

“Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) has led without any doubt to better recycling results for packaging waste, WEEE, and many other waste streams” states a recent publication of the *International Solid Waste Association (ISWA)* on EPR.

4 December: The recently published Key Issue Paper was developed by the ISWA Working Group on Legal Issues, based on experiences with EPR in the European Union.

The paper quotes the OECD definition for EPR - “an environmental policy approach in which a producer’s responsibility for a product is extended to the post consumer stage of a product’s lifecycle.” In this way the responsibility is shifted from the local authorities and taxpayers towards the producer. This also creates a market incentive for producers to incorporate environmental considerations in the design of their products. In addition, ISWA points out that EPR should reduce landfilling of waste and lead to increased recycling, under environmentally, healthy and socially desirable conditions.

EXPRA welcomes the findings of ISWA, namely that all stakeholders in the product chain should be involved in the process and that their responsibilities should be clearly defined, to avoid conflict of interests. Among the most important prerequisites for the successful implementation of EPR is transparency. It is necessary to enable national governments to control the proper implementation of EPR and ensure that both producers and consumers can make informed choices. Another major condition defined in the document, is the setting up of an effective and efficient legal framework accompanied by adequate regulatory investigation, monitoring and enforcement activity.

The paper concludes that EPR is not a stand-alone policy measure. It should always be incorporated in a mix of environmental policy measures as there is no one-size-fits-all approach. EPR effectiveness will always depend on national circumstances, conditions, priorities and waste streams.

“I would like to thank my colleagues for their efforts to further clarify the objectives, the impact and the conditions for the successful implementation of EPR. I hope that this paper will be taken into consideration by the European Institutions during the debates on the Circular Economy Package and the Waste Targets Review” said Joachim Quoden, Managing Director of EXPRA and Chair of the ISWA Working Group on Legal Issues.

You can find the full text of the **Key Issue Paper** in the section “Most recent ISWA Publications” at <http://www.iswa.org/iswa/iswa-groups/working-groups/>

About EXPRA

Founded in 2013, is the alliance for packaging and packaging waste recovery and recycling systems which are owned by obliged industry and work on a not-for-profit basis. EXPRA acts as the authoritative voice and common policy platform representing the interests of all its member packaging recovery and recycling organisations founded and run by or on behalf of obliged industry. EXPRA members provide over 200 million inhabitants with packaging collection, sorting and recycling infrastructure and ensure recycling and recovery of over 18 million tons of packaging per year. For additional information, please visit www.expra.eu

*For further information please contact **Joachim Quoden, Managing Director of EXPRA** Joachim.quoden@expira.eu,
+49 171 201 70 55*