



FPE calls on the Circular Economy Act to support circularity and industry's competitiveness through more transparent, effective and harmonised EPR systems

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Context

At a time where industry's competitiveness is under growing pressure by external pressures and internal barriers, industry needs more than ever a harmonized and proportionate regulatory framework to enable investment and growth.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes are valuable tools to ensure the proper collection and recycling of packaging waste. However, fragmented national EPR schemes, unclear definitions and lack of transparency cause unnecessary costs and increase administrative complexity.

FPE is looking forward to the upcoming Circular Economy Act to simplify, harmonize, and improve the efficiency of the Extended Producer Responsibility schemes.

I. Suspension of the mandatory appointment of an Authorized Representative

Current EPR systems are complex and fragmented creating unnecessary burden for companies. Requiring the producer to appoint an Authorised Representative (AR) in each Member State further fragments the internal market and undermines industry competitiveness while creating additional administrative burden and costs.

FPE therefore supports– as part of the Environmental Omnibus – the permanent suspension of the mandatory appointment of an Authorized Representative (AR) for packaging waste in each member state for EU producers and for all companies.

Efficient enforcement and EPR fee collection can instead be ensured through EU-wide, digital, and interoperable compliance tools. Fragmentation affects companies of all sizes, particularly those operating across multiple Member States, which face different registration, reporting, and compliance requirements in each country. ¹

II. Harmonization and simplification of registration obligations for all producers

- Overall improvement of EPR schemes through harmonization and increased transparency

The Circular Economy Act is the opportunity to define the new framework aimed to increase the effectiveness, harmonisation and transparency of EPR schemes and to provide the legal certainty needed to reduce the regulatory burden and support a level playing field.

FPE calls for the following policy measures under the upcoming Circular Economy Act:

¹ EXPECTED COSTS AND BENEFITS (INDICATIVE; QUANTIFIED ESTIMATES): EU producers: Administrative burden DOWN – in 2030 by 200– 1300 million € / year, Study supporting the proposal for the Circular Economy Act, Ricardo, Norion Consult

Fibre Packaging Europe

European coalition for renewable, circular and sustainable paper and board packaging



1500 companies



2200 manufacturing plants



710.000 direct & indirect jobs



EUR 110.4 billion annual turnover

1. **Adopt an EU EPR Regulation on an internal market legal basis.** This would provide the needed harmonized baseline principles and requirements to be complemented by sector specific rules.
2. **Industry-led Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO)s.** Effective, transparent, and better enforceable governance of the collected fees to be reinvested in waste management operations for the respective waste streams. FPE doesn't support state-owned PROs. However, public authorities should have oversight into the systems, but the fees should not be used to finance the State's budget or non-related waste management systems.
3. **Establish an EU one-stop shop for producer registration across Member States.** Registration requirements should be harmonized and limited to essential data points. Efficient enforcement and EPR fee collection can be achieved through EU wide, digital, and interoperable compliance tools.
4. **Application of the net cost principle in EPR fee modulation.** The net cost principle means that the EPR fees should cover the costs of recovery and reporting, considering any revenues generated by the value of the secondary raw materials and should by no means exceed the costs of the recovery and reporting of the respective materials. FPE believes that cross-financing with other materials or systems (reuse) is not a sustainable and fair solution. EPR fees should be in line with the collection and recycling streams to reflect the real cost of their collection and recycling.
5. **Harmonized and proportionate eco-modulation of EPR fees.** EPR should serve to increase packaging recyclability through proportioned eco-modulation approaches. Eco-modulation criteria should be harmonized and based on criteria such as design for recyclability, recycled material content, renewable materials, compostability of packaging.
6. **More transparency in PRO governance.** PROs should publish clear information annually on performance, ownership, membership, fee structures, eco-modulation criteria, budget allocation, and the use of producer contributions.
7. **Keep EPR schemes for municipal packaging waste separate from industrial/commercial packaging waste EPR schemes or industry-set systems.** Industrial and commercial packaging is typically collected through established business-to-business channels and may require different compliance solutions.
8. **Guaranteed service for all packaging materials that pay their due contributions.** PROs are responsible for organising or financing the collection and recycling of packaging waste on behalf of the producers whose EPR obligations are duly fulfilled.

[Fibre Packaging Europe](https://info.fpe@logos-pa.com) is an informal coalition of seven trade associations representing industries involved in forestry, pulp, paper, board, carton board and packaging production, and recycling from across Europe. Our joint mission is to provide renewable, circular and sustainable fibre-based packaging solutions to European citizens to achieve the European Green Deal objectives. For more information, please contact info.fpe@logos-pa.com



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