

## Leading sustainable transformation: Afera and PlasticsEurope among 13 industry associations at Sphera workshop

*A workshop on “The role of industry associations on leading sustainable transformation”, organised by Sphera was held on 18 May 2026. The workshop included presentations from PlasticsEurope, Afera, and European Aluminium with additional 10 industry associations in attendance.*

Moderated by Sphera, the discussion centred on the evolving regulations and the need for alignment on standards, tools and data. Participants explored the implications of the EU Green Deal, the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR), Digital Product Passport (DPP), Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and the Empowering Consumers (EmpCo) Directive.

Highlighting the role industry associations play in leading the sustainable transition, **Afera – The European Adhesive Tape Associations, PlasticsEurope, and European Aluminium** presented best practices and case studies. The workshop participants represented associations from different sectors in the supply chain, which provided a great opportunity to network, understand what others are doing and identify synergies.

Afera’s Regulatory Affairs and Sustainability Manager, **Pablo Englebienne**, showcased the **Product Carbon Footprint (PCF) Calculation Tool** called **TACK** (Tape and Adhesives Calculation Kit). He highlighted the collaborative effort of member companies from **Afera and IVK – The German Adhesives Association** in developing this industry-wide tool to [simplify PCF calculations for adhesives and tapes](#) industries.



Reflecting on the workshop, **Pablo** noted that the session offered a rare cross-industry view of how different sectors are approaching **LCA and PCF development**. *“I presented Afera’s work on the TACK project, which was very well received,”* he said. *“It was a valuable exchange with associations ranging from European Aluminium and CEFIC to European Bedding Association, Recycling Europe, and Plastics Europe. What stood out was how differently upstream industries like aluminium and plastics structure their LCA work compared to more downstream sectors such as mattresses and toys.”*

## Simplifying PCF calculations with TACK

**TACK** provides a standardised, user-friendly solution, ensuring businesses can accurately assess and report PCF values. More than 30 companies are already using the tool. Afera recently published the TACK FAQ, which offers a [clear overview of how TACK works](#) and the standards that guide its methodology. It also explains access options, membership considerations, pricing and licensing nuances, and more.

**Afera's Flagship Sustainability Project (AFSP)** is currently advancing the development of **TACK v2.0**. The scope of the scheduled update includes:

- Update of background data from Sphera LCA database
  - Update of mapping of some raw materials
- Incorporation of new
  - Raw materials for adhesives
  - Generic adhesives/primers/impregnants recipes
  - Recycled materials for backings
  - Packaging materials
- Update of TfS compliance to latest version
- Implementation of mass balance checks
- Improvement of
  - Report
  - User manual

**TACK v2.0** is expected to be launched in the **third quarter of 2026**. A webinar will accompany the launch to guide members through the new features. Reach out to us at [afsp@afera.com](mailto:afsp@afera.com) for more information.