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Visit to the parliament

The 10 November EGGA arranged a visit to the EU parliament in Brussels. The aim of the visit was to give representatives from the galvanizing industry the possibility to meet with members of the parliament, (MEP) to establish contact and discuss our industry. Unfortunately none of the Nordic MEP:s had the possibility to come, but we met MEP:s from other countries. EGGA has created a group with "galvanizing friendly MEP:s", people that have been contacted by EGGA members and shown interest for the galvanizing industry. Many of them were engineers, blacksmiths or other related professions or came from countries where the industry needs to grow. From Nordic countries Henrik Steen Jörgensen, Bill Carlsson, Lars-Göran Tylebrink and Annikki Hirn participated. Bills daughter Erika Carlsson, who had another meeting at the parliament at the afternoon, also joined us for this activity.

It is important with continued contact also with the nordic MEP:s. We wrote to them before this meeting and got the answer that they already were booked on other things, but at least we have created a first contact and informed about our industry. We will now create "lobbying groups" in Denmark, Finland and Sweden. The Danish galvanizers have already had their first internal meeting to discuss how to work. More information regarding this question will follow.

Why lobbying?

Why is lobbying and contact with MEP:s so important? Because regulations and directives on EU level has a large influence on national level. For example the Water Framework Directive (WFD) is under revision and the MEP:s will vote in that question late in 2016 or in the beginning of 2017, see below.

The Water Framework Directive

As we informed about earlier the Water Framework Directive (WFD) is a directive to improve the water quality in Europe. During the work different "substances" are judged depending on their influence on the water. Some substances are listed as "priority substances", which means that it is prioritized to decrease the spread (i.e use) of them. Until now zinc is not classified, instead it is a so called "Specific Pollutant" (a substance that the commission set limit values for but as long as the level of them are below the limit it is no problem to use them). But in the new review of the WFD directive zinc is back in focus! The authorities are interested in checking the quality of the measured zinc data, collected in different countries around Europe. New data is collected, and there are discussions regarding national monitoring data, if the BLM-model should be used or not, etc. In some countries there are point sources with high zinc levels, for example in Cyprus and Slovakia. These point sources are often due to historical metallurgical activities. The accepted limitation value for zinc in water in Europe according to the commission is 10,9 µg Zn/l. Thus, the limit value

in Sweden is suggested to be lower than that, which is something we now discuss with the authorities.

According to EGGA it would be necessary to establish a political-level approach to Member States that would decide on the Commission proposals. National Associations would play an important role in this work. And we have to start with it in the beginning of 2016.



Lars-Göran Tylebrink, Henrik Steen Jörgensen and Bill Carlsson visited the parliament.

Presentation in connection with "Stålbyggnadsdagen"

The Swedish Steel Building Institute (Stålbyggnadsinstitutet, SBI) held its annual conference in Gothenburg in November. The day before the conference SBI arranged a seminar with the theme "From project planning to installation". Nordic Galvanizers were invited to inform about galvanizing. The other presentations were about painting and stainless steel. Our cooperation with SBI is very useful since we have the opportunity to meet and inform users of galvanized steel, without having to bear costs for premises and invitation etc.

Stockholm Environmental Program 2016-2019

The new draft of Stockholm Environmental Program is now circulated for comments. In the earlier version (2012-2015) there were a recommendation against usage of copper and zinc in roofs and facades. In this new version no specific substances are mentioned in the document – instead it refers to requirement on chemical end ecological status regulated on EU-level but (probably) "designed for Swedish conditions". There are phrases like "water quality should not be degraded", ie, materials that are considered to have a negative impact on water quality should be avoided. So also here we come back to the WFD and the importance for zinc to not be a prioritized substance. It also refers to KEMI:s (Swedish Chemicals Agency - Kemikalieinspektionen) PRIO-data base, which is a problem for us. In that data base KEMI listed chemicals that are toxic/may create problems for the environment.

When searching on "zinc" in the data base you are linked to a headline "Zinc and zinc compounds". Zinc in metallic/massive form is not on the list, only in the headline. It is the same situation for copper. Zinc and copper are not listed, but since they are in the headline they are still mentioned in the data base, which create confusion for users. We have discussed this with KEMI for more than

15 years, and asked them to take zinc off the headline, but nothing happened. Sometimes it seems like they wait for zinc to actually get listed.

Marketing/lobbying together with the consultant company Kreab

To counteract the negative information that some agencies, mainly the Stockholm Environmental Administration, spreads on zinc, NG has decided to produce an information material in cooperation with the consultancy Kreab. Kreab is a Swedish PR agency focusing on strategic communications. The company is active in the areas of financial communications, corporate communications and public affairs / community relations, and has about 350 employees and offices in 25 countries. We will provide them with data and they will present it in an educational and positive way. The product is intended to be a pdf that we can send out to architects, purchasers and other users or potential users of hot-dip galvanized steel. The aim is to clearly and credibly demonstrate that zinc does not pose a problem for aquatic environments in and around Stockholm.

New research project

NG will take part in a new research project regarding quality requirements for swimming and bathing facilities. The requirements on materials for such an environment is very high. There is a global demand for complete solutions in terms of design, material selection, purification, environment, energy efficiency, LCC, safety, aesthetics, health and accessibility. These comprehensive solutions could probably also be adaptable to other moist/wet environments where people and animals are staying. The project is financed by Vinnova, a Swedish agency with the task to promote sustainable growth by funding needs-driven research and developing effective innovation systems. Other participants in the project are CBI Betonginstitutet, Outocumpu Stainless, Swerea KIMAB, Sveriges Byggindustrier and many more. There is no project fee for NG, but a certain amount of work, as participating in meetings etc, is expected.

Classification of lead metal as High Potency Reproductive Toxicant

There is a suggestion from Kemikalieinspektionen in Sweden that lead (Pb) in massive form should be classified as toxic, and this is now discussed on EU-level. Different limit values for lead in consumer products have then been discussed, and both 0,3% and 0,03 % have been mentioned. This is a problem for some galvanizers that use lead at higher levels in the zinc bath. EGGA is involved in activities with purpose to get the limit for lead as high as possible. Arguments are that a low limit value for lead will have impact both on recycling and sustainability. For those who use secondary zinc for galvanizing it could be hard to fulfil the suggested requirements. The directive will be discussed by the member states in December and voting will take place in Q1 2016.

0,3 % lead will probably be the level for the galvanizing industry, but remelted zinc normally contains much higher levels. If lead metal is designated as an SVHC (Substances of Very high Concern - in Swedish "Ämnen på kandidatlistan") then the limit will be 0.1 % Pb to the whole

product (zinc coating + steel). According to Murray Cook it will then still be possible to sell a galvanized product with 0,8 % Pb in the coating.

Galvanized facades with unique pattern

Galvanized facades are very popular for the moment and several houses with such facades are built both in Nordic countries and in the rest of Europe. The picture below is from Nordstjerneskolen in Denmark. The company RMIG has manufactured and supplied high quality perforated sheets to create a unique facade. The material is galvanized steel with a thickness of 2.0 mm. Galvanizer: DOT.



At the last EGGA committee meeting in Vienna Holger Glinde, responsible for marketing in the German galvanizing association, had a presentation regarding galvanized supporting constructions for facade plates. He said "This is a growing, young market for galvanized steel. The supporting construction could be used both for galvanized and non-galvanized metal plates. It is a door opener for communication with architects - Galvanizing becomes a face (surface!)". One example of that in Sweden is the big shopping centre "Mall of Scandinavia". It has a facade of aluminum plates with a supporting construction of galvanized steel.



Workplace safety is important for all professionals! Hot-dip galvanized lifting equipment ensures that the Santas can perform their work without risk of accidents!