

## PRESS RELEASE

### ***EXPRA welcomes enhanced Extended Producer Responsibility criteria in new Circular economy Package***

**Brussels, 2 December 2015.** The Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance (EXPRA) welcomes the European Commission's acknowledgement that Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes form an essential part of an efficient waste management process, and their potential could be put to use as long as the right framework is applied.

Given that EPR is implemented in a variety of ways across the bloc, the proposed common requirements for EPR are likely to ensure a level-playing field for producers, Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs) and other actors in the waste management chain.

EXPRA, however, demands that these criteria are enhanced, in particular as concerns the roles and responsibilities of the various EPR players, and formalised in the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (PPWD), which is the key Directive for the packaging sector. This would facilitate the functioning of EPR within this specific waste stream, that involves a high number of companies from various industry sectors and requires a dense waste management infrastructure.

In addition, the Alliance is pleased to see that an EPR information exchange platform will be established. The initiative will certainly contribute to identifying best practice across the EU, as well as understanding the difficulties facing some Member States. With over 20 years of experience in this field, EXPRA would be delighted to take part in this platform.

With regards to waste management targets, it must be recalled that, currently, EU statistics do not show a fully comparable and reliable picture of packaging recycling across the bloc. An EXPRA-owned study disclosed that, between 2006 and 2012, data inconsistencies and variances are so large that it would be premature to affirm that Member States have actually reached their packaging waste targets.

EXPRA moreover highlights that combining "preparation for reuse" and recycling operations, under the said targets, will further complicate the target calculation, thus hindering, in a more prominent way, the comparability of results amongst Member States. There are divergent interpretations of what these processes stand for, and how the targets should actually be calculated.

At the same time, we welcome the options set out for recycling measurement, that take into account the multiple modalities through which recycling can be calculated. Efforts will however need to be directed towards monitoring and enforcement, therefore ensuring quality recycling.

*"We are pleased to see that EPR has found its place in EU legislation",* said William Vermeir, EXPRA President and Fost Plus CEO. *"Yet, for several reasons, including internal market considerations, it would be wise to further define EPR and its scope, should that be financial, organisational or a combination of both. The extended responsibility should only embrace activities that the obligated industry, through PROs, can actually impact".*

EXPRA's Managing Director, Joachim Quoden, commented: *"EXPRA is delighted to see reinforced EPR requirements within the waste proposals, that will hopefully contribute to a level-playing field for EPR in the EU and therefore help boost our systems' performance and cost-efficiency. We will examine the provisions in detail, and contribute with policy solutions particularly with regards to EPR, target levels and data harmonisation".*

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### ***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.

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