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## Press release

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### Coatings industry faces supply shortage of raw materials due to strong demand in Asia and transport scarcity

**The strong economic growth in China and the scarce transport resources are putting the supply of raw materials on edge. The paint, printing ink, adhesives and sealant industry in Europe is currently facing great scarcity of raw materials, sharply rising raw material prices and insufficient means of transport from Asia.**

The trend already started at the end of last year: worldwide there is a strong demand for raw materials while there is insufficient supply, partly due to corona. On the one hand this has an effect on raw material prices, on the other hand it has consequences for the availability of our own products - paints, printing inks, adhesives and sealants. The coating industry is committed to supply her products and is actively searching for raw materials, also on the international market.

If a company succeeds in purchasing the necessary raw materials, transport forms another obstacle. There is a global shortage of sea containers and sea freight ships, which has caused a major rise in transport costs from Asia to Europe. And that is not the last hurdle: the scarcity of raw materials is also felt in the availability of specific packaging materials. For example, metal packaging such as cans and barrels is supplied to the coating industry in smaller quantities.

The increase in demand for raw materials is broadly felt, but especially for epoxy and polyester resins, MDI, polyols and also titanium dioxide. Epoxy resins have shown a cost increase of up to 60% in recent months. The shortage is mainly caused by the economic upturn in China, which results in a stronger demand for epoxy resins. This also applies to titanium dioxide. The polyester resins market is also gaining momentum, with production disruptions in Asia slowing down availability. Transport scarcity is driving up costs further.

The complex blend of high demand for raw materials, capacity problems in production, and scarce transport resources is reflected in rising uncertainty in the market. In time, this can lead to force majeure for suppliers of paint, printing ink, adhesives and sealants in the Netherlands.

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*Note to the editor, not for publication:*

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