

THE GOB



News from the European Container Glass Industry



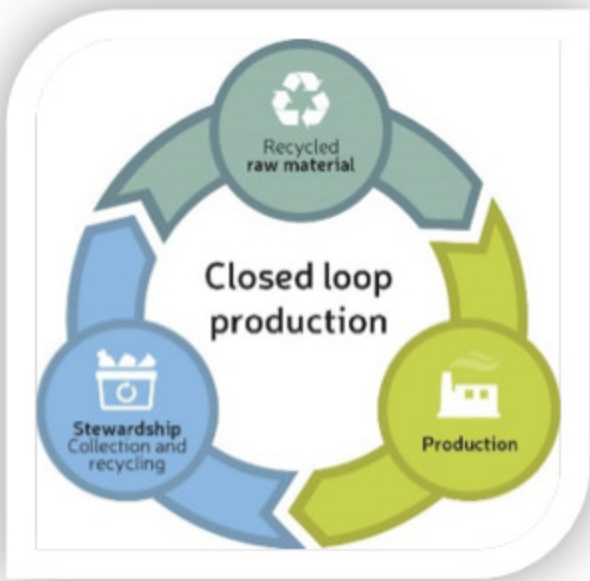
EU ETS Post 2020 - Glass Recycling Good Practice "Tiered" Apart...



The debate on the post-2020 EU Emissions Trading Scheme is heating up as the so called "tiered approach" threatens investments in recycling and low carbon production, and it increases the risk of exposure to carbon leakage. With "tiering", not all industries are treated in the same way and it means that competing industries will get more allowances than others. The container glass industry would receive only 35% of the needed allowances to produce in Europe. This is at odds with efforts made along the glass packaging closed loop chain to upgrade recycled glass to permanent raw material for new production. It would trigger a dramatic reduction of investments in research and innovation. Today, the Container Glass Industry annually invests over €600 million on average in energy efficiency, decarbonisation and facilities upgrading. Every year, the Industry contributes up to €9.5 billion to the EU GDP, and maintains 125,000 jobs across the EU. At the next EP Envi Committee, the container glass industry asks MEPs to [vote against the Tiered Approach and to support a more future oriented and dynamic ETS system that supports resource-efficient Industries](#). Materials like glass can be recycled infinitely and its recycling goes along with several environmental benefits. One ton of recycled glass replaces 1.2 tons of virgin raw materials and avoids 670 Kg of CO₂ emissions.

Permanent Material: at the Heart of the Circular Economy

A study carried out by the Italian Research Institute 'Stazione Sperimentale del Vetro', confirms that [glass is a "permanent material"](#). That means that once it is produced for the first time, and properly collected and processed at its end of life, a glass container becomes the primary raw material for new and endless production loops. It is at the heart of a proven and well-functioning Circular Economy. Glass can be easily recycled, reshaped and redesigned. It never loses its chemical and physical properties - no matter how many times it is recycled. It shares this advantage with other materials like aluminum and steel.



A solid stewardship for collection and closed loop recycling is well established throughout Europe allowing glass to reach record collection and recycling rates. Today, glass is the most closed loop recycled packaging material in the EU and in the world with 74% of glass bottles and jars put on the market collected for recycling. The goal of the industry is to continue to recycle collected glass in a closed loop and to capture the remaining 26% of glass packaging lost in landfills.

Legal recognition and support of permanent materials, for example through incentivizing measures in the EPR schemes and making separate collection mandatory should stimulate further investments in recycling infrastructure, keeping recycled resources productive over and over again.

Circular Economy Must Be Safe

The European Parliament calls on the European Commission to design legislation for FCMs not yet harmonized at EU level. The European container glass industry welcomes this initiative. The inconsistencies of different national rules increase compliance costs for the producers of glass containers. It also hinders the free movement of packaged goods in the EU and may lead to differential costs on glass packaging manufacturers depending on their country of origin. Furthermore, to ensure a level playing field between EU and non-EU products, imported glass packaging should meet the same criteria as packaging manufactured in the EU. [The industry calls on the EU Commission to bring forward harmonized rules for glass](#) to bring clarity in the market.



This is the key recommendation pointed out by the EP Report on the "Implementation of the Food Contact Materials (FCMs) Regulation" approved last October. The report calls for "better synergies between the Framework Regulation on Food Contact Materials (FCMs) and the Circular Economy". It states that the future EU Circular economy must aim at an effective decoupling of economic growth from virgin raw material consumption, waste generation and other environmental impacts. But, it must above all ensure consumer safety and FCMs such as packaging must be safe for health, whether or not they are produced with recycled materials. The report recommends that the future recycling targets of the Packaging & Packaging Waste Directive must be accompanied by adequate control measures to ensure this safety aspect and prevent the use or reuse of FCMs made from recycled products that might lead to a higher number of contaminants and/or residues in the final product.

Happy Holidays and Best wishes from the FEVE Team

**Best wishes to all our partners, colleagues and friends
and we look forward to our continued collaboration next year !**



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Why « The Gob » ?

The gob is the drop of molten glass that gives birth to a new bottle or jar. It is also British or Irish jargon for "mouth".

