

RECOVERED FIBRE

NEWS...

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SERVING THE EUROPEAN RECOVERED FIBRE INDUSTRY

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BREXIT IN MARCH IS LIKELY But What Dangers of a No Deal

A waste and resource management specialist from within the UK government's Department for International Trade has expressed confidence that a Brexit agreement will be reached between the UK and the rest of the EU. Deborah Sacks told delegates at the BIR Paper Division meeting in London on October 6 that they should ignore the media 'fluff' and listen to 'those in the know'. She insisted, "I think there

will be an agreement." Responding to talk of a 'friendly divorce', she later added, "Our government is committed to making it happen and committed to making it work."

Addressing a panel debate moderated by divisional President Jean-Luc Petithuguenin of Paprec Recyclage in France, Ms Sacks underlined the 'huge will to ensure that materials will continue to flow' in the wake of the UK's departure

from the EU. However, she also acknowledged the possibility of more delays and increased costs for those looking to move material.

BIR World President Ranjit Singh Baxi of UK-based J & H Sales International Ltd expressed concern that a 'hard' Brexit would lead to 'a lot of problems' regarding documentary requirements when shipping recovered fibre. He agreed that the UK government is naturally keen not

only to retain trading relationships with the rest of the world but also to take the lead in promoting the 'reduce, reuse, recycle' message.

Also confident of a Brexit agreement that will ensure 'a good cohesion' in the future between the UK and EU member states, fellow panellist Keith Trower of Viridor Resource Management in the UK described China's import ban on

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No Deal Brexit Dangers (cont. from page 1)

certain grades of recovered fibre as 'a wake-up call' on quality. His own company has invested heavily in quality enhancement and has enjoyed success in educating local authorities about the need and means to reduce contamination and to improve infeed quality into paper mills. "It is a positive environment for us at the moment," he stated.

Ms Sacks and Mr Baxi pointed to the potential for other Asian countries to adopt fibre import policies similar to those deployed in China, with Taiwan the latest to indicate that it is considering increased controls.

Mr Baxi was then joined by Mr Trower and others in noting that Chinese companies are looking to establish production capacities in, for example, Europe and the USA in order to satisfy China's increasing demand. Panellist Francisco Donoso of Alba Servicios Verdes in Spain pointed out that China will still require packaging for its goods and that this could mean more virgin packaging.

Earlier in the Paper Division meeting, newly re-elected board member Tarek Al-Sharif from UAE-based Sharif Metals International provided solid data on paper recycling's massive environmental contribution. He explained that the recycling of a single ton of paper saves 4100 kWh of energy, 380 gallons of oil, 54 million Btus of energy, 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space, 7000 gallons of water and 17 trees, while preventing the emission of 60 pounds of air pollutants. "We keep on recycling for a better environment and a better tomorrow," he insisted.

Brexit and its consequences provided

a regular point of debate during the London Convention.

Hilary Stone, Honorary Research Fellow at Imperial College London's Centre for Environmental Control & Waste Management, warned delegates of some of the dire potential scenarios for trade, especially if the UK leaves the EU on March 29 next year without a withdrawal deal in place. In this case, the UK will face new tariffs on exports of recyclables to the EU while also being able to set tariffs on imports of recyclables into the UK.

The UK and the EU reached an agreement in principle in March this year for a transition period running to the end of 2020, during which the UK will be treated for most relevant purposes as if it were an EU member state. However, this agreement will not be legally binding until a withdrawal deal is formally agreed and ratified – something which has yet to happen, Ms Stone underlined.

The UK government will carry across EU Waste Shipment Regulation 2006 so that UK and EU law will be identical, Ms Stone also noted. Identifying consents to ship waste as a key issue, she said the UK view is that they should still be valid whereas the EU "does not agree". She was joined by Mr François in calling on companies to carry out an urgent review of any of their existing notifications given that the UK's withdrawal date is less than half a year away and the notification procedure frequently takes more than six months.

NO DEAL

Chinese Export Prices

November export prices for OCC and OI News to China fell mid October (apart from pre-booked and contracted exports) and will not improve until mid to late November when imported allocations are agreed. Other exported grades could be affected in the short term.

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RECOVERED FIBRE PRICES • 5TH NOVEMBER 2018

DOMESTIC

Average ex works price range per tonne for graded processed material in mill sized bales. Low to high price is based on geographical area of collection and/or weight loadability capability and not monthly variations.

MIXED PAPERS (source segregated)	£30 - £35
MRF QUALITY MIXED	£7 - £12
OCC	£70 - £75
OVER-ISSUE NEWS	£210 - £215
NEWS AND MAGAZINES	£113 - £118
MULTI GRADE	£155 - £160
WHITE HEAVY LETTER	£240 - £245
BEST WHITE No 2	£420 - £425

EXPORT (FROM THE UK)

Average ex works price range per tonne for graded processed material in mill sized bales.

MIXED PAPERS (source segregated)	£30 - £35
SOFT MIXED (source segregated)	£40 - £45
OCC (Non-China)	£75 - £80
OCC (China – no mixed content but 5% grey card/Scan board allowed)	£110 - £115
OVER-ISSUE NEWS	£240 - £245
NEWS AND MAGAZINES	£115 - £120
MULTI GRADE	£165 - £170
WHITE HEAVY LETTER	£265 - £270
BEST WHITE No 2	£440 - £445

Source: Packaging Intelligence Network.

All prices tabulated here are INTENDED ONLY FOR PURPOSES OF REFERENCE. They do not constitute any commitment to sell any material at the indicated average. Transactions may be completed at any time at a price agreed upon by seller and purchaser.

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