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THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF FLUOROPOLYMERS IN CARGO SHIPS

Dear Colleagues,

With the end of the summer holidays and the gloomy weather slowly coming back, we wanted to reflect on all the crucial applications of fluoropolymers in one of the key sectors of the EU economy, cargo ships.

This edition of the monthly newsletter will focus on one of the most important means of transport for goods.

Since the beginning of times, ships have allowed cultures to travel and goods to reach remote destinations. The modern maritime industry uses fluoropolymers and their unique characteristics to ensure higher performance of ships and higher resistance to the adversity of the marine environment.

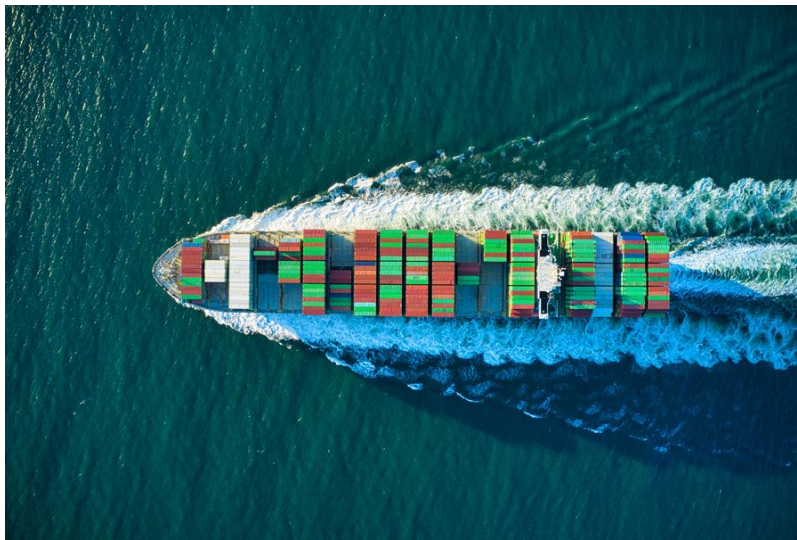
Please do get in touch if you would like to see one of your projects featured as a case study in any upcoming

newsletter editions. We believe that the voice of our industry stakeholders should be heard.

As ever, please also feel free to share this newsletter with your wider network and invite people to sign up by emailing me at nicolas.robin@plasticseurope.org. Thank you in advance!

Kind regards,
Nicolas Robin

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From increased performance to reduced environmental cost: all the applications of fluoropolymers in cargo ships

The marine environment is considered as one of the most challenging and dangerous environments, due to its unpredictability.

At the same time, the sea has always been an incredible source of resources, with around 90% of traded goods being carried on ocean waves according to the OECD. As demand for global freight increases, maritime trade volumes are only expected to grow in the coming years.

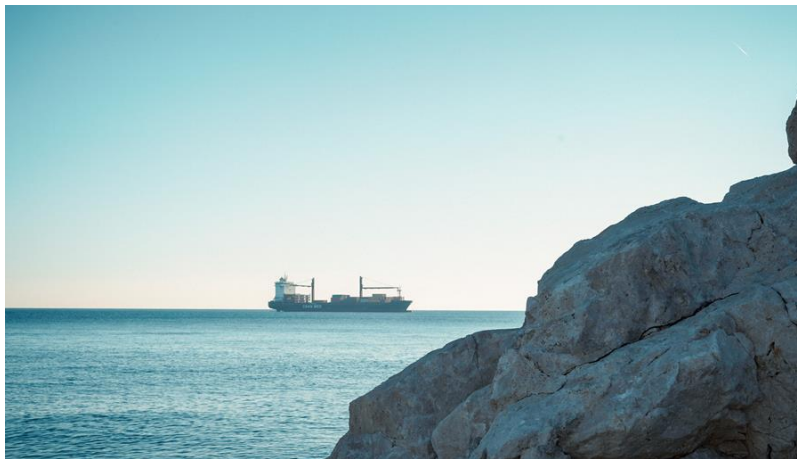
Due to their unique characteristics, fluoropolymers allow cargo ships to be highly efficient, therefore

reducing the operational and environmental costs of the shipping industry.

Fluoropolymers represent a key component of marine innovations, enhancing the protection of boats against the sea both above and below the waterline.

In particular, PTFE coatings offer a wide range of properties which are crucial for the functioning of cargo ships. PTFE coating ensures decreased friction, higher speed, and increased protection of engineering components, such as wires and hoses. Their easy clean and foul release features also provide strong operational benefits in the long run.

Moreover, fluoropolymers are key for the transport of chemicals, as their unique properties ensure excellent chemical resistance and very low permeability to liquid and gases. As a result, chemical shippers increasingly revert to polymeric linings for transporting specialty chemicals.



Fluoropolymers' critical role in the EU Green transition

Fluoropolymers have played a crucial role in helping to drive forward fuel efficiency in the shipping industry.

One of the European Green Deal's objectives is to cut greenhouse gas emissions from transport by 90% by 2050. Maritime transport represents a key sector of focus to reduce emissions and achieve this ambitious goal.

By improving the performance of cargo ships, fluoropolymers are directly responsible for increased fuel efficiency. Importantly, alongside reducing operational costs, they can thus help to decrease greenhouse gas and other emissions by an average of 9%.

Fluoropolymers also provide durable and effective protection against extreme weather conditions as well as aggressive fluids and fuels, thus prolonging the life of various components which are critical for emission control.



Fluoropolymers are vital to the transport industry

The transport sector represents the largest downstream use of fluoropolymers, as they play a key role in reducing CO₂ emissions and fuel consumption across transportation modes.

Critical components such as fuel lines, hydraulic systems, fuel cell materials or coating for a variety of purposes, required 16,000 tonnes of fluoropolymers worth €280 million in the EU in 2020 alone!

Read more about the socio-economic impact of fluoropolymers for Europe in [our report](#).



We hope you enjoyed this edition of the newsletter.

You received the newsletter because you have shown an interest in fluoropolymers and the work of the Fluoropolymers Product Group. Should you wish to be removed from the mailing list, please [click here](#).

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the Fluoropolymers Product Group or find us on [LinkedIn](#).

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