

## PRESS RELEASE

### ***New Single-Use Plastics legislation requires further assessment***

**Brussels, 28 May 2018.** The Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance (EXPRA) received the Single Use Plastics (SUP) Directive proposal, published today, with mixed thoughts. While our members fully support European Union (EU) efforts towards preventing and reducing marine litter, we believe that some of the proposed measures are neither consistent with the recently-reviewed EU Waste Directives nor justified on grounds of proportionality.

*Role of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).* The revised Waste Framework Directive introduced first-ever general, minimum requirements for EPR schemes' operations. Plastic packaging items addressed by the SUP Directive already fall under the scope of existing EPR schemes and their requirements. Member States must now transpose, implement and enforce these new provisions to effect positive change.

*Litter clean-up costs.* The requirements also harmonised the costs to be covered by EPR schemes, which do not include litter clean-up. In addition, the Waste Framework Directive recognised that the fight against litter requires a "shared effort between competent authorities, producers and consumers".

We should recall that industry can only co-finance waste management activities that fall under its remit and influence. Packaging waste that is littered on land and in the oceans, primarily due to inadequate consumer use of the existing collection infrastructure, should not be part of producers' financial responsibility.

At the same time, littering any type of packaging on beaches and in the oceans is already prohibited by national law. Member States should therefore enforce these obligations in conjunction with long-term, comprehensive education and awareness programmes. Meanwhile, relevant stakeholders, including EPR schemes, should join forces to prevent litter.

*Separate collection rates for bottles.* We embrace the goal of reducing the number of single-use plastic packaging beverage containers leaking into the environment. As organisations responsible for meeting the legal recycling targets, we acknowledge the need, and will considerably increase efforts, to collect all plastic packaging, including plastic beverage containers.

It should, however, be entirely at the discretion of Member States how to collect their plastic beverage containers. This would help ensure that potentially new collection targets are met by allowing multiple collection channels to be engaged simultaneously.

Finally, policy initiatives surrounding deposit systems should strike the right balance between necessity and proportionality, thus avoiding technical and organisational overlaps. In particular, regional and local analyses are required to account for local specificities that could influence whether a deposit system would be evaluated as environmentally sound.

EXPRA's Managing Director, Joachim Quoden, commented: *"The development and policy recognition of EPR under the Waste Directives prove that EPR has become a fundamental tool for efficient waste management, today and in the future. This is why the faster the Member States transpose and implement the Waste Directives, the better equipped EPR schemes will be to continue delivering results. Any new policy measures affecting EPR operations should be in line with those Directives to avoid legal uncertainty that could jeopardize the application of those new provisions".*

#### **About EXPRA**

EXPRA is the *Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance* – the organisation for packaging and packaging waste recovery and recycling systems. EXPRA acts as the authoritative voice and common policy platform representing the interests of its members, which were all founded and are run by or on behalf of the obliged industry and work on a not-for-profit or profit-not-for-distribution basis. Over the past 20 years, its 26 members across 23 countries, including 17 EU Member States, have co-organised the collection, sorting and recycling of used packaging (with a focus on household packaging) on behalf of the obliged industry. In so doing, they 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).