



## **Minutes No. 4**

### **of the 4th Meeting of the Supervisory Committee**

**of the project “Alternative Recycling of Waste Paper and Hemp Fibre into Innovative Thermal Insulation Materials with Improved Thermal Conductivity”, project No. LIFE17 ENV/LV/000335, project abbreviation LIFE\_PHIPP,**

**implemented by SIA BALTICFLOC**

Cēsis

25 May 2023

The Meeting of the Supervisory Committee is organised in order to implement the project “Alternative Recycling of Waste Paper and Hemp Fibre into Innovative Thermal Insulation Materials with Improved Thermal Conductivity”, project No. LIFE17 ENV/LV/000335, project abbreviation LIFE\_PHIPP (hereinafter – the project), funded by the European Commission programme for environment and climate action LIFE.

The Meeting is attended by:

SIA BALTICFLOC Project Manager Zane Sērmaukša;  
SIA BALTICFLOC Chairman of the Board Edžus Cābulis;  
SIA BALTICFLOC Technology Transfer Manager Ēriks Nordens;  
SIA BALTICFLOC Marketing and Communications Specialist Līva Cābule.

The Project Supervisory Committee is represented by:

1. the Deputy Director of the Nature Protection Department and the Head of the Species and Habitats Protection Division of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development Ilona Mendziņa;
2. Chairman of the Board of the NGO Green Liberty Jānis Brizga;
3. Marketing Manager of SIA Zaļā josta Laima Kubliņa.

The Meeting of the Supervisory Committee takes place online, starting at 12:00 o'clock.

Course of the Meeting:

1. The Meeting of the Supervisory Committee is opened with the project progress presentation by the Project Manager Zane Sērmaukša.
2. Presentation by the Project Technology Transfer Ēriks Nordens on the project B1.5 and B1.6 Pilot production, B2 Certification of thermal insulation panels, and B5 Technology reproduction and transfer activities.
3. Presentation by the project's Marketing and Communication Specialist Līva Cābule on D1 and D2 activities within the project.
4. Section of questions and discussion:
  - 4.1. Laima Kubliņa: “I'm glad you managed to accomplish everything. Well done that you didn't give up. How do you assess in particular the contribution of this product to recycling of low class waste paper? How useful it is according to your assessment? How do you see the cooperation with waste managers?”



- 4.2. Ēriks Nordens: “It is important that we produce this product, but it is not specifically determined how much of low class waste paper we will consume. We have to look, how it is sorted, what does it contain. We can dose it in a specific proportion, but we cannot use it without other components. This significantly affects the properties of the final material. For the time being, we dose low class waste paper in the proportion of 5 – 10 % of the total amount of paper. As regards the cooperation with waste managers, the path of the waste paper to us has to be considered. Currently, this field is in quite an unfavourable position for us as the local recycler.”
- 4.3. Laima Kubliņa: “Did I hear correctly that also disposable paper tableware may be used for the production of the product?”
- 4.4. Edžus Cābulis: “As far as I have communicated with various landfills and waste sorting companies, the limits of waste paper sorting are unclear. In Lithuania, division of waste paper is more serious. In Latvia, various mixes are offered; however, for us to take the waste paper that is useful for us, we have to go through an extensive discussion process, and even then we won't know what exactly we will receive. But speaking about food and biological impurities, we can recycle them. If such impurities are insignificant, we have performed tests and succeeded. On top of that, the high temperature in this production line helps us, as it dries the unnecessary substances.”
- 4.5. Laima Kubliņa: “That's the thing that, if we are speaking about disposable tableware, including coffee cups, they are not used only for drinking water. There definitely will be coffee and milk leftovers. In any case it's clear that disposable tableware does not have future in this regard. I just wanted to clarify.”
- 4.6. Edžus Cābulis: “No, I have already previously emphasised that tests with tetra packs have been successful, also with used ones. We did not have any problems, as this production line has the advantage of high temperature which dries everything.”
- 4.7. Ilona Mendziņa: “Thank you for your presentations! I am glad that you are still working on it and have found solutions to complete the project. As far as I understand, it depended on CINEA, where the people who were working with you changed?”
- 4.8. Zane Sērmaukša: “Yes, that was the case. We had very successful discussions with representatives of CINEA both in writing, and later also in online meetings. We successfully agreed on the future cooperation, and these negotiations were concluded with an agreement that we do not have to exclude any activity, but we can reduce the extent of activities, thus reducing the total costs of the project. By doing so, we can finish the work we have started successfully and also succeed at the present moment.”
- 4.9. Ilona Mendziņa: “Do any indications follow from these discussions on whether you will have any non-eligible costs? Or decrease in the overall funding, or it looks fine at the moment? This is the first question. When we spoke in November, during opening of the production line, there was a story that you do not use Latvian textile, instead importing recycled fibre. Has the issue of recycling of textiles as waste somehow moved forward? The same refers to sorting of paper waste, you have to submit on your part suggestions or Layman's Report or final report, or a separate letter to ministries, waste recyclers. To be more precise, you have to demonstrate that you would be ready to recycle it all, but it requires specific preconditions. For example, special preparation, special collection, specific type etc. It is extremely necessary. Next question, how much you will express yourself about fibres in the



Layman's Report? Because there you will have to find that fine line between your business secrets and experience you have gained in this project. You have to tell about your benefits and learning during the project. For example, that it is easier to work with hemp fibre, not grain fibre etc. I don't really understand, what you will do during AfterLIFE? The question is – how you will operate the production line? Do you already have some directions you are going to test? Thank you.”

- 4.10. Zane Sērmaukša: “I will answer the first question about the budget reduction. We reduced the budget of activities for separate units we had not yet started. So, we just have reduced the overall budget. I would like to thank you for the Policy Advice suggestion, we will definitely take it into consideration. As regards the AfterLIFE plan. Yes, we have a plan to continue tests of various materials and various dimensions. To understand what other types of fibre we can recycle.
- 4.11. Edžus Cābulis: “Currently, textile waste is controlled by Eco Baltia vide, and we also attended the LIFE project activity Waste to Resource. I was totally surprised when it was announced on the stage, that there will be no textile recycling in Latvia. I went there as an optimist, but everyone already had a strong position against it. Prior to opening of our production line, we had a private conversation with the management of Eco Baltia vide and they said the same. At the present moment, it is more profitable to send textile waste to Africa, and they don't that something could be recycled in Latvia. I understand that it really will not happen in the nearest future. After going into more detail of this textile recycling topic, it turns out that there are recycling facilities not only in Scandinavia, but also nearby in Lithuania, which is one step ahead, as always. They already offer to us various recycling processes and cooperation. So, we still can somehow get involved nearby, but only through Lithuania at the moment.
- 4.12. Laima Kubliņa: “Edžus, you are right that textile management is currently introduced in Latvia with great strides. Eco Baltia vide are pioneers who have made huge investment for several years to test, compare, watch and assess it all. Of course, they are not interested to lie, but they also explained clearly that, if we sum up all the numbers, in simple words, second-hand clothing business, of course, is more profitable than actual textile recycling. I would say, that at the present moment the Ministry also has to understand what the concept will be like. How this textile waste management will be planned and organised on a national scale. Currently, all this is only planned and reconsidered. If reuse by sending to other countries will count as a part of the management process and it will also be financially more favourable, then, of course, nobody will be so reckless to invest in a field that will not be financially justified. Business is business. Also waste management, recycling and taking care of environment has to be somehow profitable. This is the harsh reality. In order to develop any recycling at all and do it as green as possible, Zaļā josta or Balticfloc will not be able to do it on their own. This has to be organised on a national scale. This already will be a question addressed to the Ministry. How they can help, how they can stimulate this process. Up to this moment, definitely no recycling has been going on in Latvia, no matter how proactively it is attempted to explain to society that they should get involved in sorting of textile waste.
- 4.13. Jānis Brizga: “Thank you, my apologies for joining the meeting late. Maybe you have already discussed it. I am interested exactly in these issues related to the materials that not really recycle – both textile, and paper. How much of these types of waste are you ready to accept? And also the last question is about what exactly



the Ministry and also merchants want to develop. I have a pessimistic observation regarding the recycling possibilities in Latvia, because, in my opinion, there is a lot more of interest in burning these materials. This will directly compete with you and, most likely, that you will lose this competition. The lowest class materials that cannot be recycled will, most likely, be transferred for burning, not recycling. Of course, the waste burning projects have not got very far. I was interested in textile materials in particular. You spoke about them last time, and, as I understand, you would import them from abroad. And, if I understood correctly, this is “post-industrial waste”, not even household waste, but is there a potential possibility to recycle second-hand clothing? What is your opinion in this regard?

- 4.14. Edžus Cābulis: “As far as second-hand clothing is concerned, there is no difference whether it can be worn or not, the main thing is sorting into fractions depending on the fibre – polyester, cotton and mixed fibre. The recycling process is the same for all fractions – grinding, regardless of whether it is a bed sheet or a sweater.
- 4.15. Jānis Brizga: “But can you use them theoretically and practically? Similarly, you said that the proportion of these cups and tetra packs can be up to 10 % in the material. And how about textile?”
- 4.16. Edžus Cābulis: “Textile is much easier to recycle. Already initially we took mixed textile fibre based on the idea that this type of waste comprises the largest fraction that remains unused. This was done to not stick specifically to one particular fibre, and textile is much more friendly for production.”
- 4.17. Jānis Brizga: “Doesn't elastane bother you either? Because it is frequently a problem in textile processing. It is used everywhere, and there is no more pure cotton fibre, instead a composite material. Does this mixed fibre contain everything together?”
- 4.18. Edžus Cābulis: “In the mix, it can be that in one instance the proportion of one fibre is less than that of the other fibre. But I don't have specific knowledge of elastane properties during its recycling. We could be bothered by the fact that it melts at a lower temperature than the temperature of decomposition of our binder. I see it as the only problem. But binders can also be different, so it can be adjusted.”
- 4.19. Laima Kubliņa: “I would like to comment, referring to Jānis' story that burning will be cheaper than recycling. In my opinion, burning/ regeneration is not considered recycling in Latvia. Consequently, if the recycling standards will have to be raised, whether they like it or not, they will have to think about how to recycle more. So, from this future perspective, of course, there is potential in this all and there is no need to focus on the fact that eventually everything will be burnt. And, on the other hand, I assume that the production volumes of this production site will not be as big that it could really recycle all the waste generated in Latvia and transferred for burning. I would like to believe that they will not compete with each other.”
- 4.20. Zane Sērmaukša: “Thank you, Laima, for your comment! And thank you all for this meeting! If there are no more questions, I will let you return to your daily works. Later, information will be available on the final project closing event, which we plan to organise at the end of June. We'll see which dates exactly the event will take place, we will clarify it later. But you are all welcome! Also we will clarify, whether it will take place online or onsite. We will announce the format later. Thank you and have a nice day!



- 4.21. Laima Kubliņa: “Thank you, and I would like to give one more suggestion to Līva. If communication is currently worked on, then tell about this product really proactively. To ensure that the AfterLIFE period is not where the equipment stands still and gathers dust, but eventually there is an opportunity to use the invested money, time and energy also in the future. I wish good luck and strength to the entire team! Well done!”
- 4.22. Edžus Cābulis: “I have one more comment about the AfterLIFE period. We are also interested in using wood fibre in the same material, and we will try to do it. So, there are a lot of recyclable materials for us to experiment, and we will continue working on it.”
- 4.23. Laima Kubliņa: “The main thing is to remember that if you have once found your way to implement a European project, you have already gained experience. And you can do it again!”

The Meeting is closed at 14:00