

PRESS RELEASE

Circular Economy Package: EXPRA calls for enhanced Extended Producer Responsibility and recycling criteria

Brussels, 29 April 2016. EXPRA (the Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance) is calling on policymakers to safeguard the primary role Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) plays in transitioning towards a circular economy.

The reviewed EU waste legislation acknowledges that EPR is an essential part to an efficient waste-management process. Now this approach needs to be translated into strong common requirements for EPR schemes.

EXPRA moreover welcomes the options set out for measuring recycling. However, the “final recycling process” definition should be adjusted in a bid to ensure data accuracy and reliability as well as reporting transparency and compliance.

In this regard, EXPRA believes that:

1. ***EPR general requirements should be maintained under the Waste Framework Directive (WFD), and tailored to the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (PPWD).*** EXPRA strongly supports introducing common, general EPR requirements under the WFD. However, specific EU-wide requirements should also be formalised under the PPWD, as it is the packaging sector’s legislative pillar. In particular, these should allocate explicit roles and responsibilities for key players within the supply chain so as to avoid resources overlapping or duplicating, as well as conflicts of interest.
2. ***Producers - and the organisations implementing EPR on their behalf - perform general interest services by contributing to environmental protection, economic efficiency and social responsibility. Their non-profit character should be recognised within legislation.*** Given that EPR fees are already included in the price of packaged products, it is in the consumers’ interest that money generated through these schemes is not used to generate profit but rather re-invested at an optimal societal cost.
3. ***The final recycling process should begin at the entrance of the recycling plant, and be coupled with material-specific quality standards.*** The “final recycling process” should begin when no further sorting is needed to select the waste materials to be recycled, i.e. prior to the actual recycling process occurring. Waste materials will subsequently enter a production process so as to be effectively reprocessed into products, materials or substances. EXPRA proposes that material-specific quality standards be introduced at EU level so as to complement the proposed definition.

EXPRA’s Managing Director, Joachim Quoden, commented: *“As an organisation representing non-profit packaging-waste recovery and recycling systems, which are owned and run by the obliged industry, we would like to see stronger EPR provisions enabling a level playing field for the various actors involved. More work is required to ensure a coherent approach to packaging operations within the EU, and the Circular Economy Package is a unique opportunity for helping this take shape”.*

Further information on EXPRA’s messages and demands can be found [here](#).

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 members across 23 countries, including 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. For more information, please visit www.exptra.eu

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