



Commission interrégionale de l'Emballage
Interregionale Verpakkingscommissie

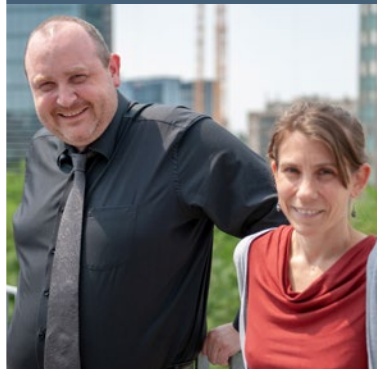
ACTIVITY REPORT 2017



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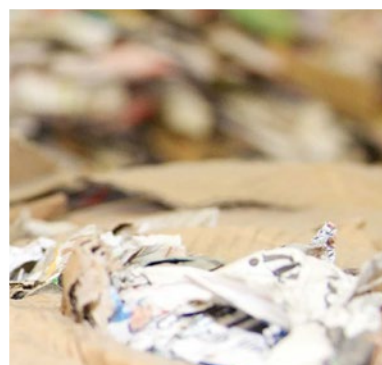


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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND DIRECTOR



2017 marked the 20th anniversary of the Interregional Packaging Commission, and the occasion was celebrated on 26 September 2017 with a workshop in the Train World museum entitled “20 years of managing packaging waste sensibly – prevention, reuse, recycling”.

Four short, but lively and interesting debates on a number of current issues focused on the present and the near future. And it's a future that promises to be exciting, particularly for the two accredited compliance organisations, Fost Plus and Val-I-Pac.

The event was an opportunity to recall that, although no-one was talking about a “circular economy” 20 years ago, the Interregional Packaging Commission was already working towards it. It was also stressed that the successes of the IRPC were more than likely due to the interregional model that was set up 20 years ago, a model within which the IRPC has been able to maintain the collaborative partnership between the three Belgian Regions and position itself as a reliable arbitrator between the three Regions, the two accredited compliance organisations, the intermunicipalities and the private operators. This model has not only demonstrated that it is credible, but is also by far the most efficient. The overwhelming majority of the stakeholders, both government and corporate representatives, expressed their strong support for the IRPC and the interregional model.

2017 also saw the pursuit of projects designed to expand the collection of plastics, the biggest challenge facing Fost Plus in the immediate future.

Under its current accreditation, Fost Plus was already required to set up pilot projects to collect more than just bottles and containers, with the aim of identifying the most appropriate collection scenario. These pilot

projects were successful and the IRPC amended the accreditation early in 2017 with a view to expediting the transition to mass collection of residual plastics. In mid-December 2017 Fost Plus submitted its proposed implementation plan, with the goal of collecting all household plastic packaging waste right across Belgium by the end of 2019. We are therefore witnessing a pivotal moment in the history of household waste collection. Fost Plus has to keep moving forward and rise to the challenge.

At the end of 2016 Val-I-Pac received its fifth accreditation, in which its central role in the management of industrial and commercial waste is confirmed and enhanced and in which Val-I-Pac is required to take action to encourage prevention, reuse and sustainability. In 2017 it was time to put this accreditation into practice and for Val-I-Pac to tackle its new annual reporting obligation. This is a demanding task, as the information required concerns all industrial and commercial packaging waste streams, broken down by material and by Region, for all operators that work with Val-I-Pac.

The IRPC has invested heavily in implementing the accreditation and in carrying out checks. Over the years Val-I-Pac has developed a highly efficient system that provides reliable proof of actual recycling. The checks made by Val-I-Pac and the IRPC go as far as necessary, i.e. up to the final recycler, even if the latter is located on the other side of the world. Val-I-Pac has a crucial role in promoting selective collection of industrial and commercial packaging waste by unpackers. It devotes particular attention to SMEs and offers significant financial encouragement for selective collection and recycling in the form of container, recycling and starter incentives.



In the years ahead the IRPC and its partners will put even more effort into meeting the new objectives for recycling per material, and in particular the future increase in the plastic recycling rates in Europe. This is because, following many discussions at European level in 2017, it is expected that Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste and Directive 2008/98/EC on waste will be amended this year. In the short-term, the Cooperation Agreement will need to be revised.

Furthermore, the decision by the Chinese to restrict imports of plastic waste presents us with an even

greater challenge if we want to achieve the required plastic recycling targets. In this context, a policy of out-of-home waste collection should help to attain the plastic recycling rate stipulated by the future Directive. And extending PMD collection to include plastic film will oblige us to develop additional recycling capacity in Europe or in Belgium.



Céline Schaar, Chair



Marc Adams, Acting Director

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THE OPERATION OF THE INTERREGIONAL PACKAGING COMMISSION (IRPC)



1.1. THE COMPOSITION OF THE IRPC

The Interregional Packaging Commission is made up of a decision-making body, whose members are appointed by the regional governments, and a Permanent Secretariat comprising officials from the three Belgian Regions..

The decision-making body meets once a month and takes the policy decisions. The chairmanship of the IRPC changes every year on 5 March and rotates among the Belgian Regions. Mr Danny Wille of the Flemish Region served as Chair in the first part of 2017, with Ms Céline Schaar of the Brussels-Capital Region taking over the helm in the second part of the year, from 5 March.

The director of the IRPC organises the work of the Permanent Secretariat in preparing the policy decisions and in supervising the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement and the accreditations. Mr Marc Adams is acting director of the IRPC. Mr Hugo Geerts is the titular director.

The composition of the decision-making body in 2017 was as follows:

FLEMISH REGION	
Full members	Alternate members
Anne VANDEPUTTE / Ann DE BOECK ¹ Hugo GEERTS Danny WILLE	Luc GOETEYN Anneleen DE WACHTER Roeland BRACKE
BRUSSELS-CAPITAL REGION	
Full members	Alternate members
Julien DUMONT Francis RADERMAKER / Céline SCHAAR ² Olivier BOSTEELS	Valérie VERBRUGGE Céline SCHAAR / Grégoire CLERFAYT ³ Olivier COLLET / Janathan BARGIACCHI ⁴
WALLOON REGION	
Full members	Alternate members
Sylvie MEEKERS Ingrid GABRIEL Martine GILLET	Anne DUMONT Ludivine GAUTHIER Jean-Yves MERCIER

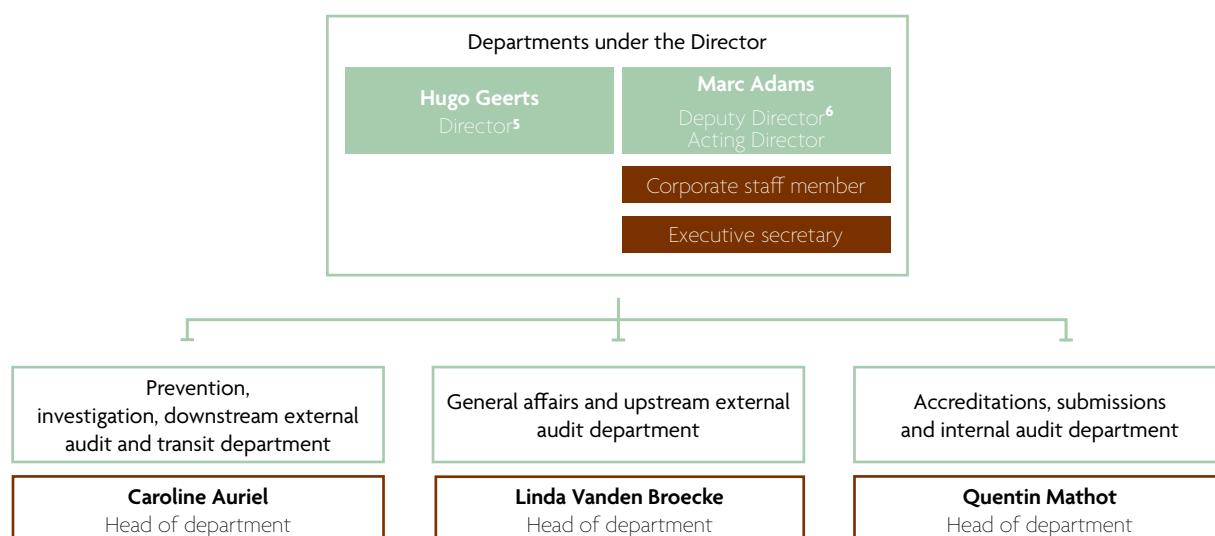
¹ Ms Vandeputte was replaced as full member by Ms De Boeck on 24 October 2017.

² Mr Radermaker was replaced as full member by Ms Schaar on 19 October 2017.

³ Ms Schaar was replaced as alternate member by Mr Clerfayt on 19 October 2017.

⁴ Mr Collet was replaced as alternate member by Mr Bargiacchi on 19 October 2017.

The organisational structure of the Permanent Secretariat remained unchanged in 2017.



Since 6 November 2014 the IRPC's organisational structure shows it as having a total of 28 members of staff, two of whom work solely on waste transit.

For most of 2017, the Permanent Secretariat had a total of 20 members of staff, including several part-timers. The Permanent Secretariat is still structurally understaffed.

⁵ Mr Geert's term of office will run until he either retires or voluntarily relinquishes it, at which time the office will automatically pass to the Deputy Director.

⁶ Mr Adams is designated as Deputy Director. The post of Deputy Director will cease to exist when the Deputy Director takes up office as Director.

1.2. THE IRPC BUDGET FOR 2017

The IRPC's budget for the 2017 operating year was spent as follows:

	Actual expenditure (in EUR)
COST OF PREMISES - This includes the cost of office maintenance and cleaning, electricity bills and shared costs for building maintenance. For 2017 it once again covered a substantial share of the costs associated with the relocation of the IRPC, particularly the costs of fitting out the new offices (EUR 118,854.24).	213,424.59
OFFICE COSTS - These include office supplies, photocopying costs, landline and mobile phone costs, switchboard operation, postal expenses and the costs of IT support.	86,950.48
TRAVEL AND REPRESENTATION EXPENSES - These include reimbursement of train tickets and flat-rate payments for travel and accommodation.	9,174.24
CAR FLEET RUNNING COSTS - These include lease payments, fuel costs, vehicle maintenance (other than as provided for in the lease contract). In 2017 the four IRPC company cars needed to be replaced. The IRPC took the opportunity to switch to more environmentally friendly vehicles: hybrid cars that can run on both electricity and petrol.	40,203.77
OTHER GENERAL OPERATING COSTS - This category normally includes the costs of vocational training and workshops, magazine inserts and the printing of publications.	38,789.01
RENT OF BUILDINGS - This is the annual cost of renting the IRPC's offices. Following the move, there has been a significant decrease in this expenditure item.	183,522.30
EXPERT SUPPORT AND CONSULTANCY - This item includes the fees of lawyers and experts, as well as the costs of translations into Dutch, German and English. The new transit task created a need for external support, which continued in 2017 due to additional consultations.	63,252.56
STUDIES AND RESEARCH - The paper/cardboard study, which aimed to update the allocation keys for paper/cardboard in the accreditation, was completed in early 2017.	58,929.42
AWARENESS-RAISING AND COMMUNICATIONS - This includes the cost of having information published in various trade magazines and the insertion of banners on specialist websites. 2017 was also a special year, as the IRPC celebrated its 20th anniversary. The amount allocated for this budget item was higher than in "normal" years.	166,788.80
INVESTMENTS - These include the purchase of furniture, office machinery and hardware. As a result of the relocation, almost all of the furniture and hardware were replaced in 2016. A relatively low amount was therefore allocated for this budget item for 2017, since there were not expected to be any large investments.	9,693.05
GENERAL TOTAL EXPENDITURE	870,728.22

The IRPC's budget is financed by the Belgian Regions according to the allocation key set out in the Cooperation Agreement. The proportion of the required sum paid by each Region is:

- 60.9% by the Flemish Region,
- 31.5% by the Walloon Region,
- 7.6% by the Brussels-Capital Region.

1.3. CELEBRATING THE IRPC'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

The 20th anniversary of the Interregional Packaging Commission was formally celebrated on Tuesday 26 September. To mark the occasion, more than 175 stakeholders gathered at the Train World museum, which is situated in the historical buildings of Schaerbeek railway station and is a showcase for the Belgian railways of the past, present and future. This combination of old and new provided the ideal venue to celebrate 20 years of the IRPC.



The academic session began with a few words of welcome from Céline Schaar, IRPC Chair.



Four mini-debates were then held:

Mini-debate 1 :

Cédric Slegers (Go4Circle) - Johan Bonnier (IMOG)

The collection and sorting of household packaging waste. What is the role of the intermunicipalities? What is the role of the operators?



Mini-debate 2 :

Werner Annaert (Go4Circle) – Xavier Lhoir (Val-I-Pac)

Industrial and commercial packaging waste and selective collection. What is the role of Val-I-Pac? Is the payment of EUR 2 per tonne for proofs of recycling still necessary?

Mini-debate 3 :

Marie-Christine Nossent (Intradel - Copidec) – Mik Van Gaever (Fost Plus)

The collection of household plastic packaging is being expanded. What implications does this have for the sorting plants? What investments are required? Do we need to scale up?



Mini-debate 4 :

Stefan Wauters (ECO-oh!) – Christine Leveque (Suez)

Purple bag or pink bag? One single bag for all plastics makes life easier for members of the public, especially in urban areas. But what about recycling?

After Acting Director Marc Adams closed the academic session, the invited guests could enjoy a guided tour of Train World, with a reception in the museum's locomotive hall.



The evening ended on a festive note in the old ticket office of Schaerbeek station.



Visit the online gallery at ["ivcie-20.be"](http://ivcie-20.be) to watch a video about 20 years of the IRPC, the filmed contributions of a number of key partners and the flashmob created specially for the occasion. You can also find photos of the event.





2.1. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW ACCREDITATION

Val-I-Pac's focus in 2017 was on implementing its new accreditation.

One of the main challenges of this new accreditation is the introduction of an annual report on all industrial and commercial packaging waste streams, broken down by material, Region and sector of activity for all operators, both for industrial and commercial packaging waste and for the proportion that is not industrial and commercial packaging waste, in accordance with article 18 of the accreditation.

There were several meetings on this subject between Val-I-Pac, the IRPC and the three Belgian Regions and the discussions took place in a constructive spirit.

Other topics were also discussed by Val-I-Pac and the IRPC within the context of the implementation of Val-I-Pac's accreditation; these included the amendment of the operator contract, the statistical analyses and the identification of the second step in the recycling chain.



2.2. CHECKING AND MONITORING VAL-I-PAC

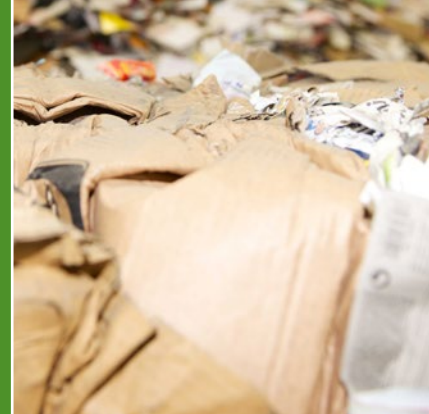
Checking the results obtained by the accredited compliance organisation Val-I-Pac is a key task of the Interregional Packaging Commission.

The process of checking the results submitted by Val-I-Pac in 2017 for the 2016 operating year was completed in November 2017, and the figures for 2016 were approved in December 2017.

A monitoring committee was set up to enable the Interregional Packaging Commission to monitor the operation of Val-I-Pac in a structured manner. Its members are drawn from Val-I-Pac and the IRPC's Permanent Secretariat.

After having processed the accreditation application in 2016, the Val-I-Pac monitoring committee resumed its normal meeting schedule in 2017. The agenda of each of the four meetings convened in 2017 was broad and varied. Among the topics covered were:

- Checking the recycling and recovery results for the 2016 operating year;
- The direct payment of container and recycling incentives via the "My Certificate" platform;
- The 2017 SME plan and its practical implementation;
- Identifying the second step in the recycling chain in accordance with art. 6 of the accreditation;
- The implementation of art. 18 of the accreditation and the subsequent renewal of the contracts with all operators;
- The transparency of how Val-I-Pac operates and the guarantees regarding data confidentiality;
- The trend in the value of the materials and, in particular, the drastic changes in waste exports to China.



3.1. THE AMENDMENT OF THE ACCREDITATION

On 4 May 2017 amendments were made to the fifth accreditation of Fost Plus, the organisation responsible for managing packaging waste. These became effective on 1 July 2017.

The purpose of these amendments is threefold: to promote the collection of residual plastics, to meet the objectives of Directive (EU) 2015/720 amending Directive 94/62/EC as regards reducing the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags, and to update the allocation key for the collection of paper/cardboard.

Collection of residual plastics

With regard to the collection of residual plastics, it was agreed even before the accreditation was amended that Fost Plus would organise and finance pilot projects to test the feasibility of expanding the plastic fraction in PMD waste (plastic bottles & containers, metal packaging and drink cartons). When the accreditation was actually amended, these pilot projects were under way and it was already apparent to the IRPC that they would be a success. The projects were due to be evaluated before the end of 2017, but the IRPC was not able to complete the task until early in 2018: the go-ahead was given, on condition that all plastics (both rigid and soft) would be collected.

A new paragraph 4 has been added to article 2. With a view to the renewal of the Fost Plus accreditation and in order to include the collection of residual plastic packaging in the new accreditation, this new paragraph requires Fost Plus to propose an **implementation plan** to the IRPC by 1 January 2018. This plan must ensure that the entire Belgian population is covered by 31 December 2019, and must take into account regional priorities and the substantiated choices of municipalities or intermunicipalities.

The plan must include the following scenarios, paid for based on the full cost:

- in addition to collection of the PMD fraction, a harmonised system for collection of residual plastic packaging house-to-house and/or at the container parks;
- expansion of the P fraction in the PMD bag to include rigid plastic packaging, supplemented with separate collection of household plastic film packaging house-to-house and/or at the container parks;
- expansion of the P fraction in the PMD bag to include all household residual plastic packaging.

On 15 December 2017 Fost Plus submitted a document entitled “Roadmap for successful expansion of PMD collection”, containing its proposed implementation plan for mass collection of residual plastics. This proposal was analysed in depth and any additional information required was obtained from Fost Plus.

Allocation keys paper/cardboard

Following the study carried out by the IRPC in 2016, which was subsequently discussed until early 2017, it became apparent that the double allocation key (allocation key in weight and key for the allocation of the costs of collecting the packaging fraction in this stream) in the accreditation needed to be adapted for the paper/cardboard stream, in view of the increased quantity of packaging present in this stream.

The double allocation key in article 11 of the accreditation was therefore raised from 25% to 32% for processing, and from 30% to 42% for reimbursement of the costs of packaging in this stream.

Plastic carrier bags

Article 50a has been added. Henceforth, Fost Plus must report annually to the Interregional Packaging Commission on the quantity of plastic carrier bags placed on the market over the period of a year, differentiating between lightweight and very lightweight plastic carrier bags. This will enable the Regions to fulfil their reporting obligation to Europe.

Section 10a has been added with a view to achieving the objectives of Directive (EU) 2015/720 amending Directive 94/62/EC as regards reducing the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags. In this way, the companies responsible for packaging (referred to hereinafter as “responsible companies”), even if this rarely concerns service packaging, will be faced with their responsibility to reduce packaging waste.



3.2. 2017 REFERENCE COSTS AND 2016 REFERENCE VALUES

The 2017 reference costs are the average costs of the tenders awarded for the selective collection of glass, paper/cardboard and PMD, and for the sorting of PMD, indexed to 2017.

This fixed payment is calculated for the conventional Fost Plus streams (glass, paper/cardboard, PMD collection and PMD sorting), and is the average of the total of the payments for the collection scenarios, which, in accordance with the Fost Plus accreditation, have been paid out in the previous year based on the full cost, indexed to the year in which the reference cost has to be applied.

Under the accreditation, the IRPC determines the reference costs each year for the current year. The IRPC does this on the basis of the figures that Fost Plus submits to it each year and that are checked by the IRPC.

The IRPC determined the reference costs for 2017 as follows:

		Total for collection and sorting				House-to-house and bottle bank collection				Container park collection			
Reference costs 2017*		100% fixed (EUR/ inh.)	100% variable (EUR/ tonne)	60% fixed (EUR/ inh.)	40% variable (EUR/ tonne)	100% fixed (EUR/ inh.)	100% variable (EUR/ tonne)	60% fixed (EUR/ inh.)	40% variable (EUR/ tonne)	100% fixed (EUR/ inh.)	100% variable (EUR/ tonne)	60% fixed (EUR/ inh.)	40% variable (EUR/ tonne)
GLASS	Total	1.6304	53.05	0.9782	21.22	1.4598	55.19	0.8759	22.08	0.1706	40.62	0.1024	16.25
	>200	1.5471	51.12	0.9283	20.45	1.4072	52.89	0.8443	21.16	0.1399	39.10	0.0840	15.64
	<200 inhabitants per km ²	2.1286	63.18	1.2772	25.27	1.7702	68.76	1.0621	27.50	0.3584	45.16	0.2151	18.06
PAPER/ CARDBOARD	Total	4.3214	69.33	2.5928	27.73	3.7344	78.57	2.2406	31.43	0.5870	40.51	0.3522	16.21
	>200	4.1973	66.47	2.5184	26.59	3.7625	74.87	2.2575	29.95	0.4348	34.72	0.2609	13.89
	<200 inhabitants per km ²	5.2462	89.88	3.1477	35.95	3.6067	118.30	2.1640	47.32	1.6395	58.88	0.9837	23.55
PMD COLLECTION	Total	3.6718	237.04	2.2031	94.82	3.3481	241.95	2.0089	96.78	0.3237	190.00	0.1942	76.00
	>200	3.4315	231.45	2.0589	92.58	3.2854	238.63	1.9712	95.45	0.1461	128.34	0.0877	51.34
	<200 inhabitants per km ²	5.8696	274.52	3.5217	109.81	3.9721	269.78	2.3833	107.91	1.8975	289.39	1.1385	115.76
PMD SORTING		2.2300	151.58	1.3380	60.63								

* weighted average of 2012 (10%), 2013 (15%), 2014 (20%), 2015 (25%) and 2016 (30%), updated to 2017 prices

The 2016 reference values are the average sale values of the material collected and sorted in 2016.

The IRPC approved the 2016 reference values in mid-2017. These values were used as the basis for the payments in 2017⁷. An adjustment will be applied in 2018, once the IRPC has approved the 2017 reference values.

The 2016 reference values approved by the IRPC are:

Material (selectively collected and sorted)	Paper/ cardboard	Glass	Steel	Alumi- nium	Drink cartons	HDPE	PET blue	PET clear	PET green	PET (average)	Plastics (PET + HDPE)
Average price (EUR/tonne)	119.79	24.63	107.24	688.51	32.86	451.73	301.64	313.22	308.97	309.67	340.04

3.3. CHECKING AND MONITORING FOST PLUS

A monitoring committee was set up to enable the Interregional Packaging Commission to monitor the operation of Fost Plus in a structured manner. Its members are drawn from Fost Plus and the IRPC's Permanent Secretariat.

The Fost Plus monitoring committee met five times in 2017, with a very full agenda each time.

Some of the topics discussed several times in 2017 were:

- The amendment of the 2014-2018 accreditation, paying particular attention to:
The expansion of the P fraction (purple bag, pink bag) and the results of the ongoing pilot projects in this area;
Fost Plus's proposed P+ implementation plan;
Update of the allocation key for paper and cardboard;
- E-commerce (online sales) packaging responsibility;
- The collection of PMD from companies and the out-of-home collection of PMD: monitoring and basic programme 2018;
- The recycling and recovery results (for 2016) and checking of these results;
- The Fost Plus budget for 2017 and the Green Dot tariffs for 2017;
- The European Commission's proposals to revise the objectives of the Packaging Directive;
- An action plan for the collection of EPS packaging waste;
- Renewal of contracts with the intermunicipalities;
- The consequences of the import ban imposed by China on several waste streams.

⁷ The second subparagraph of article 10(l) of the accreditation text contains the following provision on the application of the reference values: "If a tender for the purchase of a particular material is not awarded in accordance with the standard tender specifications drawn up by the 'joint tendering committee' and this deviation has a significant effect on the sale value of the material, the difference shall be received or borne by the municipality or intermunicipality. The average sale value of the materials referred to in the previous subparagraph, the 'reference value', shall then be deducted from the payment for the costs of collection and sorting."

4

THE RECYCLING AND RECOVERY FIGURES FOR 2016



4.1. THE FOST PLUS RESULTS

The recycling and recovery targets for 2016 for household packaging waste were 80% for recycling and 90% for total recovery (i.e. the sum of recycling and recovery or incineration with energy recovery).

Fost Plus once again exceeded 100% recycling for glass and metals, but for the third consecutive year it did not do so for paper/cardboard. The explanation for this figure of over 100% is the same as in previous years. In the case of glass, parallel imports from abroad go some way towards explaining the results. For metals, the reason is that Fost Plus does not cover the whole of the Belgian market for this material⁸.

The IRPC never accepts more than the quantities reported to the accredited compliance organisation by its members for recycling. The recycling percentage for glass and metals is therefore reduced to 100%. The quantities thus rejected are added to the results for total recovery.



⁸ The clause in the accreditation text relating to billing metals from the various treatment facilities, which aims to ensure that metal packaging waste that is not selectively collected can be billed more accurately, takes account of the fact that Fost Plus does not cover the whole of the Belgian market. The figures for packaging placed on the market therefore relate only to Fost Plus members and not to all packaging placed on the market. On the other hand, all metals originating from household packaging that is collected either selectively or non-selectively (with domestic refuse) are billed, after applying a correction factor for loss of material in incinerators.

The table below shows the figures established as the final results obtained by Fost Plus for the year 2016.

	Quantities from members (in tonnes)	Recycling (in tonnes)	Quantities recovered with energy recovery (in tonnes)	Recycling (as %)
Paper/cardboard	183,317	161,783		88.3%
Glass	292,523	292,523		100.0%
Plastics	213,217	84,323		39.6%
Metals	73,476	73,476		100.0%
Drink cartons	17,448	17,308		99.2%
Other	4,232	38		0.9%
Total	784,214	629,451		80.3%

Glass from non-members		49,198		
Metals from non-members		1,933		
Incineration of PMD residues			20,875	
Overall total recovery		680,581	20,875	

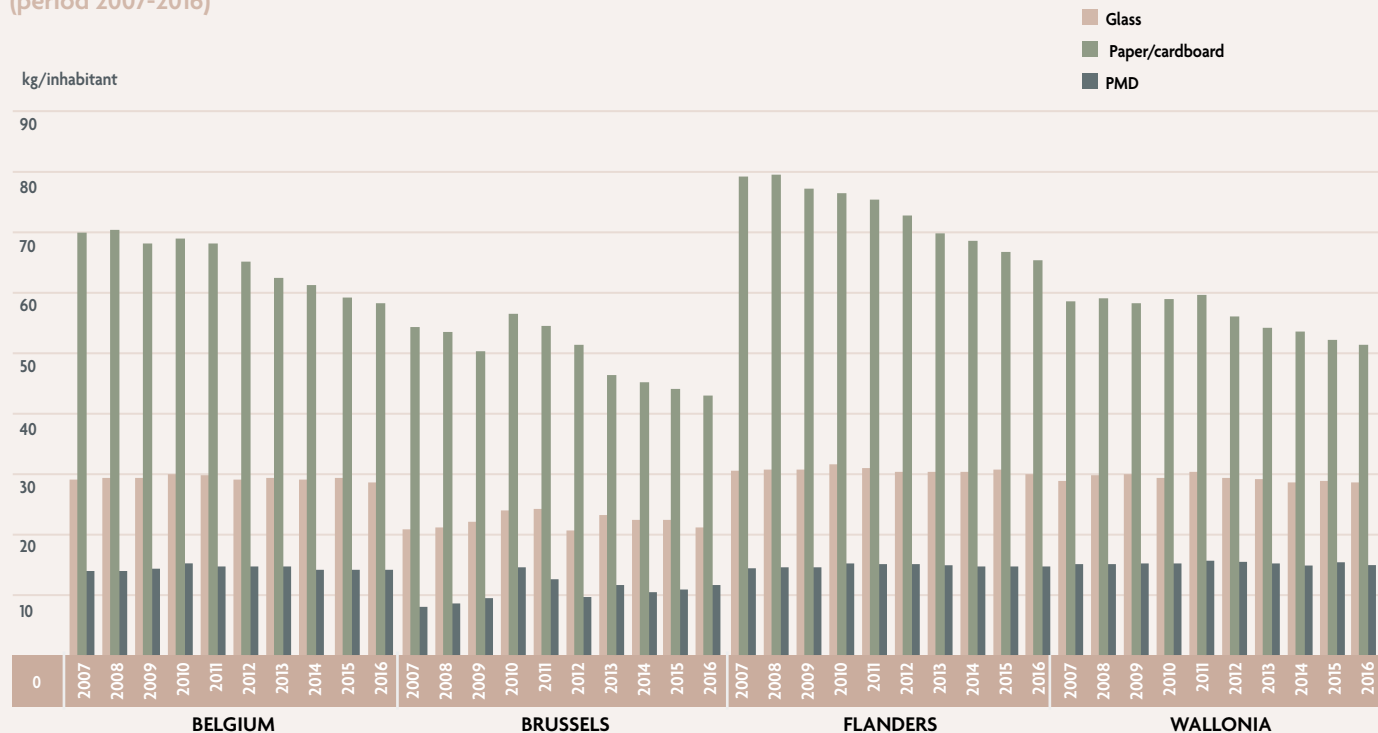
80.3%

The recycling rate Fost Plus achieved for the 2016 reporting year.

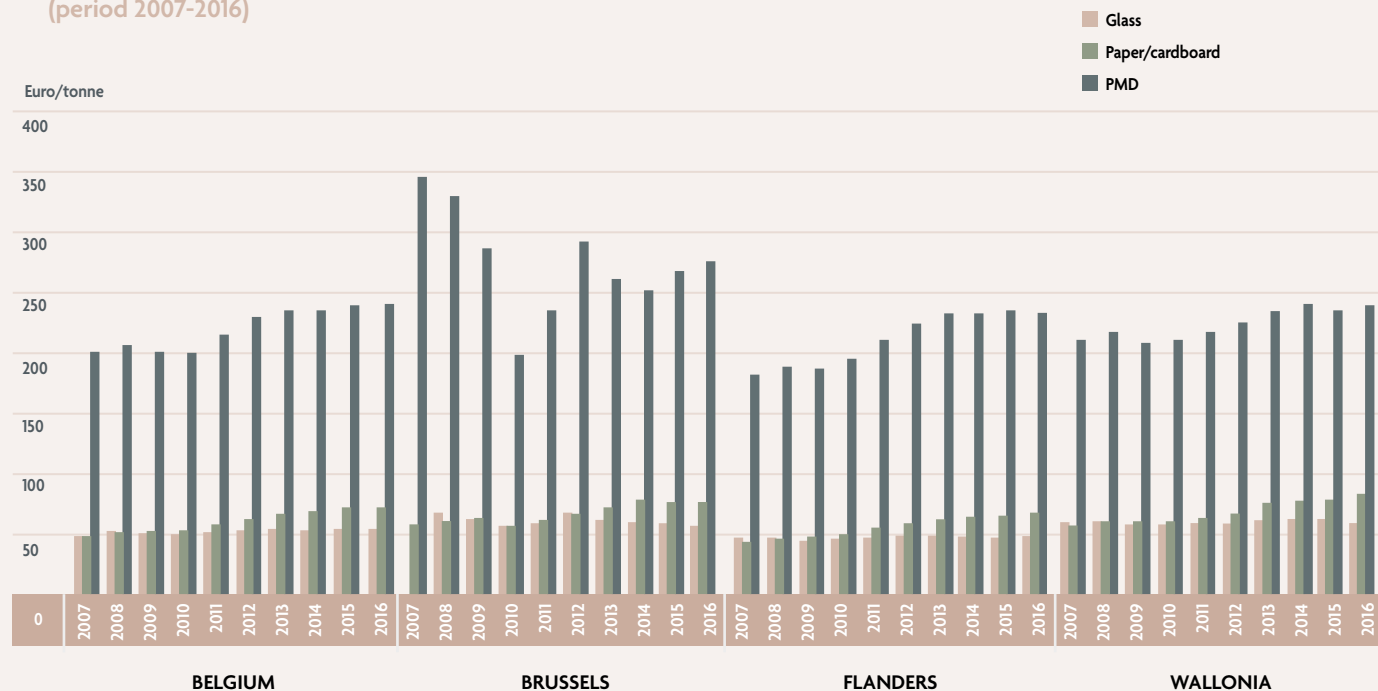
Intermunicipalities' reporting obligation

Every year the Interregional Packaging Commission examines the information submitted by the intermunicipalities in accordance with article 18 § 5 of the Cooperation Agreement and compiles statistics on the basis of this information.

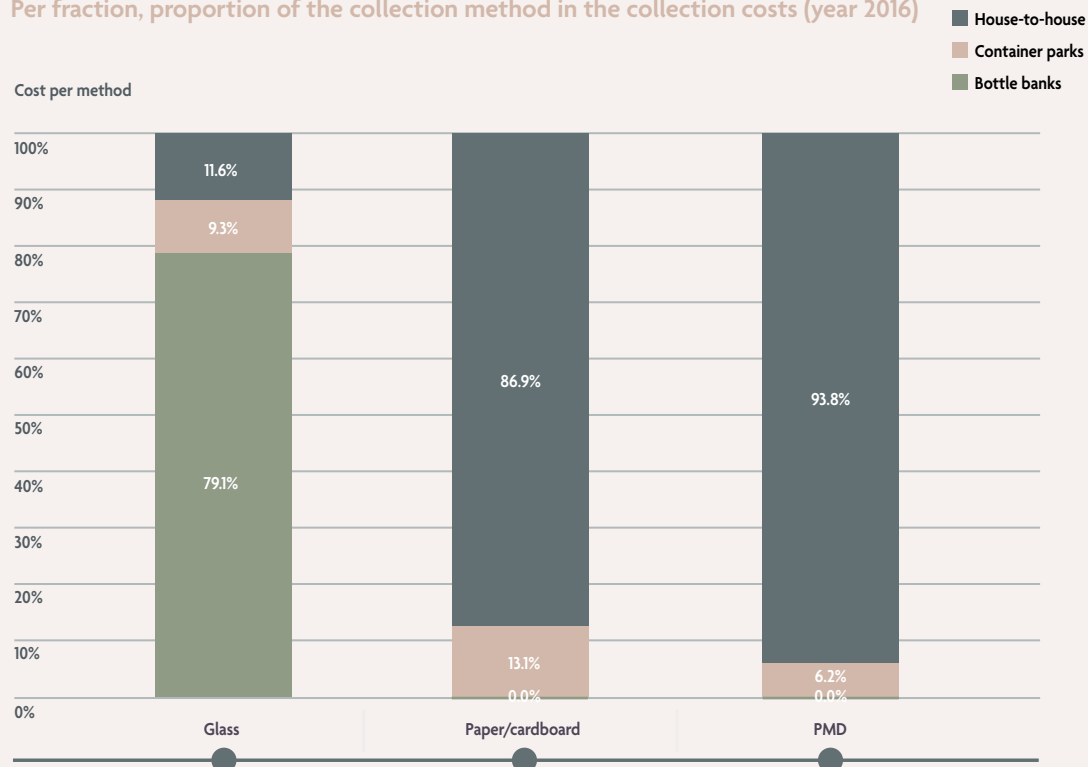
Evolution of the collection results per material, per Region and for Belgium as a whole expressed in kg/inhabitant (period 2007-2016)



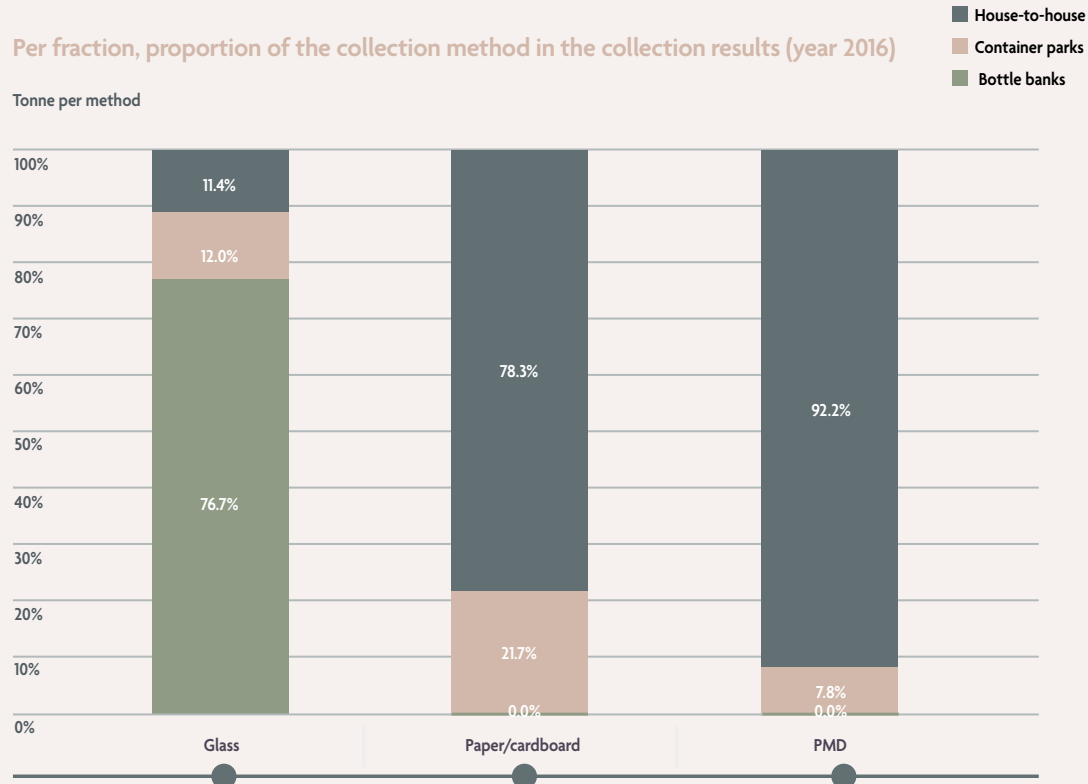
Evolution of the collection cost per material, per Region and for Belgium as a whole expressed in euro/tonne (period 2007-2016)



Per fraction, proportion of the collection method in the collection costs (year 2016)



Per fraction, proportion of the collection method in the collection results (year 2016)



4.2. THE VAL-I-PAC RESULTS

The recycling and recovery targets for 2016 for industrial and commercial packaging waste were 80% for recycling and 85% for total recovery (i.e. the sum of recycling and recovery or incineration with energy recovery).

The table below shows the figures established as the final Val-I-Pac results for the year 2016.

	Placed on the market (in tonnes)	Recycling (in tonnes)	Recycling (as %)
Plastic	98,029	57,067	58.2 %
Paper/cardboard	413,717	431,415	100 %
Metal	36,945	32,862	88.9 %
Wood	169,952	142,073	83.6 %
Other materials*	8,088	368	4.5 %
Total	726,731	663,786	88.9 %

* including glass

88.9%

The recycling rate Val-I-Pac
achieved for the 2016
operating year

4.3. THE RESULTS OF INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE COMPANIES

A total of 118 companies stated that they fulfilled the take-back obligation themselves in the 2016 reporting year.

The table below contains the aggregate data from responsible companies reporting to the IRPC that they fulfil the take-back obligation themselves, and whose results were accepted by the IRPC:

Type of material	Placed on the market (in tonnes)	Recycling (in tonnes)	Recycling (as %)
Paper/cardboard	26,902.04	24,455.98	90.9%
Plastic	2,235.59	1,870.54	83.7%
Metal	1,040.77	881.46	84.7%
Wood	8,321.90	8,123.11	97.6%
Other materials*	208.77	12.69	6.1%
Total	38,709.07	35,343.78	91.3%

* including glass

4.4. THE OVERALL RESULTS

This section contains the results reported by Belgium to the European Commission (Eurostat) for 2016. The calculation method specified by Europe must take into account the following:

- all one-way packaging placed on the Belgian market, i.e. including quantities placed on the market by free-riders;
- all reusable packaging placed on the Belgian market for the first time;
- the recycling and recovery results for one-way packaging waste, as reported by the accredited compliance organisations Fost Plus and Val-I-Pac and by the responsible companies that fulfil the take-back obligation themselves;
- the recycling and recovery results for reusable packaging withdrawn from the market.

This specific calculation method means that the overall Belgian figures can no longer be compared with the results of the accredited compliance organisations and the individual responsible companies as shown above.

The overall recycling figures for 2016 are given in the following table:

Type of material	Glass	Plastic	Paper/ cardboard (ordinary)	Drink cartons	Total paper/ cardboard	Metals	Wood	Other	TOTAL
Recycling (as %)	100.0	43.4	89.2	97.3	89.4	98.3	80.9	3.2	81.9

5

MONITORING OF REUSABLE PACKAGING



Since 2000 the Permanent Secretariat of the Interregional Packaging Commission has monitored the declaration of reusable household packaging submitted by Fost Plus.

Since 2003 the IRPC has also been monitoring reusable industrial and commercial packaging statistics submitted to Val-I-Pac.

We aim to achieve a clearer picture of the trends in reusable packaging by monitoring a specific number of reference companies, i.e. those that report the largest quantities of reusable packaging.

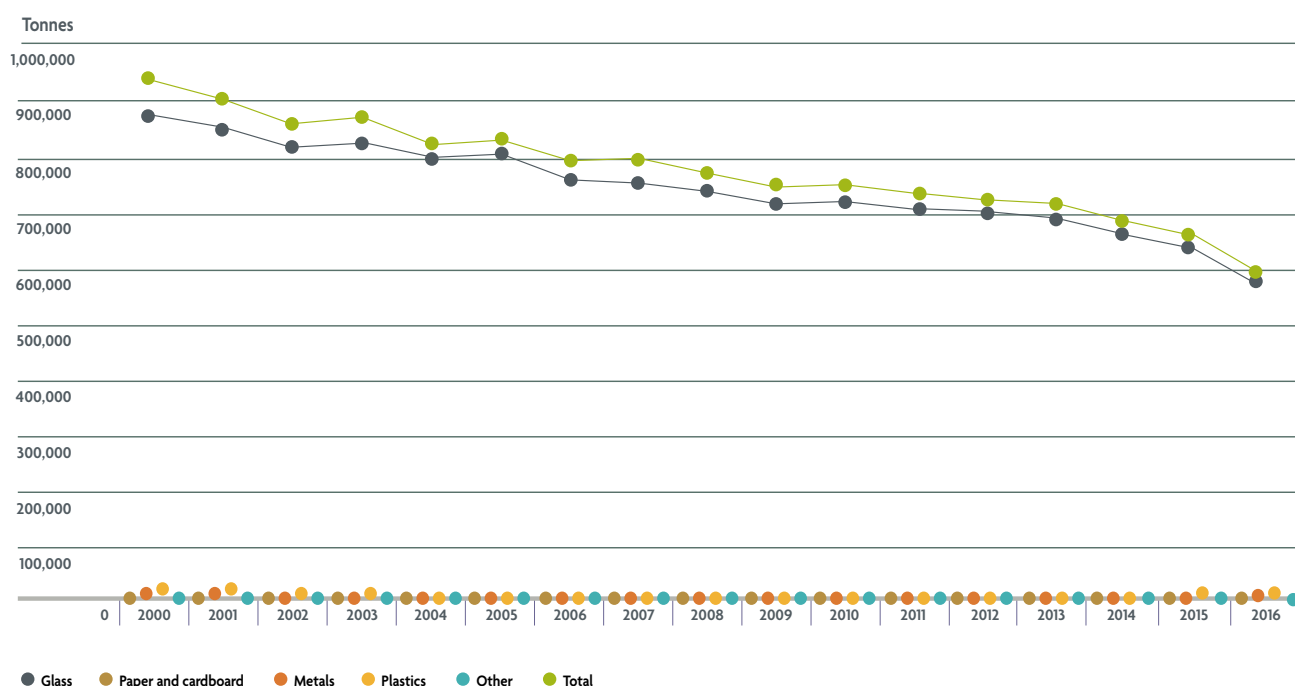
The monitoring process does not include data from responsible companies that place only reusable packaging (i.e. no one-way packaging) on the market. We should therefore point out that this probably leads to re-use figures being slightly underestimated.

Monitoring of reusable packaging in Belgium continued for the 2016 reporting year.

5.1. OVERALL TREND IN REUSABLE HOUSEHOLD PACKAGING

The graph below shows the trend in the quantities by weight of reusable household beverage packaging⁹, broken down by type of material, and as reported by all Fost Plus members during the period 2000-2016.

Evolution reusable beverage packaging, all Fost Plus members

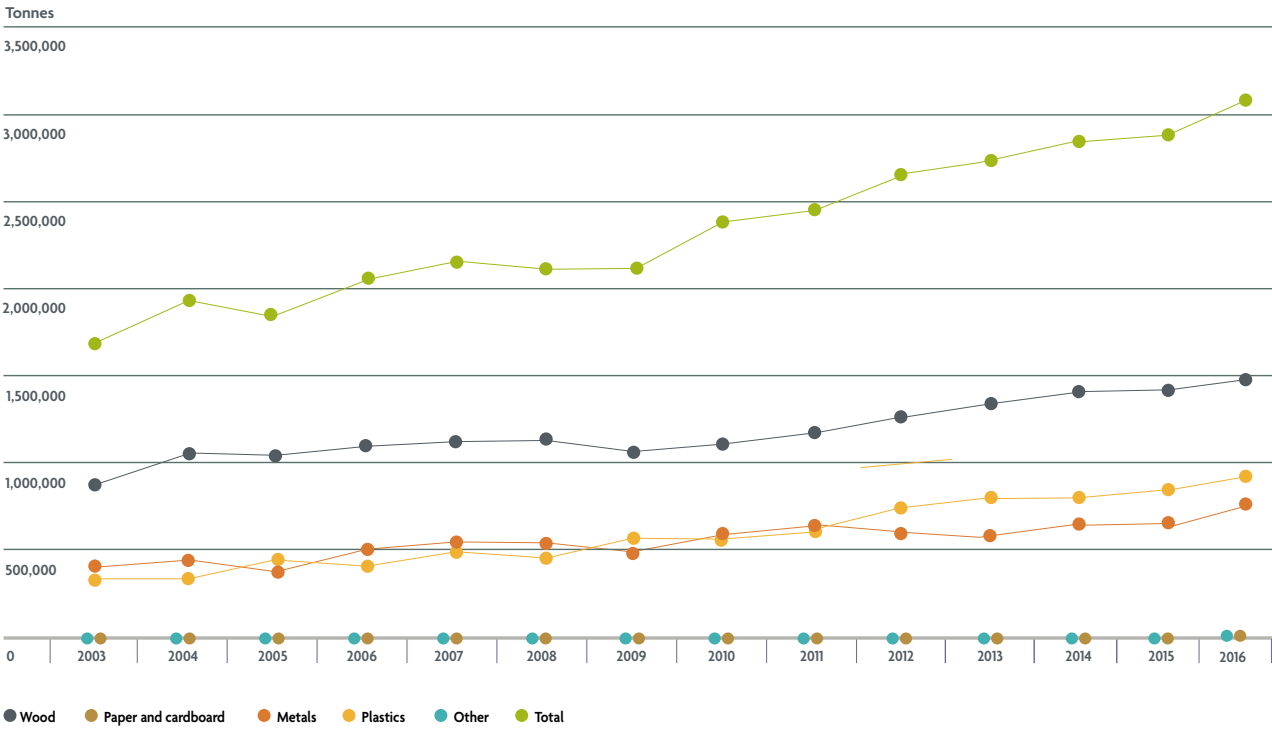


⁹ As the bulk of reusable household packaging consists of beverage packaging, the detailed analysis of reusable packaging is limited to this group.

5.2. OVERALL TREND IN REUSABLE INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL PACKAGING

The graph below shows the trend in the quantities by weight of reusable industrial and commercial packaging, broken down by type of material, and as reported by all Val-I-Pac members during the period 2003-2016.

Evolution reusable packaging, all Val-I-Pac members



6

THE TRANSIT OF WASTE



Besides having responsibility for monitoring compliance with the Cooperation Agreement of 4 November 2008 on the prevention and management of packaging waste, the IRPC also acts as the **Belgian waste transit authority**. Transit through Belgium is defined as the shipment of waste that was not produced in Belgium and will not be processed there. The IRPC is the competent authority even when transit through Belgium involves travelling through only one of the three Belgian Regions.

In the case of cross-border movements through Belgium, the IRPC must receive a copy of the notification documents. It then communicates its decision by post within the regulatory deadline. The IRPC must also receive transport notifications of shipments involving transit through Belgium. These transport notifications can take one of three forms: a pre-notification, which serves as advance notice of a planned shipment, a post-notification confirming a shipment that has reached its destination, or a cancellation of a pre-notified shipment that did not end up leaving. The IRPC also inputs this data into the database (shipments registered).

In 2017 the IRPC began processing 757 new notifications and communicated its decision on 643 of these. It was not possible to reach a decision on 109 of the new notifications because additional information requested had not yet been received and/or because the authorities of the destination country had not yet provided confirmation of receipt. For the remaining five new notifications, the procedure was discontinued at the request of the notifier.

Forty-five decisions were also issued in 2017 in response to notifications already received in 2016, bringing the total number of decisions for 2017 to 688, of which 216 concerned notifications of shipments involving transit through a port (maritime transport).

With regard to transport notifications in 2017, there were 54,477 pre-notifications, 50,177 post-notifications and 4,394 shipment cancellations, bringing the total number registered to 112,048.

A total of 129 different routes were recorded in 2017, 57 passing through both Flanders and Wallonia (31 F/W and 26 W/F), 53 only through Flanders and 19 only through Wallonia (criterion: entry point/exit point).

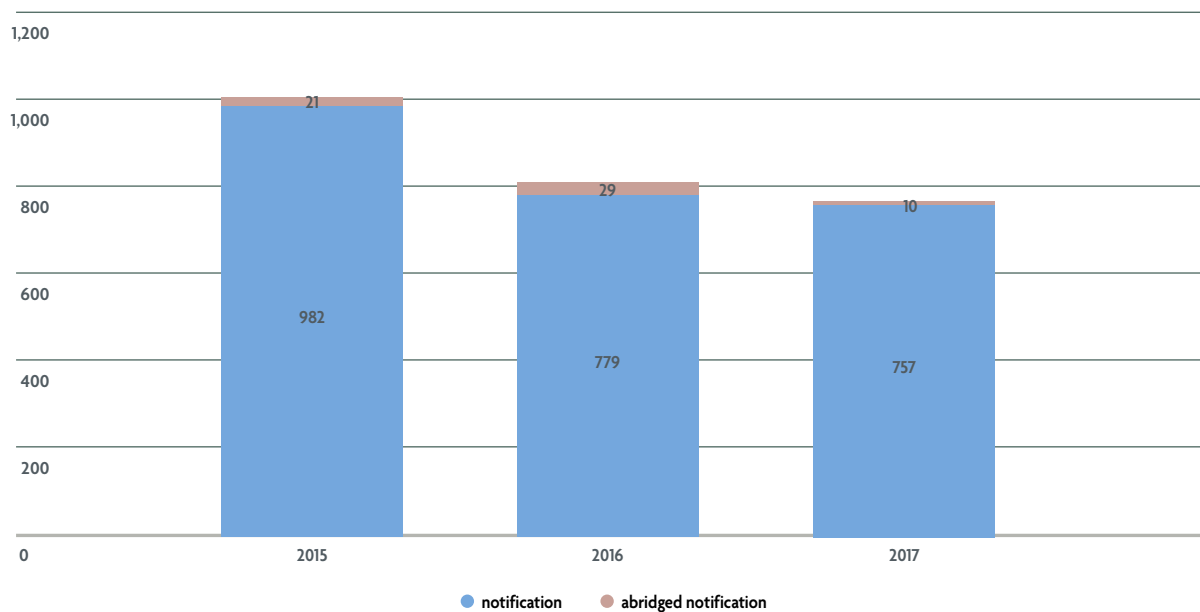
Below are the routes used more than 1,000 times in 2017:

Entry into Belgium	Exit from Belgium	Number of times
ADINKERKE (E40/A18)	POSTEL (E34/A21)	18,796
ADINKERKE (E40/A18)	MEER (E19/A1)	5,366
ADINKERKE (E40/A18)	ZANDVLIET (A12)	2,033
ADINKERKE (E40/A18)	BOORSEM (E314/A2)	1,941
STERPENICH (E411/A4)	HENSIES (E19/A7)	1,739
REKKEM (E17/A14)	POSTEL (E34/A21)	1,311
HENSIES (E19/A7)	EYNATTEN (E40/A3)	1,304

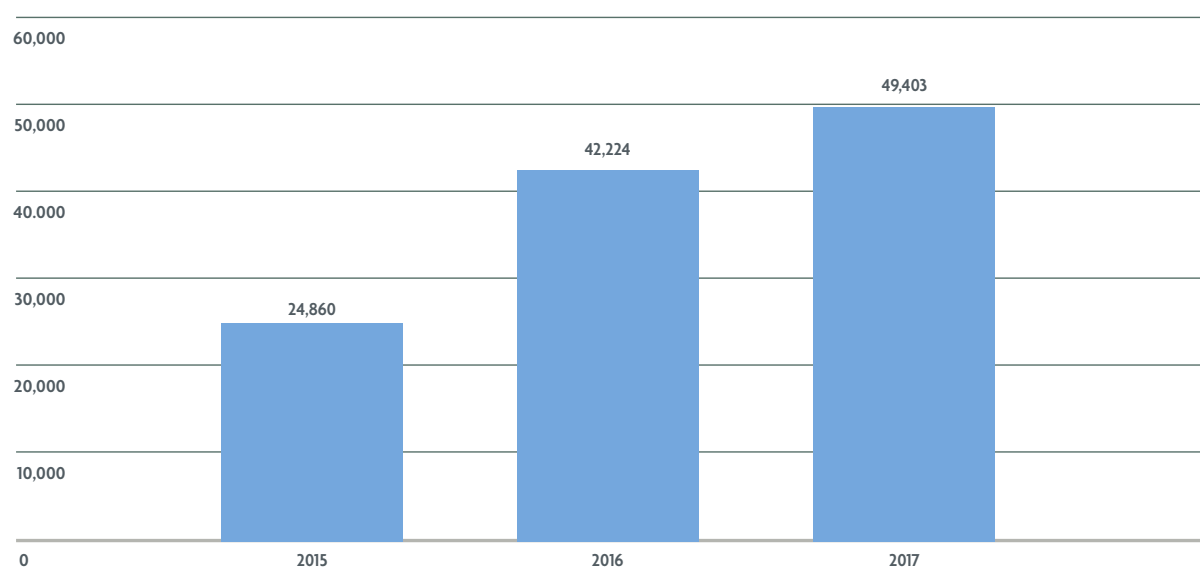
The IRPC is not authorised to inspect actual cross-border movements of waste through Belgium. These inspections are carried out by the regional environmental inspectorates. However, the IRPC is involved if a notification has to be drawn up for the return of waste that has been shipped illegally.

In this context, in addition to handling normal notifications, the IRPC drew up 10 abridged notifications in 2017, which were needed to organise returns. Following consultation in September 2017 between the regional inspectorates, the IRPC and the French competent authority PNTTD, it was decided that returns to France would no longer be carried out using the abridged notification procedure, but instead using a procedure monitored by PNTTD. As a result of this decision, the IRPC is no longer involved in organising returns to France.

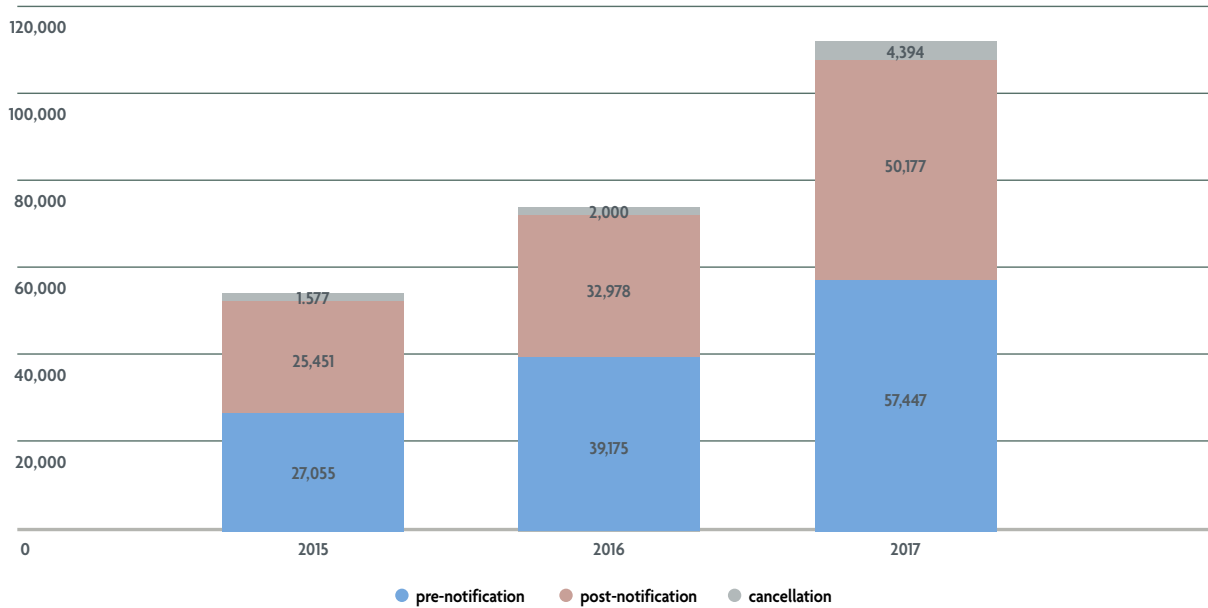
Trend in number of notifications



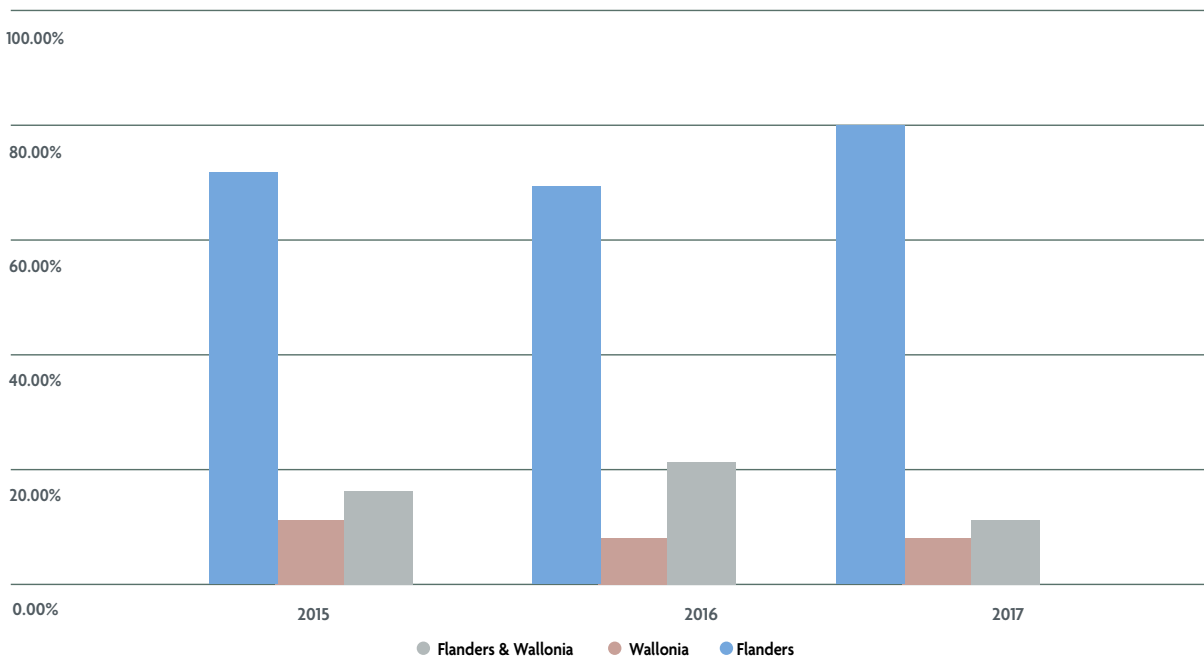
Trend in number of shipments



Trend in number of shipments registered



Trend in used routes





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