

PRESS RELEASE

AMBITIOUS THOUGH AMBIGUOUS OUTCOME TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VOTE ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Brussels, 25 January 2017

The European Container Glass Industry warmly welcomes the ambitious proposals that were adopted yesterday by the European Parliament's ENVI Committee on the Circular Economy Package. The request for mandatory separate collection across all EU Member States is particularly important as it guarantees the highest quality of recycled secondary raw materials for manufacturing. This is fundamental for the Container Glass circular economy model centered on the closed loop recycling of glass waste to be reused in new production.

"Focusing on quality of recycled material, in particular for food contact materials, is more important than setting targets, which are there to channel investments in the right direction", commented Adeline Farrelly, Secretary General of FEVE. "That is why we pay particular attention to separate collection and safe and circular recycling, and we hope the European Parliament will be strong in upholding its position on this point in plenary".

This goes hand in hand with the strong position of the ENVI Committee to focus the Packaging Waste targets on recycling only, and not combine them with preparation for re-use which would water down the recycling ambition by artificially boosting figures with business-as-usual activities. However, the European Parliament position remains ambiguous on re-use: *"It already makes perfect business sense to re-use packaging before it becomes waste. But setting a flat re-use target for all packaging without differentiation between consumer packaging and business or transport packaging will not encourage any step changes on promoting re-use among consumers".*

The ENVI Committee has also sent mixed signals by singling out bio-based packaging over other packaging materials. This fails to acknowledge that the circular economy is about keeping resources productive without requiring the input of new resources, whether renewable or not. Permanent materials which can be recycled several times do not need to be renewed. *"Surely this legislation must remain material neutral and*

focus on setting rules and principles on end of life for all materials to fulfil”, concluded Adeline Farrelly.

The European Container Glass Industry looks forward to continuing the debate with Member States and the European Parliament on how legislation can support a genuine Circular Economy.

- (1) See FEVE Key Recommendations on the CEP published on the FEVE website <https://goo.gl/snDu7j>
- (2) See Study “ *Permanent Materials in the framework of the Circular Economy concept: review of existing literature and definitions, and classification of glass as a Permanent Material*”, Stazione Sperimentale del Vetro, June 2016 - <http://feve.org/glass-is-permanent-material>

ENDS

About Glass

Made of natural minerals abundant in nature - sand, soda-ash and limestone - glass is a 100% recyclable material, manufactured in a one step process under one roof. Some ninety per cent of collected glass bottles and jars are used over and over again to produce new glass bottles in the closed loop system. Each time a bottle or jar is recycled into new containers, energy and raw materials are saved and less CO₂ is emitted. By recycling glass, in 2014 in the EU: over 12 million tons of raw materials were saved. Over 7 million tons of CO₂ were avoided equal to taking 4 million cars off the road. A saving of 2,5% energy for each 10% of glass recycled in the furnace.

About FEVE

FEVE is the Federation of European manufacturers of glass containers and machine-made glass tableware. Its members produce over 20 million tons of glass per year. The association has 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. See more on www.feve.org

About the Container Glass Industry

The European container glass industry provides a wide range of glass packaging products for food and beverages as well as flacons for perfumery, cosmetics and pharmacy to their European and world customers. With its 160 manufacturing plants distributed all over Europe, it is an important contributor to Europe’s real economy and provides employment to about 50,000 people, while creating a large number of job opportunities along the total supply chain. See more on www.feve.org

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