

**The Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance (EXPRA) extends its reach into the Balkans  
Two new members, SLOPAK Slovenia and EKOPAK Bosnia and Herzegovina,  
join the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Network**

**Brussels, 26 November 2015** – During its General Assembly meeting, EXPRA, the umbrella organisation for packaging and packaging waste recovery and recycling systems which are owned by the obligated industry and work on a non-profit basis, welcomed two new members - SLOPAK from Slovenia and EKOPAK from Bosnia and Herzegovina, thereby extending its presence in the Balkans.

Both organisations join EXPRA at an important moment for packaging waste management, given the forthcoming publication of the new Circular Economy Package. Under this package, the legislative proposals for the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive, as well as the Waste Framework Directive, will particularly impact the sector over the next 15 years, and beyond.

Established in 2002 by the obliged industry, SLOPAK d.o.o. is the first accredited Recovery Organization in Slovenia. As a non-profit organization, it's responsible to fulfill the recovery obligations on behalf of obliged companies according to both EU and national legislation and in the most cost-efficient manner.

“We look forward to working with EXPRA and its members”, said Srečko Bukovec, SLOPAK CEO. “The cooperation and exchange of best practices with colleagues from Europe, and across the world, will allow us to face the many challenges we encounter in Slovenia, working in a very competitive environment”.

EKOPAK is a non-profit company established in 2011. It bears responsibility for meeting legal obligations concerning recycling and re-use of packaging waste within the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on behalf of packaging producers, importers, fillers, distributors and merchants. EKOPAK is the first licensed PRO by the Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the leading system operator of packaging waste management in the country.

“For EKOPAK, joining EXPRA is a big and exciting step, and we look forward to working with our colleagues from many countries, promoting, like us, EPR and non-profit principle. We hope to use their expertise in order to improve our performance and reach our objectives through setting up and optimizing an effective system for packaging recovery in line with the national goals of the Ministry for the Environment of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina”, said Amela Hrbat, Managing Director at EKOPAK.

William Vermeir, President of EXPRA welcomed the new members to the EPR network and said: “We are happy to have our colleagues from SLOPAK and EKOPAK joining us, especially at this moment when we are trying to promote, at EU level, the EPR in its original sense. By this we mean non-profit compliance schemes, owned and steered by the obligated industry, providing a public service for our inhabitants.”

“We are looking forward to sharing our experiences and involving EKOPAK and SLOPAK in our work, promoting EPR as an effective and efficient waste management tool”, said

Joachim Quoden, Managing Director of EXPRA. “I believe that our two new members will contribute significantly to our work in the field of EU legislation but also in finding solutions to the specific challenges that our Balkans members face today”.

**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](http://www.expra.eu)  
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**About SLOPAK**

*SLOPAK d.o.o. was founded in 2002 as an initiative of 29 obliged companies. The organization is owned by the obliged industry and its activity is based on the non-for-profit principle. It is responsible for collecting, sorting and recycling of municipal and industrial packaging waste. Its objective is to fulfill the recovery obligations in the EU packaging directive and the related Slovenian legislation in the most efficient and environmentally friendly manner.  
For detailed information, please visit <http://www.slopak.si>*

**About EKOPAK**

*EKOPAK is a non-profit company established in 2011, with the aim of taking over the responsibility for fulfillment of legal obligations for recycling and re-use of packaging waste in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina on behalf of packaging producers, importers, fillers, distributors and merchants. The Mission of EKOPAK is to enable fulfillment of legal obligation in accordance with the Ordinance on Packaging and Packaging Waste Management with minimal economic efforts for all of its clients. Its activities are based on the best EU practice from this area, but on high business standards as well, in accordance with the standards of the company founders.  
For detailed information, please visit <http://www.ekopak.ba>*