

PRESS RELEASE

GLASS RECYCLING HITS 73% IN THE EU

BEST PERFORMING BOTTLE TO BOTTLE CLOSED LOOP RECYCLING SYSTEM

Brussels, 14th September 2015

Latest industry data – published today by the European Container Glass Federation (FEVE) – show that the EU28 average recycling rate for glass packaging hits the 73% mark for the first time. Over 25 billion glass containers continue to be recycled in a bottle to bottle closed loop making glass a model of the circular economy.

Sweden, Belgium, Luxembourg, Austria and Germany continue to be the best performers and to record striking rates ⁽¹⁾. Italy, the Netherlands and Malta improved on previous years. However, it is Eastern Europe that is catching up as the industry begins to address the glass recycling challenges in these countries. Estonia, Slovenia, Slovak Republic and Croatia – recorded promising growth rates ⁽²⁾. The increased recycling efforts make Europe the continent with the highest glass recycling rates in the world.

According to FEVE President Vitaliano Torno *“The high glass recycling rate of 73% shows that the glass packaging model is the best performing closed loop business model, but more resources need to be invested to improve glass recycling even further and especially in countries lagging behind”*.

Glass recycling enables the container glass industry to dramatically reduce its environmental footprint by saving energy and raw materials ⁽³⁾, and it helps maintaining 125,000 stable and local jobs in the EU. Glass plants deliver more than half of their products within 300km and more than 70% of raw materials travel less than 300km ⁽⁴⁾.

“The same glass can be recycled over and over again – comments Adeline Farrelly, FEVE Secretary General. We call on the European Commission to acknowledge bottle to bottle multiple recycling in the incoming Circular Economy Proposal: this is key to incentivise real and sustainably sound recycling schemes in the EU and attract investments.”

ENDS

- ⁽¹⁾ Denmark is best performer according to Eurostat Data Year 2012 – latest data available.
- ⁽²⁾ Published on www.feve.org. These average data are published as industry estimates based on latest available figures provided by national industry contact points.

- (3) **Download the full Ernst and Young Study: Environmental, social and economic contribution of the container glass sector in Europe – Final Report [here](#). Download the 7 steps Circular Economy Infographic [here](#).**
- (4) **Based on FEVE LCA. See www.feve.org**

About FEVE

FEVE is the European Federation of manufacturers of glass containers for food and beverages, perfumery, cosmetics and pharmacy as well as glass tableware for European and global customers. The federation counts some 60 corporate members belonging to approximately 20 independent corporate groups. Manufacturing plants are located across 23 European States and include global blue chip and major companies working for the world's biggest consumer brands. You can find more on www.feve.org

About Glass packaging

Glass packaging guarantees the long-time preservation of taste and flavour, safe delivery and attractive presentation of a vast array of consumer products, supplied to European and global markets. Whether used for drinks, food, cosmetics, perfumes or pharmaceuticals, glass packaging plays a vital role in supporting European trade and commerce. Glass is 100 percent and endlessly recyclable in a closed loop, it is inert and it preserves the nutritional qualities and original taste of the products it contains. Glass is the number one packaging preferred by consumers. Join the Friends of Glass community on www.friendsofglass.com.

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