

## PRESS RELEASE

### ***Data reliability major challenge for new EU waste management targets, new EXPRA study highlights***

**Brussels 28 October 2015.** A new study, published by the Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance (EXPRA), concludes that EU Member States' latest packaging recycling data shows inconsistencies and variances. As a result, it would be premature to conclude that all Member States have reached their EU targets. This poses a major challenge to new target setting as deeper analysis appears to be required.

EXPRA's study, which was carried out by the Alliance's Data and Reporting Working Group, analysed Eurostat packaging recycling data from 28 EU Member States or EFTA members, over the period covering 2006-2012. The research discloses that the variance between best and worst performers is large enough to suggest that national statistics are far from being complete, accurate and reliable.

These findings are in line with previous studies on the matter, including the Waste Fitness Check, performed by BIO IS *et al* which found that: “[...]recycling and recovery targets have generally been met, but some uncertainty exists about the accuracy of the reported data”<sup>1</sup>.

In light of the publication of the new Circular Economy proposal by the European Commission, EXPRA would like to highlight the need for additional research on the reasons behind these data inconsistencies.

EXPRA would also specifically welcome additional measures aimed at harmonising Member States' quality reporting to the European Commission. The latter would, in turn, facilitate the task of identifying the most cost-effective solutions. Alternative reporting, through which Member States explain their measurement system and the quality of the results, would be a plausible way forward. Ideally, an updated, more detailed reporting methodology could be developed.

EXPRA's Managing Director, Joachim Quoden, commented: “*EU waste management targets are a key aspect of the upcoming Circular Economy Package, and it is imperative that the new target levels are realistic and based on reliable statistics. Data harmonisation and further emphasis on complete, accurate, and reliable statistics should therefore be at the centre of the legislative review.*”

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#### **About EXPRA**

Founded in 2013, EXPRA is the Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance – the organisation for packaging and packaging waste recovery and recycling systems which are owned by obliged industry and work on a not-for-profit or profit not for distribution basis. EXPRA acts as the authoritative voice and common policy platform representing the interests of its members, which are all founded and run by or on behalf of obliged industry. Over the past 20 years, our members across 21 countries thereof 16 EU Member States have co-organised the collection, sorting and recycling of used packaging (with a focus on household packaging) on behalf of obliged industry, to fulfil their legal take back and recycling obligations, serving over 200 million inhabitants and recycling over 18 Million tons of packaging per year.

For more information, please visit [www.exptra.eu](http://www.exptra.eu)

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<sup>1</sup> Ex-post evaluation of certain waste stream Directives, final report, page 7. BIO IS, Arcadis, Institute for European Environmental Policy, 18 April 2014.