Extended Producer Responsibility as key tool to implement Circular Economy

MONIKA ROMENSKA
REGULATORY AND PA MANAGER, EXPRA

6th International Conference on Sustainable Solid Waste Management, 13-16 June
5 ANNIVERSARY

26 MEMBERS
industry-owned, non-profit

H ave over 20 YEARS of experience and expertise in the waste management field

P rovide over 200 MILLION PEOPLE with packaging collection, sorting and recycling infrastructure

E nsure recycling and recovery of over 19 MILLION T ONNES of packaging every year

EXPRA in a nutshell
Our Members – non-profit 26 PROs

- Fost Plus (Belgium)
- VAL I PAC (Belgium)
- Ecopak (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- EcoPack (Bulgaria)
- EEQ (Canada)
- Green Dot (Cyprus)
- EKO KOM (Czech Republic)
- ETO (Estonia)
- RINKI (Finland)
- Herrco (Greece)
- Öko Pannon (Hungary)
- IRF (Iceland)
- TAMIR (Israel)
- CONAI (Italy)
- Valorlux (Luxembourg)
- PAKOMAK (Macedonia)
- GreenPak (Malta)
- Nedvang (Netherlands)
- Grønt Punkt (Norway)
- ECO-ROM (Romania)
- ENVI-PAK (Slovakia)
- Slopak (Slovenia)
- Ecoembes (Spain)
- Ecovidrio (Spain)
- FTI (Sweden)
- CEVKO (Turkey)
What is Extended Producer Responsibility?

OECD

“an environmental policy approach in which a producer’s responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product’s life cycle”

GOALS

✓ Shifting the responsibility towards the producer;
✓ Provide incentives for eco design;

WFD

Extended producer responsibility schemes form an essential part of efficient waste management.
Why Extended Producer Responsibility?

#1 Compliance and Performance

#2 Gathering and sharing Knowledge

#3 Reinforcing Policy
Stakeholders: Roles and Responsibilities

**NATIONAL AUTHORITIES:**
- Set legal framework;
- Implement it through accreditation;
- Define clear roles of all actors;
- Ensure control and enforcement;

**OBLIGED INDUSTRY:**
- Take ownership of their responsibility;
- Align and act as one;
- Set up run and control efficient EPR Organizations;

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES:**
- Cooperate with the EPR scheme;
- Implement and stimulate separate collection;
- Ensure quality of provided services;

**RECYCLING INDUSTRY**
- Provide qualitative services;
- Come up with innovative ideas;
- Be transparent: traceability and efficiency;

**PROs:**
- Coordinate relations with all partners involved;
- Provide tender contracts and tender books;
- Ensure quality (quality requirements are fulfilled);

**CONSUMERS/CITIZENS**
Sort their waste at home in the way that has been communicated to them.
EPR’s role in a circular economy

Operational AND financial responsibility

Contract agreements

Financed by fees

EPR Packaging Recovery Organisation

Packaging manufacturer

Material for new products

Recycling/recovery

Local Authority’s Waste Management Company Collection & Sorting

Sorting

Recycling/recovery

New products

Retail trade

Consumer

Packed product

Filler/bottler

Packaging manufacturer

EPR Packaging Recovery Organisation

Operational AND financial responsibility

Contract agreements

Financed by fees
Implementation of the Packaging Directive

3 countries without any compliance scheme => Taxes
Denmark, Hungary, Croatia

Trading of certificates
UK, (Poland)

36 European Countries

Tax versus EPR continuous discussion
Ukraine, Russia?

1 country with Fund Scheme run by industry
Iceland

30 with Producer Responsibility
Austria, Belgium, France, Spain, Germany, Ireland, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Portugal, Sweden, Greece, Latvia, Malta, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Italy, Slovenia, Estonia, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Norway, Finland, Serbia, Israel, Netherlands, Poland, Macedonia, Bosnia I Herzegovina
EPR - several ways of implementation

EPR System in hands of obliged industry
(BE, ES, IT, NL, NO, CZ, FR, IE, PT)

Competing PROs
(DE, PL, RO, BG)

‘ Tradable Credits’ Model with several traders
(UK)

Several PRO’s sharing infrastructure
(DE, AT)

PROs acting in different areas
(RO, BG)

PROs have established parallel infrastructure
(EE)

Operational responsibility fully with local authorities
(FR, NL, CZ)

Collection and sorting with local authorities
(BE, ES, IT)

EPR system in parallel to a deposit system
(DE, NO, SE, FI, EE)

One comprehensive system for all (household) packaging
(e.g. BE, FR, ES, IT)

Household & ICI Packaging treated differently
(DE, FR, BE, ES)

Same rules for all packaging
(e.g. IT, CZ, SK, RO)

Full cost approach
(e.g. DE, AT, BE, SE)

Shared cost approach
(e.g. IT, ES, FR)

Incentive cost approach
(UK)

No operational responsibility for local authorities
(e.g. DE, AT, SE)
Sustainable production

Promoting eco design and packaging optimization by:

- Provision of information & consultation;
- Fee structure;
- Exchange of best practices;
- Workshops and trainings.
Collection and sorting

Establishing relevant collection infrastructure:

✓ Close cooperation with Local authorities;

✓ Promoting innovation;

Note: for reasons of comparison, EU-27 data are also shown for 2012 to 2014, although EU-28 data are available; data for the EU-27 aggregate have been estimated by Eurostat.
Recycling rate for all packaging 2015

- 2015
- Target: 55%
- New targets 65% by 2025

(*) Estimate: CY, MT, RO (2014 data)
Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_waspac)
Consumer - in the center of the system

Material and packaging recyclers

Manufacturers

Distributors

Wholesalers

Retailers

Key driver

YES
NO

5th Anniversary
Expra
Extended Producer
Responsibility
Alliance
What does this mean?

✓ Making people aware or conscious of, change their behaviour > believers

✓ Critical success factors:
  - A strong insight that moves people
  - Sustainable efforts during a long period
EPR and the new Waste Legislation

Challenges & Opportunities

- EPR general, minimum requirements
- Higher targets
- Recycling calculation
- Data & Reporting harmonisation
- Early Warning System
- Definitions

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Extended Producers Responsibility Alliance
The Waste Legislation Review: what role for EPR?

• The waste legislation review is an opportunity for the harmonisation of the EPR rule across the EU.

• The EPR minimum requirements (Art 8a WFD) touch upon:
  • Defining role and responsibilities
  • Establishing a reporting system and ensuring information transparency
  • Cost coverage (closed list)
  • Fee modulation
  • Incentives for taking part in the separate collection systems
  • Monitoring and enforcement framework (including self-control mechanism)
Implementation: Early warning report

The Commission in cooperation with the European Environment Agency, will draw up reports on the progress towards the achievement of the targets (three years before each time-limit at the latest).

The reports shall include the following:

(a) an estimation of the achievement of the targets by each Member State;
(b) a list of Member States at risk of not achieving the targets within the respective time limits accompanied by appropriate recommendations;
(b) examples of best practices that are used throughout the Union and that could provide guidance for progressing towards achieving the targets;
Measurement point

Unified calculation method:

✅ Default method: when the packaging waste enters the recycling operation

✅ Derogation: measuring at the output of any sorting operation (against certain criteria. The details of the applicable method will be fine-tuned by the Commission via the comitology process. This includes a method for calculating the losses and taking into account reusable packaging)
EU Recycling PW Targets

Current targets vs New targets for 2025 and 2030.
CEP: what role for EPR?

When it comes to Extended Producers Responsibility schemes, the Commission believes that EPR can:

- Provide economic incentives for businesses to develop more sustainable products (e.g. co-modulation)
- Encourage design for recycling
- Promote greater dialogue between producers, local authorities and recyclers
- Help improve the efficiency of the recycling process
- Reduce waste and littering
Next Steps

**EPR’s potential**
- The environmental approach with the highest room of manoeuvre
- Providing a recycling solution for all packaging while helping enable the circular plastics’ economy

**Variables**
- More stringent recycling measurement that will affect performance
- Chinese ban and its effect on materials’ supply and demand
- Data and reporting quality

**Implementation of new rules**
- Fragmented markets affect EPR schemes’ performance
- Definition of stakeholders’ roles and responsibilities, transparency-free riding control - and enforcement will play a crucial role
EXPRA beliefs: How to make EPR successful? (1)

- EPR is **one tool** within a comprehensive policy approach;

- Different **stakeholders** should have **clear roles to play**, ensuring **no conflict of interests**;

- EPR organisations should be **run by obliged companies on a not-for-profit basis**;

- Focus on **separate collection** and collection infrastructure for **inhabitants** is key for the success of the system!
EXPRA beliefs: How to make EPR successful? (2)

- Ensure transparency of operations and data;
- Calculate the fees for all materials covered in a fair manner;
- EPR organisations should control the use of the fees collected, and influence infrastructure design if necessary;
- Packaging optimisation, design-for-recycling, clear communication and education of inhabitants and company representatives are essential parts of successful EPR systems;
- Continuously improve system performance;
THANK YOU!
Contact

EXPRA aisbl
2 Avenue des Olympiades
1140 Brussels – Evere
Belgium