

# NEWS ALERT

## Marine Clean presented in Croatian Chamber of Commerce!



Boris Miksic and wife Ines with Zlatan Fröhlich, President of Chamber

The conference entitled "European Marine Clean Project - a successful cooperation between industry and university institutions" organized by the Croatian Chamber of Commerce, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, and EcoCortec® - was held on Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> in the Hall of the Croatian Chamber of Commerce. A number of experts from companies, industrial facilities, universities, environmental agencies, and funding organizations gathered to learn more about the newest trends, innovations, and achievements in the field of bioplastics, while also sharing their own experiences.

Zlatan Fröhlich, President of the Croatian Chamber of Commerce – Zagreb, held a welcoming speech during which he strongly supported the initiative for use of bioplastics in

Croatia and the region, emphasizing the importance of necessary reindustrialization and Greenfield investments. "Development of new technologies and environmental protection as well as encouraging these kinds of investments is crucial to our country" stated Mr. Fröhlich.

Boris Miksic, President/CEO of Cortec®-USA and EcoCortec®-Croatia, held a presentation on global trends in bioplastics, where he spoke about market developments in bioplastics. Mr. Miksic briefly showed the history of the bioplastics market and explained why it is growing rapidly; he also indicated the advantages of bioplastics when compared to synthetic polymers.

Professor Mladen Sercer, Chair of Polymer Processing, presented on the approximately 1.1 million Euros project "Marine Clean – 'Marine debris removal and preventing further litter entry'", on the behalf of the Faculty, whose cooperation with EcoCortec® is the best example of a successful partnership between companies and science in the CIP Eco-Innovation Programme. He gave a brief outline of the tasks that are being accomplished; noting that the Croatian role in the bioplastic market will surely increase due to the participation in this project.

Finally, Mrs. Ivana Radic Borsic - Director of EcoCortec®, took the opportunity to give an overview of EcoCortec's achievements in the field of compostable and biodegradable packaging products.

After the ceremony, a feast for all the guests was held where the discussion among participants was continued.