

EUROPEAN RECYCLING PLATFORM WELCOMES NEW FRAMEWORK FOR A STRONGER AND MORE COMPETITIVE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

WASTE PACKAGE OFFICIALLY ADOPTED BY PARLIAMENT PROMISES HIGHER RECYCLING TARGETS AND A MORE LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR THE WASTE MARKET

Mainz, 18th April 2018

The European Parliament has given the green light to redefine Europe's waste market. At the plenary session on 18th April, parliamentarians voted to amend six legislative acts, most notably the Waste Framework Directive. European Recycling Platform (ERP), the only pan-European producer responsibility organisation (PRO), welcomes the outcome of the vote. By setting higher recycling targets and enhancing competition, the new framework can bring substantial benefits for both the environment and consumers.

"The waste package is an important step towards a strong and competitive circular economy," said Umberto Raiteri, CEO of ERP. It will increase the uptake and recycling of important waste streams like packaging waste, e-waste and waste batteries and will help to phase out environmentally harmful practices like incineration and landfill. "We especially welcome the agreement to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of all relevant stakeholders and the strong commitment to the principle of extended producer responsibility," added Raiteri.

By strengthening extended producer responsibility, the package will stimulate competition and promote innovation and cost-efficiency in the waste market. General minimum requirements for PROs will create a level playing field and including distance sellers in the scope will combat free-riding. Moreover, applying the principle of extended producer responsibility – which is already successfully implemented for e-waste and waste batteries – to packaging waste from 2025 onwards, at the latest, in all Member States will create a more harmonized approach for producers.

However, the new rules still lack a clear definition of the set of "organisational responsibilities" for producers which may result in different interpretations when it comes to national transposition. ERP is concerned that Member States may still impose rules according to which producers are bound to a specific PRO. "In order to create a truly competitive and cost-efficient market, producers should be able to choose from many competing PROs," concluded Raiteri.

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About ERP

European Recycling Platform was founded in 2002 in response to the introduction of the European Union's Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive. ERP's mission is to ensure high quality and cost effective implementation of the Directive, for the benefit of its customers and the environment.

In June 2014, ERP became part of the Landbell Group, an international supplier of service and consulting solutions for environmental and chemical compliance. ERP and Landbell Group have collected more than 7 million tonnes of packaging, more than 3 million tonnes of e-waste, and over 50,000 tonnes of portable batteries.

ERP is the first and only pan-European producer responsibility organisation authorised to operate in Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, and the UK. By passing on the advantages of multinational recycling operations to customers, ERP has proved to be the most competitive solution for companies in the countries where it operates for WEEE, batteries and packaging compliance, as well as take-back services.

For more information on ERP, please visit www.erp-recycling.org



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