

## ■ ■ ■ POLYMER PRICES

### **PU February: Divergent development / MDI prices down / Suppliers continue to hike TDI**

International markets for polyurethane feedstocks developed differently in February. MDI prices declined, while suppliers continued to hike TDI, and polyols were short.

#### **MDI: Suppliers under pressure**

Polymeric MDI eased down to around EUR 2,000/t in February for bulk delivery in Europe, and prices were typically 5% lower than at the end of last year. Some larger clients and systems houses secured slightly better terms, with notations of EUR 1,900/t quoted by big consumers.

European crude MDI settled some EUR 50/t lower. Smaller clients paid around EUR 2,050/t. Pure MDI pricing lost further ground, completely erasing its historical premium. This was due partly to the underperforming footwear market. North American and Asian prices also weakened.

#### **TDI: Further price hikes in store**

TDI remained tight globally in Europe in February. Minimum quotations were EUR 2,000-2,050/t – about 5-10% above December. Bulk delivery transactions often reached EUR 2,100/t and producers signalled further increases, towards a target of EUR 2,100-2,300/t.

North American TDI prices were relatively stable, but increased further in South and Central America. The relatively low prices prevailing in Southeast Asia and China during January evaporated in February.

#### **Polyols: Many grades in short supply**

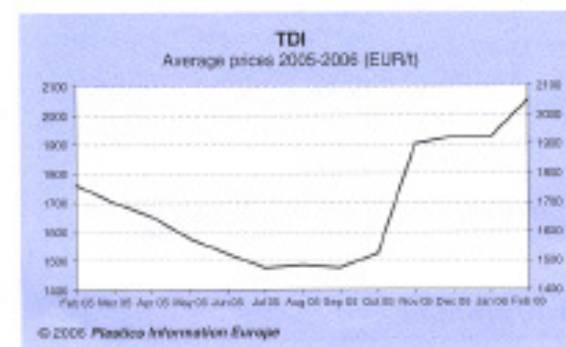
Polyether polyols, particularly high molecular weight grades, were in tight supply in Europe. The situation, which was linked to propylene oxide supply issues, edged many prices higher worldwide. European notations for mainstream flexible grades rose on average by EUR 20-30/t, but some large customers reported rollover conditions.

Overall, many polyol grades were difficult to obtain, while higher molecular weight polyols commanded a premium over standard grades due to their higher production and feedstock costs. Polymer polyol prices reflected the high cost of acrylonitrile and styrene feedstocks.

Flexible polyols sold at around EUR 1,500/t, while rigid grades fetched EUR 1,450/t-EUR 1,600/t. US and Asian notations were stable, with Asian volumes relatively thin.

Polyester polyols pricing remained flat worldwide. Demand from construction applications was quite buoyant in Europe, though this did not seem to lift pricing.

■ Further details on North American and Asian pricing at [www.pieweb.com/204399](http://www.pieweb.com/204399)



### **Polymer prices for Isocyanates / Polyols, February 2006 (EUR/t)**

|                  | February      | January       |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| MDI polymeric    | 1,900 - 2,100 | 1,950 - 2,150 |
| MDI pure         | 1,950 - 2,100 | 2,050 - 2,150 |
| TDI              | 2,000 - 2,100 | 1,850 - 2,000 |
| Polyols flexible | 1,500 - 1,600 | 1,470 - 1,600 |
| Polyols rigid    | 1,600 - 1,800 | 1,550 - 1,800 |

Source: Tecson OrbChem

## ■ ■ ■ K 2007

### **Messe Düsseldorf opens invitations to exhibitors / Huge response expected**

"Turning vision into business" is the slogan of the international plastics exhibition K 2007 ([www.k-online.de](http://www.k-online.de)), to be held in Düsseldorf / Germany from 24 to 31 October 2007. The organiser, **Messe Düsseldorf**, has begun to invite potential exhibitors from around the world to attend the event. All participants must register by 31 May 2006, and Messe Düsseldorf is expecting a huge response.

Exhibits will once again be categorised according to machinery and equipment, raw materials and auxiliaries as well as semi-finished products, technical parts and reinforced plastic products. Products on show will be rounded out by the special presentation "Plastic wraps it up!" sponsored by the German plastics industry, spearheaded by **PlasticsEurope Deutschland**, in cooperation with Messe Düsseldorf.

Participating exhibitors will use the opportunity to underline the contributions made by polymers in packaging, which provide protection, information and an attractive appearance. Applications displayed include plastic wrapping protecting exotic fruits on their journey from the tree to the store as well as the protective helmets worn by cyclists.

## ■ ■ ■ ASSOCIATIONS

### **EuPR re-elects Merckx as president / New members appointed to management board**

At its Annual General Assembly in December, the **European Plastics Recyclers Association** (EuPR, Brussels / Belgium; [www.eupr.org](http://www.eupr.org)) held elections for its management committee for the 2006 - 2008 period. The following were re-elected: **Bernard Merckx** as president, **Casper Van den Dungen** and **Silvio Löderbusch** as vice-presidents and **Helmut Oguln** as treasurer. Additionally, **Peter Bay**, **Hans-Jürgen Berenbruch**, **Mark Burstall**, **José Losada** and **Stefan Nimz** were elected as members of the management committee. Departing members of the management committee were **Pietro Majorana** and **Anders Hillertz**.

## ■ ■ ■ FAIRS & EXHIBITIONS

The packaging exhibition "Brasilpack 2006", organised by **Messe Düsseldorf** (Düsseldorf / Germany; [www.messe-duesseldorf.de](http://www.messe-duesseldorf.de)) in partnership with Brazil's **Alcantara Machado Trade Fairs**, is being held from 24-28 April 2006 in Sao Paulo / Brazil. The organisers point out that Brazil is the most important national market for packaging material production and packaging machinery manufacture in Latin America. Contact: **Volker Ohi** or **Simone Nakitter**, Tel.: 0049-211/4560526-586 or Fax: 0049-211/6087526-87586.