



# Monthly Newsletter



October 2013

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## Introduction

Dear all,

I am pleased to welcome you to the October edition of our EXPRA monthly newsletter. This will give you a glimpse of EXPRA's activities in Brussels and beyond, as well as a selection of updates on EU related developments from the past month relating to waste management, resource efficiency and EPR.

This is a very busy autumn for packaging and waste professionals. There are many initiatives from the EU institutions on the table and in the pipeline such as the recent Commission proposal to amend the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive to contribute to the reduction of light weight plastic bags.

EXPRA is actively taking part in the EU discourse on waste management and is participating in a number of stakeholder consultations. Of key importance to us is the recently launched consultation on the development of EPR guidelines in Europe, which we are currently preparing our response to.

Moving on to national developments, I was particularly pleased to learn that Green Dot Cyprus has been shortlisted for the European Enterprise Promotion Awards, for their stellar work to support the development of green markets and resource efficiency. This is one of many examples of the great work that EXPRA members do in their respective countries, to support environmentally sound waste management.

Last but not least, I would like to take the opportunity to encourage you to register for the next Packaging Waste and Sustainability Forum, which EXPRA will organise with Informa on 4-5 March in Brussels. I look forward to inspiring presentations and interesting discussions!

Enjoy your reading!

With best wishes,

Joachim Quoden  
Managing Director of EXPRA

## EXPRA Update - October 2013

### Launch of final written stakeholder consultation on selected guidelines on EPR

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BIO Intelligence Service is carrying out a final stakeholder consultation as part of their work on the study "Development of guidance on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)". More specifically, the consultants are seeking input on some selected guidelines for EPR in the EU.

The deadline to submit contributions is 2 December 2013, in view of launching the study in early 2014.

The consultation document together with additional information can be found [here](#).

### Green Dot Cyprus shortlisted for the European Enterprise Promotion Awards

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Green Dot Cyprus has been shortlisted for the European Enterprise Promotion Awards 2013, under the category "Supporting the Development of Green Markets and Resource Efficiency". The short list for this category has two nominees.

The winner will be announced on 26 November during a ceremony in Vilnius, Lithuania.

### SLOPAK workshop, Ljubljana, October 24

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Joachim Quoden, EXPRA's managing director, participated in a workshop about best practices to implement the Packaging Directive in Slovenia, organized by the industry owned packaging recovery organisation SLOPAK.

William Vermeir (Fost Plus), Petr Sykir (EKO KOM), Paul Christiaens (Nedvang) and Sabine Strnad (CCH) also gave presentations about the implementation of the Packaging Directive in their home countries. The event also saw the participation of several members from the Slovenian ministries for Environment, Economy, Competition Authority and Customs, together with other high level stakeholders.

The objective of the workshop was to discuss the current situation in Slovenia as regards to how organise EPR in the context of the country's packaging legislation.

## Next Packaging Waste & Sustainability Forum, March 2014

As previously reported, EXPRA has agreed a partnership with Informa to organise the next Packaging Waste & Sustainability Forum, which will take place on 4-5 March 2014 in Brussels.

Three new speakers were recently welcomed to the agenda:

- Pierfrancesco Maran, Deputy Mayor for Mobility & Environment at Municipality Milan
- Anders Linde, Secretary General at MPE
- Stefan Jaenecke, President at FEVE

Other confirmed speakers include:

- William Vermeir, EXPRA
- Oscar Martin, Eco Embes
- Maryse Vermette, EEQ, Quebec - Canada
- Virginia Janssens, EUROOPEN
- Andrew Speck, Marks & Spencer
- Monica Mireles Serrano, Ikea
- Marianne Muller, DG Environment
- Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, MEP
- David Ranson, Ministry of Environment – British Columbia
- Simon Hoffmeyer Boas, Carlsberg
- Sabine Strnad, Coca-Cola Hellenic
- Russ Martin, Global Product Stewardship Council

Please find the full list of speakers [here](#) and the brochure [here](#).



**21ST ANNUAL** 4-5 MARCH 2014, LE PLAZA HOTEL, BRUSSELS

# Packaging Waste & Sustainability FORUM

**Enhancing Resource Efficiency and Complying with the Latest EU Policy**

- Assess the latest timelines for review updates of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive
- Examine a fitness check for current waste legislation
- See how Member States are reducing packaging waste through updated targets
- Hear from leading retailers and brand owners looking to capture even more value from materials
- Analyse the developments of EPR schemes in Europe and beyond from manufacturers and consultants

**POLICY SPEAKERS:**  
Marianne Muller, DG Environment  
Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, MEP  
David Ranson, Ministry of Environment – British Columbia  
Michele Galante, DG Environment

**INDUSTRY SPEAKERS:**  
Andrew Speck, Marks & Spencer  
Monica Mireles Serrano, Ikea  
Simon Hoffmeyer Boas, Carlsberg  
Sabine Strnad, Coca-Cola Hellenic  
Matt Waterburn, Carlsberg

**SPEAKERS:**  
William Vermeir  
Fest Plus  
Virginia Janssens, EUROOPEN  
Oscar Martin  
Eco Embes & Exptra  
Juha Huikka  
Toukainen  
PVR

Holmut Schmitz  
DSD Germany  
Fest Plus  
Maryse Vermette  
Eco-Entreprises  
Quebec  
Russ Martin  
Global Product Stewardship Council  
Erika Misk, ACE

Mariagiovanna Votaw, European Diagnostics & NatureWorks LLC  
Ben Hydenstein  
PECO  
Sylvie Lémond  
CEA Europe  
Anders Linde, MPE

**CONFERENCE CHAIRS:**  
Frank Grill, Ferrero  
Joachim Quaden, EXPRA

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## National news update

### Danish Environment Ministry releases new strategy to increase recycling

The Danish Environment Ministry released, on 7 October, a new strategy with the aim to significantly reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and increasing recycling levels and energy recovery in the country. According to the latest Eurostat data, Denmark is the EU country generating the highest amount of municipal waste per capita (718 kilogram per capita). By 2022, the Environment Ministry's objective is to recycle twice as much household waste.

With the new strategy, Denmark also aims to increase its food waste recycling six fold, which equals to approximately 300.000 tons by 2022. In order to achieve this goal, the Danish government will allocate DKK50m (around €6.7m) to waste management every year between 2014 and 2017.

Denmark will also release a waste prevention strategy in the coming months.

Additional information available [here](#) (in Danish).

### Denmark to simplify regulation on the deposit-return scheme

On 7 October, the European Commission announced that Denmark, within the context of the Directive 94/62/EC on Packaging and Packaging Waste, is going to replace the existing regulation on the use of deposits with a more general regulation, which will also cover the setting of charges. Through these changes, Denmark seeks to optimise the financial and administrative sides of the deposit and return scheme's operation. Furthermore, another important reason for such legislative changes is to limit Dansk Retursystem A/S's financial losses due to unpaid fees.

Link to the full Commission's notification [here](#).

### New notification 2013/574/D

A notification to the Commission by Germany on the Sixth Order amending the Packaging Order was informed via TRIS on 23 October. The Order is adapted so that it includes the current illustrative examples under Annex I to the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive.

TRIS is a web-based information system to facilitate data exchange on technical regulations. It enables EU Member States to inform each other and the Commission of planned regulations and resolve potential Internal Market issues before laws are passed.

Additional information can be found [here](#).

## REPAK's latest edition of "Positive Packaging" published

In Repak's latest edition of 'Positive Packaging' they report on issues including:

- The issue of waste EPS and what can be done to increase its recycling rate.
- rPET eCO, a new product from Holfeld Plastics.
- A survey dealing with difficult-to-open packaging.
- Upcoming training courses.

The full edition can be read [here](#).

## News Items of Interest

### Commission publishes legislative proposal on lightweight plastic bags

The Commission published, on 4 November, a proposal for a directive amending the PPWD in relation to plastic bags.

The proposal aims to amend Article 4 of the PPWD, which deals with prevention, requiring Member States to take measures to reduce the use of plastic carrier bags.

In this regard some liberty is given to Member States and the measures may include national reduction targets, the use of economic instruments such as taxes and levies and marketing restrictions such as bans (which would be an Article 18 derogation).

Please find the proposal [here](#) and the Commission press release and impact assessment [here](#).

### Commission reveals its 2014 Work Programme

In mid-October, the Commission published its work programme for 2014. The work programme outlines a list of priority items planned for adoption by the co-legislators next year as well as some new initiatives. It also includes a section on proposals to be withdrawn, as well as a list of legislation that becomes applicable in 2014.

The work programme reiterates that the Commission will present a legislative initiative on resource efficiency and waste, which should set out *"key building blocks needed to unlock EU economic potential to be more productive whilst using fewer resources and advancing towards a circular economy"*. The initiative will consider the conclusions

drawn from the development of suitable indicators and targets (which inter alia the Resource Efficiency Platform is working on) and the review of the key targets in EU waste legislation and an ex-post evaluation of waste stream directives.

In Annex III on 'Refit Actions' the Commission also outlines that they are planning an update of the Export for Recovery of non-hazardous waste Regulation 1418/2007. The regulation will be updated and its provisions simplified.

Please find the full work programme [here](#) (text) and [here](#) (annexes describing the different initiatives).

## **European Parliament endorses deal with the Council on the EU Environment Action Programme for 2020**

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During the Plenary Session of Thursday 24 October, the European Parliament endorsed the deal reached with Council in June (co-decision, first reading) on the 7th EU Environment Action Programme (EAP).

The programme should serve as an overarching framework for the EU's environmental policy from 2014 until 2020 and covers a wide range of issues – from water and waste management to climate change.

### **Next steps:**

- Mid-November: Expected formal approval by the Council
- January 2014: 7th EAP expected to enter into force

## **A new action plan for the EU Raw Material Strategy**

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The European Commission has published a new action plan for the use of raw materials in the EU. It aims at improving Europe's raw materials industry while mitigating their negative environmental and social impacts and establishing a circular economy.

The EIP's key objectives are:

- 1) Reducing the EU's import-dependence on raw materials
- 2) Improving the EU's current level in the raw material sectors, by mitigating their environmental and social impacts.

Among other things, the action plan seeks to improve the EU's waste management framework, reducing the need of new raw material in products and thereby contributing to the sustainable supply of raw materials through resource efficiency and recycling and to optimise waste flows, in order to increase recycling and recovery rates

Part of the proposed actions are a ban on landfill for paper, wood, glass, metals and other recyclable waste, as well as an incineration ban for certain waste.

You can find more information on the EIP [here](#) and the link to the full action plan [here](#).

## **Commissioner answers EPQ on the Italian ban of marketing of non-biodegradable plastic bags**

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Environment Commissioner Potočnik has answered a Parliamentary question by MEP Erminia Mazzoni (EPP, IT) on the Italian ban of the marketing of non-biodegradable plastic carrier bags.

Mazzoni asked what stage the infringement procedure (2011/4030) has reached. In his answer, Potočnik outlines that *"This procedure is ongoing and at the stage of Letter of Formal Notice under Article 258. In particular, the Commission is currently assessing the impact of the new inter-ministerial Decree no. 542, aimed at setting further technical characteristics that plastic bags should comply with in order to be marketed in Italy"*. The Commissioner also refers to the negative impact of plastic bags in the environment, especially in the marine environment, an issue addressed in the context of the Commission's Green Paper consultation on Plastic Waste.

Link to MEP Mazzoni's question [here](#), and to Commissioner Potočnik's answer [here](#).

## **Commissioner Potočnik's answer to MEP Karl-Heinz Florenz question on amendments to Directive 2008/98 on Waste**

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On 26 September, Commissioner Potočnik answered a Parliamentary question posed by MEP Karl-Heinz Florenz (EPP, DE) regarding amendments to the Waste Framework Directive.

In his answer, Mr. Potočnik said that the Commission considers the current waste hierarchy to be valid and, as such, it will not be reviewed. At the same time, the Commission is evaluating a range of measures to achieve the objectives set out in 7th Environmental Action Program on the elimination of landfill. During 2014, the Commission will monitor the outcomes following the adoption of end-of-waste criteria for metal scrap, as well as consider whether the criteria for plastic waste and biodegradable waste would be appropriate.

Link to the MEP's question [here](#), and to the full answer [here](#).

## **Presentation from the European Commission's conference on plastic waste available online**

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The presentations from the European Commission's Conference on Plastic Waste, which took place on 30 September in Brussels, have been made available for download on the event website.

Please find them [here](#).

## **Environment Ministers exchanged views on the proposal for amending Regulation on Waste Shipment**

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The proposal COM(2013) 516 for amending Regulation (EC) 1013/2006 on waste shipment was published on 11 July 2013. Environment ministers met in Luxembourg on Monday 14 October for an Environment Council and, among other things, they exchanged views on the above mentioned proposal.

The discussion focused on whether the scope of the proposal was appropriate and Ministers also considered the extent in which the proposal is "ensuring a minimum level playing field and allowing the necessary flexibility".

Link to the full Council's press release [here](#).

## **Product Environmental Footprint Summit**

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On 10 October, the first Product Environmental Footprint Summit took place in Berlin, to discuss ways to scale-up sustainable consumption and production, as well as the on-going 'pilot phase' of the Commission's development of environmental footprint methodologies for products and organisations.

The Commission published, earlier this month, the selection of pilot projects linked to its development of its Environmental Footprint Methodologies. The pilots are 14 in total, and were selected out of approximately 90 applications, please find the full list [here](#). The work on the pilots are now expected to start on 4 November.

Among the projects selected was a project from the International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Product (A.I.S.E.) as the 3-year pilot projects to measure the environmental foot print of liquid laundry detergents. On this occasion, A.I.S.E. publishes a press release which can be found [here](#).

You can also find the video-taped intervention by EC Policy Officer Michele Galatola from the summit [here](#).

## Recent study on marine litter

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The Commission's Science for Environment Policy News Alert reported on 24 October about a recent study entitled "*Effects of natural and anthropogenic processes in the distribution of marine litter in the deep Mediterranean Sea*".

According to the study, marine litter is a major issue in deep sea ecosystems of the Mediterranean Sea. The study sampled deep sea water between 900 and 3000m deep, discovering that the most abundant types of litter encountered were plastic, glass, metal, and clinker.

Overall, the research brought to light that the total weight of litter found in some areas was equal, sometimes even higher, to that of the animals living there.

The authors suggested that their findings can be used to improve understanding of the impact of marine litter in European seas. They also recommended the need of further work on the effects of marine litter on habitats and ecosystems in deep sea, in order to provide more thorough knowledge for future policy reforms.

Link to the full Commission's News Alert [here](#).

## ACR+ supports the Committee of the Regions' opinions on new binding targets for waste management

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In the context of the European Commission's Consultation on the Review of European Waste Targets, which closed on 10 September, the Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and Sustainable Resource Management (ACR+) has informed that they support the opinion adopted by the Committee of the Regions (CoR) proposing ambitious and binding new targets on waste management.

Among other things, ACR+ supports raising the recycling target of solid municipal waste to 70% by 2025, as well as banning incineration of recyclable waste. ACR+ also stressed that packaging materials, being non-renewable sources, should be drastically reduced, especially with regards to plastic bags and other plastic packaging. Moreover, in ACR+'s view, single-use plastic bags should not be free of charge.

Link to the CoR's position [here](#), and to the full ACR+'s position paper [here](#).

## **European Plastic Converters (EuPC) publishes press release on 'EuPC response to calls to ban or tax oil-based plastic shopping bags'**

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EuPC, representing the European Plastic Converters, recently issued a press release on: '*EuPC response to calls to 'Ban or tax oil-based plastic shopping bags'*' in which it expresses concern about the various statements made on plastic bags made out of bioplastics which argue that they are more sustainable than their oil-based counterparts.

When considering the sustainability of a specific material, EuPC outlines it is important to look at the resources used in its production, including land-use, water consumption and, in the case of bio-based plastics, the sustainability of biomass used. Therefore, EuPC calls for EU policy on bioplastics to take into account '*lessons learnt from the biofuels sector*'.

EuPC has also stated that '*bioplastics are not a solution to marine litter and this has been clearly recognised by the European Commission during an event on plastics waste held earlier this week*' and that '*compostable and biodegradable plastics need to stay out of traditional waste streams in order to avoid detrimental impacts on the quality of recycling*';.

Furthermore, the press release informs that EuPC will soon release test results on the negative impact of bioplastics within the recycling streams of plastics.

Link to the full press release [here](#).

## **European publishes press release following its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary event**

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European celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 9 October. On this occasion they published a press release containing links to various position papers released by the organisation and in connection to the waste policy review, such as EU waste management targets and EPR for post-consumer packaging.

Link to the full press release and position papers [here](#).

## **PlasticsEurope publishes results of comparative study on 'Bio-Degradable and Oxo-Degradable plastics'**

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PlasticsEurope recently published the findings of a comparative study carried out in August entitled: '*Bio-degradable and Oxo-degradable plastics: Comparative Study*'. The study was conducted by OWS for PlasticsEurope.

The study reports that the majority of biodegradable plastics meet the requirements set by well-recognised standards for industrial composting. Results were less positive

for oxo-degradable plastic, where it was outlined that these do not meet industrial / home compostability established standards and *“The very few positive biodegradation results obtained with oxo-degradable plastics were achieved in unrealistic testing environments and could not be repeated”*.

PlasticsEurope online site is accessible [here](#), which includes a link to more information on the study.

## **Tetra Pak publishes sustainability update 2013**

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Tetra Pak has recently published the *Tetra Pak Sustainability Update 2013*, which provides information on key initiatives and activities undertaken by Tetra Pak during the past year with regards to the company’s commitment to improving its social, environmental and economic business management.

In the course of 2012, about 23% of Tetra Pak cartons sold worldwide were recycled, moving one step closer to Tetra Pak’s 2020 recycling goal of 40%. In the same year, Tetra Pak also extended sourcing of bio-based polymers for closures and caps, which were used on more than 610 million Tetra Pak cartons.

Link to the full update [here](#).