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**SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED: FLUOROPOLYMERS
AND THE SAFE TRANSPORT OF HAZARDOUS
SUBSTANCES**

Dear Colleagues,

It has been a grey and rainy month of May here in Brussels but we hope the opening of the terraces has brightened it up a little for you! Perhaps you enjoyed a freshly pulled beer, but did you spare a thought for the materials that enabled the production, delivery and serving of that beer? Sealings, packings and gaskets are just a few of the parts required throughout most manufacturing processes and fluoropolymers are key to them.

In this edition, we focus on fluoropolymers' role in sealings, gaskets, packings and expansion joints. Although beer production would be a very Belgian route to go down, we thought it would be more fitting, following the European Commission's recently presented Zero Pollution Action Plan, to explore their critical role in ensuring the safe transport of hazardous substances.

Fluoropolymers' unique properties make them ideally suited to seal piping containing corrosive substances. By doing this, they improve workers' health & safety and reduce the risk of leakage resulting in less pollution to the environment and money savings due to more efficient manufacturing processes.

It has also been an exciting week for the Fluoropolymers Product Group as we have hosted two webinars for downstream users of fluoropolymers and trade associations. We will report back to you on the outcomes of those webinars in the next edition but, in the meantime, be sure to follow our [LinkedIn](#) for updates on our activities and information regarding critical applications of fluoropolymers.

A big thank you to the [European Sealing Association](#) who kindly shared with us a case study on their use of fluoropolymers and served as the inspiration for this month's edition. Should you like to be featured, please get in touch - we are always happy to hear from our industry stakeholders and have prepared a template to facilitate the process.

As ever, please also feel free to share this newsletter with your wider network and invite people to sign up by emailing me at nicolas.robin@plasticseurope.org. Thank you in advance!

Kind regards,

Nicolas Robin

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The EU Regulatory Landscape

Expert group on the Implementation of the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability holds first meeting

The European Commission held its first meeting of the [High-Level Roundtable](#) on the Implementation of the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS) on 5 May. The meeting was attended by Fluoropolymers Product Group member Solvay who, together with other industry stakeholders, published a subsequent [joint statement](#) calling for the enforcement of current legislation and 'Safe and Sustainable by Design' to be featured as a priority on the Roundtable's agenda. The European Commission [envisions](#) a coalition-maker role for the roundtable, where its members act as 'influencers' in their field of expertise reaching not only the Commission but member states, industry, the scientific community and other stakeholders.

Parliament adopts resolution on European Strategy for Hydrogen

The European Parliament adopted a [resolution](#) in favour of the new European Strategy for Hydrogen. The [report](#) was approved in this month's plenary session.



Fluoropolymers' role in sealing devices

Thanks to their unique set of properties, including their stability and high resistance in harsh environments, fluoropolymers (especially PTFE) are essential components of the impregnation of packings, gaskets, expansion joints and polymeric seals.

Have you ever considered the importance of sealing devices? From obvious everyday applications in preventing leaking plumbing to further afield applications across many different industries such as the aerospace, power generation, and chemical industries, sealing devices are key to the effective functioning of households and industrial plants.

Looking specifically at the transportation of chemicals, sealing devices are critical to preventing leaks and corrosion. Where a pipe is connected to a piece of plant equipment such as a pump, valve or compressor, several sealing devices are required to prevent the unplanned release of liquids or gases contained in the pipe. This is especially important when the substance in question is potentially hazardous.

At this time, there are no alternatives to PTFE offering the appropriate set of properties required for sealing devices and the subsequent universal functionality. Without PTFE, a packing or gasket would not have the same chemical compatibility leading to increased friction and ultimately increased risks of leakage.

Thank you again to the European Sealing Association for giving us an insight into yet another critical application of fluoropolymers!



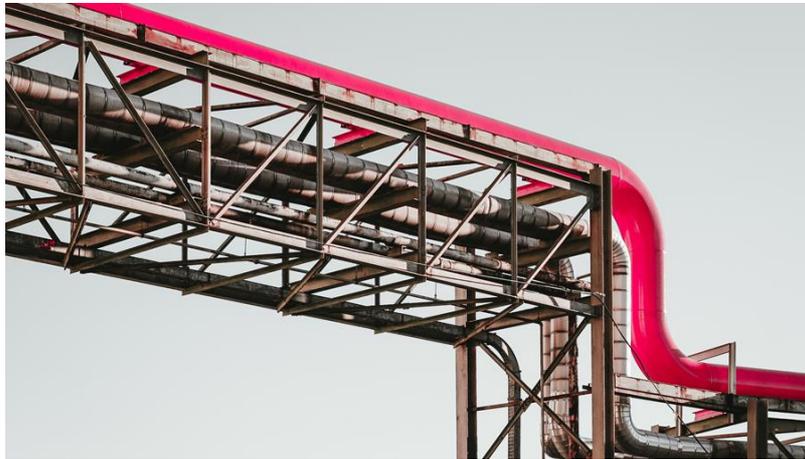
Fluoropolymers contributing to reduced pollution

The European Commission's long-awaited Zero Pollution Action Plan was presented on 12 May. Presented as a flagship part of the European Green Deal, it sets a number of key targets for the EU by 2030 and aims to tackle air, water and soil pollution by

streamlining the zero-pollution ambition throughout various pieces of existing and upcoming EU legislation.

Fluoropolymers are helping to drive this ambition through their role in sealing devices. As a direct impact, these sealing devices reduce direct unplanned emissions of potentially polluting substances into the environment.

In addition, sealing devices are integral to several renewable energy applications including wind-power and hydro-electric turbine sealing. This means that fluoropolymers, through sealing devices, are also contributing to reduced air pollution emissions by supporting renewable energy.



Fluoropolymers preventing leaks and saving money

The European Sealing Association (ESA) represents manufacturers of sealing devices all over Europe (Germany, France, Austria, Italy, Spain, Slovenia, Poland, Bulgaria, Netherlands, Denmark, Switzerland, Norway, UK).

By reducing the risk of leakages, fluoropolymers prevent the corrosion of pipes, vessels, fluid-handling components, filters, vents and cables, which reduces overall lifecycle costs. To put that into numbers, each 1% reduction in corrosion is estimated to deliver savings of some €150 million per year across Europe!

Read more about the socio-economic impact of fluoropolymers for Europe in [our report](#).



We hope you enjoyed this edition of the newsletter.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the Fluoropolymers Product Group or find us on [LinkedIn](#).

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