

Newsletter July 2015

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At the last board meeting of Nordic Galvanizers it was decided to create a smaller group with one representative from each country to discuss which working areas that are most important for the association in the future, and which activities that will give the best value for money.

Normally NG Information office work with four main areas: **Technology**, including among others trouble shooting (claims / discussions regarding quality etc with member's customers), info desk – questions from users, customers and members, standardisation work.

Environment: Monitoring of directives (EU level, national level), cooperation / information transformation with EGGA, IZA, contact with authorities.

Marketing: Exhibitions, seminars, articles, advertisement (in magazines and on the web).

Education: For plant staff (to raise the quality of the galvanized steel), at universities, for customers, for steel suppliers.

From members and users we got the impression that technical support is of high priority. From our main stakeholder, New Boliden AB, we know that environmental issues, to protect zinc from banning and listings, is very important.

The "Strategic group", consisting of Henrik Steen-Jørgensen, Denmark, Jorma Pannula, Finland, Bjarne Kihle, Norway, Lars-Göran Tylebrink, Sweden and Annikki Hirn from NG Info Office, had its first meeting in Köge in Denmark 22 June. The activities performed by NG, EGGA and IZA (International Zinc Association) was listed and discussed. Next meeting for the group will be in the beginning of September, and Murray Cook from EGGA will participate to discuss synergies and further cooperation for the future. The result from the work within the group will be presented to the board during the next NG board meeting, which will take place during the study trip to France which is planned for the autumn. After that it will be presented to all members.

Study trip to galvanizing plants in France

Instead of an autumn meeting, Nordic Galvanizers will arrange a study trip to France between 30 September and 2 October, in cooperation with Anne-Marie Ziemendorf from the French company Metal Trading. During the trip we will visit the plants Galva 45 and Aximum, and also do a lot of other interesting things. GALVA 45 is located 80 km south of Paris, near Orléans and has four automated galvanizing lines, with 5 baths of different lengths using two kinds of special zinc alloys. The parts to be galvanized are treated in the different baths according to their type, length, the reactivity of the steel and the desired coating characteristics. Aximum has both galvanizing and powder coating. More information about the study trip will come in August, but save the dates 30 September – 2 October to be sure that you are available!

NG annual meeting and conference

Nordic Galvanizers' spring conference and annual meeting was held in Stockholm May 7th. The conference was located at the Clarion Hotel Sign in the city center and gathered about 60 participants. The conference program consisted of wide spread topics, from how an architect argues when he chooses galvanized steel for facades to information about galvanizing in bath with elevated aluminium content, accelerated corrosion tests and environmental assessment of buildings and construction materials. The certification Approved Galvanizer, for galvanizers who are suppliers to steelwork contractors/fabricators that will CE mark their products, was also presented. A summary from the conference has been sent out to all members by mail, and can also be found on the member's part of NG web page, www.nordicgalvanizers.com, link "For members", username:varmzink, password:3583zink.

Intergalva 2015

Intergalva, the large worldwide galvanizing conference held every three years, was this time held in Liverpool, England. The conference covers technical, commercial and environmental topics for the general hot dip galvanizing industry. The conference had over 600 delegates from 53 countries, and this time Nordic Galvanizers was represented from all four countries, both with delegates and at the exhibition. A summary from Intergalva has been sent out by mail and is also available at the member's part of the web page, see above. One interesting thing from Intergalva was the "new" business area for galvanized products, renewable energy. Wind, solar, hydropower and biofuel are included in the term, and the supply of renewable energy has increased rapidly during recent years. It is a suitable market for galvanizing, since long life time is needed and the assembling on site can be done by bolting. In some cases the assembling is performed in snowy and cold weather, which is not a problem if galvanized steel is used. Constructions used for production of renewable energy are often exposed to a tough environment and a durable corrosion protection system is needed. Denmark has the highest level of wind energy in the energy mix in the world, 39 %, and is also the second largest wind energy suppliers of the world.



Products for renewable energy needs a lot of galvanized steel for the load bearing parts.

Another interesting thing from Intergalva was input about how to improve the usage of web to reach specifiers and users of galvanized steel. This will be one part that we will discuss in the Strategic group, see above.

Our friends in the International Zinc Association

International Zinc Association (IZA) was created in 1991 by a group of leading zinc producers and has guided the the principal of undertaking actions that positively influence the market and image of zinc.

The Association's primary goal is to deliver value to its members through innovative programs in its strategic focus areas of Environment and Sustainable Development, Technology and Market Development and Communications.

IZA provides a forum for the zinc industry to analyze and anticipate issues affecting zinc globally and to ensure a timely and appropriate response. IZA coordinates initiatives good for zinc that are best done collectively, undertaken either directly or through involvement and support of customer groups and related stakeholders on the local, regional and global levels. IZA often works close to EGGA and they support and help us in environmental questions. Among others IZA's specialist Frank van Assche has helped us with referral response on Swedish environmental directives and also visited Stockholm to discuss with the authorities. One question of really high importance for IZA at the moment is the new revision of the Water Framework Directive, see below.

Revision of the WFD

The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) is in the process of revising again its list of *priority substances*. The previous revision process concluded with the publication of the new priority substances list in 2012. Zinc and zinc compounds were extensively discussed at that time, but not prioritized. IZA was very active in that process. In 2014, the Commission commenced the process for the next revision of the priority list. This next revision is scheduled to conclude in 2017.

Three parallel approaches will be followed to identify candidate substances for prioritization in the new revision: first, substances that were considered in detail during the previous process but were not prioritized (so called "table 4.1. substances" - zinc is among them), will be evaluated again. IZA is part of the group that works on zinc, and will participate actively in the deliberations that are expected to start this summer.

Meeting with Svenska Kraftnät (SVK)

Svenska Kraftnät is responsible for the national grid in Sweden. The government has assigned Svenska Kraftnät the task to maintain and develop the Swedish national grid for electricity. The national grid power lines transport electricity from wind, hydro and nuclear power stations to regional and local electricity networks, which in turn transmit the electricity on to the consumers. Connection of renewable energy is one of the reasons that SVK is currently reinforcing and expanding the grid at several locations in Sweden. Another reason is to promote competition in the electricity market where electricity is bought and sold.

SVK follow the Public Procurement Act (LOU) when they

buy services and products for their projects. The purpose of the Public Procurement Act is that the EU legal principles should be followed to among other things provide competition in the creation of the agreement.

Under the contract, all offers that are dealt with should be judged objectively and decision regarding the "winner of the contract" shall be made in accordance with transparent manufactured specifications. There are a couple of big entrepreneurs in Sweden, which usually are the ones that win SKV's contracts and construct the networks. These companies are mostly specialized in products for energy transformation, and the steel structures needed are supplied by subcontractors. The costs for those products are usually of very great importance and they are often produced in low-cost countries, which both construct and galvanize them.

In late May, NG met with SVK together with two of the consultants who SVK often use for the final inspection of their projects. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss what demands you can set the on hot dip galvanized structures, and which deviations that are acceptable or complaint founding. Relevant requirements to be imposed by the contract was also discussed. Among other things, the lead content of the zinc bath was discussed. In many other countries much higher lead content than what is accepted by the authorities in the Nordic region is used.

After some discussions SVK agrees that a requirement regarding maximum allowed lead content in the zinc bath could be good to add in the procurement documentation for future projects. SVK also told that they have tried some Nordic galvanizers for smaller parts of their projects, and that they have been very satisfied with the result so far. The possibility to discuss the constructions in an easy way is of course a great advantage. Since SVK has a lot of projects planned for the coming years it is of course of interest for the members in NG that a larger part of the steel work and galvanizing will be performed here. According to SVK, except the price, capacity for the steel work is a bottle neck, not the galvanizing. This is an interesting topic to discuss with MVR and corresponding organizations in the other Nordic countries.

News at EGGA

As mentioned before EGGA:s Executive Secretary Frances Homes has retired after over 40 years of dedicated service to the industry and, especially, to EGGA. The work at EGGA will be a bit changed from now on, and two people will share the tasks that previously was carried out by Frances.

Ms. Ewelina Trzeciak had been recruited as Communications and Events Executive and Mrs Sandra Cottrell has been appointed as a part-time financial administrator. Sandra would operate as a consultant and not an employee.



Ewelina Trzeciak

Intergalva 2015 was Ewelinas first event at EGGA after a few months on her new job, and it was probably a quite tough situation to start up with, but everything went well and the response from the delegates about the arrangement have been very positive.