



# ACTIVITY REPORT 2018

**IVCIE**

Commission interrégionale de l'Emballage  
Interregionale Verpakingscommissie

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# Message from the Chair and the Director

In many respects, 2018 was a pivotal year for the take-back obligation for packaging waste.

The collection of a broader range of types of plastic, public cleanliness, ongoing efforts to reconcile the needs and specific characteristics of the Belgian Regions with the expectations of the industry within an exceptional interregional framework, as well as the shift towards an even more circular economy, all informed the work and meetings of the Interregional Packaging Commission (IRPC), in addition to the daily monitoring tasks of the Permanent Secretariat.

On 20 December 2018 Fost Plus was granted a new five-year accreditation for the management of household packaging waste, bringing to a close a year of intense and fruitful discussions between all parties concerned, conducted in a spirit of profound mutual respect. A decision such as that concerning an accreditation is not an end in itself. Although it is fully in line with the collection and sorting processes that have been in place for the past couple of decades, this decision has brought about significant changes that will have far-reaching implications for unpackers, operators and companies responsible for packaging. They are the ones who must enable Belgium and each of its Regions to remain at the forefront in Europe in terms of sorting and recycling packaging waste, without hindering business competitiveness. This offers the prospect of developing new recycling activities in Belgium.

Spread over two years, the introduction of the new expanded PMD bag for the collection of all household plastic packaging is an important initiative that meets the Regions' expectations. In order to achieve optimum sorting – into at least 14 fractions – that will promote quality recycling,

transitional measures have been introduced and there is now greater clarity regarding the financing of activities and investments, especially those of the public sorting plants that use their own staff and equipment.

The introduction of eco-modulation of fees is another new feature of the accreditation, directly supported by the revision of the Waste Framework Directive in 2018. The review of the pricing principles initially proposed by Fost Plus consisted in further modulating fees based on the recyclability of materials. The Interregional Packaging Commission would like Fost Plus to go even further with this approach, by charging a strongly deterrent fee amounting to at least twice the highest fee, for types of packaging that may be detrimental to selective collection or to sorting or that cannot be recycled, and by encouraging pricing that promotes packaging composed of recycled material.

Taking into account the increase in the number of places for the consumption of packaged products outside the home, but also public cleanliness issues, the IRPC would also like to develop and improve out-of-home collection of household packaging waste. Whether this involves collection at schools, sports centres, youth facilities, festivals, events, public spaces and other areas accessible to the public, such as railway stations, metro stations and airports, as well as in companies, ongoing consultation with the waste sector is required. During 2019 Fost Plus will present an action plan to achieve the ambitious and precise objectives it has been set for 2023: to double the collection of PMD from companies and to collect at least 26,000 tonnes of PMD waste generated outside the home.





As regards Valipac, the accredited compliance organisation for the management of industrial and commercial packaging waste, the initial effects of renewing its accreditation in 2017 have been felt. The report on industrial/commercial packaging waste monitoring right across Belgium thus provides, for the first time ever, specific insight into the selective collection of this type of waste. This monitoring exercise, which is to be repeated each year, is an effective instrument for the Regions, as it provides a detailed list of the waste collected by sector, by material and by Region. It will therefore be possible not only to track trends in the figures for the selective collection and sorting of industrial and commercial waste, but also to identify any problems and, where necessary, work with the sectors concerned to rectify the strategies implemented.

Meanwhile, the IRPC's decision-making body has held several meetings to prepare amendments to the interregional Cooperation Agreement of 4 November 2008 on the prevention and management of packaging waste. We are hoping that the finalised text can be approved by the three regional parliaments in early 2019, before the end of this parliamentary term.

The first step involves the partial transposition of two European directives: (1) Directive 2008/98/EC on waste, as amended by Directive 2018/851 of 30 May 2018, and (2) Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste, as amended by Directive 2015/720 of 29 April 2015 and Directive 2018/852 of 30 May 2018.

The Regions' aim is also to provide further information and technical solutions regarding some of the difficulties related to the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement of 4 November 2008, or to make improvements or clarifications. The

development of e-commerce, for example, means that the definition of "company responsible for packaging" needs to be clarified in order to ensure equal treatment and prevent any market distortion. Public cleanliness will include "extended producer responsibility" in a more formal way. The objective of reuse will also be emphasised.

Finally, the revision should make it possible to increase the minimum recycling targets per material and set new ambitious targets for selective collection and for recycling. For instance, by 2022 at least 90% of beverage packaging waste must be collected and recycled and, by 2025, at least 95% of household packaging waste. The aim of these provisions, which take into account the level of recycling already achieved in Belgium, is also and above all to collect and preserve as many rare and valuable packaging materials as possible in order to reuse them as raw materials in industrial production with a view to achieving a circular economy.

We hope you enjoy reading the 2018 Activity Report.

**Anne Dumont**, Chair

**Marc Adams**, Acting Director

# 1

# The operation of the Interregional Packaging Commission (IRPC)

## 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. Ms Céline Schaar of the Brussels-Capital Region served as Chair in the first part of 2018, with Ms Anne Dumont of the Walloon 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 2018 was as follows:

### FLEMISH REGION

#### Full members

- Ann DE BOECK
- Hugo GEERTS
- Danny WILLE

#### Alternate members

- Luc GOETEYN
- Anneleen DE WACHTER
- Roeland BRACKE

### BRUSSELS-CAPITAL REGION

#### Full members

- Julien DUMONT/  
Livia SPEZZANI<sup>1</sup>
- Céline SCHAAR
- Olivier BOSTEELS

#### Alternate members

- Valérie VERBRUGGE
- Grégoire CLERFAYT
- Janathan BARGIACCHI

### WALLOON REGION

#### Full members

- Sylvie MEEKERS/  
Anne DUMONT<sup>2</sup>
- Ingrid GABRIEL/  
Joëlle BASTIN<sup>4</sup>
- Martine GILLET

#### Alternate members

- Anne DUMONT/  
Eloise PIGNON<sup>3</sup>
- Ludivine GAUTHIER/  
Clément POULAIN<sup>5</sup>
- Jean-Yves MERCIER

1 Mr Dumont was replaced as full member by Ms Spezzani on 8 February 2018.

2 Ms Meekers was replaced as full member by Ms Dumont on 18 October 2018.

3 Ms Gabriel was replaced as full member by Ms Bastin on 18 October 2018.

4 Ms Dumont was replaced as alternate member by Ms Pignon on 18 October 2018.

5 Ms Gauthier was replaced as alternate member by Mr Poulain on 18 October 2018.

**The organisational structure of the Permanent Secretariat remained unchanged in 2018.**



Since 6 November 2014 the IRPC's organisational structure has shown it as having a total of 28 members of staff, two of whom work solely on waste transit. At the end of 2018, the Permanent Secretariat had a total of 21 members of staff, including several part-timers. The Permanent Secretariat has been structurally understaffed for years.

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- 6 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.
- 7 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.

## The IRPC budget for 2018

The IRPC's budget for the 2018 operating year was spent as follows:

	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE (in EUR)
<b>COST OF PREMISES</b> This includes the cost of office maintenance and cleaning, building repairs, and also various premises costs, such as the shared costs for building maintenance.	119,697.64
<b>OFFICE COSTS</b> These include office supplies, photocopying costs, landline and mobile phone costs, switchboard operation, postage and transport costs, as well as the costs of IT support.	90,330.93
<b>TRAVEL AND REPRESENTATION EXPENSES</b> These include reimbursement of train tickets and flat-rate payments for travel and accommodation.	10,045.23
<b>CAR FLEET RUNNING COSTS</b> These include lease payments, fuel costs, vehicle maintenance (other than as provided for in the lease contract). The IRPC's fleet consists entirely of environmentally friendly vehicles, i.e. hybrid cars that can run on both electricity and petrol.	37,919.85
<b>OTHER GENERAL OPERATING COSTS</b> These include the costs of vocational training and workshops, magazine inserts and the printing of publications.	354,285.61
<b>RENT OF BUILDINGS</b> This is the annual cost of renting the IRPC's offices.	188,108.24
<b>EXPERTISE EN CONSULTANCY</b> This item includes the fees of lawyers and experts, as well as the costs of translations into Dutch, German and English.	24,887.78
<b>STUDIES AND RESEARCH</b> Three studies were carried out in 2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation of the method for calculating the cost of collecting the paper/cardboard fraction;</li> <li>• Critical analysis of the "packaging prevention plan" tool, consultation of the sectors and preparation of the adaptation (simplification and update) of the application;</li> <li>• Financial audit of the accredited compliance organisations.</li> </ul>	146,579.40
<b>AWARENESS-RAISING AND COMMUNICATIONS</b> This includes the cost of having information published in various trade magazines and the insertion of banners on specialist websites.	33,392.77
<b>INVESTMENTS</b> These include the purchase of furniture, office machinery and hardware.	12,108.72
<b>GENERAL TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,017,356.17</b>

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.



## The Extended Producer Responsibility Interregional Platform (EPRIP)

The Extended Producer Responsibility Interregional Platform (EPRIP) was established back in December 2009 following a decision at the Interministerial Conference for the Environment on 25 March 2009.

The general objective of EPRIP is to organise regular exchanges of information and consultation sessions on the implementation of extended producer responsibility. For this purpose, strategic consultation has been established between the Belgian Regions, as well as ongoing administrative cooperation between the three competent Regional administrations, i.e. the Public Waste Agency of Flanders (OVAM), Leefmilieu Brussel/Bruxelles Environnement and the Soil and Waste Department (DSD).

EPRIP's specific objectives are as follows:

- To develop a shared view on producer responsibility;
- To harmonise the different legislations on take-back obligations, particularly as regards definitions, scope and the targets for collection, recycling and treatment;
- To harmonise the content of environmental agreements for each waste stream;
- To harmonise the evaluation criteria for the waste management plan (prevention and management plans relating to waste).

Three meetings of the EPRIP strategic coordination unit took place in 2018, during which several consultations were held with a number of management bodies, including:

- Bebat for the spent battery stream;
- Febelauto for the end-of-life vehicle stream;
- Recytyre for the used tyre stream;
- Valorlub for the waste oil stream.

The following waste streams were also discussed by EPRIP:

- Waste electrical and electronic equipment;
- Unused or expired drugs.

Within the context of EPRIP, it is also possible to systematically share practical information on the status of the take-back obligations, environmental and similar agreements in the three Regions, relevant studies underway in the Regions and various other topics of interest to all three Regions.



# 2

## Preparation of the 2019-2021 packaging prevention plan

The IRPC has decided to further simplify the electronic forms used to submit the packaging prevention plan. With this in mind, it commissioned an external agency to analyse this tool. This exercise took place during the latter half of 2018.

The simplification proposals were presented and discussed with the joint “packaging and packaging waste” platform. The attendees at the various meetings welcomed the proposals.

The simplifications put forward concerned both the forms used to submit the individual prevention plan and the forms relating to the sectoral prevention plan.

With this approach, the IRPC hopes to have complied with most of the demands of the companies responsible for packaging that are required to submit a packaging prevention plan.



# 3

## Fost Plus

### The new accreditation

On 29 June 2018 Fost Plus' submitted its application to be accredited as a compliance organisation for the management of household packaging waste for the period covering 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2023.

In September the Interregional Packaging Commission declared this application admissible and began preparing the wording of the accreditation.

Fost Plus' first hearing in this context was held on 18 October, as well as hearings with various partners involved, such as Interafval, Copidec and Go4Circle. A second hearing with Fost Plus took place on 6 December. On 10 December the IRPC consulted Fost Plus and the partners involved one last time in writing. During November consultation meetings were also organised between the Managing Director/Chair and directors of Fost Plus and the IRPC in order to reach a consensus on certain points.

The discussions culminated in Fost Plus being granted its new accreditation for 2019-2023 on 20 December 2018.

The main challenges of this accreditation application were:

- The introduction of the new P+MD bag for the collection of all household plastic packaging, as well as household metal packaging and drink cartons;
- The expansion of out-of-home collection of household packaging;
- The introduction of eco-modulation of fees.

The Fost Plus 2019-2023 accreditation contains 50 articles, the key new points of which are as follows:

- **Article 2** relates to Fost Plus's introduction of the implementation plan for the expansion of selective collection of household plastic packaging and its approval by the IRPC.

It establishes the timing in the new accreditation for the introduction of the new P+MD collection. By the end of 2020 arrangements will have been made in one way or another to collect residual plastics throughout Belgium. This will be done for a large part of the country using the new blue bag, but will also involve other forms of collection, for example in recycling centres. Within a relatively short period of time, we need to set up new sorting plants, where the new plastics that have been collected can be sorted.

Article 2 also sets out the rules for preparing the new sorting message for the public. The aim is for the message to be as simple and uniform as possible in order to maximise its reach and ensure effective national communication.

Article 2 also provides for setting up a "sorting message" working group, consisting of Fost Plus, the Belgian Regions, the municipalities or intermunicipalities, the federations representing waste management companies, and the IRPC. This working group's task is to annually evaluate the sorting message in the P+MD "all plastics" scenario;

- **Article 4** adapts the rules for calculating collection and recycling targets with a view to anticipating the increased targets and the European Commission's new calculation method;
- **Article 5** clarifies, inter alia, the financing rules for collection by municipalities or intermunicipalities that use their own staff and equipment and the financing rules allowing the creation of new P+MD sorting plants that also use their own staff and equipment.

Article 5 also provides for setting up an ad hoc working group, consisting of Fost Plus, the Interregional Packaging Commission, the Belgian Regions, the locally responsible municipalities or intermunicipalities and the federations representing waste management companies. This working group's task is to draw up joint proposals on the method for calculating the reference cost;

- **Article 6** completes and updates the baseline scenarios (for collection) that Fost Plus has to pay back based on the full cost.

The transitional collection systems, the old PMD collection and the new P+MD collection are now all included in article 6, which must therefore be read in conjunction with article 2, which sets the timing.

Article 6 also provides for the possibility of collecting paper/cardboard and PMD more frequently in municipalities and conurbations with a high population density.

In the case of paper/cardboard, article 6 improves collection by means of individual containers, by removing the limit for population coverage, previously set at 10%, while introducing a contribution by Fost Plus towards the container investment costs;

- **Article 7** introduces a new additional payment, whereby Fost Plus contributes to the operating costs of the recycling centres (hiring and emptying the containers);
- **Article 8** sets out the payment for the transitional scenarios to cover both the collection costs and the treatment costs, in anticipation of the new P+MD collection;
- **Article 11** adjusts the allocation key that determines the proportion of packaging in the paper/cardboard stream, as well as Fost Plus' payment obligation, on the basis of the latest study conducted by the IRPC in 2018. This study resulted in the following allocation key: for mixed and selectively collected paper/cardboard, Fost Plus can take 32% of the tonnage into account, and must pay 44% of the collection costs;

- **Article 13** stipulates that support for the development of a network of underground bottle banks will continue, under simplified conditions. The part to be financed by Fost Plus for the purchase and installation of the underground bottle banks remains at 50%. The overall annual budget is capped at EUR 720,000, to be apportioned among the Regions. This amount was calculated so as to enable about 600 underground bottle banks to be installed by the end of the five-year accreditation;

- **Article 14** stipulates that Fost Plus will henceforth pay back the costs incurred in monitoring collection projects to the competent municipalities or intermunicipalities on the basis of a fixed amount;

Payment of monitoring costs therefore no longer depends on an amount that is linked to the collection costs, but is now defined as a fixed amount per inhabitant, albeit higher in sparsely populated areas. This new fixed-amount arrangement meant that the level of the monitoring costs in the previous accreditation could remain unchanged and could be apportioned in a more balanced way;

- **Article 15** clarifies the rules for local communications, particularly in the context of the introduction of P+MD collection;
- **Article 16** provides for the discontinuation of the bonus/penalty system for PMD residues and the introduction of close monitoring of the composition of P+MD sorting residues;
- **Article 18** introduces a new contribution by Fost Plus towards the costs of treating packaging collected in the "Déchets Spéciaux des Ménages" (DSM, special household waste), "Klein Gevaarlijk Afval" (KGA, household hazardous waste) and DCM/HCA (household chemical waste) streams;





- In **article 28**, the new rules for calculating the “Green Dot” fees have been significantly changed in order to introduce the principle of eco-modulation. In particular, the rules provide for a strongly deterrent fee, amounting to at least twice the highest recycling fee, for types of packaging that hinder selective collection and/or sorting or that cannot be recycled. It also provides for the allocation of specific costs to packaging that is identified in the regional cleanliness plans and/or that is contaminated with or has contained hazardous substances.

In this context, article 28 provides for setting up a “materials” working group, whose role is to help introduce the new method for calculating the Green Dot. This group must comprise at least Fost Plus, the Interregional Packaging Commission, the Belgian Regions, the Federal Public Service for the Environment, the locally responsible municipalities or intermunicipalities, the federations representing waste management companies, material organisations, sorting plants and recycling companies, and the federations representing companies involved in the distribution and production or import of packaged products;

- **Articles 33 to 36** strengthen the “prevention” aspect, given Fost Plus’ wish to be engaged in this topic and the crucial role of the accredited compliance organisation in motivating and encouraging companies to go down this route.

To this end, Fost Plus must actively promote easily recyclable packaging, prevention at source and reuse. The accredited compliance organisation will have to organise training courses on “design for recycling” and business model innovation.

Article 35 further provides for Fost Plus setting up an “overpackaging” website and an e-mail address to enable consumers to report problems related to overpackaging;

- **Article 37** strengthens the “out-of-home collection” aspect, in particular by setting new, ambitious targets. These include achieving the following by 2023: doubling the quantity of selectively collected packaging for beverages and other food products consumed outside the home; doubling collections of PMD from companies; and collecting at least 26,000 tonnes of PMD waste generated outside the home.

Particular attention is devoted to on-the-go consumption. In its approach, Fost Plus must set up test projects that specifically focus on this aspect, for example measuring the impact of the reward systems, comparing sorting at source, pre-sorting and post-sorting of packaging collected and establishing a mass balance of packaging from food products consumed on-the-go.

Fost Plus must also submit to the IRPC a proposed new approach to PMD/P+MD collection from companies and out-of-home collection of PMD/P+MD. This proposal will include the payment system for companies.

As in the previous accreditation, Fost Plus must draw up each year a basic out-of-home programme with a balanced geographical coverage, which will provide a common basis in the three Regions.

- This new accreditation has made it possible to harmonise Fost Plus’s reporting obligation to the IRPC, in particular by stipulating that Fost Plus should communicate and submit the following documents to the IRPC by 15 September each year: the report on prevention, the basic out-of-home programme proposal, the action plan on litter and the activities or proposals financed as part of the Regions’ policy on prevention and management of packaging waste.
- **Article 47** contains new provisions to limit the consumption of plastic carrier bags as much as possible. To this end, Fost Plus must devise an action plan with those of its members identified as being suppliers of plastic carrier bags and their sectoral representatives.







## 2018 reference costs and 2017 reference values

The 2018 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 2018.

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 2018 as follows:

Reference costs 2018	Total for collection and sorting				Kerbside and bottle bank collection				Container park collection			
IRPC	100% fixed	100% variable	60% fixed	40% variable	100% fixed	100% variable	60% fixed	40% variable	100% fixed	100% variable	60% fixed	40% variable
ABC Method *	€/inh.	€/tonne	€/inh.	€/tonne	€/inh.	€/tonne	€/inh.	€/tonne	€/inh.	€/tonne	€/inh.	€/tonne
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.6731</b>	<b>54.74</b>	<b>1.0039</b>	<b>21.89</b>	<b>1.4971</b>	<b>56.74</b>	<b>0.8982</b>	<b>22.70</b>	<b>0.1760</b>	<b>42.89</b>	<b>0.1056</b>	<b>17.16</b>
GLASS												
>200	1.5751	52.33	0.9450	20.93	1.4354	54.06	0.8612	21.62	0.1397	40.31	0.0838	16.12
<200	2.2394	66.82	1.3436	26.73	1.8458	72.10	1.1075	28.84	0.3936	49.75	0.2362	19.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.4776</b>	<b>73.83</b>	<b>2.6866</b>	<b>29.53</b>	<b>3.8895</b>	<b>83.96</b>	<b>2.3337</b>	<b>33.58</b>	<b>0.5881</b>	<b>42.11</b>	<b>0.3529</b>	<b>16.84</b>
PAPER/ CARD- BOARD												
>200	4.3628	71.02	2.6177	28.41	3.9270	80.03	2.3562	32.01	0.4358	36.44	0.2615	14.57
<200	5.3263	93.57	3.1958	37.43	3.7032	125.24	2.2219	50.09	1.6231	59.47	0.9739	23.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.7858</b>	<b>244.89</b>	<b>2.2715</b>	<b>97.96</b>	<b>3.4575</b>	<b>250.35</b>	<b>2.0745</b>	<b>100.14</b>	<b>0.3283</b>	<b>191.96</b>	<b>0.1970</b>	<b>76.79</b>
PMD- COLLECTION												
>200	3.5378	239.81	2.1227	95.92	3.3960	247.36	2.0376	98.94	0.1418	127.60	0.0851	51.04
<200	5.9822	277.97	3.5893	111.19	4.0443	274.74	2.4266	109.89	1.9380	288.43	1.1628	115.37
PMD SORTING	2.2800	155.52	1.3680	62.21								

\* weighted average of 2013 (10%), 2014 (15%), 2015 (20%), 2016 (25%) and 2017 (30%), updated to 2018 prices



## 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 only twice in 2018. During the second half of the year the focus was mainly on the preparations and hearings for the new accreditation.

The main topics discussed during these two meetings were:

- The accreditation application
- The P+ implementation plan
- The basic programme for out-of-home collection of PMD
- The work programmes related to the 2018 "half euro" plan (prevention and management of packaging waste)
- The import ban imposed by China on several waste streams
- The amendment of the Cooperation Agreement of 4 November 2008
- Checkout bags
- The recycling and recovery results for 2017
- The IRPC study on the allocation key for paper and cardboard
- The "Import data" module
- The reference values
- The new auditor for the accounting analysis of the accredited compliance organisations

### The 2017 reference values are the average sale values of the material collected and sorted in 2017.

The IRPC approved the 2017 reference values in mid-2018. These values were used as the basis for the payments in 2018<sup>8</sup>. The payments will be adjusted in 2019, however, once the IRPC has approved the 2018 reference values.

The 2017 reference values approved by the IRPC are:

Material (selectively collected and sorted)	Average price (EUR/tonne)
Paper/cardboard	134.45
Glass	27.73
Steel	157.85
Aluminium	867.74
Drink cartons	27.78
HDPE	343.62
PET blue	247.19
PET clear	281.70
PET green	278.19
PET (average)	271.60
Plastics (PET + HDPE)	287.36

<sup>8</sup> The second subparagraph of article 10, §1 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 Valipac

## Implementation of the accreditation: article 18

Since it was set up as an accredited compliance organisation for industrial and commercial packaging waste, Valipac has been providing data on the collection, recycling and recovery of industrial and commercial packaging waste.

Over its 20-year existence, Valipac has amassed considerable expertise in packaging waste and waste streams containing packaging waste. In its latest accreditation, the Regions therefore asked Valipac to set up an industrial/commercial waste monitoring system, which would not be restricted solely to industrial and commercial packaging waste. Valipac took up the challenge and developed this system in accordance with article 18 in its accreditation.

Over the course of several meetings, the working group responsible for implementing this provision in the accreditation discussed the implementation of article 18 and the structure of the relevant report. This working group, which is of course composed of Valipac and the IRPC, also includes representatives of the regional authorities responsible for waste. The discussions focused on the categories of waste streams reported and on the geographical distribution of these streams for reporting purposes.

On 31 October 2018 Valipac submitted a first draft of the article 18 report. This does not cover the entire Belgian industrial/commercial waste market, but a very large part of it, i.e. the waste collected by all operators working with Valipac as part of the packaging reporting process.

This report contains 14 industrial/commercial waste streams, including unsorted residual (non-recyclable) waste, paper/cardboard, A, B and C-grade wood, ferrous

and non-ferrous metals and mixed metals, flat, hollow and hazardous glass, plastic film, EPS and rigid plastic. Waste quantities are reported as a whole, but are also broken down by Region. Within each Region, the waste is subdivided into different areas and sectors of activity.

Upon receipt, the IRPC checked the report, examining in detail the method used by Valipac to collect, verify and aggregate data. In the process, the IRPC noted the high quality of Valipac's work and the significance of the figures provided.

The report related to 2017. This was the first year of implementation of Valipac's current accreditation and is therefore regarded as a baseline measurement. The importance of this starting point will grow over time, as we will be able to monitor any trends in the selective collection figures.







## Checking and monitoring Valipac

Checking the results obtained by the accredited compliance organisation Valipac is a key task of the Interregional Packaging Commission.

The process of checking the results submitted by Valipac in 2018 for the 2017 operating year was completed in December 2018, and the figures for 2017 were approved in January 2019.

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

The monitoring committee met four times in 2018 to discuss a number of topics, including:

- Checks of the recycling and recovery results for the 2017 operating year and the trends in the preliminary results for the 2018 operating year;

- The payment of bonuses via the "MyCertificate" platform (<https://mycertificate.valipac.be/>). These are the starter, container, bin bag and recycling bonuses granted to unpackers under certain conditions;
- The 2018 SME plan and its practical implementation;
- Trends in the value of materials;
- The circular economy action plan in accordance with article 16, §3 of the accreditation;
- Identifying the second step in the recycling chain in accordance with article 6 of the accreditation;
- Implementation of article 18 of the accreditation and the consequent transfer by the operators of data relating to 2017.





# 5

## The recycling and recovery figures for 2017

### The Fost Plus results

The recycling and recovery targets for 2017 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. The explanation for this figure of over 100% is the same as in previous years. In the case of glass, parallel imports go some way towards explaining the results, as does the inclusion of food service industry glass, which is probably not fully reported to Fost Plus. For metals, the reason is that Fost Plus does not cover the whole of the Belgian market for this material<sup>9</sup>.

Similarly, following the entry into force of Fost Plus's amended accreditation on 1 July 2017, the allocation

key for calculating the packaging fraction in the paper/cardboard stream was adapted, which meant that the 100% recycling rate for paper/cardboard was again exceeded in 2017.

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

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

Fost Plus achieved a recycling rate of **83.5%** for the 2017 reporting year.

	Quantities from members (in tonnes)	Recycling (in tonnes)	Recycling (as %)	Other recovery (in tonnes)		Total recovery (in tonnes)	Total recovery (as %)
				Energy recovery	Quantities recycled by non-members		
Paper/cardboard	175,607	175,607	100.0		2,734		
Glass	292,789	292,789	100.0		47,631		
Plastic	213,114	90,265	42.4	22,534			
Metals	73,998	73,998	100.0		1,983		
Drink cartons	17,408	15,864	91.1				
Other	4,217	43	1.0				
<b>Total</b>	<b>777,133</b>	<b>648,567</b>	<b>83.5</b>	<b>22,534</b>	<b>52,347</b>	<b>723,449</b>	<b>93.1</b>

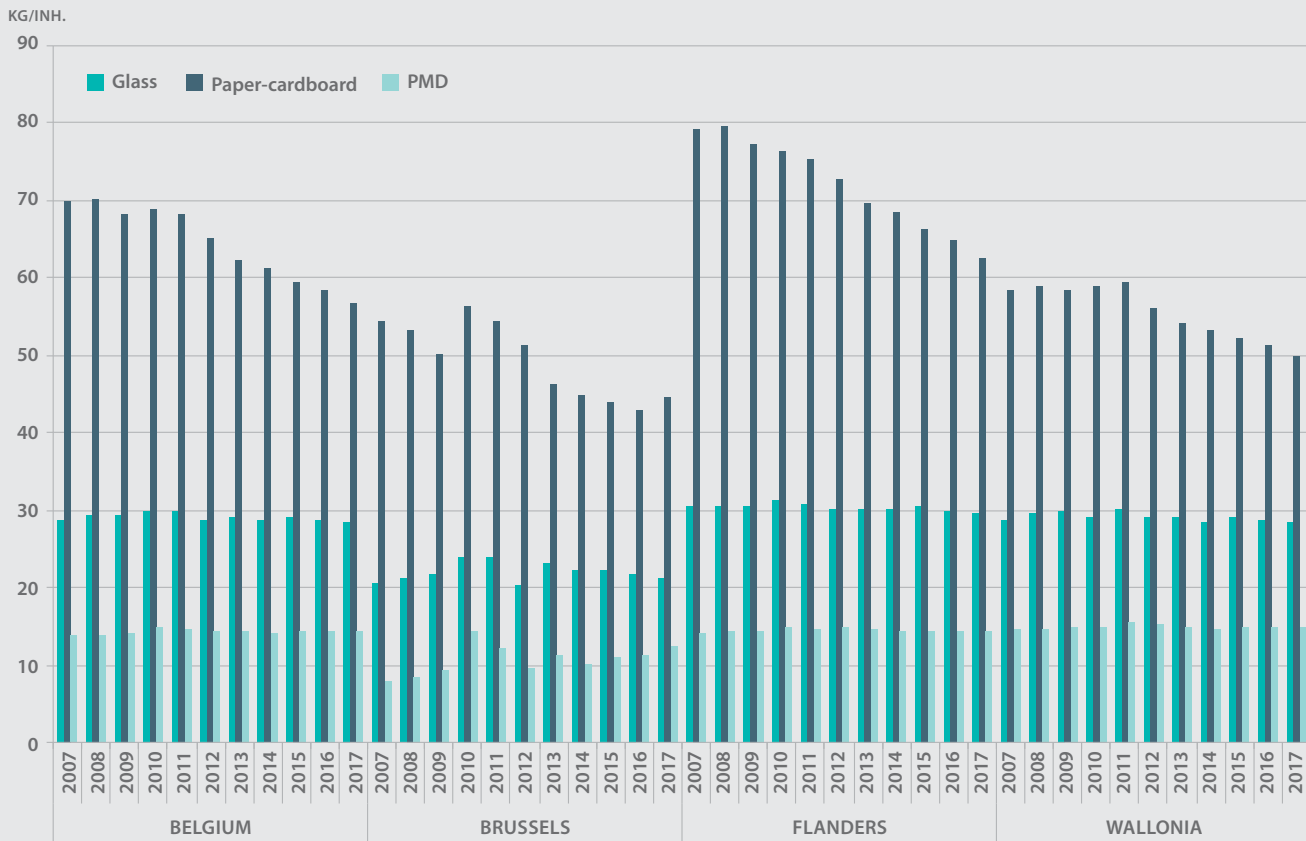
<sup>9</sup> The clause in the accreditation text relating to taking into account metals from the various treatment facilities, which aims to ensure that metal packaging waste that is not selectively collected can be taken into consideration more accurately, recognises that Fost Plus does not cover the 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 general household waste) are taken into account, after applying a correction factor for loss of material in incinerators.



## Intermunicipalities' reporting obligation

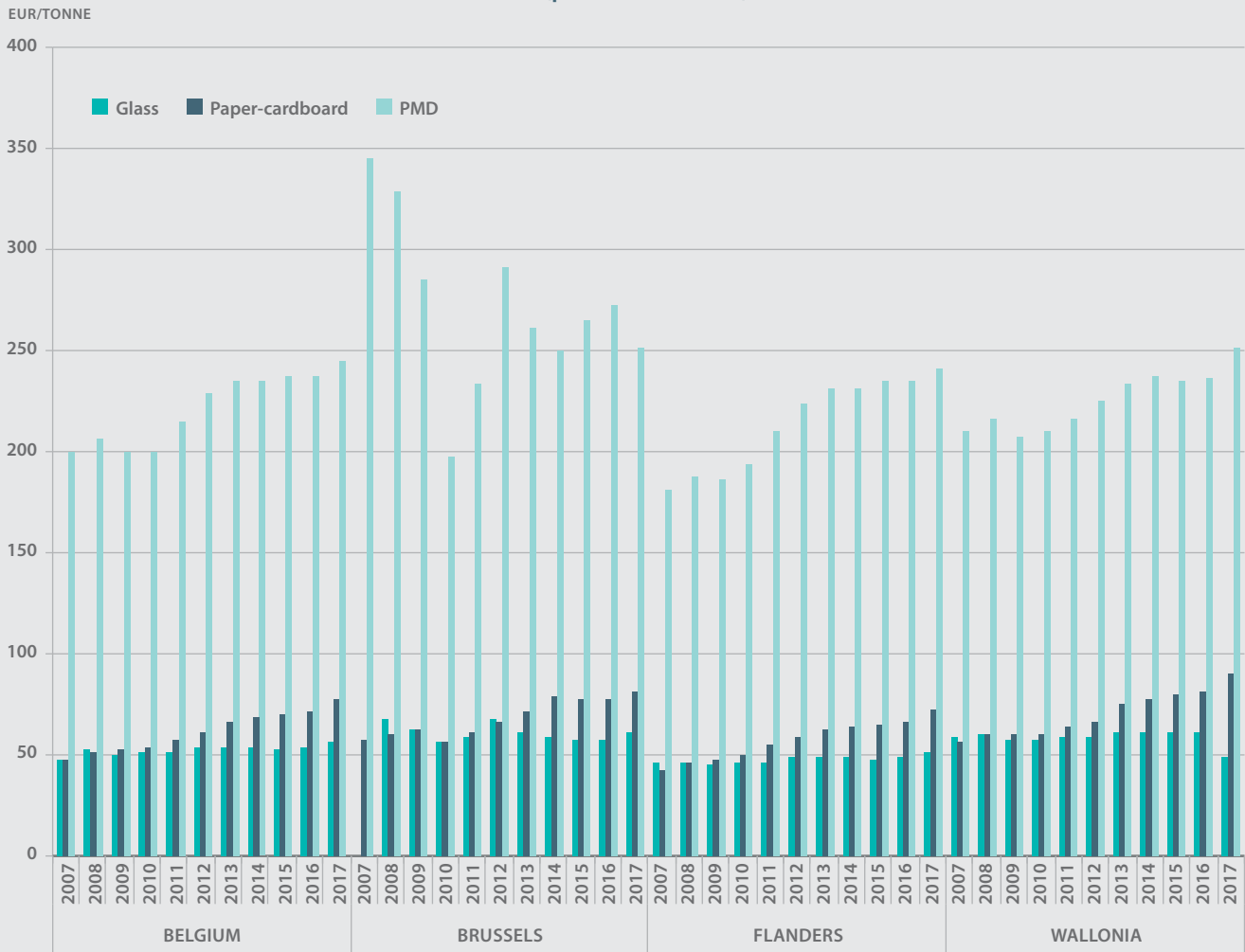
Every year the Interregional Packaging Commission examines the information submitted by the intermunicipalities in accordance with article 18, §5 of the Cooperation Agreement and compiles statistics on the basis of this information.

**Trend in the collection results per material, per Region and for Belgium as a whole, expressed in kg/inhabitant (period 2007-2017)**

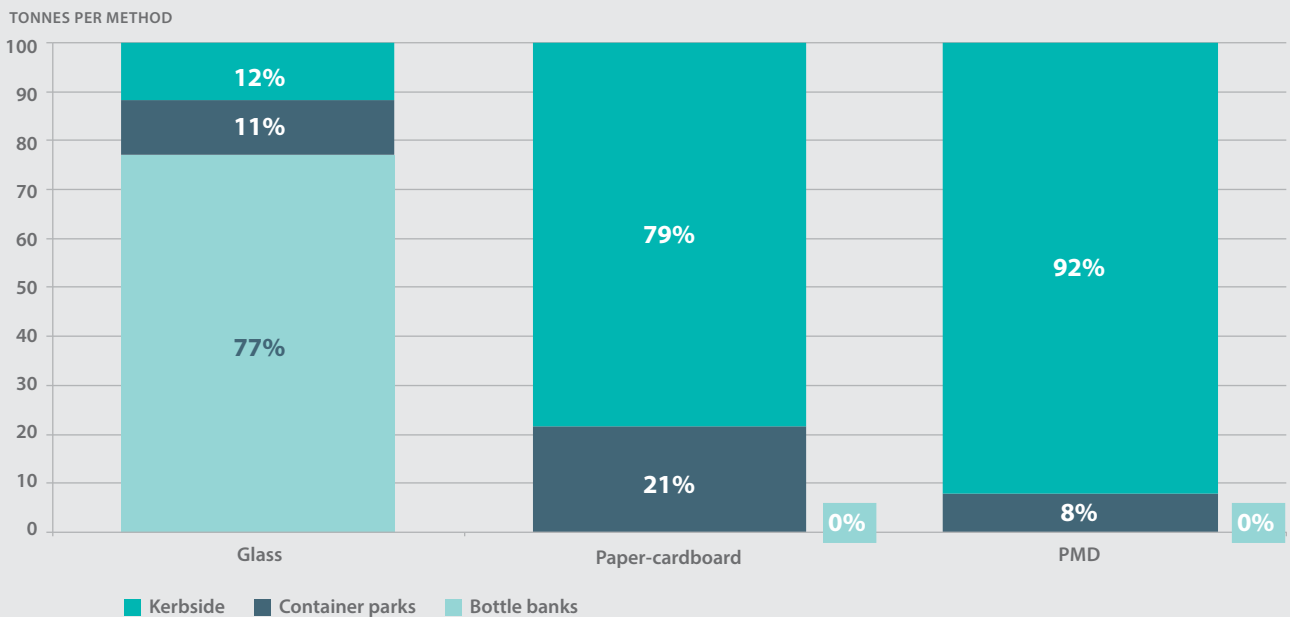




Trend in the collection cost per material, per Region and for Belgium as a whole, expressed in EUR/tonne (period 2007-2017)

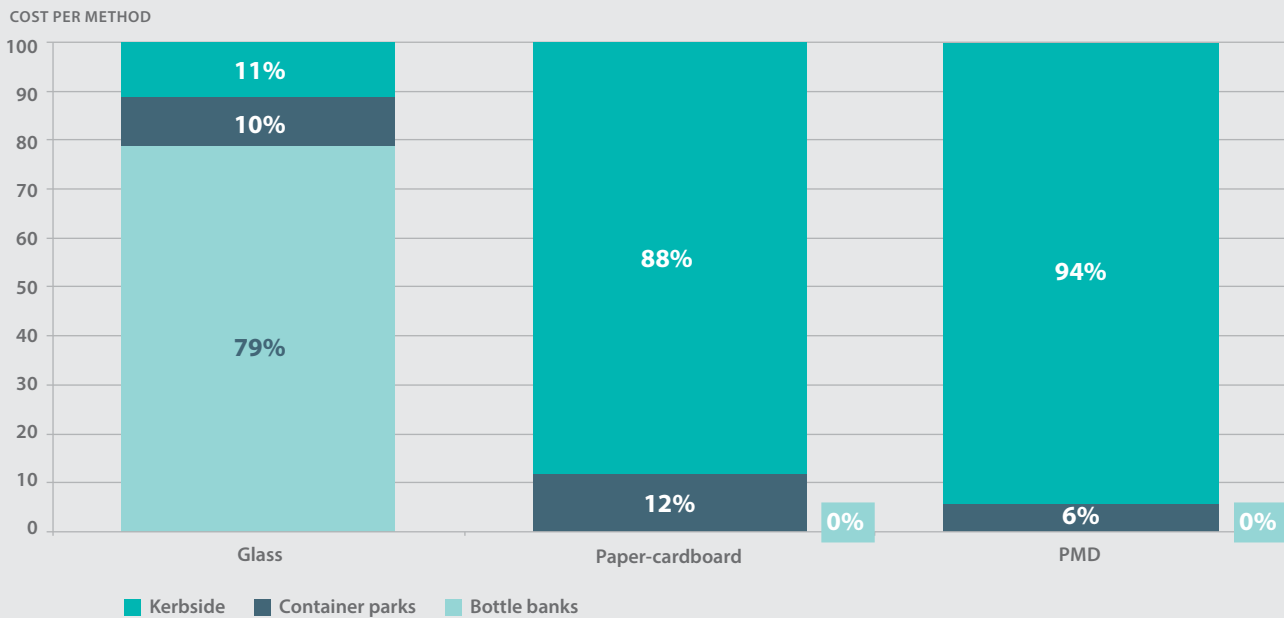


Per fraction, proportion of the result achieved by each collection method (2017)





Per fraction, proportion of the cost incurred by each collection method (2017)





## The Valipac results

The recycling and recovery targets for 2017 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 Valipac results for the year 2017.

	Placed on the market (in tonnes)	Recycling (in tonnes)	Recycling (as %)
Plastic	100,291	54,510	54.4 %
Paper/cardboard	425,408	437,743	100.0 %
Metal	36,715	33,142	90.3 %
Wood	176,815	149,379	84.5 %
Other materials	7,388	683	9.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>746,617</b>	<b>675,458</b>	<b>88.8 %</b>

Val-I-Pac achieved a recycling rate of **88.8%** for the 2017 reporting year.

## The results of individual responsible companies

A total of 124 companies stated that they fulfilled the take-back obligation themselves in the 2017 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:

	Placed on the market (in tonnes)	Recycling (in tonnes)	Recycling (as %)
Paper/cardboard	30,951.69	28,849.60	93.2%
Plastic	2,612.54	2,378.13	91.0%
Metal	1,089.19	1,053.98	96.8%
Wood	11,984.18	11,222.25	93.6%
Other materials*	619.73	514.32	83.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,257.33</b>	<b>44,018.28</b>	<b>93.1%</b>

\* including glass



## The overall results

This section contains the results reported by Belgium to the European Commission (Eurostat) for 2017. 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 Valipac 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 2017 are given in the following table:

	Recycling (as %)
Glass	100.0
Plastic	43.4
<i>Paper/cardboard (ordinary)</i>	89.2
<i>Drink cartons</i>	97.3
Total paper/cardboard	89.4
Metals	98.3
Wood	80.9
Other	3.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>81.9</b>



# 6

## 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 Valipac.

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.

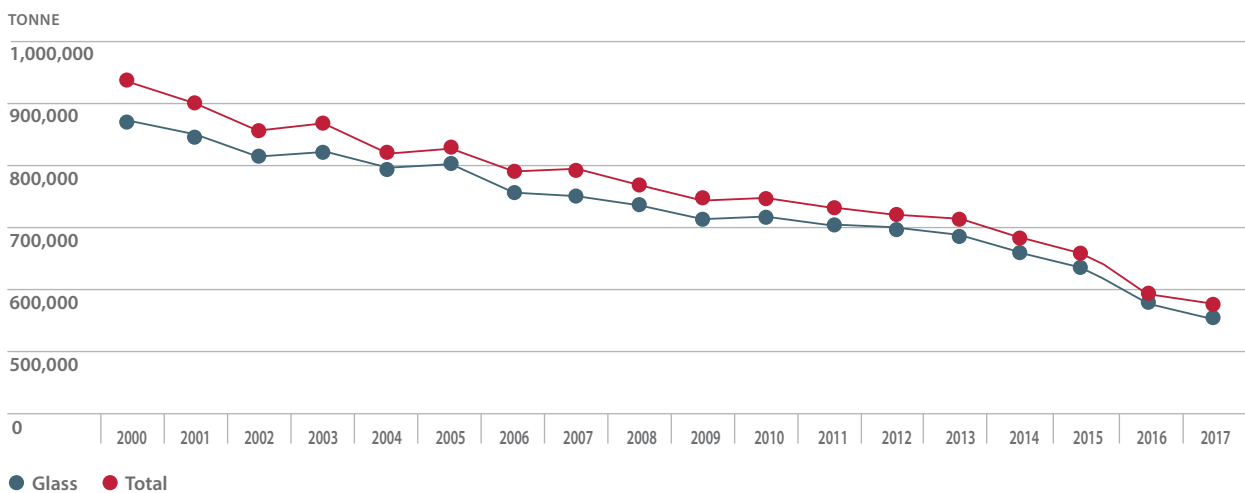
Monitoring of reusable packaging in Belgium continued for the 2017 reporting year.

### Overall trend in reusable household packaging

The graph below shows the trend in the quantities by weight of reusable household beverage packaging<sup>10</sup>, broken down by type of material, and as reported by all Fost Plus members during the period 2000-2017.

Glass	569,953
Paper/Cardboard	1,073
Metal	5,053
Plastic	6,298
Other	190
<b>Total</b>	<b>582,567</b>

Trend in reusable beverage packaging, all Fost Plus members



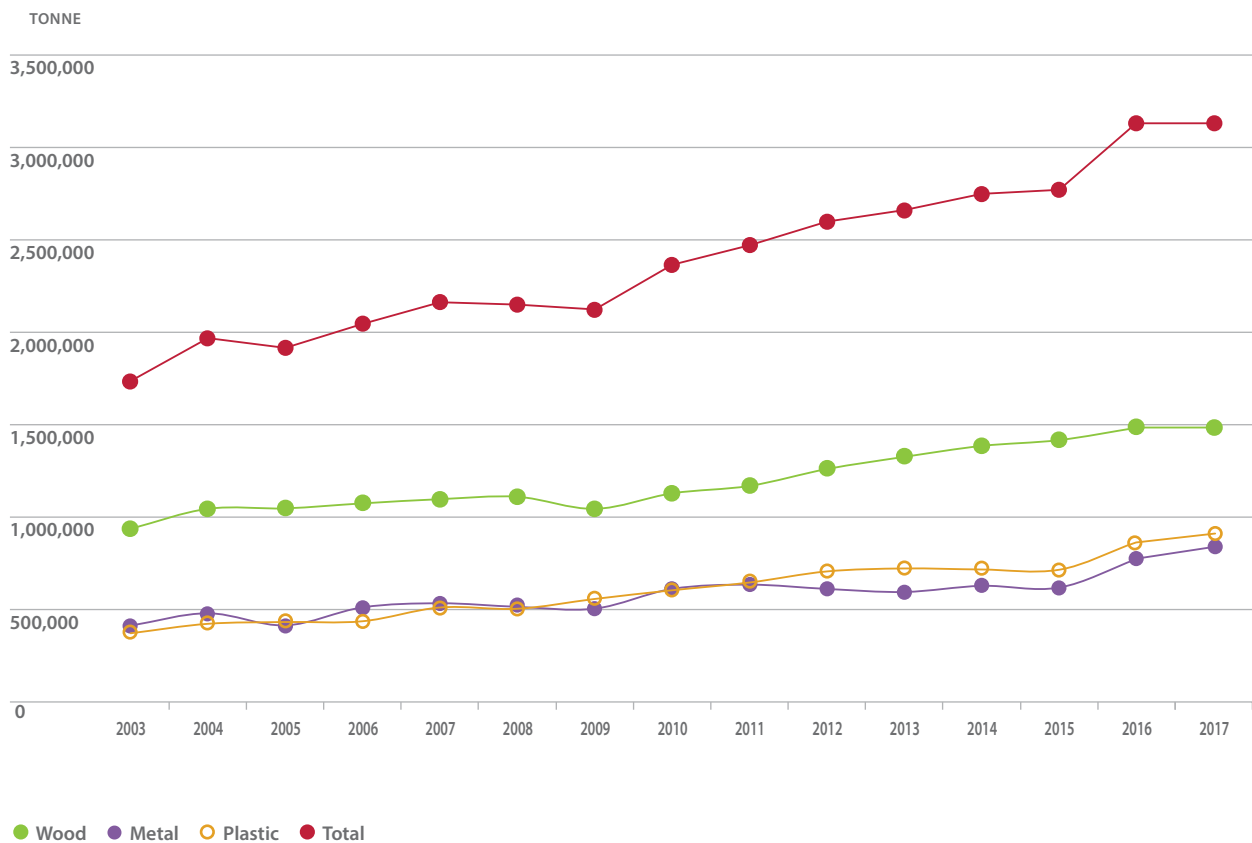
<sup>10</sup> As the bulk of reusable household packaging consists of beverage packaging, the detailed analysis of reusable packaging is limited to this group.

## 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 Valipac members during the period 2003-2017.

Material	Absolute/ tonne	%
Paper/cardboard	15,774	0.51%
Wood	1,470,723	47.22%
Plastic	856,311	27.49%
Metal	770,017	24.72%
Other	1,778	0.06%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,114,603</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Trend in reusable packaging, all Val-I-Pac members





# 7 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 is also 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 treated 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 arrived at its destination, or a cancellation of a pre-notified shipment that did not end up leaving. The IRPC then inputs and classifies this data accordingly in a database.

In 2018 the IRPC set about the essential task of developing a new database in order to comply with the provisions of the Cooperation Agreement between the Federal State, the Flemish Region, the Walloon Region and the Brussels-Capital Region relating to the coordination of the policy on cross-border shipments of waste. The provisions concerning the option of reporting shipments online, the accessibility of the data by the inspection services and the levy of an administrative fee for processing a notification are the main ones that require this new database.

Still in 2018, the IRPC began processing 719 new notifications and communicated its decision on 609 of these. It was not possible to reach a decision on 97 of the new notifications because additional information requested had not yet been received or because the authorities of the destination country had not yet provided confirmation of receipt. For the remaining three new notifications, the procedure was discontinued at the request of the notifier.





In the course of 2018, 104 decisions were also issued regarding notifications that the IRPC had started processing before 1 January 2018, bringing the total number of decisions for 2018 to 713, of which 245 concerned notifications of export shipments involving transit through a port (maritime transport).

With regard to transport notifications in 2018, there were 46,261 pre-notifications, 44,004 post-notifications and 4,170 shipment cancellations, bringing the total number registered to 94,435.

A total of 132 different routes were recorded in 2018, 53 passing through both Flanders and Wallonia (28 F/W and 25 W/F), 54 only through Flanders and 25 only through Wallonia (criterion: entry point/exit point).

Below are the routes used more than 1,000 times in 2018:

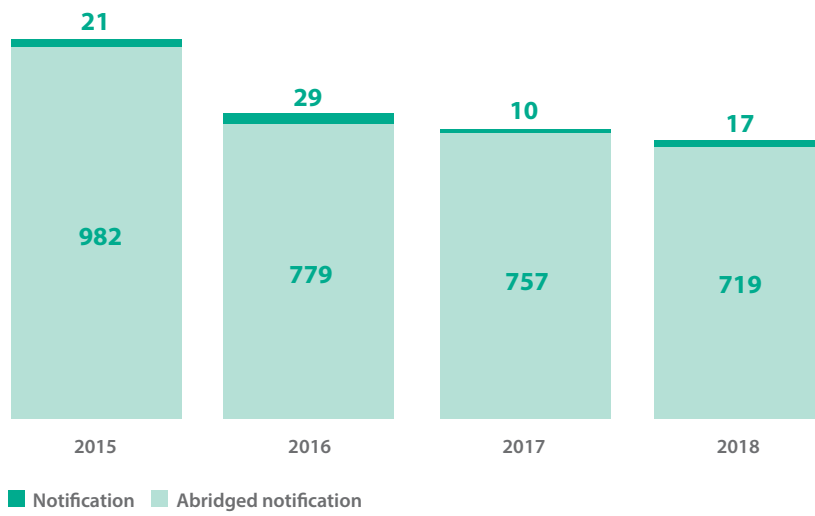
Entry into Belgium	Exit from Belgium	Number of times
ADINKERKE (E40/A18)	POSTEL (E34/A21)	12,279
ADINKERKE (E40/A18)	MEER (E19/A1)	6,012
STERPENICH (E411/A4)	HENSIES (E19/A7)	2,379
HENSIES (E19/A7)	EYNATTEN (E40/A3)	1,170
ADINKERKE (E40/A18)	BOORSEM (E314/A2)	1,050

The IRPC is not authorised to inspect actual cross-border shipments of waste through Belgium. These inspections are carried out by the regional environmental inspectorates. On occasion, however, the IRPC is contacted by an inspection service during an actual inspection of a shipment involving transit through Belgium. The IRPC is also involved if a notification has to be drawn up for the return of waste that has been shipped illegally.

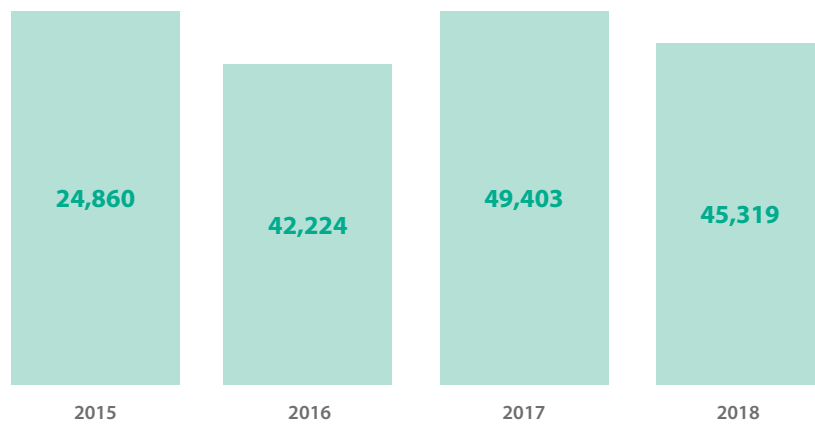
Consequently, in addition to processing normal notifications, the IRPC drew up 17 abridged notifications in 2018, which were needed to organise returns.



### Trend in number of notifications

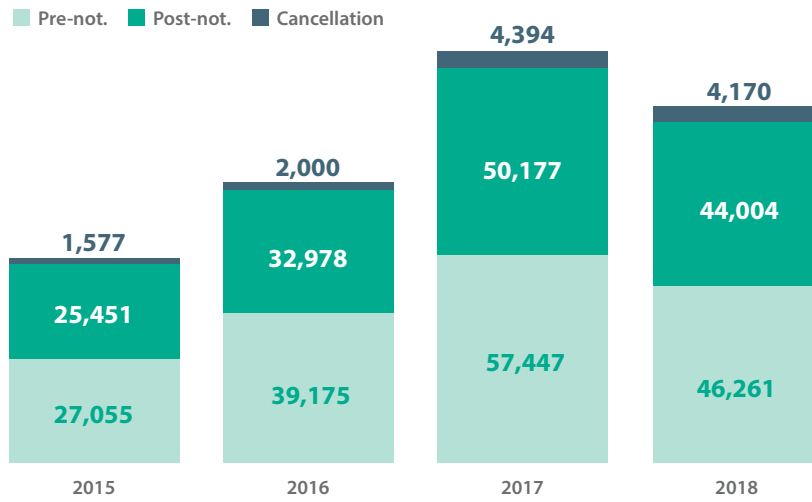


### Trend in number of transports

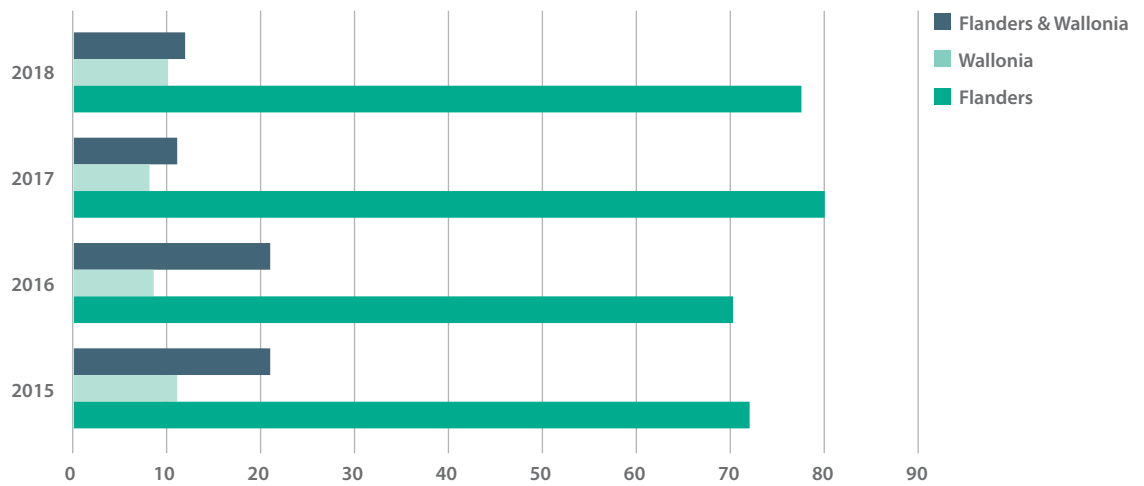




### Trend in number of shipments registered



### Trend in routes used







## **IVC**

Rue Gaucheret 92-94

1030 Brussels

T +32 (0)2 209 03 60

F +32 (0)2 209 03 98

[info@ivcie.be](mailto:info@ivcie.be)

[www.ivcie.be](http://www.ivcie.be)

DESIGN [www.comith.be](http://www.comith.be)

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