

Press Release

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EuPIA: Raw material shortages and increased costs hit the EU ink producers

In the last six months, costs of many very common raw materials used in the production of inks and varnishes have risen by more than 30% worldwide, and in some cases well over 50%. Despite rigorous internal mitigation measures, the ink producers are unable to absorb such massive increases says the European Printing Ink Association (EuPIA).

The serious situation regarding Printing Ink raw materials and intermediates is caused by many shortages due to destocking in the supply chain, coupled with an increase in demand for these materials, especially in emerging markets. This increase in demand is in most cases related to industries other than the printing ink industry. As a consequence major worldwide chemical corporations and producers of pigments and intermediates have already announced or actioned, price increases for their products with immediate effect. A number of primary ink components are affected: pigments, binders, fillers and solvents are suffering variable impact according to their chemical composition. EuPIA recognises that in a time where the printing industry is at zero or negative growth this comes as a very unpleasant surprise.

As in the past, the EuPIA ink producers continue to reinforce their efforts to absorb higher costs through internal rationalisation measures, improving recipes and increasing efficiencies. However, it must be realised that costs are escalating across the whole range of raw materials and with no short-term relief in sight.

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