

CONNECT

FEICA NEWS 




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REGISTRATION FOR FEICA 2024 OPEN !

Register for the FEICA 2024 European Adhesive & Sealant Conference and EXPO

This year's three-day event is set at the NH Noordwijk Conference Centre Leeuwenhorst in Noordwijkerhout, the Netherlands, from 11 to 13 September 2024. It will focus on such global challenges as sustainable growth, industry innovation, new technologies and building opportunities for long-term growth.

'Economic Resilience through Sustainable Solutions'

The 2024 Business Forum theme is 'Economic Resilience through Sustainable Solutions'. Against the backdrop of a continuously evolving global landscape, the adhesives and sealants industry faces multifaceted challenges. The FEICA Conference seeks to navigate through them by spotlighting the pivotal role of sustainable solutions in shaping economic resilience.

More information is available via www.feica-conferences.com.

Early Bird registration will be available until midnight 31 May 2024.





FEICA 2024

The FEICA Conference and EXPO is the most important event for the adhesive and sealant industry in Europe. It is the ideal place to meet the innovation leaders from across the world and discuss the most important issues of our industry.

Parallel breakout sessions will cover a range of topics such as innovation, market trends, technological breakthroughs, research & development, new product and market applications, renewable raw materials, new equipment technology, the Circular Economy, and regulatory impact on the industry.

The Table Top Exhibition opens in the afternoon of Wednesday 11 September, with no parallel conference sessions scheduled. The EXPO runs until Friday 13 September at 14:00. The Table Top Exhibition is included in the entrance fee of the Conference delegates.

Should you be interested in hiring a booth, please contact marion.kraemer@feica-conferences.com. Please note that booths are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.



FEICA[®] 2024

European Adhesive & Sealant Conference and EXPO

11-13 September 2024

NH Conference Centre,
Noordwijkerhout, the Netherlands

www.feica-conferences.com

REGISTER NOW

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We are looking forward to welcoming you once again to discuss the most pertinent and relevant topics facing our industry.

Day by day, the adhesive and sealant industry is developing more technologies to use the planet's resources responsibly and efficiently.

The FEICA Conference and EXPO is the ideal place to highlight how, by collaborating across value chains in different sectors, our industry's innovations are key in supporting the societal shift to a better future. **REGISTER.**



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

FEICA is offering sponsors the opportunity to be a part of the continued success of its annual Conference and EXPO.

To suit the needs of each potential partner, we offer the flexibility of different sponsorship options, at different budget levels, starting at € 4,000.

You may consult the conference website for more information regarding the various sponsorship opportunities at: www.feica-conferences.com/exhibition-sponsoring

About FEICA 2023:

This year's FEICA Conference was again everything we expected from it. The association's yearly event, as well as FEICA membership, provides Sika with global networking opportunities, access to industry insights, up-to-date regulatory information and platforms for collaboration. It promotes innovation, knowledge sharing and best practices, and enhances market presence and competitiveness while keeping pace with advances and standards in the adhesives and sealants industry. We are pleased to share our expertise within the FEICA community and to be at the forefront of industry developments.

- Patricia Heidtman, Chief Innovation and Sustainability Manager, Sika AG

A promotional banner for a webinar. The background features a close-up of green apples on a wooden surface. A white trash icon and three dots are in the top right. The text "SAVE THE DATE!" is in large blue letters. Below it, "FEICA WEBINAR" is in white on a green background. The main title "Laminating adhesives supporting flexible packaging recycling" is in blue. The date "24 April 2024" is in red. The FEICA logo is in the bottom right corner.

FEICA POSITION ON THE PACKAGING AND PACKAGING WASTE REGULATION

- by Jana Cohrs, Executive Director Regulatory Affairs (FEICA)

The adhesives and sealants (A&S) industry in Europe supports the revision of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (PPWD) presently being prepared by the EU Commission.

FEICA favours updating the legislation to speed up the transition to a circular EU economy and a climate-neutral Europe.

FEICA also looks forward to the change of the PPWD into a EU regulation. Such a change will increase harmonisation of packaging requirements in Europe, lessen market barriers, and simplify the compliance work of economic operators.

Adhesives have for many years had a successful part in circular value chains not only for plastic, glass and metal packaging but also for paper packaging.

The adhesives industry together with stakeholders along the value chain continuously evaluates and improves the compatibility of adhesives with the collecting, sorting and recycling of packaging waste.

FEICA's position: aspects to be considered

FEICA fully supports the objective of the new legislation regarding packaging and packaging waste.



If adhesives are going to continue to help promote the goals of circularity, to maximise ecological benefit, and to avoid market disruptions or unfortunate substitutions, the following aspects need to be taken into account when the new legislation is determined:

1. So that designers and users of packaging can make better choices regarding circularity, adhesives should be considered in terms of design-for-recycling (DfR) criteria on the application form, not the delivery form. Furthermore, restrictions on the use of adhesives should be stated in the form of required or restricted properties, not of chemical composition.
2. FEICA advocates for a legally recognised pathway to prove recyclability of a particular package through testing because design-for-recycling guidelines ought not deter innovations and because design guidelines are necessarily generalisations.
3. A general negative list of substances or products must be avoided so packaging that is already recyclable and actually recycled is not excluded.
4. Sufficient attention should be paid to upgrading the European sorting and recycling infrastructure to align it with state-of-the-art or best available technology (BAT). The danger is that packaging is designed in terms of design-for-recycling guidelines but cannot in practice be widely recycled.

5. Certain improvements in recycled material quality may be more readily attained, and be more realistic and effective, through better washing and cleaning operations before the recycling. This approach is preferable to that of a fundamental change of adhesive properties that might jeopardise adhesives' ability to function during the useful life of the packaging.

6. When targets for recyclability are set, they should be guided by the realisable ecological benefit and not by certain increases in the quality of recycling such as achieving a closed product loop. Definitions of recyclability should not necessitate a closed product loop, so that recycled materials can proceed smoothly into all kinds of ecologically beneficial end-uses.

7. The ability to introduce recycled material into contact-sensitive packaging applications is also part of quality recycling. In the case of recycled plastics in contact with food (notably, mechanically recycled plastics), this introduction can be difficult because of the high degree of regulation. Thus, advanced technologies such as physical and chemical reprocessing of plastics should be fully accepted as bona fide recycling so goals for recycling of plastic content can be achieved.

The FEICA paper 'FEICA position on the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation and the joint industry paper 'Safeguarding the Internal Market Legal Basis of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) to obtain best possible outcomes' are available via:

www.feica.eu/our-projects/food-contact

FEICA AT THE HELSINKI CHEMICALS FORUM

Paula Diaz, Senior Regulatory Affairs Manager at FEICA and Chair of the Downstream Users of Chemicals Co-ordination Group (DUCC), will act as the Master of Ceremonies at the Helsinki Chemicals Forum from 10-11 April 2024 .

The 14th Helsinki Chemicals Forum will be held in the Helsinki Expo and Convention Centre.

FEICA Members receive a 20% discount on all the conference passes for a group of five or more attendees by contacting:

helsinkiicf@messukeskus.com

More information is available via:

helsinkichemicalsforum.messukeskus.com



ADHESIVES AND SEALANTS' UNIQUE PROPERTIES IN ELECTRONICS UNDER THE EU ECODESIGN REGULATION

On 23 November 2023, FEICA hosted a webinar on the unique properties of adhesives and sealants in electronics under the EU Ecodesign Regulation.

During the webinar, the different aspects of adhesives and sealants in the electronics sector were discussed, and their unique properties and the integral role they play in contributing to the principles of the circular economy were showcased.

The European Commission's Ecodesign Directive has been in force since 2009 and is undergoing regular revisions.

Mr Dimitrios Soutzoukis, FEICA Senior Manager Regulatory Affairs, moderated the event and explained how the proposal for a new EU Ecodesign Regulation is relevant to adhesives and sealants because it involves regulatory standards for mobile phones, tablets and laptops where adhesives and sealants play an important role.

The three guest speakers were:

- Dr Annett Linemann, Director Technology Outlook & Sustainability, H.B. Fuller, Chair FEICA Electronics Technical Task Force
- Dr Matthias Popp, Group Leader Adhesive Formulation, Fraunhofer Institute
- Mr Ive Vanderreydt, Circular Economy Expert, VITO NV

Adhesives and Sealants are already delivering benefits to businesses, consumers and the environment in line with the Ecodesign Directive as it allows for the

conservation of resources, debonding on demand, thermal management, making materials lightweight and watertight sealing to name a few.

Dr Linemann introduced 'Adhesives and sealants' unique properties in the electronics sector' and explained in some detail how, in terms of innovation, adhesives and sealants make a difference regarding process efficiency, design optimisation, durability, repairability and recycling.

She also outlined EU eco-design resource-efficiency requirements for smartphones, other mobile phones, cordless phones and slate tablets over service life: design for reliability (e.g. scratch resistance), design for repair and reuse (e.g. removable fasteners) and requirements for recycling (e.g. compatibility and traceability).

Dr Linemann then pointed out the reliability of electronic products thanks to adhesives and sealants, but concluded that clarification was needed regarding the repair and recycling of electronic waste needs. Communication across the value chain is therefore necessary, and consumer awareness must be created.



Dr Popp discussed the disassembly of electronics and possible adaptation of adhesives and sealants for usability, repairability and recyclability of electronics.

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A clear overview of adhesives in electronics and the ways they bond was presented and Dr Popp then addressed the question 'Why Debonding on Demand?'.

The European Commission intends a circular economy for plastics to avoid waste and to promote recycling. Hence the EU-wide Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive was established, which sets a goal for the recycling of electrical waste.

In addition, the 'Plastics Strategy' is intended to lessen environmental litter to further a circular economy for plastics. In this context the role of adhesives is critical, for adhesives used in electronic products allow debonding of parts so that repairability and recycling, and so a circular economy, are feasible.

Dr Popp explained how adhesives in electronics make debonding possible. The key notion is that of a 'trigger' ('stimulus'), which can 'switch off' adhesion of the adhesive to the substrate. In general, two kinds of separations of adhesive from substrate can take place because of a trigger. In one case, separation can occur by mechanical force supported by temperature (the adhesive has not been modified). In the other, separation can occur because of, for instance, light, temperature, electricity or magnetic fields (the adhesive has been modified by additives or by an alteration of the polymer).

Mr Vanderreydt talked about 'The circular economy potential of reversible bonding in smartphones' and explained the hierarchy of options that exist regarding waste management versus the circular economy.

The intent of a circular economy is to preserve the value of products, materials, and resources for as long as possible, namely, to return them to the product cycle and to minimise the production of waste.

The core of Mr Vanderreydt's presentation examined different scenarios for the debonding of a smartphone battery from three different perspectives: functionality, environmental, and economic.

The conclusion was that the best solution will come through introducing circular business models. However, benefits will need to be fairly distributed between businesses and customers in order to create a win-win for the environment and for society.

Adhesives and sealants play a crucial role in areas as diverse as construction, furniture, healthcare, transportation, electronics, etc.

The proposal for a new EU Ecodesign Regulation is therefore very relevant to our industry.



Adhesives and sealants making a difference

The presentation and recording of the webinar are available via:

www.feica.eu/information-center/all-information-centre

ADHESIVES IN THE REGULATION OF END-OF-LIFE VEHICLES

- by Dimitrios Soutzoukis, Senior Regulatory Affairs Manager (FEICA)

In July 2023, the European Commission published a proposal for a regulation on circularity requirements for vehicle design and end-of-life vehicles ('ELV regulation proposal').

The proposal describes various measures to increase the circularity of vehicles, including through vehicle design and an extended producer responsibility (EPR) system.

In both the requirements on vehicle design ('circularity strategy') as well in the requirements on EPR ('fee modulation'), adhesives are mentioned explicitly as detrimental to end-of-life vehicle circularity and therefore to be considered as potential impediments in the vehicle design process and in the EPR fee setting.

The explicit and generalised mention of adhesives as an impediment to the dismantling and recycling in the ELV regulation proposal is inaccurate as adhesives can allow for, and even enable, successful dismantling and recycling.

In addition, the current wording constitutes an uneven playing field as other materials and bonding technologies, which may prevent dismantling and/or recycling, are not mentioned.



FEICA published a paper, which was submitted to the European Commission, as input to the development of this Regulation, outlining how the explicit and generalised mention of adhesives as an impediment to the circularity of end-of-life vehicles is inaccurate and that it misses the crucial role that adhesives play in the overall sustainability, the performance, and the safety of vehicles and the desired large-scale transition to electric mobility.

Adhesives are involved in the production and assembly of most components and parts of a vehicle, including the body, the windows, the drivetrain (of both electric and internal combustion engine vehicles), the suspension, the trim and the interior, and the electrical system, including the high voltage batteries of battery electric vehicles. They serve the principal function of bonding together parts or components in an optimal way, with a view to performance, durability, longevity, and crash safety.

Adhesives also are the key to combining dissimilar materials, enabling for example light-weight designs such as mixed-metal vehicle bodies and carbon fibre reinforced structural components. In electric vehicles, adhesives provide crucial bonding solutions for the battery system.

The FEICA paper is available via:

www.feica.eu



THE EUROPEAN ADHESIVES & SEALANTS INDUSTRY RESPONSE TO THE REVISION OF THE CLP REGULATION

- by Paula Diaz, Senior Regulatory Affairs Manager (FEICA)

The Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 is based on the United Nations' Globally Harmonised System (GHS) and its purpose is to ensure a high level of protection of health and the environment, as well as the free movement of substances, mixtures and articles.

The European Parliament and the Council on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures came to an agreement regarding the CLP Regulation on 5 December 2023.

While improving the functioning of the EU market regarding products containing hazardous chemicals, the new measures aim to better protect consumers, workers, and the environment.

The revised text should also accelerate the identification of hazardous substances and mixtures at EU level and improve communication about hazardous chemicals, including chemicals sold online. In addition, the text lays down rules about labelling format and provides more flexibility on how to use fold-out labels. For more information, please see:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_638.

The European Parliament's Environment (ENVI) Committee adopted the provisional agreements on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on CLP on 11 Jan 2024.

The provisional agreement will undergo a vote in the Plenary in March, followed by approval from the Council and publication in the Official Journal. The Commission indicated that publication is expected by 'end of summer 2024'. The revision of the CLP changes the foundation of one of the most comprehensive pieces of hazard communication legislation in the world and will have several sectorial implications. The revision of the CLP, because of regulatory standards that it proposes, is quite relevant to formulators and suppliers of adhesives and sealants.

Importance of adhesives and sealants for the economy

The adhesives and sealants industry provides thousands of jobs across Europe and supplies products which play a crucial role throughout the European economy, e.g. by enabling energy efficiency and circularity. Also, many adhesives and sealants are used every day by EU consumers and professionals in varying applications and functions, such as insulation of buildings, operation and maintenance of windmills and repair of vehicles.

Any revision of the CLP, then, should give due consideration to the interests of the adhesives and sealants industry.



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FEICA's position on the revision

FEICA, as the Association of the European Adhesive & Sealant Industry, represents the adhesive and sealant industry at the European level and works with all relevant stakeholders to create a mutually beneficial economic and legislative environment.

The successful implementation of the CLP Regulation has been one of FEICA's main goals.

FEICA supports the revised regulation in several respects. There are, for instance, exemptions for small packaging. Provisions exist, furthermore, for the increased use of fold-out labels. Also, the revision tries to increase compliance with online sales.

However, FEICA members believe that the impact of some of the changes proposed in the revised CLP regulation has been greatly underestimated in the Commission's impact assessment.

One issue is font layout requirements regarding labelling.

The Commission proposes new, very challenging labelling rules for industry, for example, specific font sizes or colours, without benefits for the necessary hazard communication.

With the proposed minimal font sizes and spacing requirements, the CLP label elements even for one language may exceed the available space on a label or on even the whole packaging.

Currently multilingually labelled products would have to be manufactured, labelled, stored and delivered in several language versions to 'submarkets'.

The volume of overstocked products would rise, the result being the generation of more waste.

Another issue regarding the revision is labelling updates. In this case, for a CLP change resulting in a new hazard class or more stringent classification, suppliers will have to update the label in 6 months.

Since the production of mixtures, though, is a complex process, finished product mixtures are often made with other intermediate mixtures. So formulators need all new classification information on substances before they can update safety information for a mixture.

The timeframe of 6 months for updating a label is simply impossible to meet. The timeline should apply to each supplier individually starting from the time when that supplier receives the updated information, usually via an updated safety data sheet.

For 2024, FEICA calls on authorities to work with downstream user formulators for the CLP implementation.

It is especially important to clearly define timelines that will apply to every player in the supply chain individually or to the process encompassing the entire supply chain.

More on CLP is available via:

www.feica.eu/our-projects/reach



FEICA: Official Campaign Partner of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)



Safe and healthy work in the digital age

FEICA is proud to be an Official Campaign Partner of the 2023-2025 'Safe and healthy work in the digital age' campaign for the European Agency for Occupational Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA).

The campaign will focus on the safety and health aspects of work in the digital age and will follow priority areas (healthy-workplaces.osha.europa.eu/en/about-topic/priority-areas), which includes a gradual release of materials to help employers and employees in navigating the impact of new digital technologies at work.

The priority areas are:

February 2024: 'Digital platform work'

June 2024: 'Automation of tasks'

October 2024: 'Remote and hybrid work'

February 2025: 'Worker management through AI'

June 2025: 'Smart digital systems'

Please see the [FEICA Health & Safety](#) page for more information or click on the banner below.

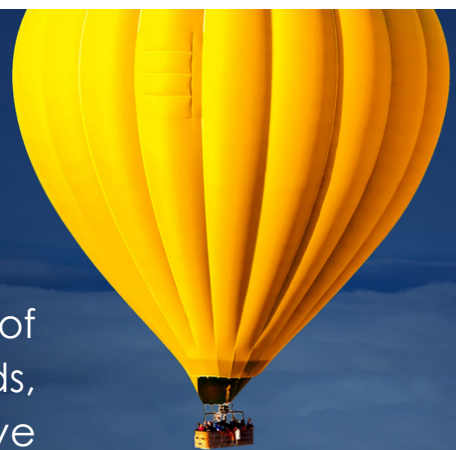


Safety and health insights for digital platform work

OSHA's first campaign concerns 'digital platform work'. Please see the leaflet '[Safety and health insights for digital platform work](#)' for more information.

Digital platform work creates new opportunities for businesses and workers, for example, for people who might have more difficulties to access the traditional labour market. Simply put, it involves work provided through, on, or mediated by an online platform.

MEMBER PORTRAIT



@NYNAS

In every issue of CONNECT, we give a member of FEICA the opportunity to share, in its own words, interesting insights into their company in 'five fascinating facts'. In this issue, we present Nynas.

1. Taking Oil Further: Rather than turning our valuable feedstock into fuels, we use the crude oil to produce high-performance specialty products with a long lifespan. These products are essential in applications that impact people's lives every day, such as electrification, transportation, industrial production, road infrastructure and, not the least, adhesives and sealants.

2. Reliable and knowledge-driven partner: For almost 100 years, Nynas has developed and marketed high-performance products which play an important, even critical, role in our customers' materials and industrial applications. This has been possible through an in-depth understanding of the demands of the industry as well as the capability to respond to them. In close collaboration with our customers and other partners, we join forces to address the needs of today and the challenges of tomorrow.

3. Sustainability: Sustainability is prioritised in both investment decisions and the way business is conducted at all levels of the company. One goal is, for example, to reduce GHG emissions by 2030 and another is to become completely climate-neutral by 2050. Product-specific efforts and initiatives cover a wide range, from product footprints to their performance and effects at adhesive manufacture, use and end of life, so-called handprints. These initiatives are important for the transition to a sustainable society.

4. Nynas in the adhesive and sealant industries: As a dedicated supplier of specialty process oils to the hotmelt adhesive market, we proactively work to meet our customers' demands – whether it is to adapt to ever-changing regulatory frameworks or to develop new products for the transition to a more sustainable society. In the near future, Nynas will launch an equivalent to our bestselling plasticiser that exhibits the same excellent performance but with a significantly lower carbon footprint. Another example is our continued work to develop a high-performance biobased plasticiser that supports the transition to circularity.

5. Advantage of being a FEICA member: To be part of FEICA enables us to closely follow and contribute to developments, especially in the regulatory area. It also allows us to proactively support the scientifically based guidance towards safe use of adhesives and sealants in our society. Another key feature is the broad market insights and technical training offered to the members. Last but not least, the annual FEICA conference and EXPO is an excellent occasion to present our most recent advances as well as an opportunity to network with the industry.

NEW FEICA MEMBER

ThreeBond Europe S.A.S

Direct Company Member

26 avenue des Bethunes
95310 St-Ouen-l'Aumone
France



A WELCOME AND FAREWELL AT FEICA: Isabelle Alenus & Gabriele Falsaperla



This is my last week at FEICA! I will begin a new phase in my career next week and hope to stay in touch with many of you. As Senior Communications Manager at FEICA for 10 years, I very much enjoyed writing the CONNECT (among other periodicals and publications) and concurrently grew very fond of the adhesives and sealants industry. I will miss colleagues and friends, especially during the yearly FEICA conferences!

I wish all my readers the very best and hope that our paths will cross again. All the very best, Isabelle

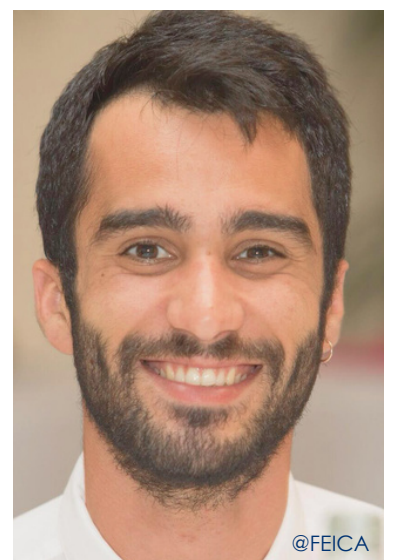
WELCOME GABRIELE!

In November 2023, FEICA welcomed Gabriele Falsaperla, who took on the position of Communication & Events Officer at FEICA.

Gabriele has worked in communications and marketing for the past decade and started his career as an intern at the European Commission organising corporate and institutional events, taking on various communications responsibilities.

Gabriele is Italian and holds a master's degree in international relations from Durham University (UK). He is fluent in Italian, English and Spanish and has a good level of knowledge of Arabic.

Join us in welcoming Gabriele to the FEICA team!



WAC2026

WORLD ADHESIVE & SEALANT CONFERENCE



16-18 September 2026

The QEII Centre

London, UK



Hosted by: 

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FEICA members and members of our National Associations receive a 10% discount on advertisements in CONNECT.

For more info, please click on the [green](#) button.

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Media Kit



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