CONNECT

The European voice of the **adhesive** and **sealant industry**

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FEICA - Association of the European Adhesive & Sealant Industry
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IN THIS ISSUE:

The FEICA European Adhesive & Sealant Conference and EXPO

FEICA 2018: Keynote speaker line-up published for Riga

The 2018 keynote speakers:

- **Johan Bruck**, Material & Innovation leader, IKEA
- **Aric Dromi**, digital philosopher and professional troublemaker
- **Richard van Hooijdonk**, trend watcher and expert on digitalisation in the supply chain
- **Tom Voskes**, Founding and Managing Partner, making digital disruption work for

The annual FEICA European Adhesive & Sealant Conference & EXPO takes place this year in Riga, from 12 to 14 September

FEICA 2018 promises to continue its longstanding tradition of excellence

Join us to hear experts share their knowledge of sustainability, regulatory affairs, innovation, R&D, new opportunities, new product applications, new equipment technology, and the circular economy.

www.feica-conferences.com

FEICA 2018 Riga, Latvia

FEICA European Adhesive & Sealant Conference and EXPO 2018

12-14 September 2018 Riga, Latvia

Adhesives and sealants in the digital age

Year-on-year, FEICA attracts 500+ industry leaders to discuss market drivers and trends, innovation, sustainability and technological advancements.

Key Notes

Johan Bruck, Material & Innovation leader, IKEA

Aric Dromi, digital philosopher and professional troublemaker

Richard van Hooijdonk, trend watcher and expert on digitisation in the supply chain

Tom Voskes, Founding and Managing Partner, making digital disruption work for you, SparkOptimus

EXPO

12, 13 & 14 September 2018

The Table Top Exhibition opens on Wednesday 12 September at 15:00 and runs until Friday 14 September at 14:30.

The adhesive and sealant industry's essential event

12, 13 & 14 September 2018

- **Network** with other professionals in the adhesive and sealant value chain.
- **Understand market dynamics**, market trends and emerging economic developments that could impact your business.
- **Tap into your end-users' needs** and learn what downstream users expect from you.
- **Expand your knowledge** of the advances in key technologies and applications from research and development professionals at the cutting edge of innovation.
- **Learn about raw material supply chain trends** and what your equipment suppliers have in store for you.

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ARLANXEO Bostik Emerald Performance Materials emerell KRATON sasol BUILDING TRUST Sika WACKER

The FEICA 2018 Business Forum will focus strongly on digitalisation and the Digital Age

The annual FEICA European Adhesive and Sealant Conference & EXPO will once again be an exciting event where industry-leaders come together to examine the latest challenges and developments in adhesives and sealants, as well as the implications of wider trends in the economy and society.

Adhesives & sealants in the digital age

What does digitalisation mean for our industry?

This year's Conference will focus on the impact on our industry of the rapid and far-reaching changes resulting from the "digital age".

In the opening plenary session of the Conference - the FEICA Business Forum - expert keynote speakers will explore the potential impact of the digital age on business and strive to identify practical strategies that will help adhesive and sealant companies to succeed in this new era.

Read more about FEICA 2018 in the Special Conference Issue of CONNECT, out in June!

Or check:

www.feica-conferences.com

They will examine how the growth of the internet and digital technologies will inevitably lead to ever-tighter integration between our personal lives, public services and industry.

"Industry 4.0"

In this context, industry is already at the dawn of "Industry 4.0", which brings together automation and previously unseen levels of data exchange in manufacturing. This is achieved using cyber-physical systems, the internet of things (IoT), cloud computing and cognitive computing based on artificial intelligence.

Digitalisation can bring many benefits to business. For example, an organisation's R&D process is often long and inefficient.

Digitalisation allows you to build an end-to-end community with all stakeholders and to exploit that community much more fully and quickly.

You can bring in the voice of the market much earlier to deliver faster, more comprehensive and beneficial collaboration.

Challenges

However, digitalisation also brings with it significant challenges and it is essential that we all take measures to prepare for these.

For instance, the European Union's **General Data Protection Regulation** (GDPR) comes into force on **25 May 2018**. It aims to give control back to citizens and residents over their personal data and to simplify the regulatory environment for international business by unifying the regulation within the EU. It gives citizens new "digital rights" and has severe penalties for non-compliance of up to €20 million, or 4% of annual global turnover, whichever is higher, as well as damages and loss of reputation.

In addition to the Business Forum, the Conference's Breakout Sessions will feature experts who will share their extensive knowledge of everything pertinent to our industry, from sustainability and the circular economy to the latest and most advanced technological trends. Each year, these sessions allow delegates to get maximum benefit from the conference by attending only those sessions that are most appropriate to their specific business needs.

Digitalisation and its impact on customer-facing functions

Opportunities, challenges & best practices: Christophe Cabarry (SpecialChem) talks to FEICA

FEICA is delighted to welcome Christophe Cabarry, *Founder and CEO* of SpecialChem to its 2018 Conference and EXPO in Riga

CONNECT spoke with Christophe Cabarry to get a preview of some of the key concepts he will discuss at FEICA 2018 in Riga.

Christophe will share his insights into the impact of the digitalisation of customer-facing functions in the chemical industry in general and their relevance for the adhesive and sealant industry in particular.

This complements the presentation at last year's Conference by SpecialChem on how digitalisation can speed up and improve R&D and innovation in our industry (See Issue 30 of FEICA CONNECT: http://www.feica.eu/cust/documentview.aspx?DocID=2931)

CONNECT: *Christophe, could you give us an outline of the areas you will discuss?*

Christophe Cabarry (CC): I'm going to focus on the impact of digitalisation on customer-facing functions such as sales and marketing, which is one of the most interesting and challenging areas to digitalise. I'll be looking at how these functions interact with the digital world. I won't be talking about digitalisation itself, or digitalisation in the supply chain or other functions such as finance. But what I discuss will be relevant for the Conference audience; raw materials suppliers as well as adhesive and sealant manufacturers.

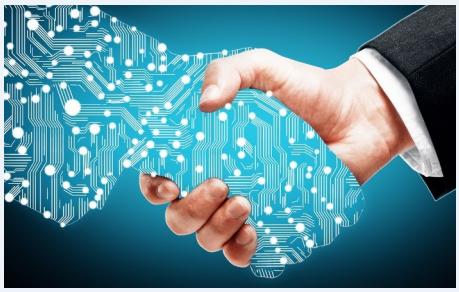
CONNECT: *What's the current status of digitalisation in the B2B world?*

CC: There has been a definite acceleration in digitalisation in B2B over the last 18 months. Most companies we have talked to are investing in digitalising their business. It's hard to say precisely what has prompted this acceleration, but I suspect that pressure to change from business partners in other, already digitalised sectors has played a role. Digitalisation really is influencing every sector of the economy.

CONNECT: *Could you explain this pressure in more detail?*

CC: Most importantly, the customers of B2B companies are digitalising. This creates pressure on B2B businesses to follow suit. For example, adhesive and sealant companies often sell to engineers. The way engineers work has changed. Research shows that more than 78% of engineers spend in excess of three hours each week on purchase-related internet searches. 61% visit more than 6 websites each week in these searches. They now prefer digital channels. 53% don't go to tradeshows, but 67% do attend webinars. (Source: IHS Engineering360 survey, 2015, *Digital Media Use in the Industrial Sector*).

Also, the way they buy has changed. Engineers normally work on three to five projects at any one time. These typically pass through phases that include exploration, analysis / screening, testing and approval.



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The big change here is that engineers are undertaking the exploration and analysis / screening phases themselves using digital channels.

You need to be present on the "digital path" of engineers

Previously, this would have been done together with suppliers. Now, the first contact with adhesive and sealant companies will be digital, not personal.

So, you need to be present on the "digital path" of engineers (i.e. the digital channels they frequent) to have a chance of being contacted after the exploration and analysis / screening phases.

A large salesforce on the road trying to visit all prospects may no longer be required, but you will require a digital presence. Inbound marketing and a salesforce that can be "reached into" as well as reaches out are important.

When you get that first personal contact from a prospect, you can assume that about 70% of their research has been done and that they will only be contacting two, three, or maybe four potential suppliers.

Contacts are initiated by customers; they choose the moment and their preferred channel. Previously, there was a limited number of channels, for example: the salesforce, tradeshows and conferences.

Now, there are many more, including websites, social media, email newsletters, and platforms such as SpecialChem, etc. The challenge of B2B companies is to create the appropriate channels, use them regularly, and make them consistent in terms of message and efficiency.

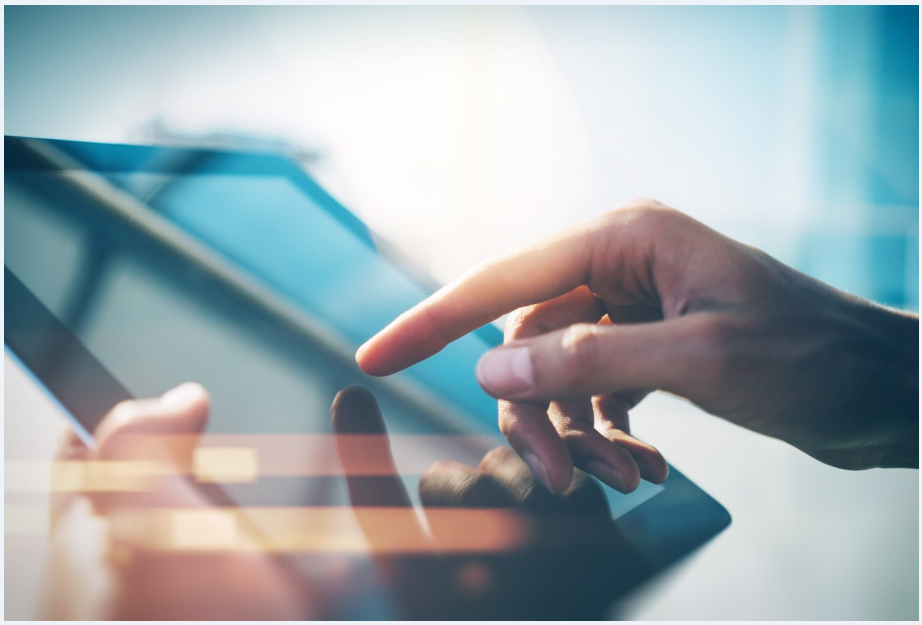
This digitalisation brings with it a range of organisational challenges. Previously, life was simple.

Now we can reach into and out of an organisation in numerous ways. The change management process to achieve this transformation is crucial. Most change programmes fail because of poor communication and the failure to involve those affected in creating their new futures.

We need to have the right people with the right culture. Of course, we also need the right tools and the right processes for key activities such as lead qualification and content creation.

At FEICA 2018, I will provide some examples of companies that have successfully overcome these challenges.

The challenges this transformation can bring can be particularly tough for sales people.



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Prior to digitalisation, they "owned" the customer and were the only route into the organisation.

Now prospects can choose their channel. **So, sales people need to accept that they will lose some power as a result.** However, they can gain useful intelligence on their customers from the "digital footprint" they leave on the company's digital channels, such as activity on the website, clicks on the email newsletter, etc.

CONNECT: *What are the practical implications of this for our members?*

In the new digital world, the sales organisation will need to be different.

There is an opportunity to be more efficient and more effective as you position yourself to sell in the digital world. I will provide some examples of this.

In addition, a McKinsey study on digitalisation in the chemicals industry (*Demystifying digital marketing and sales in the chemical industry* https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/chemicals/our-insights/demystifying-digital-marketing-and-sales-in-the-chemical-industry) estimated that it could boost EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) by **$105 - 205 billion/year.**

This would be achieved by reducing costs and improving the margin, and would involve redesigning the salesforce and improving management of the process. I will share some results from the study and examine how these benefits could be achieved.

Furthermore, as SpecialChem explained during last year's conference, digitalisation can also affect R&D and innovation by opening up the pipeline to the external world through the "porous stage-gate process".

CONNECT: *Should our members adopt a "wait and see" attitude or should they take action now?*

It's time to act!

CC: In my view, it is time to act. **The McKinsey study estimates that there will be a huge shift in market share in the chemicals market, with leaders in the digitalisation of marketing gaining some $45 – 65 billion share from the laggards.**

Some chemicals companies are actively seeking and prototyping new business models.

I'll be examining several of these models at FEICA 2018. I hope my presentation will give delegates at the Conference plenty to think about!

Get the full story at Christophe's presentation at FEICA2018 in Riga!

FEICA / EURADH Adhesion Innovation Award 2018

Outstanding submissions prove that innovation is thriving in the adhesive and sealant sector

The closing date for the inaugural FEICA / EURADH Adhesion Innovation Award has passed and the judges are now reviewing the entries.

According to FEICA Secretary General Philip Bruce "We received some outstanding entries for the Award that underline the huge potential for innovation in the adhesive and sealant industry. The jury now faces the pleasant challenge of picking a winner from the talented individuals and their inspirational submissions."

A prize of €3,000 and a certificate will be awarded to the winner at EURADH, which will take place in Lisbon, Portugal, 5-7 September 2018. The award winner will have the opportunity to present their work at EURADH and at the annual FEICA Conference and EXPO, which will take place in Riga, Latvia, 12-14 September 2018. www.adhesionaward.org

In this issue of FEICA CONNECT we are sharing a short summary of each of the nine submissions with you.

Dr André Arnebold, "Network dynamics in cationically polymerised, crosslinked epoxy resins and its influence on crystallinity and toughness"

Dr Arnebold's work addresses a unique toughening concept for crosslinked epoxy resins and emphasises the ability of stress relaxation via network rearrangements, **which is especially useful for adhesive bonds.**

The resulting epoxy-based adhesive combines the advantages of thermoplastics and thermosets, which is novel in adhesion science.

Thermosetting plastics and adhesives serve as lightweight high-tech materials with outstanding properties but suffer from brittleness and non-recyclability.

These two disadvantages are addressed by the adhesive described, which combines sustainability with cost reduction.

In addition, epoxy polyesters with dynamic crosslinks can be recycled via thermal re-processing, which enables the reduction of plastic pollution of the environment, whereas thermosetting materials become damaging waste.

Dr Arnebold undertook the work for his Ph.D. at the University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany. He now works for adhesives manufacturer Wellmann Technologies GmbH, Friedelsheim, Germany.

Dr Marcelo Costa, "Development of a cohesive zone model for adhesive joints that includes humidity and fatigue degradation"

Dr Costa's work encompasses the development of "**JointDesigner**", a tool for the design of adhesive joints for various applications.

This **facilitates the evaluation of the mechanical performance of structural adhesive joints**.

Dr Costa has applied the concept to help solve adhesion related problems in collaboration with Honda R&D, John Deere, Nagase-Chemtex, Alstom and Sika.

In the case of the most recent collaborations with industry, the development of design methodologies for the fatigue behaviour of adhesive joints under mixed-mode is being pursued with the

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end goal of replacing traditional joining techniques and reducing weight without sacrificing strength and security. This is leading to safe yet efficient vehicles, with lower fuel consumption and pollutant emissions.

Dr Costa did his Ph.D. in the Mechanical Engineering Faculty at the University of Porto, Portugal. He is currently a Post-Doc. Researcher at the Institute of Science and Innovation in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (INEGI), Porto, Portugal.

Philipp Denk, "Sensory characterisation and identification of odorous constituents in acrylic adhesives"

Mr Denk's research examined **odorants** in adhesives.

The main odorants in six different acrylic adhesives were investigated using state-of-the-art odorant analysis methods combined with human-sensory evaluation.

The most potent odorants were analysed by means of two-dimensional gas chromatography-olfactometry coupled with mass spectrometry (2D-GC-O/MS).

27 odorant were identified in the six samples, with 20 compounds that were reported for the first time as odorants in adhesives.

The formation pathway, chemical structure and the odour quality of the identified odourants are important in helping manufacturers develop **strategies to produce low odour and emission adhesives** and thus positively influence everyday odour exposure.

Philipp Denk received his degree in food chemistry at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Nuremberg, Germany, in 2016. Mr Denk is currently doing a Ph.D., researching odours in adhesives on a molecular basis at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg.

Dr René Hensel, "Composite pillars with a tunable interface for adhesion to rough substrates"

Inspired by nature, **micropatterned dry adhesives** are promising candidates for reversible, non-destructive adhesion, offering superior performance to non-patterned adhesives. Surface roughness induces a dramatic reduction in pull-off stresses and requires revised design concepts.

Dr Hensel introduced composite pillar structures to achieve adhesion to rough objects.

This provides a new solution for innovative pick-and-place technologies in industrial **automation and robotics.** In addition, composite structures can adhere to skin.

This can enable novel biomedical applications such as wound closures and self-adhesive transplants. Moreover, **such skin adhesives would provide a new platform for applying wearable sensors, a research area that is still in its infancy.**

Dr Hensel undertook his Ph.D. at the Max Bergmann Centre for Biomaterials at IPF -Leibniz Institute of Polymer Research, Dresden, Germany. Subsequently he joined INM - Leibniz Institute for New Materials, Saarbrücken, Germany, as a Post-Doc. to develop new bioinspired design concepts for micropatterned adhesive surfaces.

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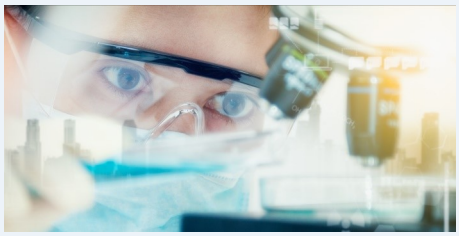


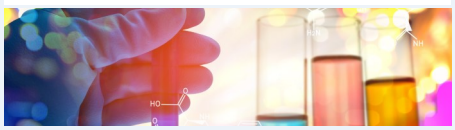
Dr Roman Pohrt, "Strength of adhesive contacts: Influence of contact geometry and material gradients"

Dr Pohrt investigated the **influence of surface geometry on the adhesive detachment process of a flat and smooth contact zone from the mechanical point of view**.

The two-dimensional shape of the contact zone was varied and a numerical analysis undertaken using a new formulation of the Boundary Element Method.

This work may help improve the mechanical properties and durability of bonded joints. The understanding of the shape dependence of adhesive contact also allows engineers to design bonds not only with regard to strength, but also with regard to a predictable failure. Applications could include early-warning devices for mechanical load, predetermined breaking points or indicators for abuse in parcel delivery. In these cases, a cheap lightweight reusable adhesive joint can potentially replace more intricate single-use disposable products.

Dr Pohrt gained his Ph.D. at the Institute of Mechanics, Technical University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany, and is now a Post. Doc. at the same institution.



Dr Romana Santos, "New sea urchin-inspired adhesives for biomedical applications: a biomimetic approach towards the development of new wet-effective, reversible, biocompatible, and ecological adhesives"

Dr Santos performed the first biochemical characterisation of the adhesive secretion of sea urchins, demonstrating that they produce both adhesive and de-adhesive secretions.

Currently, **her research aims to develop new sea urchin-inspired, biocompatible and ecological adhesives,** enabling the replacement of petrochemical-based adhesives by more sustainable, biocompatible, nature-inspired adhesives, especially in fields such as biomedicine, nanotechnology and tissue engineering.

Biomimetic sea urchin adhesives can find use as surgical adhesives or cell adhesion promoters for cell and tissue in vitro cultures.

In addition, the de-adhesive components may find biomedical application in reversible adhesives or as molecular displacers for the prevention of unwanted molecular or cellular adhesion to biomedical devices (e.g. heart valves and artificial blood vessels).

Dr Santos gained her Ph.D. in Biological Sciences at the University of Mons, Belgium, and is currently Principal researcher at the Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre (MARE), University of Lisbon, Portugal.

Dr Shoshan Abrahami, "Cr (VI)-free anodising for adhesive bonding of aerospace aluminium alloys"

Dr Abrahami studied the impact of parameters such as electrolyte type and the anodising conditions on the relationship between anodic aluminium oxide (AAO) properties and interfacial bonding.

Porous oxides were tested as environmentally responsible candidates to replace chromic acid anodising (CAA), because the REACH regulation will ban the commercial use of this process.

The work addresses a significant challenge facing aircraft manufacturers: the transition from a process relying on the toxic and carcinogenic Cr(VI) to more sustainable alternatives, while maintaining the high performance and safety demanded by the industry. Based on insights from this study and parallel industrial testing, Fokker Aerostructures is introducing a new Cr(VI)-free anodising line based on PSA (phosphoric-sulphuric acid anodising) pre-treatment in its processing plant.

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Dr Abrahami did her Ph.D. at the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands and the Materials innovation institute (M2i), Delft, The Netherlands. She is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow of the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO), Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Brussels, Belgium.

Markus Veltrup M.Sc., "Distribution and avoidance of debris on epoxy resin during UV ns-laser scanning processes for adhesive applications"

Adhesive bonding of carbon fibre reinforced plastics (CFRPs), which are increasingly being used in transportation applications, requires pre-treatment of the surface to deliver high bond strength.

UV laser pre-treatment ablates the surface layer, removing contamination. However, the re-deposition of ablated material (debris) on the treated surface can impair bond strength.

This work describes a laser scanning process with an adapted selection of pulse overlap with respect to laser fluence that reduces surface debris. As a result, **laser pre-treatment is effective and can eliminate labour-intensive manual grinding and the harmful solvents used in that process**. This technique opens up new possibilities for adhesive technology in all areas of CFRP components, e.g. consumer goods, renewable energy, automotive and aviation industry.

Markus Veltrup M.Sc. is a Ph.D. student and research assistant at the Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Technology and Applied Materials IFAM, Department of Plasma Technology and Surfaces (PLATO), Bremen, Germany.

Dr Andrés Jesús Yáñez-Pacios, "Surface modification and improved adhesion of wood-plastic composites (WPCs) made with different polymers by treatment with atmospheric pressure rotating plasma jet"

Wood plastic composites (WPCs) offer an alternative to wood, but with the advantage of extremely high durability outdoors.

However, the use of WPCs is limited by their low adhesion. In addition, their traditional surface treatment of chromate in an acidic medium is not environmentally acceptable.

This work describes environmentally-friendly and sustainable surface treatment methodologies for WPCs that facilitate their decoration and adhesion.

Treatment with UV/ozone and atmospheric pressure rotating plasma jets (APPJ) produced notable chemical, morphological and physical modifications on the WPC surface which improved adhesion properties.

The treatments also facilitate innovative applications of WPCs that will allow the substitution of other materials in the construction and building industry. Furthermore, the formation of residues will be avoided and recycling will be promoted.

Dr Andrés Jesús Yáñez-Pacios did his Ph.D. in Materials Science at the University of Alicante, Alicante, Spain. He is currently an Associate Researcher at the University of Alicante's Adhesion and Adhesives Laboratory.

ADHESION INNOVATION AWARD 2018

Read all about the winner of the first ever EURADH/FEICA ADHESION INNOVATION AWARD in Issue 35 of CONNECT, out in October 2018, or check out @FEICA_news from Sept. 2018

FEICA publishes more Good Practice stories

FEICA continues to raise awareness of the significant efforts made by the adhesive and sealant industry to fully embrace the circular economy.

The Good Practice stories help to share knowledge across the industry and enable the downstream users of adhesives and sealants to pursue more sustainable production practices in line with the European Commission's circular economy goals.

There are now **eleven** FEICA Good Practice stories available on the FEICA website. **Each of them demonstrates how companies enable sustainability.**

Furniture: Special adhesive solutions for lightweight composites enable the reduction of the CO_2 footprint of lightweight furniture compared to high density furniture;

Packaging: One-component high performance sealants packed in foil packs cut solvent emissions in use and reduce the Global Warming Potential of their packaging by 75%;

Consumer: Paper glues based on natural ingredients and packed in mainly plant-based packaging help to reduce CO_2 emissions and save fossil resources;

Automotive: Crash-resistant structural adhesive solutions for lightweight composite materials in the automotive industry allow the reduction of the CO_2 footprint during production and use phase, while at the same time improving passenger safety;

Building construction: An adhesive enables the optimum long-term bonding of insulation panels as part of External Thermal Insulation Composite Systems (ETICS) and thus contributes to energy saving and a reduced need for maintenance in buildings;

Building construction: New adhesive systems for high performance structural glazing for building facades can save material during production and energy in the use phase. At the same, they allow more innovative facade designs;

Building construction: The Global Warming Potential and energy impact to manufacture the sealants for a building is less than 2% of the cumulative savings potential for a 20-year lifespan;

Building construction: Hotmelt butyl sealants improve the insulating performance of multiple glazing of windows and thus reduce the energy needed to heat buildings;

Food packaging: M-Resins technology allows the reseal of opened flexible packaging of food, thus improving conservation and saving additional packaging material;

Bookbinding: Hotmelt adhesives in bookbinding with specific physical properties do not impact the waste paper recycling process.

Building construction: Adhesives enable wooden structural elements for innovative construction technologies, thus saving energy and reducing CO_2 emissions by the use of renewable and recyclable materials.

Read all Good Practice stories here: http://www.feica.eu/information-center/good-practices.aspx

Better mutual recognition for the single market for goods

Belgian federal public service 'Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment' publishes FEICA Mineral Oil guidance

The FEICA guidance relates to the food contact status of adhesives and mineral oil hydrocarbons.

The Belgian federal public service 'Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment' has published the FEICA guidance document on evaluating the food contact status for adhesives containing mineral oil hydrocarbons. The document aims to help industry and regulators to better understand the challenges and possible solutions to testing mineral oil hydrocarbon migration from adhesives.

Even though the guidance has currently only been posted in English on the Belgian federal public service website, it will soon also be available in Dutch, French and German.

The document is available in six languages (including Spanish and Italian) on FEICA's dedicated Food Contact webpage.

The EU is currently discussing a proposal for a new regulation focused on delivering more and better mutual recognition for the single market for goods.

But, what is mutual recognition?

Why do we need a new regulation? And what are the implications for the adhesives and sealants sector?

CONNECT spoke with Rachida Semail, a Partner at Keller and Heckman LLP, a law firm with offices in Washington DC, Brussels, San Francisco, Shanghai, and Paris that specialises in the areas of regulatory law, litigation, and business transactions.

FEICA: Could you start by outlining the background to mutual recognition?

Rachida Semail (RS): The EU has a number of mechanisms to try and ensure fair trade within the European Single Market. In some key areas, harmonised standards are developed. These are supranational regulations that manufacturers and importers must adhere to if they want to place a product on the market in these sectors.

Examples of areas with EU harmonised legislation include chemicals (REACH), construction products and cosmetics products. However, **to develop and implement EU harmonised legislation across all areas of commerce would be hugely burdensome and time consuming. As a result, mutual recognition derived from EU case-law has been relied upon as a quicker and easier way to facilitate free trade in non-harmonised sectors.**

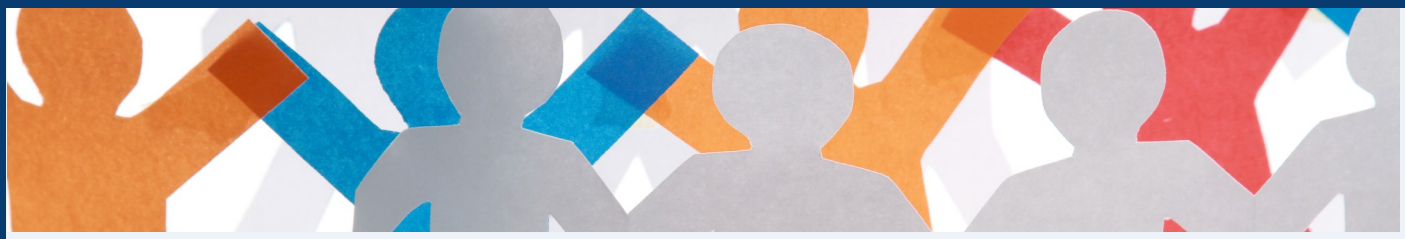
Although there are some nuances, the basic tenet of mutual recognition is that, if a product meets the requirements to be lawfully marketed in one EU country, it should be entitled to be lawfully marketed within all the other countries of the EU, even though it may not meet the requirements of the Member State(s) of destination.

FEICA: *What's the current status of legislation regarding mutual recognition?*

RS: The current mutual recognition regulation was implemented in 2008.

It sought to give more strength to the principles derived from EU case-law.

It was deemed necessary because it was felt that the principle of mutual recognition was not well understood, not only by operators, but also by national enforcement authorities, resulting in it not being widely or consistently applied in practice.



FEICA: *So why do we need a new regulation?*

RS: A new regulation is needed because it is clear that the existing regulation is still not universally understood or applied. The intent of the proposed new regulation is to be stronger and to bring added clarity, although the new draft (as issued by the European Commission) does not, in my view, bring the necessary clarity for a better understanding to facilitate free movement of goods.

FEICA: *What challenges does the new regulation face?*

RS: I think the biggest barrier to its success is that it starts from the same position as the current legislation: that mutual recognition is assumed to apply and discusses what happens thereafter if a Member State wants to deny mutual recognition.

Like the old version, **it does not explain the requirements to be met for it to apply.** I think it would be better to start by clarifying when mutual recognition should apply and by specifically detailing the conditions to be met to avail of it. **This would bring legal clarity for all;** operators and enforcement authorities.

If this is not done, the same issues as encountered today might arise after the new Regulation is adopted.

FEICA: *Can you give an example related to the adhesive and sealant industry?*

RS: Yes – **food contact legislation for example has, in some cases, been elaborated upon by national legislation.**

Some Member States have positive listing requirements and some do not. In those Member States where no specific legislation is in place for adhesives, it is sufficient to comply with the **EU Framework Food Contact Regulation**, the safety requirements it establishes and with the GMP Regulation; you do not need to rely on mutual recognition.

But in Member States where positive lists <u>are</u> in place, the situation is more complicated. Indeed, such Member States have **pre-market approval for substances used in adhesives.**

When this is the case, and the components used in adhesives are not cleared under the Member State's legislation, you have two alternatives: (i) either you submit a petition and go through the authorisation procedure right away or (ii) before doing that, you first assess (and this is what I would advise) whether the pre-market approval procedure meets the criteria set out by EU case-law to determine whether it is compatible with the **Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU).**

The new proposed mutual recognition Regulation does not discuss the situation where a Member State's national legislation is incompatible with the TFEU.

It merely says that if there is an authorisation procedure and the product did not comply with it, the proposed Regulation does not apply (which is what the current mutual recognition Regulation currently states).

If the national authorisation procedure is not compliant with the TFEU, why couldn't the mutual recognition regulation be applicable? **So, if the European Commission does not proceed with harmonisation of the national requirements on adhesives for food contact applications, the proposed legislation (as currently available) will not improve anything in this respect.**

FEICA: *What are the issues with this?*

RS: Member states are entitled to determine the level of human health protection they want to ensure in their own territory and thus they may set pre-market approval procedures.

EC case-law recognises that these pre-market approval procedures create trade barriers to the free movement of goods. So, while Member States can do so, they must comply with certain criteria to be compatible with the

TFEU. Often products originating from other Member States are forced to go through the regular laborious procedure, even though they are lawful in another Member State. The Court says they should be entitled to a simpler access process, but many Member States do not have such a simplified procedure meeting all the criteria of EC case-law, meaning that they should be regarded as being incompatible with the TFEU.

In the case of adhesives and sealants, companies should look to national legislation where member states have positive listing requirements and then evaluate these with regard to case-law to assess whether unwarranted barriers are preventing companies from marketing approved products in the country in question. But if the conclusion is that such procedures are not compatible with the TFEU, the EC proposal on the revision of the mutual recognition regulation does not address such cases.

FEICA: *What about the fact that a product manufactured in a particular Member State (X) may incorporate or be made with components or raw materials from a range of other Member States (Y, Z, etc.) and be sold in that country of manufacture (Member State X)?*

RS: Yes – this is a phenomenon that has increased since the inception of mutual recognition, as intra-EU trade has significantly increased over the years, which is obviously great.

At the time that mutual recognition was initially established, things were simpler. Operators were manufacturing products in Member State X, using raw materials from suppliers based in that same Member State and were selling their products also in that Member State where they were established, so they could comply with the requirements of the Member State of marketing.

However, these days, so many raw materials are imported and many, if not most, are imported on the basis of mutual recognition. I believe the mutual recognition regulation should make it clear that the benefit of the mutual recognition principle carries over to the finished articles marketed in the country of manufacture, which is not the case in the EC's current proposal.

FEICA: *So, what will the European Commission do to try and bring additional clarity?*

RS: The EC's proposal foresees training to help explain the regulation and its application. While we don't yet know what form this training will take, such training will certainly be helpful. However, when clarifications are provided in training, this is not the same as when clarifications are provided in writing in the Regulation itself, as they do not provide legal clarity and certainty the way a Regulation does.

Also, if a company does not take part in the training, it would not benefit from any clarification that could be provided. Similarly, if an enforcement authority doesn't, then the latter may not be applying and/or interpreting the mutual recognition Regulation correctly. Maybe the training could be supplemented by EC guidelines, if it is too difficult to have all the clarifications needed included in the new Regulation.

FEICA: *What are the next steps with regard to the new legislation?*

RS: The proposal was opened to public consultation, which ended on **20 March 2018.**

Surprisingly, **only nine entities commented on the proposal,** which really is very few. **It in my view shows that industry does not understand the importance of this principle in non-harmonised sectors. The proposal is currently being discussed by the European Parliament and the European Council, so the proposal can still be significantly amended… We will see.**

FEICA publishes 'Review of ecodesign requirements for computers and computer servers'

The European Commission published a roadmap laying out its approach towards ecodesign requirements for computers, and asked stakeholders for input.

FEICA is an active advocate in this ecodesign legislation and has shared its input to the European Commission.

FEICA points out in its position paper that by working closely with customers, adhesives manufacturers can help ensure that the **optimum adhesive solution is specified in the design phase** to improve the recycling and repair potential of future products.

The paper is available on the FEICA Extranet.

REACH 2018

The REACH 2018 deadline is in less than one month!

FEICA has always alerted its members and the industry in general regarding REACH related issues pertinent to the adhesives and sealants industry, including the **31 May 2018** deadline.

As REACH does not end with the 2018 registration deadline, we will continue to inform all our members through the usual channels, including the FEICA public website, FEICA Extranet, twitter, or shared via LinkedIn, CONNECT or SNAPSHOT!

Updated FEICA use map packages and CHESAR format now available

FEICA, has published an updated version of its use map packages, along with the updated 'individual building elements' – i.e. exposure assessment inputs for workers (SWEDs), consumers (SCEDs), and environmental releases (SPERCs).

Read the full Press Release for more information.

CES - Silicones Europe launched a great ad campaign across Brussels recently. These fun and informative billboards were seen on roads, metro stations and at Brussels airport.

Even the Demey Metro station (seen below with glimpse of the FEICA offices behind) received its own ad saying "Silicones keep noise levels off track - But that's a good thing!" www.silicones.eu

Welcome

NEW FEICA MEMBERS

SYNTHOMER

FEICA Affiliate Company Member

Werrastrasse 10

45768 Marl

Germany

www.synthomer.com

AC Marca Adhesives

FEICA Direct Company Member

Avda. Carrilet 293-297

08907 L'Hospitalet de Llobregat

Barcelona - Spain

www.acmarca.com

NEW BASA CHAIRMAN

Scott Challoner (Wacker) was recently elected as the new President of BASA, the British adhesives and sealants association.

Scott, seen here at last year's FEICA Conference in Sardinia, took over from Mark Louch (Mapei) in March 2018.

We wish Scott all the very best in his exciting new role.

FEICA ON TWITTER

FEICA ON LINKEDIN

FEICA CONNECT is the quarterly newsletter for FEICA Members.

The next issue, out in June 2018, will be our yearly 'Special Conference edition'.

Kindly note that FEICA CONNECT is published four times a year; in January, May, June/July (Special Conference Issue) and in October.

FEICA thanks the authors who have contributed to FEICA CONNECT.

The content of these articles is the responsibility of the author(s) mentioned and does not necessarily reflect the views of FEICA or any company or organisation participating in FEICA.

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