

PRESS RELEASE

The Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance (EXPRA) is expanding its network Two new members, the Estonian Recovery Organization (ETO) and VAL I PAC, the Belgium recovery organization, responsible for industrial packaging, join the EPR Network

Brussels, 16 April 2015 – During its spring General Assembly meeting, EXPRA, the umbrella organization for packaging and packaging waste recovery and recycling systems which are owned by obliged industry and work on a not-for-profit basis, has welcomed two new members: ETO from Estonia and VAL I PAC from Belgium. With these incorporations, EXPRA extends its reach to 23 members from 21 countries in Europe, Canada and Middle East.

VAL-I-PAC is a non-for-profit organization established in 1997 to fulfill the legal obligations of member companies and to stimulate the recycling of industrial packaging waste. The Organization is accredited by the Belgian Interregional Packaging Commission and gathers the proofs of recycling for over 7,000 companies responsible for packaging and collaborates with 200 private waste operators.

“We look forward to working with EXPRA and its members”, said Mr. Johan Sneyers, C.E.O. of VAL I PAC. “The cooperation with colleagues from all over the world will enhance the exchange of best practice and strengthen our ability to support the development of an industry contributing to a sound economy and sustainable growth. ”

ETO is the first accredited Recovery Organization in Estonia, established in 2004 by the obliged industry. ETO is a non- for -profit organization and its mission is to help packaging operators to fulfill their recovery obligations in compliance with the EU and national legislation in the most cost-efficient manner.

“Joining EXPRA is an important step for us. We are glad to be part of this big family of EPR Organizations working on a non - for -profit profit principle. We appreciate the great work done by EXPRA so far and look forward to exchanging know how and cooperating with our colleagues from the current EXPRA members. We expect to provide better services to our customers due to the expertise that we will obtain from the EXPRA network.” said Mrs. Siret Kivilo, CEO of ETO, Estonia.

William Vermeir, President of EXPRA welcomed the new members to the extended producer responsibility network and said: “We are delighted to have our colleagues from VAL I PAC and ETO join us; it is a crucial moment for the sector, especially in light of the ongoing discussions on the new Circular Economy proposal. The increase of our members to 23 in only two years shows that we are on the right track and gives us the motivation to continue to be a strong voice in favor of EPR in its original sense. By this we mean non for profit compliance schemes, owned and steered by obliged industry, providing a public service for our inhabitants.”

“I believe that the need for mutual support and to learn from others’ good examples will grow as the demands of legislators and other stakeholders increase” said Joachim Quoden, Managing Director of

EXPRA. “We are looking forward to sharing our experiences and involving VAL I PAC and ETO in our work for promoting the extended producer responsibility as one of the most effective and efficient waste management tools.”

About EXPRA

Founded in 2013, is the alliance for packaging and packaging waste recovery and recycling systems which are owned by obliged industry and work on a not-for-profit basis. EXPRA acts as the authoritative voice and common policy platform representing the interests of all its member packaging recovery and recycling organisations founded and run by or on behalf of obliged industry. EXPRA members provide over 200 million inhabitants with packaging collection, sorting and recycling infrastructure and ensure recycling and recovery of over 18 million tons of packaging per year. For additional information, please visit www.expra.eu

*For further information please contact **Joachim Quoden, Managing Director of EXPRA** Joachim.quoden@exptra.eu, +49 171 201 70 55*

About VAL-I-PAC, Belgium

VAL-I-PAC is a non-profit organization established in 1997 to fulfill the legal obligations towards both prevention and management of industrial packaging waste on behalf of its clients. The Organization is accredited by the Belgian Interregional Packaging Commission and gathers the proofs of recycling for over 8,000 companies responsible for packaging and collaborates with 200 operators. By achieving the high recycling goals set by the Belgian authorities, VAL I PAC contributes to an environmentally and economically sustainable solution. For detailed information, please visit: <http://www.valipac.be>

About the Estonian Recovery Organization/ MTÜ Eesti Taaskasutusorganisatsioon (ETO)

ETO is the first accredited recovery organization in Estonia, established in 2004 by producers, importers and retailers operating in Estonia. The Organization is non- for -profit and unifies companies operating in the fields of production of packaging, packaging goods, importing packaged goods and the sale thereof. RO's mission is to help packaging operators to fulfill Packaging Act economically in a reasonable, socially acceptable and environmentally effective way. The scope of responsibility is to collect and recover its clients' packaging waste and to guarantee respective reporting to the Packaging Register. ERO is not responsible for packaging circling in the deposit system. For detailed information, please visit: <http://www.eto.ee>