

PRESS RELEASE

EXPRA welcomes EP call for Extended Producer Responsibility standards within the Circular Economy

Brussels 9 July 2015. The European Parliament has explicitly acknowledged today the primary role that Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) has to play in the transition towards a circular economy. Voting on MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen's own initiative report on '*Resource efficiency: moving towards a circular economy*', legislators called on the European Commission to set '**clear minimum standards for extended producer responsibility requirements**' in a bid to '**ensure transparency and cost effectiveness**' of EPR schemes.

EPR is an efficient environmental and economic tool that helps to **improve recycling and reduce landfilling** of products and materials. Its basic feature is that producers assume responsibility for the end of life of their products, which, in turn, creates incentives for **eco-design** of products and packaging. Within the EPR approach, companies delegate their **public service obligations**, established by law, to Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs).

Through introducing specific EPR criteria, EU waste legislation will therefore help to streamline its implementation. It will also ensure a level playing field for producers, PROs and other actors in the waste management value chain.

In the run-up to the new Circular Economy proposal, the **Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance (EXPRA)** demands the European Commission to build on this precedent, ensuring that **binding EPR minimum requirements are set at EU level. These should address roles and responsibilities of the various actors involved, and incorporate transparency standards for EPR schemes.**

EXPRA's Managing Director, Joachim Quoden, commented: "*EXPRA is delighted to see the EP report through. It is a valuable instrument for the Commission to consider. MEPs have acknowledged that EPR requires minimum rules at EU level to optimise EPR functioning across the EU. They also call for a harmonised reporting method for all Member States with externally verified statistics. Policymakers and stakeholders need to work together now and make this happen*".

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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
