

### Summary

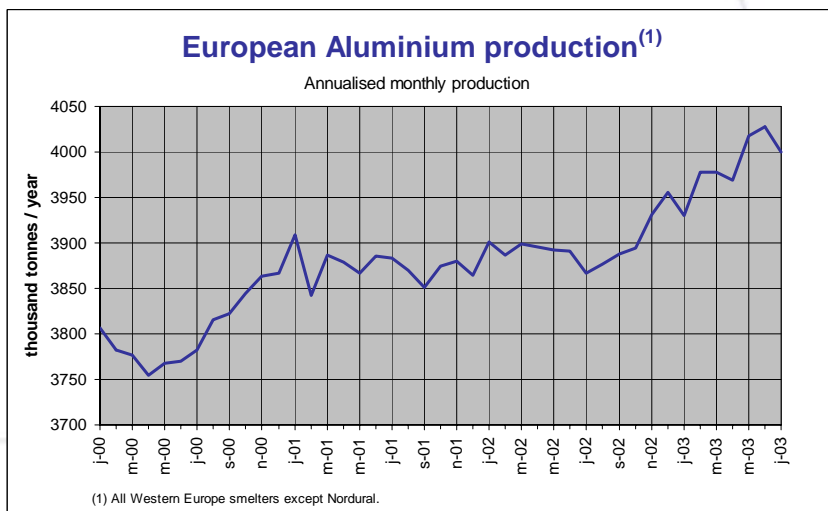
The European annualised primary aluminium production rate decreased slightly in July 2003. Stocks are on a slight increase. Semis production for Q2 shows a slowdown, while trade activity has continued to increase.

### Primary production

Total primary aluminium production in Western Europe increased 3.5% (up to 339 730 tonnes) in July 2003 compared to the same month last year. This is equivalent to an annualised production rate of exactly 4 million tonnes. After reaching a peak of 4.028 million tonnes in June, the annualised production rate experienced a slight decrease.

Year-to-date production is up 2.5% compared to the same period last year.

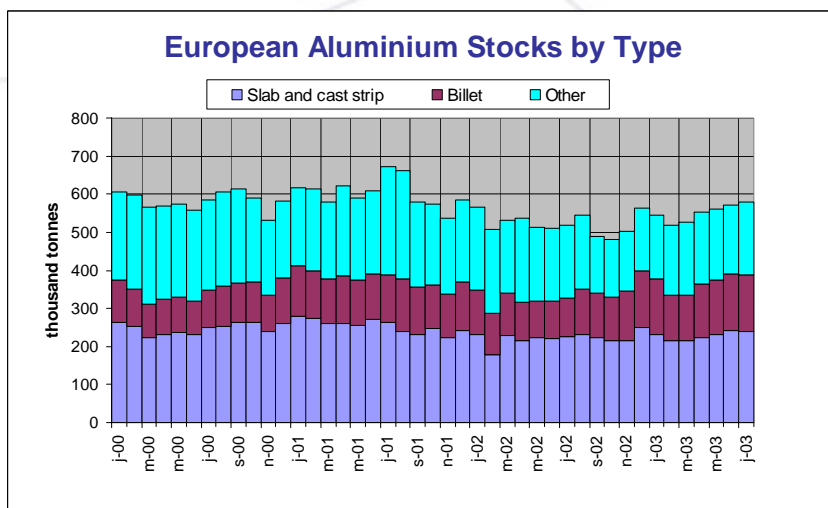
### July production up 3.5% y-o-y



### Stocks

Primary aluminium stocks held by European smelters and integrated fabricating plants increased 7 900 tonnes in July, up to 580 000 tonnes. This is 63 thousand tonnes more than a year ago. By location, 52% of these stocks are at smelters and 41% of stocks are slab and cast strip, 26% are billets.

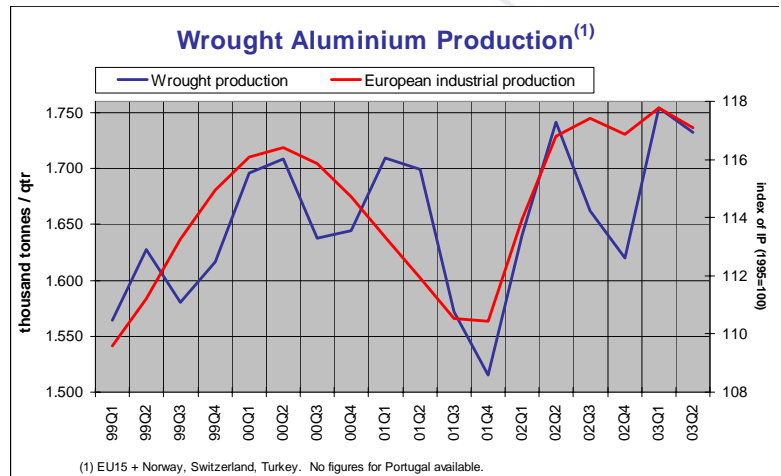
### 7.9 thousand tonne rise in July



## Semis production

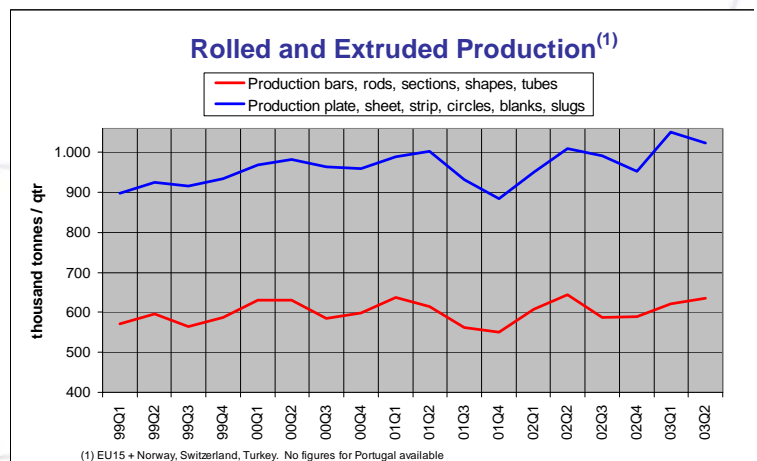
## Slight decrease in line with Industrial Production in Q2

The OECD Industrial Production indicator for Europe varied little these past months. After a significant increase in the first quarter of 2003, the production of wrought aluminium slowed in Q2 of 2003. Production declined 0.5% year-on-year, to 1.732 million tonnes.



Following a boom in the production of rolled products in Q1 2003, there was a slight decrease, to 1.023 million tonnes, in Q2 - however this is still 1.3% higher than in Q2 of last year. First half figures for production are 5.8% higher than the same period in 2002.

Extrusion production is continuing its progressive increase for the fourth consecutive quarter. In Q2 2003 production reached almost 0.635 million tonnes, a 2% increase compared to the first quarter of the year.



## Order intakes

## August decrease for rolled products, increase for extrusions

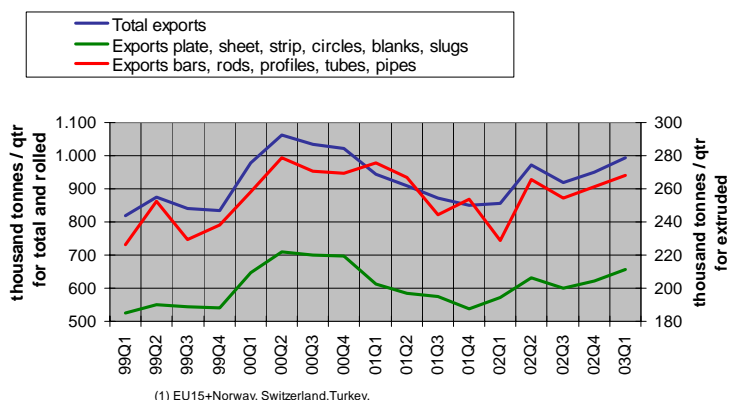
After a rise of 4.6% in July, West-European order intakes for rolled products decreased 7.3% year-on-year in August.

West-European order intakes for extrusions increased both in July (5.0% y-o-y) and in August (1.7%) after a period of decline since March of this year.



Q1 data shows European trade in wrought products (including intra-EU exports) to have continued its recovery, both for rolled and extruded products, from the low point reached in the third quarter last year.

### European Trade in Wrought Aluminium<sup>(1)</sup>



### Monthly data on European Aluminium<sup>(1)</sup>

	Primary production	Primary aluminium stocks					
		Total	Location		Type		
			Smelters	Fabricating plants	Slab and cast strip	Billet	Other
000t	000t	000t	000t	000t	000t	000t	
j-01	332	618	311	307	280	133	204
f-01	295	614	301	313	275	124	215
m-01	330	578	269	309	261	117	200
a-01	319	622	306	316	260	125	237
m-01	328	591	283	308	254	121	216
j-01	319	608	300	307	272	118	217
j-01	330	673	319	353	262	126	285
a-01	329	661	332	329	240	138	283
s-01	316	579	302	277	231	126	223
o-01	329	573	297	277	247	116	211
n-01	319	537	267	270	223	115	199
d-01	328	585	327	258	243	126	216
j-02	331	565	291	274	231	117	217
f-02	298	506	278	228	178	108	220
m-02	331	531	268	263	230	110	191
a-02	320	537	273	264	214	103	220
m-02	331	512	240	272	223	96	193
j-02	320	511	245	266	220	99	192
j-02	328	517	248	269	225	101	191
a-02	329	545	276	269	232	119	195
s-02	320	490	237	253	224	116	149
o-02	331	480	221	259	214	116	149
n-02	323	503	237	266	214	132	157
d-02	336	564	318	246	251	149	165
j-03	334	546	298	248	231	145	170
f-03	305	518	241	277	214	119	185
m-03	338	527	248	279	215	120	191
a-03	326	552	268	284	223	142	186
m-03	341	560	271	289	230	143	186
j-03	331	572	286	286	242	147	182
j-03	340	580	299	281	240	148	191

1. All Western Europe smelters except Nordural.

## Quarterly data on European Aluminium<sup>(1)</sup>

Countries <sup>(1)</sup>	Total wrought production <sup>(2)</sup>	Rolled production	Extruded production <sup>(2)</sup>	Other production <sup>(2)</sup>	Wrought total exports <sup>(3)</sup>
	000t	000t	000t	000t	000t
1999Q1	1.564	898	572	94	818
1999Q2	1.628	925	595	107	876
1999Q3	1.580	917	563	100	840
1999Q4	1.617	934	588	95	835
2000Q1	1.696	969	630	96	978
2000Q2	1.708	982	631	95	1.061
2000Q3	1.638	965	584	88	1.034
2000Q4	1.645	960	599	86	1.022
2001Q1	1.709	990	637	83	943
2001Q2	1.699	1.002	615	82	909
2001Q3	1.572	933	561	78	873
2001Q4	1.515	885	551	79	851
2002Q1	1.640	949	609	82	857
2002Q2	1.741	1.010	645	87	970
2002Q3	1.662	992	587	83	920
2002Q4	1.620	952	590	78	949
2003Q1	1.754	1.051	623	81	992
2003Q2	1.732	1.023	635	75	

1. EC15 + Norway, Switzerland, Turkey

2. No figures for Portugal available. Spanish extrusion figures are included for first time.

3. Including intra-European trade.

## Other statistical news

The EAA Primary Division statistical committee finalised its October report on the primary aluminium market outlook. The summary of this is that Worldwide a surplus of 330 000 tonnes is forecast for 2003, turning into a deficit of around 90 000 tonnes in 2004.

The Short Term Panel will supply, by end-October, EAA members with an electronic update of its forecasts for rolled and extruded products. West European demand for rolled products is expected to increase 2.8% in 2003, a slightly lower growth rate than in the previous year, whereas extrusions demand will increase by about 1.3%.

For any further statistical information contact Bob Lambrechts, EAA Statistical Officer on [lambrechts@eaa.be](mailto:lambrechts@eaa.be)

Disclaimer: This report contains information reported to the Association by the producers, which is aggregated by the Association and expanded to represent the total Western European industry. While the Association believes that its statistical procedures and methods are reliable, it does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the data. All data contained herein are subject to revision.

First half-year figures for 2003 issued by the European Aluminium Foil Association (EAFA) show a strong increase of 5.2 % up to 408 800 tonnes (2002: 388 700 tonnes).

Exports continue to advance strongly, with an 8% increase in 2002. Within the EAFA's 'home' territory, usage for the six-month period has shown strong demand with a healthy increase of 4% over last year despite a generally unfavourable European economic climate.

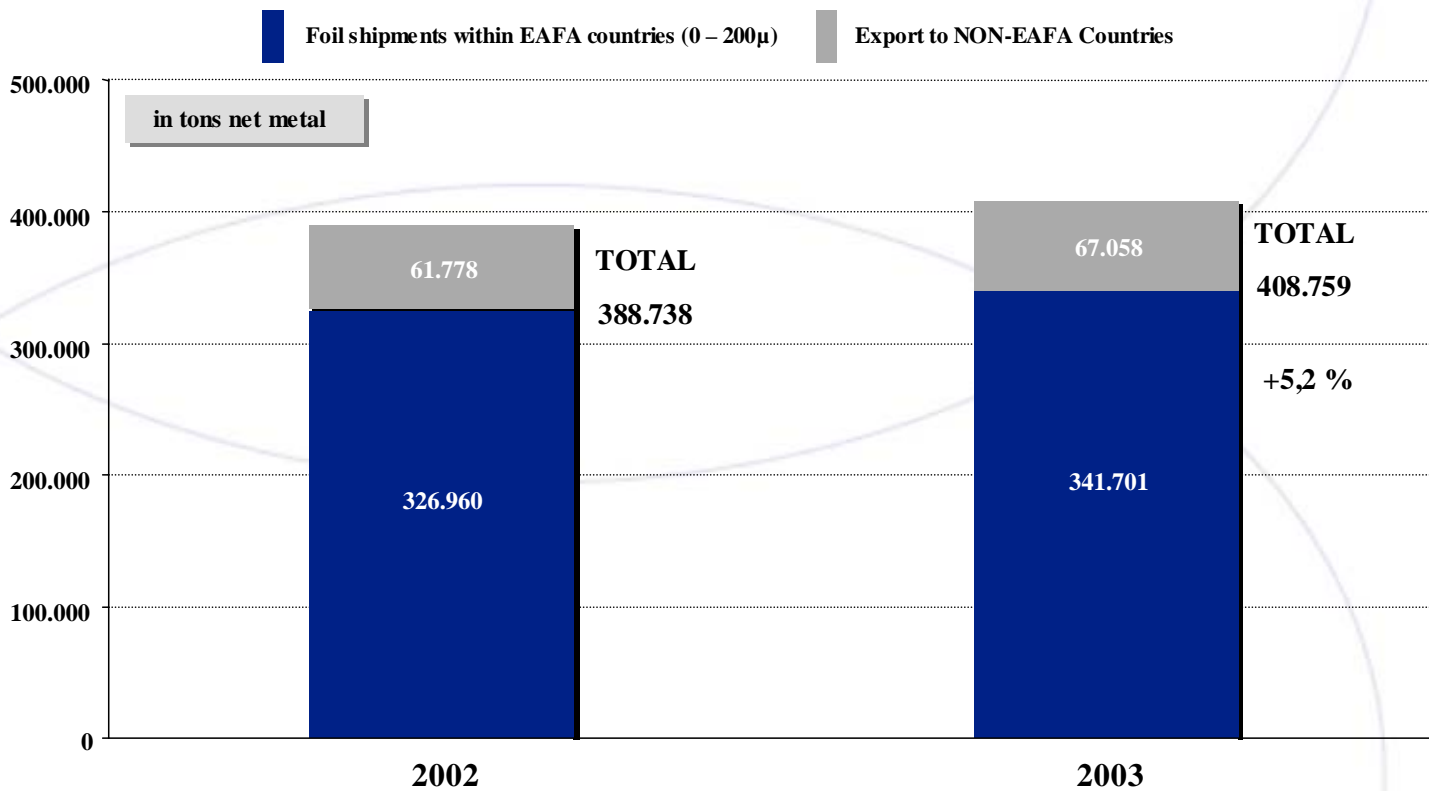
Of particular interest within these figures has been the very strong increase (13%) in demand for thicker foil (over 60µm) supported by a

sustained high level of shipments of thinner foil (+0.4%).

Because of the prevailing uncertainty related to consumer demand in Europe and elsewhere, a forecast for the remainder of 2003 remains difficult. However, the industry is optimistic that the 12-month total tonnage will be at least slightly above the record level achieved last year.

For further information please contact Stefan Glimm, EAFA Secretary General on [Stefan.Glimm@aluinfo.de](mailto:Stefan.Glimm@aluinfo.de)

**Foil Sales Statistics : 1. semester 2002 - 2003**



## EAA Staff changes

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Eirik Nordheim, EAA's Director Environment, Health and Safety, will be, as of the 1<sup>st</sup> October, dividing his time between the EAA and the International Aluminium Institute, IAI. This change has come about due to an increasing number of issues dealt with at European level becoming interlinked with what is happening on the international scene, where the EAA is represented by IAI. The EAA and IAI therefore saw an opportunity to better coordinate activities on these issues by having Eirik present in both organizations.

Eirik will continue to work from the EAA offices in Brussels, and be in charge of EHS for EAA although the EAA's newest recruit Grace Barrasso will now assist him. On a practical level, Eirik will be handling the EHS Committee, Working Group Health and issues such as Sustainability, New Chemicals Policy and Climate Change, while Grace will now handle the other environment issues.

Grace Barrasso joined the EAA on 1 August 2003 as Environment Manager. She will be dealing with emerging EU environmental regulatory issues as well as representing the EAA in various Eurometaux WGs (Industrial Pollution, Waste TF, and others). Grace will also be coordinating the EAA's Product

Stewardship WG and be involved in the EHS Committee, Environment WG and Aluminium in Contact with Food.

Prior to joining the EAA, Grace was EHS Regulatory Affairs Manager at Alcoa during which time she was elected Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee at the American Chambers of Commerce. She also held a position as European Environmental Affairs Manager at Tetra Pak. She first arrived to Brussels in 1996 where she worked as a trainee at the Canadian Mission to the EU (International Trade Policy).

Grace was born in Montreal, Canada. She studied at Concordia and McGill University (Montreal), the University of Ottawa (Ottawa) and the London School of Economics (UK) where she gained an interdisciplinary education in political science, environmental economics and environmental law. Her education was enhanced during her work as a research assistant in Canada at the Institute for Research on Environment and Economy where she was charged with collecting socio-economic indicators in First Nations communities. She also worked as a teaching assistant at the University of Ottawa and has published several papers in this field.

## Events

### EAA Safety Workshop 2003

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This 13 & 14 November will take place the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual EAA Safety Workshop. The subject matter for the first day of the event shall be Safety Management, Techniques and Experiences, the second day will be split in two parallel sessions, one on molten metal safety and the other covering mobile equipment and process safety.

The Safety Workshop is open to everybody in the industry, and is of particular interest to those responsible for or involved with safety either at corporate, plant or section level, as well as supervisors or operators interested in safety.

For more information please email [nordheim@eaa.be](mailto:nordheim@eaa.be) or [marthoud@eaa.be](mailto:marthoud@eaa.be)



## Events

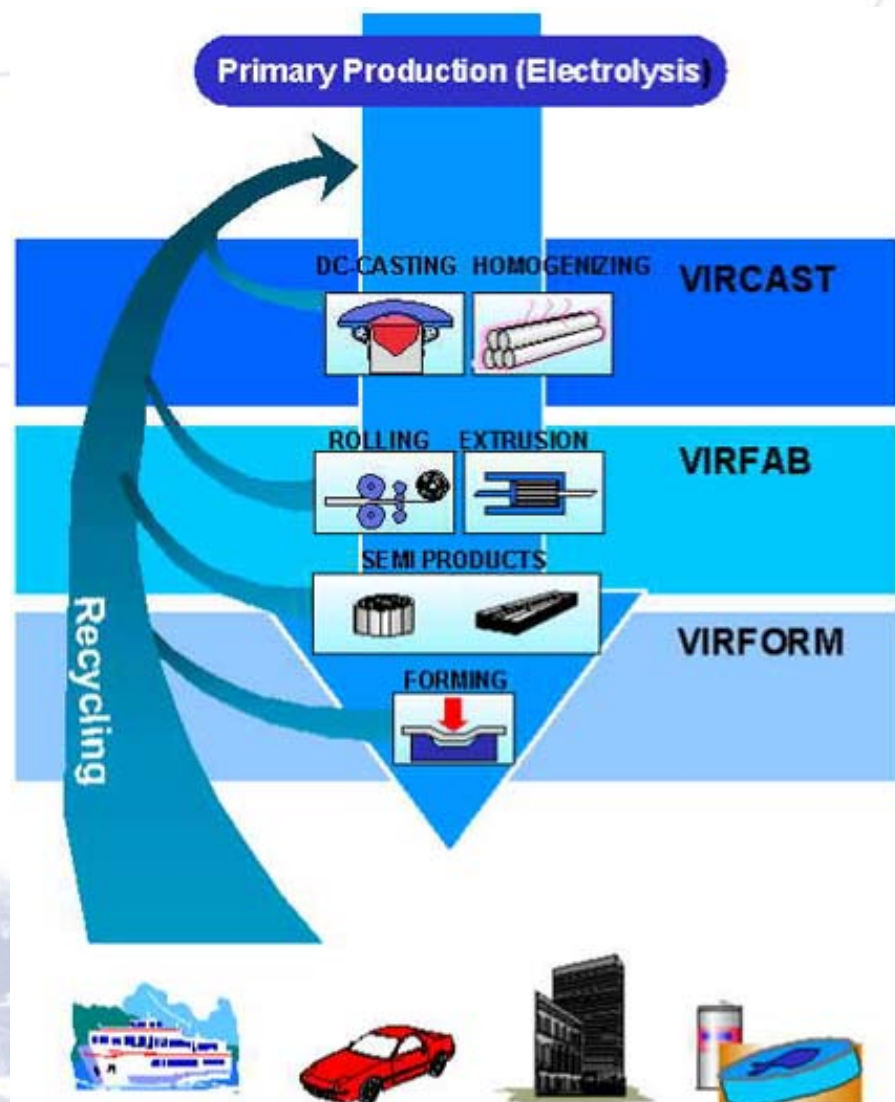
## VIR\* end of term conference

The 3 VIR[\*] projects: VIRCAST, VIRFAB & VIRFORM are now entering their concluding phase. As a reminder these 3 European RTD projects, partly funded by the 5<sup>th</sup> EU Framework Programme, are intended to model the complete production process from DC casting to semi-finished products in order to refine the production process and to create the properties and the microstructure requested by the client application.

These 3 projects will officially end in February 2004. On this occasion, an end-term conference will be organised in Brussels to inform the VIR partners and

several industrial guests on the outcome of the projects. There will also be a plenary session on this occasion that will be dedicated to a global overview of the 3 projects with special emphasis on the industrial use and exploitation of the results. The second day organised in 3 parallel sessions will focus on more in-depth scientific presentations by the VIR researchers.

For more information about the VIR end-term conference, please contact Christian Leroy, EAA Educational & Technical Officer on [Leroy@eaa.be](mailto:Leroy@eaa.be)



## Events

## EAA Automotive at Frankfurt Auto Show

The EAA Automotive group was present for this year's event of the famous IAA (Internationale Automobil Ausstellung) show in Frankfurt, which took place in September. During the show the fka Aachen University (Forschungsgesellschaft Kraftfahrwesen mbH) and Automanager TV held a daily expert talk covering different topics under the main title "How will we drive tomorrow?" during which the EAA participated, on the 10 September, in the first presentation on "Materials". Karl-Heinz von Zengen, EAA Automotive Manager, was present to provide the

aluminium industry's position under the heading "Aluminium, the light automotive material" and 'Aluminium and Magnesium extrusions' was covered by Erbslöh AG under "Al and Magnesium – young materials with potential for the future".

Each participant had the opportunity to give a 20 minute presentation, which was followed by a one hour discussion. All contributions are still available on the internet at [http://www.auto-managertv.com/messe\\_iaa03\\_uebersicht.swf](http://www.auto-managertv.com/messe_iaa03_uebersicht.swf)

## Miscellaneous

## Birmingham's latest aluminium experience

This 4 September 2003 saw the opening of Selfridges first store in Birmingham (UK) and what a store it is! The curvaceous new store is covered with a dramatic "skin" made up of 15 000 spun aluminium disks is an indication of why the space-age structure was described as a 'sexy big giant' by the store group's chief executive Vittorio Radice.

Designed by architects Future Systems who based their plans on a chainmail Paco Rabanne dress. The store has made the new 'Bullring Birmingham' development the envy of Europe.

The ambition of this scheme is great. Selfridges require a state of the art department store. They also wish to have a building that will provide an architectural landmark for Birmingham. It is this ambition that has driven the design. Enabling the building to become a genuine catalyst for urban regeneration. The ambition for the interior is to meet the expectation of the exterior, balancing the curiosity created by the unique façade. The fluidity of the form of the building is matched inside with an organically shaped atrium stretching across the floor plan. Like an urban canyon, the



atrium creates shafts of natural light penetrating deep inside the space. They have re-interpreted the notion of a department store, not just in its form and appearance and have analysed the social function such a building now plays in our society. The form of the building is soft and curvaceous in response to the natural curve of the site, sweeping around the corner and wrapping over the top to form the roof. This building expresses what it is in a way that is aesthetically innovative but also clearly signifies its function as a department store without the need for signage.



For more information please use the links:  
<http://www.future-systems.com>;  
<http://www.virtualbrum.co.uk/selfridges.htm>;  
<http://www.virtualbrum.co.uk/bullring03.htm>

## Aluminium Agenda

## Up-coming events October to December 2003

Date	Organisation/ Company	Event/ Publication	Communication message and participants
<b>2003</b>			
<b>October</b>			
2-3 October	<b>EAA</b>	EAA congress	Statistics /chemicals policy and competitiveness
8 October	<b>Aluminium for Future Generations France</b>	Visit of the building HQE in Montpellier	Sustainability of aluminium in building, participants from French Institutions
10 October	<b>Aluminium for Future Generations France</b>	Design event at the Aluminium by Design exhibition, La Villette, Paris	Aluminium properties in design, participants mainly from French Design Schools
15-16 October	<b>ALFED</b>	ALFED Occupational Health & Safety Workshop: Stratford Manor Hotel, Stratford-Upon-Avon	To update members on the latest legislation & other developments in Health & Safety procedures
16-25 October	<b>ALCOA - Alcoa Forged Wheels</b>	Bedrijfsauto RAI, Amsterdam, NL	Promoting Aluminium Truck Wheels
2, 23 & 30 October	<b>ALU-VERBAND (CH)</b>	Alu Academy Course 1, 2 & 3	Alu Industry and customers
<b>November</b>			
3-8 November	<b>ALCOA - Alcoa Architectural businesses</b>	Stand at Bâtimat Paris, FR	Product Promotion
5 November	<b>ALFED</b>	ALFED Dinner at the Savoy Hotel, London	ALFED's achievements in 2003 and objectives for 2004
6-7 November	<b>Alupromotion &amp; Orga.pro with the support of Centroal and the EAA</b>	Aluminium Days (conference on alu/transport and "alumotive" fair )	Aluminium innovations in transport / contribution of aluminium to the competitiveness of the transport industry
13-14 November	<b>EAA</b>	Safety Workshop	Progresses on safety in the alu industry
14-15 November	<b>Aluminium Association of Greece</b>	Aluminium Association of Greece Congress	Aluminium in building, Alubuild activities in Greece, EU legislation impacts
20 November	<b>ALU-VERBAND (CH)</b>	Alu Academy Course 4	Material aluminium
Nov/December	<b>ALU-VERBAND (CH)</b>	NGO Round table	Alu Industry and alu products
24-25 November	<b>European Commission / EAA speaker - Mr Kjell Edgar Sagen (Hydro) will intervene on Resource use and Waste</b>	DG Enterprise conference on "environmental performance of the European Industry"	How to ensure the balance between competitiveness and environmental performance. Sustainable production.

This section is intended to provide, at a glance, a list of events in which the EAA, EAA members are either participating or organising, it is however inclusive but not exhaustive.

For our members to include any events in this space in the future please send in the details and dates to Marie Gahylle at [gahylle@eaa.be](mailto:gahylle@eaa.be)