

Circular Economy: Separate waste collection best placed under the Extended Producer Responsibility principle

Brussels 1 February 2016. Extended Producer Responsibility ensures that adequate separate waste collection systems help achieve both sustainable resource management and legal recycling targets. The topic was featured at the heart of last Friday's event entitled ***Separate waste collection in the context of a Circular Economy in Europe*** in Brussels.

Over the past 20 years, the ***Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance*** (EXPRA)'s members, that are non-profit packaging recovery and recycling systems owned by the obligated industry, have remained committed to establishing and maintaining the necessary infrastructure for both the collection and sorting of packaging waste.

The topic is currently highly prominent given that the way we collect and manage our waste can facilitate valuable materials' recycling. This is in parallel to higher recycling targets which will be required to be fulfilled in future. If citizens lack easy access to infrastructure enabling them to sort their waste on a daily basis, a reasonable level of waste collection cannot be achieved.

“The organisation of separate waste collection has to be decided based on the local circumstances as there is no one-fits-all solution. Following best practices in other regions or Member States is therefore the way forward. This has to go hand-in-hand with comprehensive awareness raising and education campaigns for the inhabitants, but also from companies in the B-to-B business”, said Joachim Quoden, EXPRA's Managing Director.

EXPRA moreover welcomes a recent report on *“Separate collection schemes in the 28 capitals of the EU”*. The report, that was presented at the event, recognises, amongst its conclusions, that smart and cooperation between EPR schemes and local authorities is key for a successful and performing collection system.

“Successful EPR must be based on a genuine partnership between public authorities and EPR providers. The challenge posed by optimum waste collection evinces this. In addition, better legislation, including minimum requirements for EPR operators across the value chain, is of the essence”, concluded Joachim Quoden.

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 25 members across 23 countries, from which 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 obligated 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.expra.eu
