

ErP Lot 4 VA – Steering Committee meeting

Tuesday 21 January 2014
Digital Europe, 14 rue de la Science, Brussels

PARTICIPANTS

Name	Company
1. Michael Bennett	European Commission, DG ENTR
2. Adrian Coyle	Oki
3. William Dazy	Canon
4. Maxime Furkel	Lexmark
5. Remy Kadirbaks	Kyocera
6. Declan Keegan	Epson
7. Stephen Kimber	Brother
8. Tom Moriarty	Dell
9. Robert Nuij	European Commission, DG ENER
10. Sara Rodriguez Martinez	Hewlett-Packard
11. Ferial Saouli	EuroVAprint ASBL (EVAP)
12. Andy Skarstein	ERA
13. Claire Schonbach	Xerox
14. Sandeep Rana	Samsung
15. Dierk Ulken	Toshiba
16. Christian Tebert	Ökopol
17. Tom Wagland	Ricoh Europe

APOLOGIES

18. Stephane Ardit	EEB/ECOS
19. Andy Cosgrove	Xerox
20. Marie-Helene Dubray	Panasonic
21. Dirk Jepsen	Ökopol
22. Markus Kelch	Konica Minolta
23. John Myers	Xerox
24. Jörg Palmersheim	ISOPA/ALIPA
25. Chris Robertson	ERA
26. Laura Spengler	Ökopol
27. Milena Presutto	ENEA (Italian Energy Agency)

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
 2. Approval of minutes of previous SC meeting
 3. Presentation of VA 5.0.
 4. Any Other Business
 5. Next meeting
 6. Closing of meeting
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MEETING MINUTES

1. Opening of the meeting

William Dazy, President of EuroVAp rint and Chair of the meeting, opened the meeting and invited participants to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of the minutes of previous SC meeting

The email approval of the minutes of the SC held on 26 September 2013 was confirmed. The minutes are therefore considered approved and final.

3. Presentation of VA 5.0.

William Dazy reminded the participants about the revision process in 2013 and listed the new features of Lot 4 VA version 5.0., as follows (please refer to slide 4 attached):

- “Commitments Part I” – primary design requirements
 - Clarified reporting deadlines: 2014 (baseline) to 2017 (Tier II)
 - New Energy Star 2.0 compliance targets – split rates TEC/OM
- “Commitments Part II” – primary design requirements
 - Polymer composition (new clause)
 - Cartridges: new wording of clause on non-OEM cartridges
 - Recycled plastic contents (new clause)
- “Commitments Part III” – info requirements for end-users
 - Reference to ECMA 370 for disclosure of environmental product info (not new per se but more prescriptive)
 - Availability of spare parts

- Governance aspects: provisions closely aligned or more prescriptive than EC Guidelines
 - Independent Inspector
 - Reporting (April 2014 report will be based on the current version of the VA, 4.0)
 - Background data
 - Enhanced transparency
 - Newly introduced auditing process
 - Penalties for non-conformity
 - Rules for next revision
 - New wording on termination/withdrawal/exclusion from the VA
 - Revised Annexes – new reporting forms in Annex B (compliance rate calculation) and C (TEC and OM forms to be sent to the Independent Inspector).

He subsequently opened the floor to questions and comments from participants:

Christian Ebert asked why the **Energy Star compliance rates** have been revised, as they seemed more ambitious in previous drafts. EVAP signatories confirmed that the current percentages are not to be underestimated, as they are quite ambitious nonetheless.

Christian Ebert asked why **scanners** are not included in the scope of the VA. In fact scanners were excluded upfront, following data in the 2007 preparatory studies outlining low market coverage.

Tom Wagland asked whether there was any way signatories could plan and budget for the audits. Andy Skarstein confirmed that due to the random nature of the audits, this was not possible.

Action

- **William Dazy suggested to follow-up directly with Ricoh on this.**

Christian Ebert said that while the German UBA (Federal environmental agency) welcomes the new requirements on polymer composition, they have an issue with art. 5.4.3. on **cartridges**, which they find not specific enough and would like to see more details on what improvements would prevent a non-OEM cartridge to be used. In the ensuing discussion, the signatories confirmed that the article was carefully drafted, with the assistance of the legal teams. Using this clause will be reported on, however. Signatories will need the benefit of hindsight when it comes to assessing the usefulness of this clause.

As far the **availability of spare parts** is concerned, Christian Ebert said that German UBA welcomes the introduction article art 6.2. and suggests providing an indication of where users can find spare parts. The signatories said that the intention was to leave some flexibility to each OEM to decide how to make this information available as they all have different distribution models. Christian Ebert added that UBA would welcome specific mentions of parts that are more likely to break/wear out. Signatories confirmed that the current wording represents an acceptable compromise.

Action

- **William Dazy said the link in art. 6.4.1. will be added (it used to be in previous versions of the VA).**

Christian Ebert enquired as to why the composition of plastic polymers now set the threshold at **100 grams** as opposed to 25 grams in previous drafts to which the signatories replied that Lot 4 VA was simply following EPEAT requirements.

William Dazy then invited Robert Nuij from DG ENER to provide the Commission's input.

Robert Nuij informed the participants that Adam Romanowski will be replaced by Paolo Tosoratti as of 3 February 2014. Given this change-over, the European Commission was not in a position to give formal feedback during the meeting.

Referring to the Guidelines on Voluntary Agreements, Robert confirmed they would be finalised and published as soon as possible. However no firm timeline is currently available. He said that a horizontal **Consultation Forum** is planned for the beginning of May, where a discussion on Voluntary Agreements could take place if appropriate.

Sara Rodriguez-Martinez asked about progress of the CSTB VA, to which Robert Nuij responded that it is not as advanced as Lot4. Their target is to finalise the first revised VA commitments by Summer 2014. Sara then enquired as to whether the EC could envisage holding a Consultation Forum for one VA only, or whether the EC would prefer to wait for other VAs. Robert indicated there is some flexibility and that 2 meetings could be held one shortly after the other if appropriate.

Robert Nuij then asked about the timing foreseen by the signatories, to which William Dazy responded that the VAS have delivered the revised VA by the timeline they had committed to last year, and are hoping to get endorsement by the European Commission soon in 2014. Robert confirmed that, while the VAS have moved considerably in the direction of the draft guidelines in the latest draft of the VA, other stakeholders still have to be allowed to formally comment (in particular at a CF meeting).

In terms of next steps, DG Energy considers that VAS have to decide for themselves whether to continue the process, despite the delay in adopting the guidelines.

At this stage, the signatories said they would welcome a formal sign from the European Commission that it is still committed to the Voluntary Agreement on Imaging Equipment.

Finally, Robert informed the signatories that the process to have Energy Star 2.0 recognized in Europe has been launched and it should be adopted in the first quarter of 2014.

Actions

- VAS to set-up a meeting with Paul Hodson and/or Paolo Tosoratti early February to discuss the Guidelines delay, confirm EVAP has finalized the revision of its commitments under the VA, enquire about Consultation Forum comments, enquire about the future and seek a sign that the EC is still formally committed to this VA
- Add SC minutes on CIRCA
- EVAP to reach out to Commissioner Oettinger's Cabinet by the end of February 2014 to present a positive eco-design story, showcasing the success of the VA.

4. Date of next Steering Committee

Given the current state of affairs, the date of the next SC meeting is open.

5. Closing of the meeting

William Dazy closed the meeting at 12.40.