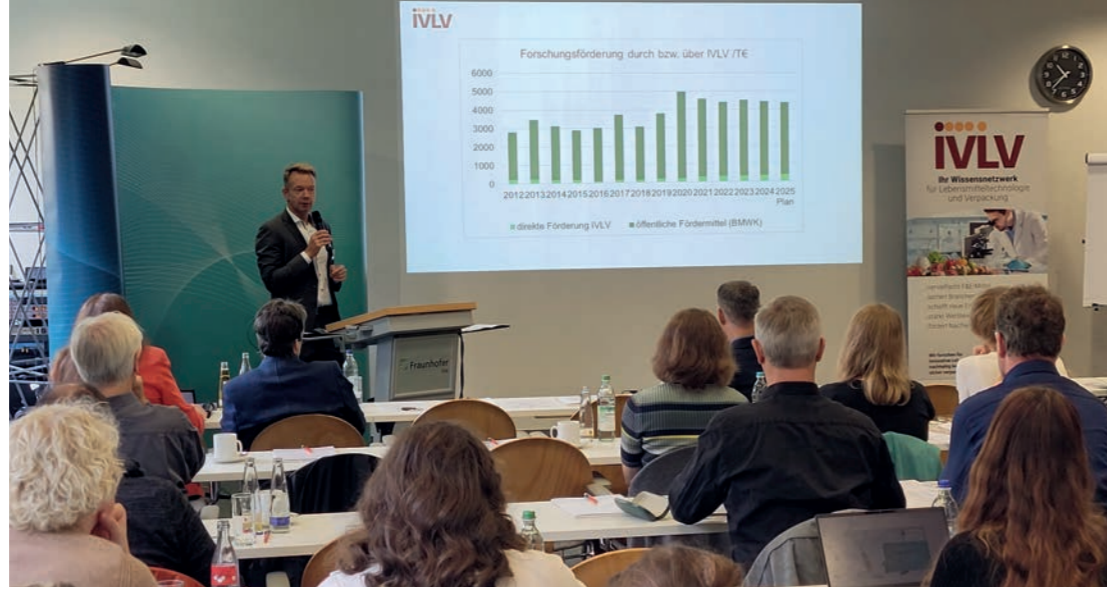


Dr.-Ing. Tobias Voigt, Geschäftsführer der IVLV, stellte in seiner Begrüßungsrede die Intention der Vereinigung und deren geschäftliche Entwicklung vor. Dr.-Ing. Tobias Voigt, IVLV Chairman, presented the association's intention and business development in his welcoming speech.



“How pure is pure enough?”

The IVLV Future Days “Conformity of Food Packaging” event featured informative presentations from scientists from Fraunhofer IVLV, along with speakers from the fields of research and industry regarding a wealth of new innovations and planned developments in compliance assessment. The legislation presents even stricter purity requirements, but on the other hand the compliance will simultaneously be rendered more difficult as a result of political uncertainties. New responsibilities will come because of the recycle quotas required by the EU PPWR (Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation).

By Alfons Strohmaier

In his welcoming address, Dr.-Ing. Tobias Voigt, the IVLV Chairperson, emphasised the importance of the Industry Association for Food Technology and Packaging e.V. He said that with its 273 members along with 30 research institutions, this knowledge network provides numerous benefits and receives constant funding. He pointed to the association's more than 80 individual projects and 40 to 50 cooperative projects, summing up his message as “Together we can achieve more”. This was also illustrated at the 2025 Future Days event by the Food Packaging Conformity Working Group, presented with great charm and specialised knowledge by Dr. Monika Tönnießen (Henkel), Chairwoman of the Working Group, and Dr. Angela Störmer (Fraunhofer IVV).

The working group has focused for several years on the inspection of legal conformity in food product packaging and conducted intensive research on alternative methods of intelligent assessment of the legal compliance of food products. At the working group's meetings this year it has come up again and again just how much industry and research have to adjust to new changes coming from

the political world. At this year's event, it was above all experts from science and industry who highlighted the themes of legislation and conformity work, paper and paperboard, packaging safety and recycling and the circular economy.

The latter issue was imbued with even greater relevance when the EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) took effect. As is the custom at working conferences, well-founded insights into current research projects were provided. Carina

Stärker and Tim Kaluza from Fraunhofer IVV presented the IVLV “Digital Conformity System” research project, following on after Dr Störmer had presented the latest alterations in legislation and standardisation.

As demonstrated by Ms Stärker and Mr Kaluza, the commission is planning a documentation of conformities and supporting documents which will confront companies with major challenges. This is because the necessary information is hard for users to find, and fundamental

Das IVLV-Projekt „SafePouch“ untersucht die Freisetzung unerwünschter Stoffe beim Siegeln. Dr.-Ing. Christiane Otto vom Fraunhofer IVV zeigte erste Ergebnisse. The IVLV “SafePouch” project examines the release of undesired substances in sealing. Dr.-Ing. Christiane Otto from Fraunhofer IVV demonstrated initial results.



information often isn't available to the general public. This IT system is now intended to resolve these problems. The focus was on the results of a survey to ascertain the requirements on the IT system and the necessary information.

Purity requirements and their practical implementation

In light of the high degree of complexity in the chain with all its many different areas of application, materials and material structures, packaging formats, prints/print designs, etc., communication and digitalisation must be improved. This was also clearly demonstrated in the speech by Heidi Moor from Swiss Quality Testing Services (SQTS), a division of Migros. Ms Moor illustrated the new highly controversial and currently fiercely contested Article 3a in the EU Plastics Regulation 10/2011, aimed at regulating the purity requirements and their implementation.

Experts view the recommended extremely low detection limits of 0.15 ppb as impracticable. This has been and is now identifying previously unknown (Non-Intentionally Added Substances) NIAS/ impurities. The high level of complexity and the increased conformity are increasing costs. This requires good cooperation within the supply chain, which isn't always the case. Ms Moor stated, “Subcontractors are erecting many blocks. One doesn't always want to communicate everything.”

Den krönenden Abschluss einer spannenden Veranstaltung bildete das Referat von Dr. Diana Kemmer vom Fraunhofer IVV über das EU-Projekt zu CIRCULAR FoodPack. The crowning conclusion of this exciting event came in the speech by Dr. Diana Kemmer from Fraunhofer IVV on the EU CIRCULAR FoodPack project.



Commission plan for mineral oil aromatic hydrocarbons is disproportionate and imbalanced

The conference addressed numerous details and projects related to conformity, such as model-based approaches to conformity assessment in the migration through paper-based packaging materials, the inspection for unwanted substances in sealing, and microplastic exposition from food product contact materials. Of particular import for the confectionery industry were the comments by Dr. Sieglinde Stähle from the Food Federation Germany on current developments and regulatory initiatives with mineral oil saturated hydrocarbons (MOSH) and mineral oil aromatic hydrocarbons (MOAH).

Given the multiple entry paths and sources of mineral oil hydrocarbons (MOH) in food products, over the last 15 years the industry has been very successful in their minimisation and in problem solving. The primary focus for this has come in the form of self-help and self-regulation through guidelines, a toolbox and joint recom-

mendations for mineral oil hydrocarbons benchmark levels.

In November of 2024, the Food Federation Germany together with the Consumer Protection Consortium of the Federal States (LAV)/working group on foodstuffs and consumer goods, wine and cosmetics (ALB) presented an evaluation and application guide to create a common understanding and a transition until a regulation is adopted. For its part, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) recommends the improvement of the analysis methods and further research of the sources of contamination.

But the EU Commission has now initiated a regulation plan that far exceeds the requirements of the EFSA and that also foresees zero tolerance with MOAH (SML 0.5 or 2 mg MOAH/kg food product). It also contains “incredibly short” timeframes and very high costs for the economy. Dr. Stähle criticised the measure, saying, “The Commission's plan is disproportionate and imbalanced.”

Another topic of discussion was the ban on Bisphenol A (BPA) in the manufacture of FMCs, which also applies for polycarbonate chocolate moulds. No moulds containing BPA can be produced anymore beginning in January of 2028, but these chocolate moulds can continue to be used until they are no longer functional and are replaced.

Along with the presentation of future projects and research themes, the second day of the conference was dedicated wholly to recycling and the circular economy. The focus here was on the cross-border SafeCycle project as well as other Cornet plans, such as increasing the safety of polyolefin and polystyrene packaging in recycling, and the EU project for the use of mechanically recycled polyolefins in food product packaging.

Laufende Projekte wie Safe-Cycle befassen sich damit, wie sich Recycling auf die Sicherheit von Polyolefin- und PS-Verpackungen auswirkt. Dr. Anke Deden (l.) vom Fraunhofer IVV, Natascha Matausch vom ofi und Lukas Prielinger vom FH Campus Wien gaben Einblicke in die Studien. Current projects such as SafeCycle are focused on how recycling affects the safety of polyolefin and polystyrene packaging. Dr. Anke Deden (l.) from Fraunhofer IVV, Natascha Matausch from ofi and Lukas Prielinger from the FH Campus Vienna provided insights into the studies.

