

EUROPEAN BATHROOM FORUM
OPEN MEETING

NOTES
FROM THE MEETING HELD 8 OCTOBER 2018

1. Welcome and Introduction

Chair, Carlos Velazquez provided an overview on the purpose of the EBF and the Open Forum, the challenges and sought commitment on the 'Best of All' approach bringing 4 existing labelling schemes together to form one strong, credible scheme for the European Bathroom Industry. Each delegate in attendance provided an introduction on who they are and who they work for.

2. Legal Statement

Mr Velazquez referred delegates to the Competition Statement that provides guidance on discussion boundaries. This is attached to and forms part of the attendance list.

3. Agenda

Mr Velazquez highlighted the format for the days Agenda and invited additional Agenda items from delegates in attendance. There were no further agenda items.

4. Update

Mr Velazquez provided an overview and update on progress. Currently at a level supported by 143 brands and a database approaching 11,000 live products. Mr Definti asked those present if it is possible to improve the database of registrations before the JRC meeting planned for end of October or in time for ISH, March 2019. It was noted that Anqip and the Unified Water Label are working together to merge the two existing databases into one.

Mr Velazquez informed delegates of activity undertaken to raise awareness of the Label as outlined in the presentation (copy attached to and forms part of the minutes). Discussions with Leroy Merlin have commenced to engage them under the 'Best of All' approach.

Mr Velazquez informed delegates that a statistical questionnaire has been prepared and could be delivered via an independent third party, this questionnaire will identify the base level of support for the Scheme and aid progress to the required 80% of the market support for an initiative under a Voluntary Agreement. Mr Velazquez stated that the process of collating Industry data will need to be managed and undertaken by a third party accountant or Lawyer. Future discussions on this topic will require the presence of a third party Lawyer to ensure no anti-competitive practices are entered in to. This was fully supported and agreed by those present.

Mr Velazquez reported that the Unified Water Label has been invited by JRC to present current activity and progress made under the 'Best of All' approach.

5. Technical Update

Mr Taylor-Hamlin, Technical Chair provided an overview on recent technical activity to address the challenges under the 'Best of All' approach. Two meetings had been held in September and minutes are or about to be circulated to all interested Stakeholders. The taps and shower TC met in London on 13 September and the Sanitaryware on 19 September in Germany.

Mr Taylor-Hamlin reported that the technical aspects of bringing the various schemes together also reflected the state of the art, including functional testing and addressing missing elements to the sanitaryware criteria.

It was reported that a technical report on the proposed criteria for taps and showers had been circulated prior to the meeting on the 13th September. Comments had been received and these had formed the basis for that meeting. Conclusions had been reached on all but 4 points; testing for low pressure (primarily UK, Eire and small areas of Central Europe), confirmation of testing to be undertaken at 0.1 bar yet to be confirmed. Tap criteria to address a proposal from Anqip on splitting the tap criteria into; kitchen taps with lowest grade 6 litres per minute or less and washbasin taps with lowest grade of 4 litres per minute or less. Mr Taylor-Hamlin stated that technical icons for taps and showers together with qualifying criteria had been agreed and these will justify the water and energy saving values.

Mr Taylor-Hamlin stated that the energy calculations used by Swedish Energy Label and the Water Label were broadly on a similar trend basis using water flow to calculate the energy aspect for the broad product range covering all European taps and showers. It was noted that using the existing EU calculations would be politically correct.

Mr Taylor-Hamlin provided an overview of the sanitaryware technical working group that is overseen by FECS, a European partner of the EBF. Martin Hartmann and Alfred Knoller confirmed that due to the existence of European harmonised standards the task was purely to simplify the criteria, include new criteria for urinal bowls and to confirm the technical icons and qualifying criteria. It was reported that actions are in hand and will be confirmed following the FECS marketing committee in November. A draft of the proposal will be circulated to EBF members for comment.

Mr Taylor-Hamlin concluded his presentation with a timeline for implementation; consolidate and update existing document, circulate complete document and from January 2019 for 2 years implement new criteria alongside existing criteria to allow manufacturers a transition period.

It was proposed and accepted that the action plan should be notified to the Commission so that they have knowledge and an understanding of the EBF activity.

6. Marketing Activity

Mr Timo Kopka provided a presentation on the marketing activity. He presented the Label together with a guide on how and when to use the Label, together with an image of the revised Label, under the 'Best of All', approach. He also urged members to improve registration numbers and raise visibility of the Label – this will aid the road map in achieving the 80% of units sold in the market place which is a key criteria for an award of a VA.

Mr Velazquez informed members that CEIR had recently met with representatives of DG Environment who requested if EBF will undertake a presentation at a meeting to be held late October in Madrid on the findings of the 'Best of All' approach and if they could receive a report on the actions agreed at EBF technical working groups. Mr Velazquez read to the Forum the email and stated that a key aspect for the Commission is functionality testing and a further challenge which legal framework can they use for a VA, as the only current framework is Ecodesign. It was also noted that three countries have concerns regarding a VA; Germany, Netherlands and Scandinavia. A copy of the email is attached and forms part of these minutes. Mr Velazquez stated that CEIR proposed that engagement with Ministers in these countries could help to persuade them to support a VA.

7. Next Steps

Mr Velazquez stated that at the next meeting EBF must commence discussion on Governance, Market coverage and achieving 80% market support plus commitment for the Scheme audit.

It was also proposed that following the JRC meeting in Madrid that a group conference call will be held to share the findings of the meeting. This was agreed and notification will be sent as soon as possible.

It was also proposed a tentative date be held for a meeting at the Roca Gallery in Madrid on 17 December.

Mr Velazquez brought the meeting to a close.