

# Report

*Subject* : **FEIBP Working Group PHB**

*Date* : **21 september 2012, St. Gallen (Switzerland)**

*Attending* : Y. Brunet, F. Thomas, Mrs. D. Quemper, Ph. Coward, P. Simler (part of the meeting), I. Moss, A. McIlroy, F. Ceelaert (general manager)

*From* : Fons J.M. Ceelaert

*Date* : 14 November 2012

*Reference* : feibp.vsleng.48

## 1. Opening

Chairman Philip Coward opens the meeting, in attendance of 3 registered companies. Karsten Bo Pedersen and Karsten Skov, who are members of the PHB Committee, gave their apologies for non attendance.

## 2. Report of the meeting of the Working Group PHB held on 10 February 2012 at FFB Offices, Paris (France)

The chairman recalls a very well attended and constructive meeting in Paris.

Page 3, "*CN/HS*" Classification, must be "NICE" Classification.

The report was approved.

## 3. Scope, content and safeguarding of the PHB Charter

### **a. Manufacturing requirement**

The renewed article in the PHB document "System and Practical Application" reads as follows: "Any company applying for registration has to manufacture a **reasonable percentage** of the products in the company's hygiene product range."

With 2 applications pending, the question is now: What is a reasonable percentage?

It was decided:

- A reasonable percentage is related to the hygiene range of any individual company.

- Any individual company can manufacture also non hygiene brushware products, but this part of the turnover is not taken into account.
- A reasonable percentage is related to the hygiene range per individual company, the manufacturing percentage of the group will not be included.

***b. Application EU Collective Trademark***

The chairman is most delighted with the progress made, information provided by the secretariat is complete. If no objections are made, the trademark will be registered by 30 October 2012.

The meeting decides to renew all existing PHB certificates per 1 January 2013.

In case of an application, the company brochure (printed or digital) is checked by the PHB Committee. A recurrent item is the fact that flagged fibers are not allowed to be included into the hygiene range of any PHB registered company.

As soon as the collective trademark procedure is successfully completed, the PHB registered companies will be informed and asked to:

- Sign a declaration of PHB Charter compliance to the FEIBP secretariat
- Send the most recent company catalogue to the FEIBP secretariat

It was decided that in each PHB meeting, 3 – 4 brochures will be discussed, it will lead to better mutual information and a better understanding of the application of the charter (suggestion by Karsten Skov).

**4. Membership affairs**

***a. State of affairs applications***

- EDI Baur AG (Switzerland): no progress. Matter for the Swiss brushware association
- Tribollet (France): Danièle Quemper indicates that the application of Tribollet contains various errors of judgement. Nearly all products in the hygiene range are manufactured by Tribollet and only 15% is supplied by a business partner, also a PHB registered company.  
In conjunction with managing director H. Marais, FFB will clarify the situation and Danièle is hoping that based upon that input Tribollet can be registered under the charter.
- Bümag AG(Germany): this matter is now in the hands of the German Brushware Association, the secretariat is waiting for advice.

***b. Membership recruitment***

At InterBrush 2012 some contacts were made, but there are no concrete applications received yet.

**5. Miscellaneous**

***a. Marketing PHB Charter***

The meeting agrees that the registration of the PHB logo as an EU trademark is the basis of any future PR activities.

***b. Research contacts FFB/EHEDG***

FFB gave a presentation in the EHEDG Group, welcomed with enthusiasm.

EHEDG would like to extend its group to European participants.

First of all the FFB presentation will be made available by Danièle Quemper, distribution among the PHB Working Group. An item for the next working group meeting.

**6. Economic outlook**

Franck Thomas informs the meeting that the prices of raw material are a problem. Hygiene products become more mainstream and it is more necessary to promote our products on quality. Franck would like to see that the big purchasers were to deal more directly with the manufacturers. We must have a keen eye on the necessity of quality control.

Yvon Brunet refers to the EU Food Contact Regulation. FFB creates the declarations of compliance to state that the FFB members are manufacturing in compliance with the food contact regulations. Market rather flat.

Philip Coward mentions a very bad home market in the UK, but export is fine.

Andrew McIlroy indicates that nylon 612 is not used in the hygiene product range, but more specifically in technical brushware. Fine nylon is more the department of Dupont. The prices of polypropylene follow the development of oil prices, very much regarded as a commodity.

**7. Any other business**

Attention for the update in the laws, rules and regulations connected to the PHB Charter. Updates do not seem to be correct. Both Danièle Quemper and the general manager will look at the current list.

## **8. Date next meeting**

As the separate meeting of the Working Group PHB in February 2012 was very well attended, it was decided to organize a separate meeting of the working group each year in the period February/March, in between congresses. FFB is most happy to host these meetings, in 2013 to be held on **Thursday 7 February**.

## **9. Closure**

The chairman is grateful for the input by the participants and closes the meeting.