

## PRESS RELEASE

### ***Circular Economy Package: EXPRA calls for safeguarding Extended Producer Responsibility and objectively measuring recycling***

**Brussels, 25 January 2017.** Following the European Parliament's Environment Committee vote on its draft report amending waste legislation, EXPRA (the Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance) calls on policymakers to safeguard and enhance **common general minimum requirements for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**.

**EXPRA's Managing Director, Joachim Quoden**, commented: *"The Environment Committee delivered a strong message in favour of common EU criteria for EPR. Given that EPR is implemented in a variety of ways across the EU, **transparency criteria for EPR operations, including clear and fair rules relating to financial liability, are essential to allow for a level-playing field for all relevant players. These requirements should be defended during the negotiations with Council**"*.

EXPRA, however, remains concerned about the Parliament's proposed **calculation method for measuring recycling**. The latter could prompt recycling to be calculated following a number of preliminary operations occurring within the recycling plant. In practice, this proposal poses significant challenges, both to calculation and reporting procedures, given that, at that stage of the process, **the exact data is often not available**.

*"Our research suggests that recycled waste should, in fact, be measured **at the gate of the recycling plant**. This is because data can only be ascertained until the plant's gate, i.e. before the waste batches are generally mixed within the plant, in order to deliver **reliable statistics**. At the same time, **specific quality standards** should be introduced at EU level so as to ensure that **waste materials** deemed as 'recycled' have adequate quality attributes. EXPRA therefore welcomes the European Parliament's amendments in favour of establishing such standards for waste materials",* explained Joachim Quoden.

EXPRA research shows that recycling quality is less dependent on where it is measured, but more so on the waste materials' attributes that standards can effectively reflect. The latter are also relevant for identifying those waste materials that may not be recycled after all, and should not be accounted for in recycling reports. *"Within our proposal of checks against quality specifications, these **potentially-lost materials would be identified upfront** and could be already accounted for as impurities as they enter the recycling plant",* concluded Joachim Quoden.

Further information on EXPRA's proposal on recycling measurement can be found [here](#).

#### **About EXPRA**

The Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance (EXPRA) is the organisation for packaging and packaging waste recovery and recycling systems which are owned by the 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 the obliged industry. Over the past 20 years, our 25 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 obliged 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.expra.eu](http://www.expra.eu) For more information, please visit [www.expra.eu](http://www.expra.eu)