



# Monthly Newsletter



November 2013

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## Introduction

Dear all,

Welcome to the November edition of our EXPRA monthly newsletter. This will give you a glimpse of EXPRA's activities in Brussels and beyond over the past month, as well as a selection of updates on recent key developments relating to waste management, resource efficiency and EPR.

This continues to be a very busy autumn for us packaging and waste professionals. EXPRA is actively taking part in the EU discourse on waste management and participated in November in two key stakeholder consultations – on EPR and the Waste Fitness Check. We are also currently preparing a response to the Commission consultation on *the establishment of a quantitative reduction headline target for marine litter*.

Among other activities, EXPRA was pleased to take part in the second edition of the *Greener Packaging Awards* organised by Fost Plus, VAL-I-PAC and Gondola in Brussels, where both SMEs and bigger companies received awards for good efforts in 'greening' packaging.

With a view to 2014, I would also like to take the opportunity to remind you about the next *Packaging Waste and Sustainability Forum*, which EXPRA will organise with Informa on 4-5 March in Brussels. Participants who register by 13 December will benefit from an early bird offer. We have a very comprehensive speakers list for this event and I am sure that we will enjoy two days of inspiring presentations and interesting discussions. I hope to see you there!

With best wishes,



Joachim Quoden  
Managing Director of EXPRA

## EXPRA Update - November 2013

### **EXPRA General Assembly, Brussels**

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The 2013 EXPRA General Assembly took place on 12 November in Brussels. The CEOs of virtually all of EXPRA's member organisations gathered to discuss key developments on the EU waste and resource efficiency agenda. There were significant discussions on the Commission's ongoing work to develop European wide guidelines on EPR, and the input that EXPRA has provided to the consultancy study by BIO Intelligence Service, which is currently under preparation.

EXPRA was also pleased to welcome its 18<sup>th</sup> and first non-European, member to the alliance - Eco Enterprise Quebec from Canada. Hungarian Packaging Recovery Scheme ÖKO-Pannon was also welcomed as a cooperation partner.

The next General Assembly will take place on 30 April 2014.

### **EXPRA takes part in BIO IS Consultation on EPR**

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The consultancy BIO Intelligence Service (BIO IS) is in the process of preparing a study on "Development of guidance on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)" for DG Environment.

The consultants are carrying out an overview of existing EPR schemes, together with an in depth assessment of different waste stream case studies (including packaging). They are describing, comparing and analysing different EPR types across the EU.

BIO IS recently carried out a final stakeholder consultation as part of their work on the study, seeking input on some selected guidelines for EPR in the EU. The consultation listed ten propositions for possible development of European guidance, recommendations or legislation on EPR, and asked for stakeholder input on these.

EXPRA participated in this consultation, and you can find our contribution [here](#).

### **Greener Packaging Awards, Brussels**

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EXPRA took part in the second edition of the *Greener Packaging Awards* organised by Fost Plus, VAL-I-PAC and Gondola on 18 November. The event had approximately 200 participants.

Following a session on prevention, optimisation and eco-design for packaging during, the award ceremony took place.

Under various categories, SMEs as well as bigger companies received awards for their efforts in 'greening' packaging. An award was also given to students for their packaging design proposals. The awards were given out by representatives from one of the three respective regional ministers for environment.

Several EXPRA members are organising similar awards to acknowledge good performances in the field of prevention.

## **Next Packaging Waste & Sustainability Forum, March 2014**

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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.

The confirmed speakers for this high level event include:

- William Vermeir, Exptra
- 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](#).

Participants who register by 13 December will receive an early bird discount. Please find the link for registrations [here](#).

## News Items of Interest

### EP ENVI Committee adopts Plastic Waste Report

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On 27 November, the European Parliament's (EP) ENVI Committee adopted the report by MEP Vittorio Prodi (S&D/IT) on *A European Strategy on Plastic Waste in the Environment*. It was adopted with 60 votes in favour and one vote against.

The report stresses that EU legislation on plastic waste should focus on reducing plastic waste. In this regard, it calls for specific binding targets for collection, sorting (which could "reach the ambitious level of 80%") and recycling for the various waste streams including packaging. It also calls for mandatory criteria for recyclability.

Specific reference is also made to EPR, outlining that the application of this principle as well as consumer awareness "have a role to play in preventing illegal exports and in a significant reduction of plastic waste in the environment".

Furthermore, the Committee agrees that plastic waste should be considered a valuable resource, and calls on the Commission to make proposals by the end of next year to phase out landfilling of recyclable and recoverable waste by 2020. ENVI MEPs would also like to see measures in place to discourage incineration of recyclable, compostable and biodegradable plastic.

Among other things, the report also stresses the importance to address the issue of waste prevention further by tackling overconsumption and "irresponsible disposal of single-use products".

#### Next steps

The ENVI report will now be tabled for a vote in the EP Plenary, and this is foreseen to take place in January 2014.

### ACR+ appoints new president

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On 15 November, during the ACR+'s general assembly in Barcelona, Mr Josep Maria Tost i Borràs was appointed ACR+'s new President. Mr Tost i Borràs, who will be President for the next two years, is Director of the Catalan Waste Agency.

According to ACR+, Mr Tost i Borràs has particularly committed to promote the four working axes of ACR+, namely:

- 1) awareness-raising and its flagship project;
- 2) the European Week for Waste Reduction;
- 3) the economic and legal instruments and the Extended Producer Responsibility Club

4) the ACR+ European Observatory, and North-South cooperation.

Link to ACR+'s full press release [here](#).

## **Commissioner Potočník presents the EU's action on waste and resource efficiency at WRAP's annual conference**

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The Commission's Science for Environment Policy News Alert has reported on 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](#).