators that do not intentionally use the regulated metals should be able to avoid the testing of final materials provided they are able to control contaminants under their Good Manufacturing Systems. Therefore, it is being

considered not to require such testing explicitly. Competent Authorities would still be able to test those materials against the limits. In general, the approach would strive to keep testing burden as low as possible.

Exemption from the limit is not foreseen, where no testing take place of the final materials, sufficient other GMP controls need to be in place.

He shortly touched on the rules for artisanal and traditional production that are being considered.

The intention is to try keeping the measure as simple as possible and try avoiding other rules to specific groups of articles and materials.

- **Miscellaneous: skills and digitization; Research and Innovation**

On skills, the glass industry stressed that the sector is missing attractiveness for young generations and there is a need to update existing skills. Some work is ongoing to develop new training models, but it is difficult to attract the best available candidates. It is crucial to create interactions between the different environments (dialogues with academia, governments, employees, etc).

On research and innovation, Ms Nowakowska briefly mentioned the recent “Horizon Europe” proposal presented on 7 June, increasing investment in research and innovation.

4. Conclusions

In conclusion, Ms Nowakowska thanked GAE for their continuous support and all participants for this very useful meeting in which good and useful answers were provided. She also asked for feedback on the format of the meeting.

Mr Overath underlined the importance of this annual joint meeting and expressed the interest of the industry to continue with the same format. The involvement of different services of the Commission was very appreciated.

The representatives of the glass industry would appreciate having glass bottles of water at meetings organized within the Commission premises.

Annex 1 – List of participants

Annex 2 – Agenda of the meeting

Annex 1 – List of participants

From Glass Alliance Europe (GAE):

Name	First name	Company
OVERATH	Johann	BV Glas Director – GAE President
BORDAT	Jacques	Director French Glass Federation (FCSIV)
CAZES	Bertrand	GAE & Glass For Europe Secretary-General
DALTON	Dave	British Glass Director
FARRELLY	Adeline	FEVE Secretary-General
FAVRY	Véronique	GAE Coordinator
HÜNLICH	Thomas	Schott AG - ESGA President
IBLED	Xavier	Arc International – EDG President
JORNS	Axel	APFE GlassFibreEurope Secretary-General
KRISSMANEK	Alexander	Austrian Glass Federation
MAZZOLINI	Petr	Czech Glass Federation President
RIVET	Fabrice	GAE EHS Committee Chairman
SKULTETY	Stefan	SGA - Slovak Glass Association Secretary-General
STAUB	Franck	FCVMM Secretary-General
SWIATEK	Jan	Polish Glass President

From the Commission:

Name	First name	DG
NOWAKOWSKA-KETTERLE	Malwina	Deputy Head of Unit, GROW/C2
ROSSI	Alessia	GROW/C2
GODLEWSKA	Lidia	GROW/C2
KUBICKI	Michal	GROW/C1
PILSER	Martin	TRADE
SCHUPP	Bastiaan	SANTE

Annex 2 – Agenda of the meeting

ANNUAL MEETING WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EUROPEAN GLASS INDUSTRY – GLASS ALLIANCE EUROPE

Thursday 21 June – 9:30 to 13:00

European Commission, Breydel Building, Avenue d’Auderghem 45, Brussels

BREY 12/A

AGENDA

9h30	Introduction and Welcome <i>For the Commission: Ms Malwina NOWAKOWSKA, Deputy Head of Unit DG GROW/C2 "Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials"</i>
9h40	Updated Situation in the European Glass Industry <i>For Glass Alliance Europe: Mr Johann OVERATH, German Glass Federation BV Glas; President of Glass Alliance Europe</i>
10h00	Open discussion on the following items: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Transition to a low-carbon economy, including EU ETS, Energy prices and costs and decarbonisation pathways for 2050.2) Circular Economy3) Food Contact Materials4) Trade Issues and investment, including overcapacities.5) Miscellaneous:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skills and digitization• Research and Innovation
12h50	Concluding remarks By <i>Ms Malwina NOWAKOWSKA</i> , Deputy Head of Unit - DG GROW/C2
13h00	End of the meeting