

EXPRA Workshop: Eco-design for packaging workshop for obliged companies, February 22, Brussels

In the Workshop participated EXPRA's Packaging and sustainability WG members from EXPRA, CONAI, Ecoembes, Fost Plus, GD Norway and via skype the colleagues from Éco Entreprises Québec - Marie-Julie Bégin and Mario Patenaude. Representatives of the paper and cardboard industry and multinational companies also took part in the Workshop.



Amanda Fuso Nerini (Chair of S&P WG, CONAI) presented the **Packaging recyclability toolkit R4R**: www.packaging4recycling.eu. She informed the industry representatives about the overall objective of this initiative, namely to provide practical and useful information to obliged industry regarding packaging in an unbiased way.

In the following discussion the industry representatives appreciated the project and Mr James Ede, Kellogg's, suggested that it could be interesting to add also information on voluntary guidelines.

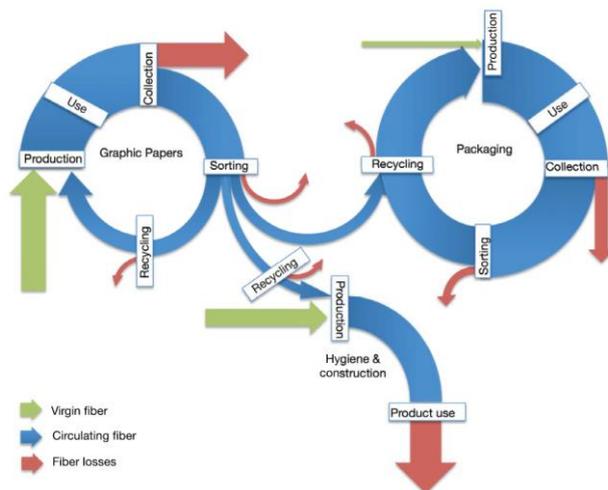
Mr Massimo Ramunni, ATICELCA presented the Method of Paper and cardboard recyclability assessment: The Aticelca standard 501-17. He informed the participants that Comieco and Innovhub were the first to highlight a growing need to have a tool to provide objective and measurable elements to eco-design. This first driver was followed by a growing request to demonstrate compliance to EN13430. In a later stage the need to better inform the consumer was also highlighted. The technical standard reproduces at laboratory scale what happens at industrial scale when a paper mill recycles the paper. Pulping, fibre cleaning and sheet formation are performed and the following parameters are measured: Coarse rejects, Flake content, Macrostickies area, Sheet formation and adhesiveness, Optical inhomogeneities and Ash content (optional). The Results are scaled in 4 levels of recyclability: **A+**, **A**, **B**, **C** (and not recyclable)

RESULTS

	Recyclable with paper				Not recyclable with paper
	Level A+	Level A	Level B	Level C	Not recyclable with paper
Coarse rejects (%)	< 1.5	1.5 – 10.0	10.1 – 20.0	20.1 – 40.0	> 40.0
Macrostickies area $\phi < 2000 \mu\text{m}$. (mm ² /kg)	< 2.500	2.500 - 10.000	10.001-20.000	20.001 – 50.000	> 50.000
Flakes (%)*	< 5.0	5.0 – 15.0	15.1 – 40.0	>40.0	-
Adhesiveness	Not detectable	Not detectable	Not detectable	Not detectable	Detectable
Optical inhomogeneity	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 3	-

Laboratory report must clearly specify the sample (e.g. used or unused).
Ash content and macrostickies > 2000 μm are optional.
If flakes contain micro-plastics it counts as coarse rejects.
Optical inhomogeneity is based on comparison with standards.
Homogeneous colored paper level is minimum 2.

Willem van Veen, INDUFED FETRA and Marc Bailli, INDUDEF/COBELPA presented their views on the topic. Mr van Veen underlined that packaging has a role to play and its functionalities always have priority over end-of-life management. In addition, he also suggested some further advice as: to look at the whole picture, minimize, strive for mono materials, use renewable/recycled materials where possible and optimise logistics.



Mr Bailli presented the Paper & board recycling regarding the re-use of fiber – the differences between packaging and graphic paper. He noted that the quality of the input material is key, respectively the proper communication with citizens if of major importance.

Mr Jan Cardon, FILPAP presented the Eco-design guidelines of FILPAP: Recommendations for an optimised use of paper and board packaging in a circular economy. The guidelines provide for a practical advice how to ensure subsequent easier recycling, such as: to use homogenous material, to aim at easy separation of different materials used, optimise weight and format, provide clear intuitive communication, etc.

Nicolas Egri (FOST PLUS, member of S&P WG) presented practical examples of packaging, nominated for the Greener Packaging Awards (organized by Fost Plus and VAL I PAC) designed in a most effective and sustainable way. He shortly informed the participants on the Fost Plus contribution and support to companies, as for example the site www.preventpack.be where industries' representatives can find relevant information and assess the environmental impact of their packaging.