

# Preliminary Conference Programme



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CONFERENCE COMPANION



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## 9-11 June

9 June - Board Meetings | 10 June - General Topics | 11 June - Technical Sessions



## Antwerp, Belgium

Hotel Hilton Antwerp Old Town, Groenplaats 32, 2000 Antwerpen

Annual Conference **2026**

14.00 - 16.30

Lijn & Teun

## EURO-MOULDERS Board Meeting and General Assembly

— EURO-MOULDERS Board & Technical Committee Members Only

17.15 - 19.00

Lijn & Teun

## EUROPUR Board Meeting

— EUROPUR Board Members Only

19.30 - 23.00

Restaurant Blend 32

## Joint Board Dinner of EUROPUR & EURO-MOULDERS

— Board Members and Guests Only

## Wednesday, 10 June 2026

08.30 - 09.30

Belle Epoque



## EUROPUR Formal General Assembly

— Michel **Baumgartner**, *Secretary General*, EUROPUR

*\*EUROPUR Members Only*

09.30 - 10.15

Lijn & Teun & Foyer

## Coffee Break / Networking

10.15 - 10.30

Belle Epoque



## Welcome Address

— Bart J. **ten Brink**, *President*, EUROPUR

10.30 - 11.30

Belle Epoque

Keynotes



## A Moment of Truth: Can EU Policies Live Up the Needs of Europe's Chemicals Industry?

— Georg **Riekeles**, *Associate Director*, European Policy Centre



## Europe's Plastics Industry at a Crossroads: Challenges to Tackle, Opportunities to Seize

— Virginia **Janssens**, *Managing Director*, Plastics Europe

11.30 - 13.15

Belle Epoque

## The Flexible PU Foam Market Outlook: Upstream & Downstream

- Moderated by Steven **Pacitti**, *Editor*, UTI
- Clint **Raine**, *Co-owner*, Belvedere & Partner & Stefan **Hermes**, *Chairman*, APBA
- Giulia **Taveggia**, *Partner, Senior Researcher*, CSIL
- Laura **Tovey-Fall**, *Global Polyurethanes Editor*, Argus Media



13.15 - 14.30

Lijn & Teun & Foyer

## Networking Lunch

14.30 - 15.30

Belle Epoque

Panel Discussion

## Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation – Quid for Furniture and Mattresses?

- Moderated by Michel **Baumgartner**
- Jana **Hrčková**, *Policy Officer*, European Commission
- Frederik **Lauwaert**, *Managing Director*, EBIA
- Emelie **Nordström**, *Public Affairs Partner*, Inter IKEA
- Bart **Haelterman**, *VP, R&D and Sust.*, EMEA & APAC, Carpenter
- Paolo **Campanella**, *Secretary-General*, FEAD



15.30 - 16.30  
Belle Epoque



### Automotive Transformation on the Edge of Structural Uncertainty

— Laurence **Noël**, *Executive Vice-President Head of Global Automotive Industry*, Capgemini Group



### The Challenge to Develop Truly Sustainable Vehicles on the example of the EU ELVR

— Timo **Unger**, *Senior Manager Sustainability and Environmental Affairs*, Hyundai Motors Europe Technical Center

16.30 - 17.15  
Lijn & Teun & Foyer

Coffee Break / Networking

17.15 - 18.15  
Belle Epoque

Keynote



### The Ecosystem Economy: Shaping Businesses in a Connected World

— Rik **Vera**, *Author, Coach & Business Philosopher*

18.15 - 18.45  
Belle Epoque



### For the Love of Foam

— Dr. Ramkumar **Dhruva**, *President Monomers Division*, BASF

19.30 - 23.00  
Handelsbeurs Antwerp

Reception & Dinner

Celebrating 60 Years Together



We thank the Sponsor of the 2026 Conference Dinner



BELLE EPOQUE

SUSTAINABILITY I

— Moderated by Dr. Theodoros Mardas, Sustainability Policy Adviser, EUROPUR

09.00 Sustainability WG Overview & Legislative Developments

— Dr. Theodoros Mardas, Sustainability Policy Adviser, EUROPUR & EURO-MOULDERS



09.20 Sustainability Drivers Across the Mattress Value Chain

— Alessandra Tracogna, Senior Market Researcher, CSIL



09.40 Beyond Progress: The Future of PU Foam Is in Our Hands?

— Mike Murray, CTO, The Vita Group  
— Natalie Watson, Group Director of Sustainability, The Vita Group



10.00 Closing the Gap Between R&D and Real Production: How the BASF - Brighi Partnership Creates Value for Foam Manufacturers

— Tobias Schäffner, Technical Development PU Flex Foam Solutions, BASF  
— Laura Marconi, Marketing & Sales Coordinator, Brighi



10.20 PUR2ISO™: Phosgene-Free Chemical Recycling of Polyurethane into Virgin-Grade Polyol and Isocyanate

— Niels Van Velthoven, Founder & CEO, Purciso



10.40 The Road to Molecular Circularity of Polyurethane: Quality Control on Steroids

— Pieter Billen, Professor, University of Antwerp



TIFFANY & SHAH

AUTOMOTIVE I

— Moderated by Stephan Wendel, Technical Chair, EURO-MOULDERS

09.00 EURO-MOULDERS Technical Committee Update

— Stephan Wendel, Technical Chairman, EURO-MOULDERS



09.30 Alternatives to Polyurethanes in Automobiles: Status Quo 2024 and Outlook to 2030/2035

— Thorsten Reinhardt, Managing Director, Conversio  
— Christoph Lindner, Managing Partner, Conversio



10.00 From Waste to Value - How the Waste Determines the Recycling Technology

— Mark Charles Staniford, Strategic Marketing PU Flex Foam Solutions, Performance Materials Europe, BASF  
— Mariana Specia-Made, Segment Manager Flexible Foams, BASF



10.30 Low-VOC and High Sound Absorption Performance Acoustic Insulation Systems for Passenger Vehicles: Development Criteria

— Ümit Ünal, R&D Flexible Manager, Kimpur



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EPR SCHEMES & DPP ROUNDTABLE

— Moderated by Michel Baumgartner, Secretary General, EUROPUR

09.00 Panel Discussion

- Lucas Wauters, Manager Operations, Valumat
- Laure Bisson, Head of Materials and Substances Innovation Division, Ecomaison
- Martin Auerbach, Managing Director, Matrazenverband
- Francesc Pineda, Secretary, Ecocolchon



10.15 Digital Product Passport: Driving Circularity and Compliance in the PU Industry

- Wiebke Speckles, Strategic Marketing & Sustainability Manager Flex Foam Solutions, BASF
- Kristyna Holmelund Jørgensen, LCA & Sustainability Specialist, Bramming Plast-Industri



10.35 Next-Generation Circular Economy Platform: What Is The Impact For The PUR Industry?

- Stefaan Cognie, Co-founder, TripleR



SANCY

PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP & EHS

— Moderated by Patrick de Kort, Regulatory Affairs Manager, EUROPUR

09.00 Regulatory Updates on Diisocyanates

- Jelle Verheij, Senior Public Affairs and Communications Officer, ISOPA



09.20 EHS & PS Activity Report with Certi-PUR and Critical Substances Update

- Patrick de Kort, Regulatory Affairs Manager, EUROPUR



09.40 Preparing for 2029: How the EUROPUR Measurement Guidance Can Help Compliance to Future OELs

- Georg Pirkl, Global Product Safety & Regulatory Affairs, Covestro
- Paul Howard, Advanced Manufacturing Engineering Manager, Adient



10.00 Driving Down Exposure in Slabstock Foam Production: Using Dosimeters to Inform and Demonstrate Effectiveness of Workplace Improvements

- Daniel Sebastián, Foam Plant Manager, Pikolin



10.20 The Journey to Substitute Aprotic Solvents in the Polyurethane Industry: A Fruity Solution

- David Spitzer, Innovation Director, The Vita Group



10.40 Driving Market Differentiation with Advanced Antimicrobial Technologies

- Robert Ostap, Distribution Manager, Microban International



BELLE EPOQUE

SUSTAINABILITY II

— Moderated by Dr. Theodoros Mardas, Sustainability Policy Adviser, EUROPUR

**11.30 Foam with a Future: Building a Sustainable Pathway for the Flexible Foam Industry**  
— Dr. Daniela Hermann, Technology Manager Comfort, Evonik



**11.50 Polyurethane Foams from Renewable Carbon: CO<sub>2</sub>-polyols for Sustainable Flexible Foam**  
— Richard Stevenson, Business Development Manager - Polyol, Eonic



**12.10 Bio-Based Adhesives Driving the Transition in Foam & Furniture Bonding**  
— Dr. Stefan Glang, Head of R&D and Technical Service Industrial Adhesives & Sealing Compounds, Wakol



**12.30 Beyond Green Labels: How Low-PCF Foam Bonding Wins the Next Regulatory Wave**  
— Julien Heusser, CTO, Simalfa



**12.50 Development and Performance Evaluation of Bio-Based Silicone Surfactants for Flexible Polyurethane Foam**  
— Dr. John Zhang, Head of Innovation, MAYSTA Chemical



**13.10 ESPR: New Adhesives for Emerging Challenges!**  
— Pierre Poirot, Adhesive Product Manager, Everad



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AUTOMOTIVE II

— Moderated by Stephan Wendel, Technical Chair, EURO-MOULDERS

**11.30 Next Generation Seating Materials: Achieving Comfort, Enhanced Mechanical Properties and Recyclability through Thermoplastic PU Foams**  
— Mark Brennan, Senior Research Manager - New Materials, Huntsman



**11.50 Driving Automotive Circular Innovation for PU Waste: A Dow - Gruppo Fiori Collaboration**  
— Esther Quintanilla, Global Strategy PU Mobility Science, Dow  
— Andrea Benvenuti, PU R&D Fellow, Dow



**12.20 Releasing a Greener Future! Novel Water-Based Release Agents for Automotive Applications**  
— Dr. Annegret Terheiden, Global Technical Director Flexible Slabstock & Automotive, Evonik



**12.40 Novel Anti-Scorch Solution Meeting Upcoming Regulatory Changes**  
— Cinzia Tartarini, Polyurethane Additives Expert, BASF  
— Marie Laure Bertet, Regional Marketing Manager Automotive and Building & Construction, BASF



**13.05 Building Backwards, Moving Forward – GIC Collaboration Enables EoL PU Auto Seat Recycling**  
— Michael Puffer, Head of Alternative and New Materials Sourcing, Covestro  
— Taylor Clayton, Project Lead, Global Impact Coalition



TIFFANY & SHAH

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

— Moderated by **Clint Raine**, *Co-owner*, Belvedere & Partners

11.30 North America

— Jason **Sloan**, *Director*, CPI/ACC & Russel **Batson**, *Executive Director*, PFA



12.00 South East Asia

— Stefan **Hermes**, *Chairman*, Asian Polyurethanes Business Association



12.30 Central & Latin America

— Juan Pablo **Dosal Pons**, *General Manager*, Poliuretanos



13.00 India

— Harneet **Kochar**, *Chairman*, Indian Polyurethane Association



SANCY

VERSATILITY / INNOVATION

— Moderated by **Patrick de Kort**, *Regulatory Affairs Manager*, EUROPUR

11.30 Foam in Motion - Multifunctional Materials for Transportation

— Roland **Krämer**, *VP Group R&D*, NEVEON



11.50 Advances in Reticulated Foam Machinery and Processing Techniques

— Jörn **Struckmann**, *CEO*, Reticulatus



12.10 Rebond Foam as a Circular Solution: New Demand Drivers & Opportunities in the European Market

— Joey **Bosmans**, *New Product Development, Quality & Technical Sales Director*, Federal Eco Foam



12.30 Next Level of Manufacturing – A New Dimension in Cutting in the PU Foam Industry

— Dr. Paul **Grzeschik**, *CEO*, Fecken Kirfel



12.50 Graphene-Enhanced Flexible PU Foams: A Breakthrough in Low-Frequency Automotive Noise Control

— Dr. Ester **Laguna Gutiérrez**, *Team Leader*, CellMat Technologies



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Contact **Adriana Palhau** ([a.palhau@europur.org](mailto:a.palhau@europur.org)) for more information

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