

# Newsletter July 2014

Nr 2 2014



## Artistically designed pylons

Many passing motorists might think that this is a work of art and not pylons, but that's the point of it all, says industrial design company No Picnic, who designed the posts Yggdrasil Electric Pole for the Swedish network owner Svenska Kraftnät. The posts are now being erected as a portal on either side of the new motor way outside Stockholm. The name Yggdrasil refers to the sacred world tree in Nordic mythology. The posts consist of a latticework construction of galvanized steel, see picture to the left above. In order to create a smooth surface, they have been covered with galvanized sheet, see picture to the right above. To protect the sheets during transportation and assembly the plates have been covered with plastic film, which unfortunately does not seem to be easy to remove. Until now the film has only been removed on a few of the plates and the surfaces are full of glue residues. The question is what kind of solvent that can be used without surfaces discoloration.

## Adoption of Stockholm chemical plan 2014-2019

Stockholm Chemical Plan, which we mentioned in the last Newsletter, has now been adopted by the City Council, apparently without that any of all the referral responses from the industry was considered.

"Hazardous chemicals are growing into one of the most serious environmental issues. I myself as a parent is worried about how my children daily exposes to chemicals that we do not know the effect of. It is of course unacceptable and it is time that we act, says Stockholm City environmental responsible, Per Ankersjö (C)."

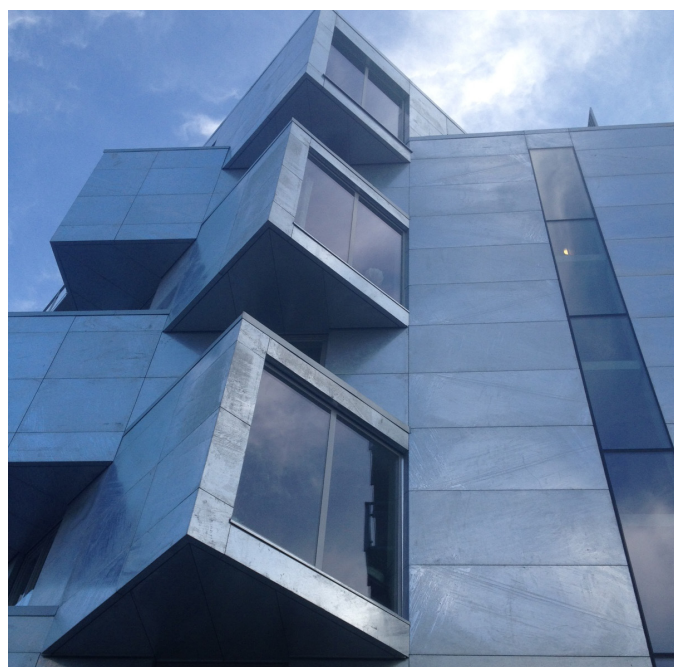
"We have already started to recruit experts to the city's new Chemical Centre to help all pre-schools, schools, departments and companies in the city to inventory and phase out hazardous chemicals. With our new chemicals plane and Chemical Centre, Stockholm will be at the forefront in this area", says Per Ankersjö (C). The issue of toxic chemicals is ranked as the most important environmental topic of Stockholm residents, according to the recent citizen survey on environmental habits for people living in Stockholm, which was made of Stockholm environmental administration.

To "toxic chemicals" counts, surprisingly also metals like

copper and zinc, which are selected as "local focus species" in Stockholm Chemical Plan. What this will mean for the use of galvanized steel in various applications is unclear, but when "tyres, roofs, facades and other galvanized surfaces" are pointed out as being the sources of zinc diffusion, there is a risk of future restrictions. The formation of a new Chemical Centre within Stockholm Environmental management is not likely to facilitate for the industry.

## Buildings with galvanized facade in Stockholm Royal Seaport

Although Stockholm City in its Environment Programme 2012-2015 advise against using zinc in roof and facade materials, a house with galvanized facade has been built in Stockholm Royal Seaport, which is an area with a distinctive environmental profile. The builder Reinhold Gustafsson AB has built rental units for self-management. The house has a special position in the new district, in a place where two strong directions meet. Its edges expresses this encounter between directions through the bay windows that intertwine with each other, facing the opposite direction on every other plane.



*House with galvanized facade in Stockholm Royal Seaport - Stockholm's flagship when it comes to environmental sustainability.*

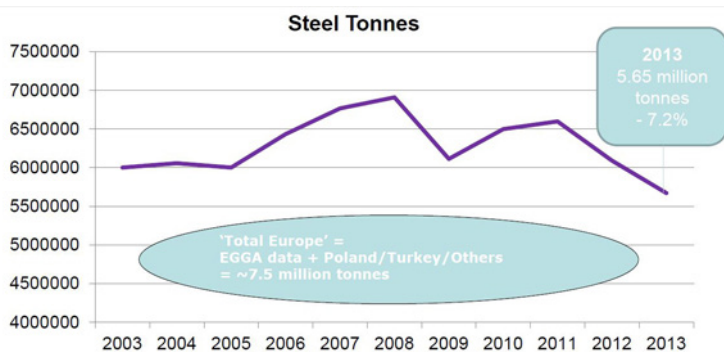
Murman Architects, who designed the current building, writes on their website "The façade is covered with 3 mm thick galvanized sheet metal - a material with different nuances and shades of matte and shiny that gives the surface life and that ages beautifully. At balconies, terraces and patios, where people come close to the facade, the building is covered with wood to give a warmer feeling and a contrast to the zinc plate." Although Stockholm City's formulation in the Environmental Program it has thus been possible to implement this construction project, which we are very glad for. Apparently, one reason that makes it possible was that it was a private homeowner (Reinhold Gustafsson AB) who wanted this facade. At the Port of Stockholm, owned by the Stockholm City, it was not allowed to have galvanized facade on the new terminal building, despite that it was the architect firm's first choice.

### Restrictions to use zinc in Denmark

Even from Denmark, and then so far mainly Copenhagen, reports our colleagues from Umicore, which sells zinc sheet for building purposes, that the restriction of use of zinc and copper increases. Other major cities in Denmark follows and Umicore is experiencing that this is a very serious problem that they want to prioritize even higher than the situation in Stockholm / Sweden. Probably because the market for zinc metal as a building material is higher in Denmark than in Sweden. Denmark is also one of the countries in Europe with the highest number kg galvanized steel per capita (Source: study performed by EGGA) so it is a market worth preserving even for our industry. In the zinc stakeholder group in Europe, including EGGA, IZA (zinc producers' branch association) and zinc metal producers Umicore and Rein Zinc, we will perform activities, for example contacts with local authorities in Copenhagen and probably also with lobbyists.

### Galvanizing statistics for 2013

EGGA's statistics for 2013, based on the data the member countries submit, is now available and has been sent to NG members. The decline in productivity at the European level in terms of galvanizing was 7.2 percent in 2013.



### Many interesting questions at Nordic Galvanizers conference and annual meeting in Copenhagen!

Nordic Galvanizers held conference and annual meeting in central Copenhagen Admiral Hotel on May 8 to 9. After a lunch and welcome speech by the association's chairman Bill Carlsson the conference program began with a presentation by Lennart Emanuelsson, CTO of the Öresund Bridge Consortium. The bridge, containing 7,000 tons of galvanized steel, has a high traffic load. Four years after the bridge became operational problems with the hot dip galvanized bolts that hold the fences in place

Nordic Galvanizers, + 46 (0)8 446 67 60, [www.nordicgalvanizers.com](http://www.nordicgalvanizers.com), [info@nordicgalvanizers.com](mailto:info@nordicgalvanizers.com)

was noticed. Since it involves entirely 24,000 bolts to maintain or possibly replace, a maintenance program with waxing of the bolts started, which proved very effective. Christian H. Melchiorson from AluSteel told about the large infrastructure project Nordhavnsvej. AluSteel delivered 400 tons of steel and aluminum for daylight screens at the ends of the 1600 meter long tunnel, which is the largest construction project undertaken in Copenhagen during the last 50 years.

Murray Cook from EGGA, European General Galvanizers Association, informed about the role of the galvanizer in surface treatment of load bearing structures, which will be CE marked by the component manufacturer. Murray's message was that it is easy to integrate galvanizing the component manufacturer's production control (FPC), and that this is a natural part of a common quality management system (ISO 9000). Third-party certification of the galvanizer is not required, and certification to the standard 1090-1 is not applicable to a subcontractor. Thus, the standards EN 1090-1 and EN 1090-2 specify requirements for surface treatment and life time, which are of importance when galvanizing is specified as a service performed by a subcontractor. A separate abstract from the conference have been sent out by email to all NG members, and is also available to read on the NG's member page.

### EGGA Assembly in Venice June 9 to 12

This year's European galvanizing conference was held in the city of Venice in Italy. The conference program was varied with elements of both technologies, environmental issues and marketing. There was a lot of discussions about the economic crisis which has affected Italy extensively and has led to a big market downturn. Italy is also experiencing an increasing competition from materials like Magnelis (steel sheet coated with aluminum-magnesium-zinc alloy) and Corten (weathering steel). The latter has taken significant market share from the galvanizing in Italy.



*Neither nicely nor environmentally friendly - Corten emit large amounts of iron - but is still successful in many European countries.*

### Instead of autumn meeting -

#### Study trip to Germany September 22 to 24

This fall, NG will not arrange any conference, but instead we will arrange a study trip with work visits at German galvanizers and at the pot manufacturer Pilling. We fly to Bremen, where we live centrally at the Radisson Blu Hotel. Besides looking at galvanizing plants and the pot plant, Pilling has proposed visit to the shipyard Meyer Werft and a trip to Bremerhaven, the second largest port in Germany. More information about the trip will follow, but save the date already!

#### Happy summer!

We would also like to wish all our members a really great summer! We have vacation during part of July and August, but reads email and are of course available at important issues!

**Annikki Hirn**  
**Annette Hjelmare**