

EXPRA Workshop with Multinational Companies' representatives on Design for Recycling, 30 November 2016



The Workshop focused on “Plastic Packaging and recycling”. In the workshop participated over 15 representatives of MNs (P&G, Packaging Cluster, DOW CHEMICAL, Henkel and DANONE), associations and EPR organizations. As a guest to the workshop Mr. Jan Le Moux, Directeur Eco-conception et Recyclage, of Eco Emballages also took part. The program included two presentations: on design of plastic packaging and recommendations from the point of view of a recycler. Mr. Raf Bemelmans, Chief Supply Chain Officer in the new recycling company QCP presented the recycling process of PE/PP packaging. He noted that the breakthrough of circular polymers depends on the replacement of virgin polymers in large existing segments, such as packaging. The equipment and processes in these segments are designed to process mono stream, e.g. HDPE or PP, resulting in specific characteristics of the end product. Mr. Bemelmans explained the new challenges related to the increased targets for plastic recycling, the problems with recycled content, etc. He also presented some specific problems, for example the black layer in white milk bottles, which hampers their recycling; he also presented different products for recycled plastic packaging.

Mr. An Vossen, a well-known Plastic Recycling Expert & Executive Manager of PLAREBEL presented the challenges in the design of packaging: Several options and challenges will be presented to make a packaging better for the environment: light-weighting, extension of shelf life of the product, Design for Recycling, etc.

During the following discussion, different types of packaging such as multilayer PET trays & Monolayer PET trays versus PP trays, Cecemel PET bottle with a multilayer sleeve (that impacts sorting as well as recycling) were presented and evaluated from a recycler's point of view.