

Activity Report 2022

IVCIE

Commission interrégionale de l'Emballage
Interregionale Verpakkingscommissie



Contents

Message from the Chair and the Director _____ 4

European approval _____ 4

EPR and Litter Cooperation Agreement _____ 4

Staff and resources _____ 4

1. Operation of the Interregional Packaging Commission (IRPC) 5

1.1 The tasks of the IRPC _____ 5

1.2 The composition of the IRPC _____ 6

1.3 The 2022 budget of the IRPC _____ 7

1.4 The Extended Producer Responsibility Interregional Platform (EPRIP) _____ 7

2. Valipac _____ 8

Standard contracts for operators and traders _____ 8

Valipac cumulative bonuses for operators and traders _____ 8

Prevention and reuse action plans _____ 8

2.1 Results of mapping 2021 _____ 9

2.2 Overview of final recycling destinations _____ 9



3. Fost Plus	10
3.1 Preparation for the new accreditation	10
3.2 Sorting and recycling	10
3.2.1 Sorting plants	11
3.2.2 Recycling plants	12
3.2.3 Recycling situation in 2021	13
4. Prevention plans	15
4.1 Individual prevention plans	15
4.2 Sectoral prevention plans	15
5. Key figures	16
Calculation method of Valipac and Fost Plus figures	16
Overall results for Belgium	16
Results of Fost Plus and Valipac	16
Specifically, how has the “new” method for calculating the accredited compliance organisations’ results changed?	16
Different objectives	17
5.1 Fost Plus results for 2021	17
5.2 Valipac results for 2021	19
5.3 The results of the individual responsible companies in 2021	20
5.4 The overall results for 2021 - Belgian recycling figures	20
5.5 Collection of household packaging waste	21
5.5.1 Trend in the collection results per material, per Region and for Belgium as a whole (in kg/capita)	21
5.5.2 Trend in the collection cost per material, per Region and for Belgium as a whole (in EUR/tonne)	21
5.5.3 Per fraction, proportion of the result achieved by each collection method in 2022	21
5.5.4 Per fraction, proportion of the cost incurred by each collection method in 2022	22
5.5.5 Per material, collection of beverage packaging in 2021	22
5.6 The reference costs for 2022 and 2023	23
5.7 2022 reference values	24
5.8 Recycling trends in Belgium	24
6. Monitoring of reusable packaging	26
6.1 Overall trend in reusable household packaging	26
6.2 Overall trend in reusable industrial and commercial packaging	27
7. Waste transit	28
7.1 Trend in the number of notifications	28
7.2 Trend in the number of shipments registered	29

Message from the Chair and the Director

No sooner had Valipac's ambitious new accreditation been implemented than Fost Plus submitted its new accreditation application in mid-2023.

In anticipation of this, the Interregional Packaging Commission (IRPC) did the necessary preparatory work in 2022. A study was initiated to re-analyse the composition of the paper/cardboard stream and split the cost of collecting this stream between packaging waste and non-packaging waste. We also worked on the eco-modulation of rates, in particular the deterrent rate for packaging that hampers recycling or that cannot be recycled, and on payment for packaging in hazardous household packaging streams.

The three-yearly prevention plans were also due to be submitted in 2022. We provide an initial quantitative overview of these plans in this Activity Report.



EUROPEAN APPROVAL

In the meantime, Eurostat carried out its first, informal inspection visit to the IRPC for the purpose of ascertaining whether our figures and methodology comply with the European calculation method.

The figures for 2020 were carefully checked, as this was the first year that the new European method for calculating recycling figures had to be applied.

We do, of course, always pay a great deal of attention to verifying the figures each year, but there was a major change in methodology for 2020 and a lot of new data also had to be collected and checked. Eurostat approved the Belgian figures without comment.

EPR AND LITTER COOPERATION AGREEMENT

There were also numerous consultations in 2022 about the future EPR and Litter Cooperation Agreement and the texts are gradually taking shape. The IRPC will take on a large number of new tasks and will also be completely restructured. Two sections will be created: the "decision-making body packaging" on the one hand and the "decision-making body EPR" on the other hand. In practical terms, the current Extended Producer Responsibility Interregional Platform (EPRIP) will be incorporated into the IRPC.

With this new dual structure in mind, the meetings of the decision-making body have already been split. Further communication with stakeholders on the amended Cooperation Agreement has been initiated. The IRPC will also change its name to the "Interregional EPR Commission".

STAFF AND RESOURCES

The circumstances in which the IRPC carried out its wide range of tasks over the past year were truly challenging, to say the least. Despite the limited number of staff, an impressive amount of high-quality work was accomplished.

At our request, an external staff audit is currently under way. This will also quantify the staffing and resource requirements to carry out the additional tasks of the new EPR and Litter Cooperation Agreement.

Anneleen De Wachter, Chair

Marc Adams, Director

1. Operation of the Interregional Packaging Commission (IRPC)

1.1 The tasks of the IRPC

The tasks of the IRPC include the following:

- Monitoring whether companies (parties responsible for packaging, aka “responsible companies”) and accredited compliance organisations are fulfilling their reporting and take-back (i.e. recycling and recovery) obligations.
- Checking the way in which the responsible companies and accredited compliance organisations meet their statutory recycling and recovery targets.
- Approving or rejecting prevention plans of companies (responsible companies).
- Granting or refusing accreditation to the organisations responsible for promoting, coordinating and financing the selective collection, recycling and recovery of packaging waste.
- Assisting and advising the Regional governments, for example by creating consultative forums, providing logistical support or proposing legislative amendments.
- Conducting or commissioning studies and research into the management and prevention of packaging waste.
- Processing notifications in order to issue approval for planned shipments of waste that does not originate from Belgium and will not be treated there either. Additionally, processing individual shipment notifications relating to an approved notification.



The next few years will be challenging for the IRPC.

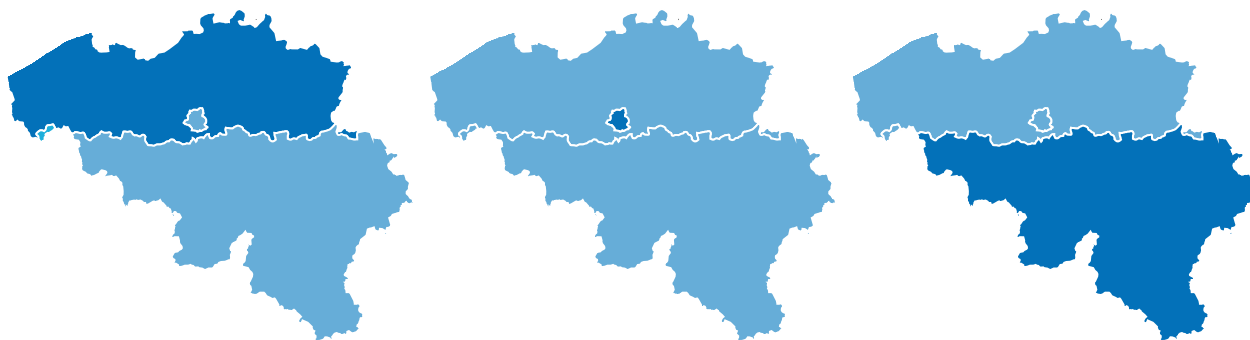
The new EPR and Litter Cooperation Agreement will fundamentally change our tasks and the way we operate. We will even change our name to the “Interregional EPR Commission”. The IRPC’s new tasks cannot be carried out with the current number of staff. Additional staff must therefore be recruited as a matter of urgency. To quantify the requirements, the IRPC initiated a staff audit in 2022.

The European Commission has drawn up a draft Packaging Regulation to replace Packaging Directive 94/62/EC. This text has a huge impact on Belgian packaging waste legislation. The chosen instrument, a Regulation, is directly applicable to European companies, leaving no room for national legislation.

The new Fost Plus accreditation will also take up a lot of our energy in 2023. Meanwhile, there is an ongoing social and political debate on the introduction of a deposit on beverage packaging. This debate will obviously have massive implications for the accreditation application.

1.2 The composition of the IRPC

The composition of the **decision-making body** in 2022:



Flemish Region

Full members

Ann De Boeck
Nick Vliegen
Anneleen De Wachter
(Chair since 05/03/2022)

Alternate members

Luc Goeteyn
Roeland Bracke
John Wante/Christof Delatter⁽¹⁾

Brussels-Capital Region

Full members

Marion Courtois
Céline Schaar
Stéphanie Uny

Alternate members

Valérie Verbrugge
Stéphanie Thomaes
Milan Jousten

Walloon Region

Full members

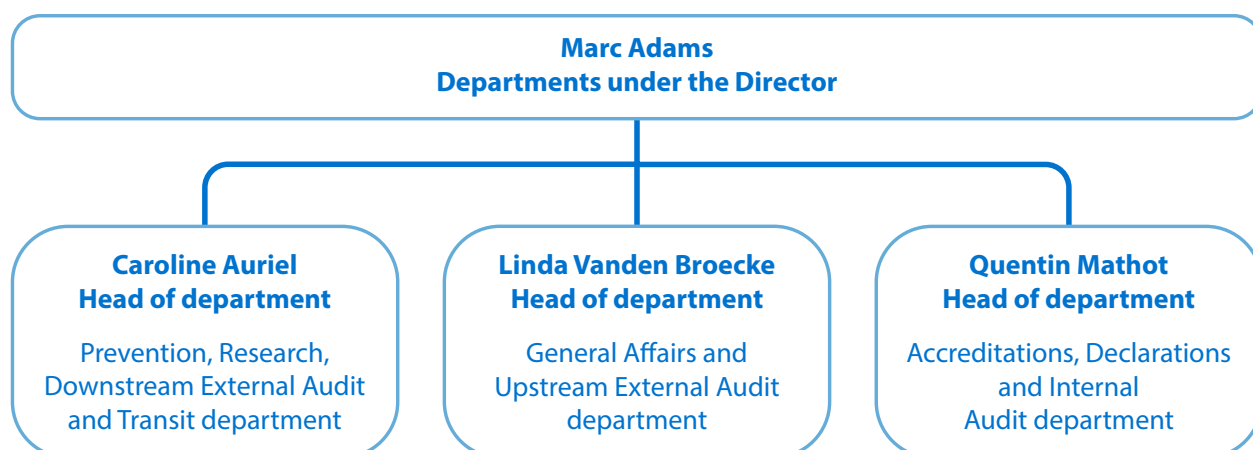
Lara Hotyat
Vincent Brahy
Martine Gillet
(Chair until 04/03/2022)

Alternate members

Guillaume Lepère
Marie-Hélène Lahaye
Jean-Yves Mercier

⁽¹⁾ Mr Wante was replaced as alternate member by Mr Delatter on 11 March 2022.

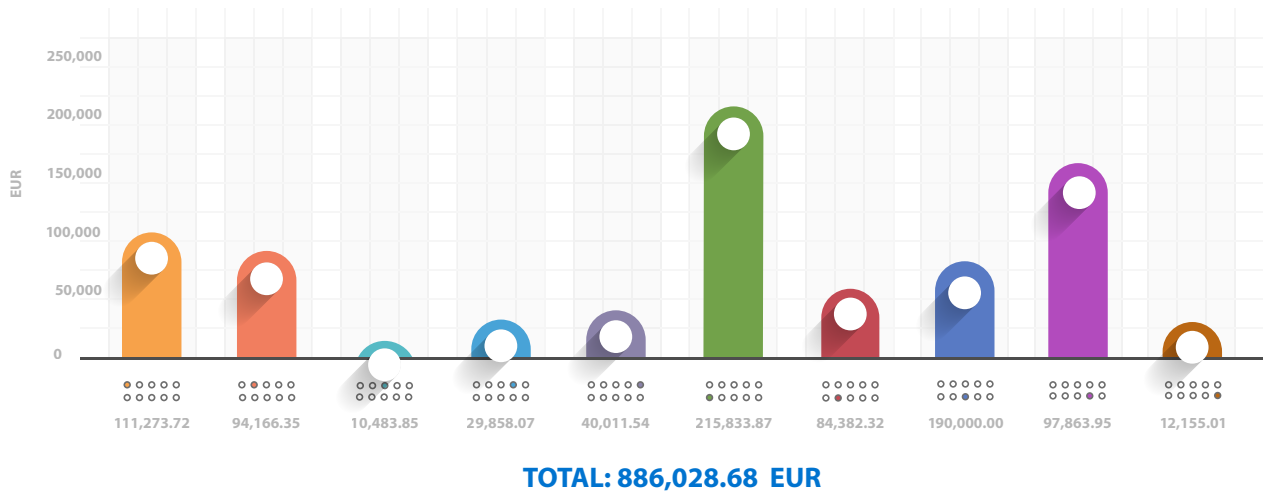
The organisational structure of the **Permanent Secretariat** in 2022:



At the end of 2022, the Permanent Secretariat had a total of 16 members of staff.

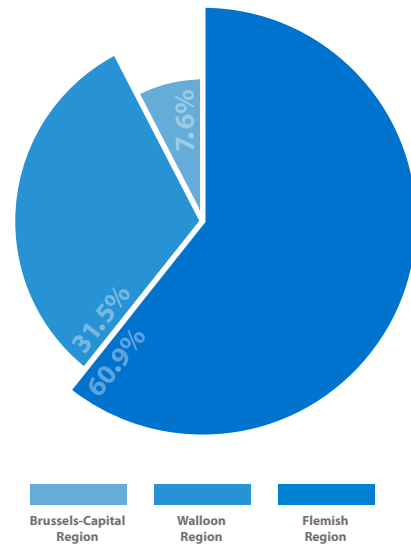
1.3 The 2022 budget of the IRPC

The actual expenditure of the IRPC in 2022:



- Cost of premises
- Office costs
- Travel and representation expenses
- Car fleet
- Other general operating costs
- Rent of buildings
- Expert support and consultancy
- Studies and research
- Awareness-raising and communications
- Investments

The IRPC budget allocation key, as set out in the Cooperation Agreement:



1.4 The Extended Producer Responsibility Interregional Platform (EPRIP)

The IRPC acts as secretariat for the Extended Producer Responsibility Interregional Platform, which was created in 2009 with the aim of developing a common understanding on extended producer responsibility (EPR).

The EPRIP is working hard on preparing a new EPR and Litter Cooperation Agreement. On the one hand, this agreement aims to create an interregional framework for dealing with streams other than packaging waste that are subject to the principle of extended producer responsibility (EPR). On the other hand, it seeks to pass on the costs of litter to those who cause these waste streams.

This new Cooperation Agreement will incorporate the EPRIP into the IRPC, creating the new "Interregional EPR Commission", emerged with two sections: the "decision-making body packaging" on the one hand and the "decision-making body EPR" on the other hand.

2. Valipac

On 2 December 2021 the IRPC granted a new five-year accreditation to Valipac, the organisation responsible for managing industrial and commercial packaging waste.

In order to achieve a circular economy, the IRPC set Valipac ambitious targets in terms of selective collection, recycling within Europe, prevention, eco-modulation, circularity, reuse of industrial and commercial packaging, and transparency of the treatment channels.

In 2022 the first steps were taken to implement the new accreditation.

STANDARD CONTRACTS FOR OPERATORS AND TRADERS

During the first six months of the accreditation period 2022-2026, Valipac set about extensively revising the contract with the operators, in line with the accreditation.

More intensive cooperation with packaging waste traders meant that a new standard contract had to be drawn up. Two standard contracts were eventually approved: one for plastic waste traders and the other for paper and cardboard traders (temporary approval).

VALIPAC CUMULATIVE BONUSES FOR OPERATORS AND TRADERS

Since 2022, operators and traders have been entitled to additional payments to achieve high-quality plastic recycling in Europe:

- a bonus for recycling within the European Union (20 EUR/tonne);
- a bonus for recycling in Belgium or its immediate vicinity (10 EUR/tonne);
- a bonus for recycling at EuCertPlast-certified recyclers (5 EUR/tonne).

These bonuses are cumulative and are granted to operators and traders who can prove that they have had industrial and commercial packaging waste of Belgian origin recycled in the EU.

The new bonus system ensures close monitoring of the treatment channels involved. Valipac thus remains a pioneer in Europe and is also keeping in touch with recycling worldwide.

PREVENTION AND REUSE ACTION PLANS

In accordance with the conditions of its accreditation, Valipac submitted an action plan that proposes pilot projects with support measures. All of the projects are being developed in collaboration with the Belgian Regions and relevant sectors.

Two projects got under way in 2022:

- selective collection and recycling of PU aerosols;
- film-to-film recycling.

A detailed communication plan will support the subsequent rollout of the pilot projects that are selected after analysis. As part of the action plan, Valipac is also carrying out benchmark analyses for and in collaboration with the main sector federations.



2.1 Results of mapping 2021

As part of the mapping exercise, Valipac reports to the IRPC on the final destinations of plastic streams.

Mapping systematically documents the recycling channel, from the collector and trader to the final recycler. The channel was fully mapped for a total of 63 kilotonnes of industrial and commercial plastic packaging waste. This waste was recycled in Europe, Asia or Turkey. The total quantity recorded rose by 6,700 tonnes to 63,176 tonnes in 2021. The increase compared with 2020 was due to Europe (+ 2,900 tonnes) and Asia (+ 4,500 tonnes), while Turkey saw a slight decline (- 830 tonnes).

	Asia	Turkey	Europe
Market share	39.9%	19.7%	40.4%
Tonnage	25,173 tonnes	12,464 tonnes	25,539 tonnes

These tonnages represent 99% of all industrial and commercial plastic packaging waste sent for recycling by operators under contract with Valipac. Valipac is therefore well on the way to achieving 100% traceability, as stipulated in the new accreditation.

On the basis of contracts with 17 plastic traders, Valipac conducted 35 audits in Turkey and Asia in 2021 and 2022. Valipac and the IRPC are working together to evaluate the results and develop the future audit strategy.

2.2 Overview of final recycling destinations

The figures below have been provided by accredited compliance organisation Valipac. Those for plastic are obtained from mapping and are therefore particularly accurate. In future, mapping will be extended to more and more materials.

	Wood	Paper/cardboard	Plastic	Metal
Belgium	90.4%	29.2%	14.7%	61.8%
EU	9.6%	63.4%	24.0%	31.5%
Non-EU	0.0%	7.4%	61.3%	6.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

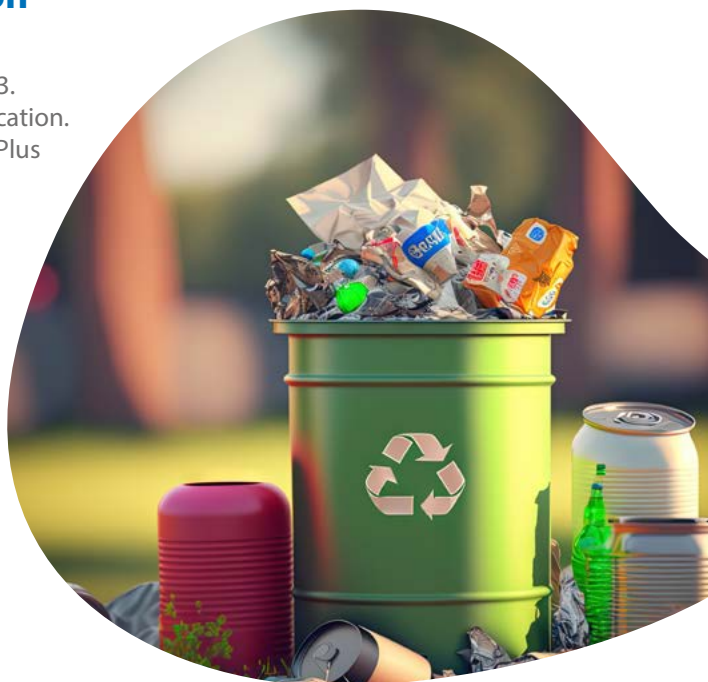
3. Fost Plus

3.1 Preparation for the new accreditation

Fost Plus submitted its new accreditation application in mid-2023. In 2022 the IRPC began setting out its expectations for this application. In this way, the IRPC hopes to engage in consultations with Fost Plus and stakeholders as soon as possible.

In preparation for the new accreditation, a new paper/cardboard study was initiated to re-analyse the composition of the paper/cardboard stream and split the cost of collecting this stream between packaging waste and non-packaging waste.

We also worked on the eco-modulation of rates, in particular the deterrent rate for packaging that hampers recycling or that cannot be recycled, and on payment for packaging in hazardous household packaging streams.



3.2 Sorting and recycling

The new, expanded blue bag has been used throughout Belgium since the end of 2021. Since 2023 this bag has been sorted into a minimum of 16 fractions in brand-new sorting plants, with the aim of ensuring recycling of the highest possible quality. The new sorting facilities came into operation in 2021 and 2022.

The fractions concerned are:

- Transparent PET bottles, colourless
- Transparent PET bottles, blue
- Transparent PET bottles, other colours
- Opaque PET (bottles)
- PET trays
- HDPE
- PP
- PS
- Mixed PO
- PE films
- Other films
- Drink cartons
- Ferrous metals
- Aluminium
- Small aluminium
- Residue

The high-quality fractions that come out of the new sorting plants must also be recycled to the highest possible standards.

Fost Plus has therefore arranged new recycling contracts for plastics to ensure that recycling is as circular as possible. At the same time, steps have been taken to maximise the amount of recycling carried out in Belgium. This will be made possible by the construction of new recycling plants, which are either already up and running or are due to start up in 2023 and 2024.

3.2.1 SORTING PLANTS

The expanded PMD stream will be sorted entirely in Belgium.
Four new sorting plants have already been built for this purpose, spread across the country.
A fifth started up early in 2023: Sitel (Engis).

Indaver

- Willebroek
- Operational since December 2020
- Annual tonnage: 60,000 tonnes

Valtris

- Couillet (Charleroi)
- Operational since June 2021
- Annual tonnage: 40,000 tonnes

Val'Up

- Ghlin (Mons)
- Operational since fourth quarter of 2021
- Annual tonnage: 50,000 tonnes

Prezero

- Evergem
- Operational since January 2021
- Annual tonnage: 78,000 tonnes

Sitel

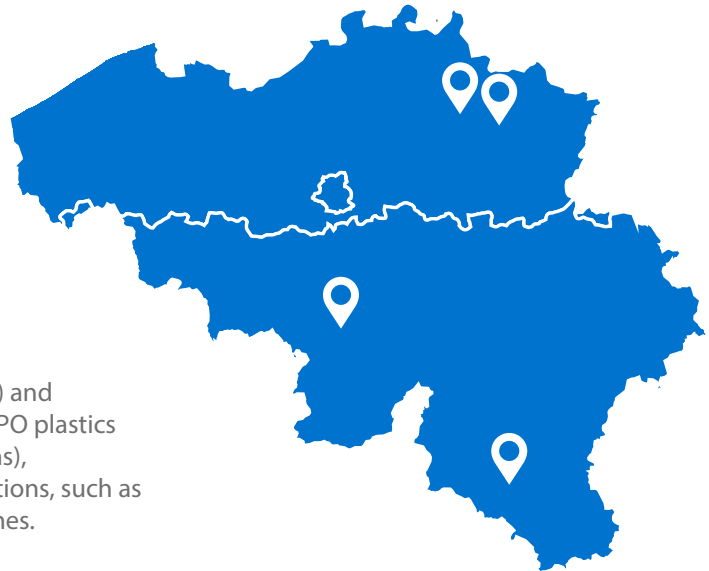
- Engis (Hermalle-sous-Huy)
- Operational since first quarter of 2023
- Annual tonnage: nearly 40,000 tonnes



Vanheede's existing sorting plant (Rumbeke) is also used to sort the new PMD fraction and specialises, among other things, in sorting PMD collected from companies and post-sorting PMD residues.

3.2.2 RECYCLING PLANTS

The various plastic streams are processed to a high standard thanks to the existence of new (or rebuilt) recycling centres in Belgium and the fact that long-term contracts have been signed. Belgium is thus focusing on recycling within its national borders to ensure optimal quality and control.



Ecoo Houthalen

Recycling of mixed plastics: MPO (mixed polyolefins) and mixed films (other than PE films). Mixed films and MPO plastics are recycled into MPO regranulate (400-2000 microns), MPO agglomerate and regrind for industrial applications, such as compost bins, sustainable garden edging and benches.

- Houthalen-Helchteren
- New line operational since January 2021
- Annual tonnage: 35,000 tonnes

Ecoo Beringen

PE film-to-film recycling. Household packaging films are turned into bin liners and packaging films or used for other film applications.

- Beringen
- Operational since May 2022
- Annual tonnage: 42,000 tonnes

Filao

Recycling of PET bottles. The transparent PET bottles, colourless and the transparent PET bottles, blue are transformed into high-quality recycled PET for food-safe applications. The recycled PET, or rPET, is then placed back on the Belgian market, for instance by being used for the bottled water of various Sources Alma brands and the brands of their retail partners.

- Couillet (Charleroi)
- Operational since 2023
- Annual tonnage: 40,000 tonnes

Mopet Belgique

Recycling of PET trays, transparent PET bottles, blue, transparent PET bottles, other colours and opaque PET bottles. The PET trays will become new PET trays, and the bottles will be turned into new bottles. Very high percentages of these products are re-entering the Belgian market.

- Neufchâteau
- Operational in 2024
- Annual tonnage: 28,000 tonnes

A new recycling plant is also being built in Lommel for PP and HDPE and will be operational by the end of 2024.

3.2.3 RECYCLING SITUATION IN 2021

Currently, Fost Plus packaging waste is already recycled only in the European Union and 82% is even recycled in Belgium.

Proportion per material as %

	Glass	Paper/cardboard	Drink cartons	Aluminium	Ferrous metals	Plastic	TOTAL
Belgium	96.0%	98.0%	0.0%	71.0%	100.0%	10.0%	82.0%
France	0.0%	0.0%	26.0%	0.0%	0.0%	23.0%	4.0%
Germany	0.0%	0.0%	43.0%	29.0%	0.0%	17.0%	4.0%
The Netherlands	4.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	41.0%	9.0%
Spain	0.0%	0.0%	31.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.0%	2.0%
Italy	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	0.2%
Switzerland	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Austria	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

In the case of plastic packaging waste, only 10% of recycling took place in Belgium in 2021 (at one recycling centre). This is because many of our new recycling plants were still under construction.

	Type of plastic	Recycling rate
The Netherlands	Transparent PET colourless, Transparent PET blue, Transparent PET green, Transparent PET other colours, HDPE, PP, PET trays, Opaque PET, PS, PE films, Plastic films (mixed)	41.0%
France	Transparent PET colourless, Transparent PET blue, Transparent PET green, Transparent PET other colours, HDPE, PP, PET trays, opaque PET	23.0%
Germany	Transparent PET green, Transparent PET other colours, HDPE, PP, PS, PE films	17.0%
Belgium	Mixed plastics, Mixed PO, Plastic films (mixed, PE, other), PP, PET trays, Opaque PET	10.0%
Spain	Plastic films (mixed, PE, other)	8.0%
Italy	Transparent PET colourless, HDPE, PP, Opaque PET, PS, Plastic films (mixed)	2.0%
Austria	HDPE, PP, PS	0.1%
Switzerland	Other colours of PET	0.1%
Total		100.0%

4. Prevention plans

In 2022 packaging prevention plans once again had to be submitted to the IRPC covering the period 2022-2025.

The packaging prevention plan is for companies that place at least 300 tonnes of one-way packaging on the Belgian market, or that package goods (or have them packaged) in Belgium for the Belgian market using a minimum of 100 tonnes of one-way packaging.

The aim of the prevention plan is to make these companies think systematically about how to prevent and reduce packaging waste. They must draw up a prevention plan every three years, either by submitting it themselves to the IRPC or by being included in a sectoral prevention plan prepared by their sector federation.

Assessment of the prevention plans was completed in 2023.



4.1 Individual prevention plans

A total of 191 individual prevention plans were submitted.

4.2 Sectoral prevention plans

Twenty sectoral prevention plans were submitted. These involve a total of 476 companies, 289 of which were among those invited by the IRPC to draw up a prevention plan for 2022-2025.

5. Key figures

CALCULATION METHOD OF VALIPAC AND FOST PLUS FIGURES

If you look at the annual results of Fost Plus and Valipac, you will notice that two calculation methods are mentioned.

There are separate columns with different figures for recycling and recovery, in tonnes and percentages, and reference is made to an “old” and a “new” calculation method.

The reason for these double figures is that the method for calculating the European recycling targets was revised as from the 2020 reporting year. These are the recycling figures that Belgium and the other EU Member States must achieve, and it is important that they are worked out in the same way throughout Europe.

OVERALL RESULTS FOR BELGIUM

The overall results for Belgium are calculated using a European calculation method, which was completely revised as of 2020. The old European method applied up to the end of 2019 and was used to calculate the figures for that year. The new European method has applied to figures reported since the beginning of 2020.

To calculate the overall Belgian figures, only the applicable European calculation method has ever been used, without any adjustment. You will find these figures in Section 5.4.

RESULTS OF FOST PLUS AND VALIPAC

As from 2020, the way in which the European recycling targets are determined therefore changed. Starting that same year, the IRPC chose to adapt the internal Belgian method used to calculate the results of the accredited compliance organisations Fost Plus and Valipac to incorporate some of the principles of the new European method for calculating the European recycling targets; in other words, the results of Fost Plus and Valipac would be calculated according to this “new” method.

What is meant by “old” and “new” calculation methods?

The old method is more or less the same as before (up to the end of 2019), but it already incorporates some adjustments to the new European method for calculating Member States’ results. The new method follows the principles of the new European calculation method as closely as possible. In the longer term, only the latter method will be used. To illustrate the historical trend in the figures, the “old” and “new” figures will still both be shown for now.

SPECIFICALLY, HOW HAS THE “NEW” METHOD FOR CALCULATING THE ACCREDITED COMPLIANCE ORGANISATIONS’ RESULTS CHANGED?

Corrections are made to tonnages (product residues, increased moisture content of paper/cardboard, etc.), in accordance with the European calculation method. These corrections are not necessary for some of Valipac’s results, as the calculation is based on “empty weights”. For metals recovered from scrap, we apply a new European formula. This is stricter than our old formula, which used to be similar to that of neighbouring countries. Moreover, we also apply the new European formula in the “old” method for calculating the accredited compliance organisations’ results. Drink cartons are divided by material, and metals are now separated into ferrous metals and aluminium.

Another point worth highlighting is that the European calculation method introduces a new measurement and calculation point, but this has relatively little impact on the Belgian figures: sorting residues were never included in the results and the sorted material streams have a high degree of purity, so they do not need to be further sorted by the recyclers.



DIFFERENT OBJECTIVES

The separate calculations (for the results of the accredited compliance organisations Fost Plus and Valipac, on the one hand, and for the overall Belgian results, on the other) will continue to co-exist, as each has different objectives.

- **The method for calculating the results of the accredited compliance organisations presents these results in the context of the take-back obligation**, and thus applies only for members of the accredited compliance organisations. The take-back obligation concerns only one-way packaging, so the results relate to only this type of packaging.
- **The calculation method for the entire Belgian market covers all packaging placed on the market in Belgium.** In other words, the sum of the companies responsible for packaging (“responsible companies”) that are Fost Plus and Valipac members and of the individual responsible companies, but also packaging placed on the Belgian market by responsible companies that are exempt from the take-back obligation (<300 kg per year), by free-riders, even if under-reported, and by private individuals (net parallel imports). In addition, this concerns not only one-way packaging, but also reusable packaging newly placed on the market.

5.1 Fost Plus results for 2021

Old calculation method

The old calculation method does not include corrections for free-riders, parallel imports (minus parallel exports), product residues, increase in moisture content (compared with materials placed on the market) or sorting losses at recyclers. The quantities delivered to recyclers are determined at the sorting plant exit. Drink cartons are considered a separate material. Metals are sorted into ferrous metals and aluminium. In accordance with the new calculation method, metals recovered from incinerator scrap are limited to the estimated quantities of metal packaging waste in the streams destined for incineration, to which the average extraction rates of the ferrous metal (0.85) and aluminium (0.80) processing plants are then applied. Where necessary, all figures are capped at 100%.

	Quantity in tonnes	Recycling in tonnes	Recycling as %	Other recovery in tonnes	Total recovery in tonnes	Total recovery as %
Paper/cardboard (excluding drink cartons portion)	204,741	195,691	95.6 %	1,319	197,010	96.2 %
Paper/cardboard (including drink cartons portion)	216,724	209,384	96.6%	1,912	211,296	97.5 %
Glass	304,312	304,312 [356,127]	100.0% [117.0%]	0	304,312 [356,127]	100.0% [117.0%]
Plastic (excluding drink cartons portion)	207,061	126,235	61.0%	25,827	152,062	73.4%
Plastic (including drink cartons portion)	211,055	130,799	62.0%	26,025	156,823	74.3%
Metals ferrous metals	38,799	38,799 [40,626]	100.0% [104.7%]	396	38,799 [41,022,0]	100.0% [105.7%]
Metals aluminium	32,007	30,232	94.4%	615	30,847	96.4%
Drink cartons	15,977	15,977 [18,257]	100.0% [114.3%]	791	15,977 [19,048]	100.0% [119.2%]
Other	3,144	112	3.6%	0	112	3.6%
TOTAL tonnages actually recycled without capping	806,042	767,280	95.2%	28,948	796,228	98.8%

New calculation method

The new calculation method relates to the results obtained by the accredited compliance organisation under the take-back obligation set out in the Cooperation Agreement and does not include corrections for free-riders or parallel imports (minus parallel exports).

These corrections will be made when calculating the Belgian figures to be reported to Eurostat. The new calculation method does include corrections for product residues, increase in moisture content (compared with materials placed on the market) and sorting losses at recyclers. The quantities recycled by recyclers are calculated at the start of the recycling process. Drink cartons are still considered a separate material but – for Eurostat reporting purposes – will be added to the paper/cardboard streams as regards the paper/cardboard portion, and to the plastic stream as regards the plastic/aluminium portion. Only recycled quantities are included in the recycling figures.

Metals are sorted into ferrous metals and aluminium. In accordance with the new calculation method, metals recovered from incinerator scrap are limited to the estimated quantities of metal packaging waste in the streams destined for incineration, and to which the average extraction rates of the ferrous metal (0.85) and aluminium (0.80) processing plants are then applied. Where necessary, all figures are capped at 100%.

	Quantity in tonnes	Recycling in tonnes	Recycling as %	Other recovery in tonnes	Total recovery in tonnes	Total recovery as %
Paper/cardboard (excluding drink cartons portion)	204,741	190,837	93.2%	1,319	192,156	93.9%
Paper/cardboard (including drink cartons portion)	216,724	201,503	93.0%	1,912	203,415	93.9%
Glass	304,312	304,312 <i>[348,790]</i>	100.0% <i>[114.6%]</i>	0	304,312 <i>[348,790]</i>	100.0% <i>[114.6%]</i>
Plastic (excluding drink cartons portion)	207,061	108,397	52.4%	25,827	134,224	64.8%
Plastic (including drink cartons portion)	211,055	109,029	51.7%	27,833	136,861	64.9%
Metals ferrous metals	38,799	38,799 <i>[40,618]</i>	100.0% <i>[104.7%]</i>	396	38,799 <i>[41,014]</i>	100.0% <i>[105.7%]</i>
Metals aluminium	32,007	30,014	93.8%	615	30,630	95.7%
Drink cartons	15,977	11,298	70.7%	2,599	13,897	87.0%
Other	3,144	90	2.9%	0	90	2.9%
TOTAL tonnages actually recycled without capping	806,042	730,045	90.6%	30,756	760,801	94.4%

Fields shaded in grey are for information only.

Uncapped figures are in italics and square brackets.

The targets are 80% for recycling, and 90% for total recovery.

5.2 Valipac results for 2021

Old calculation method

The old calculation method does not include corrections for free-riders, but it does make partial corrections for product residues, increase in moisture content (compared with materials placed on the market) and sorting losses at recyclers. The quantities recycled by recyclers are calculated at the start of the recycling process, based on the various reports by and checks on waste collection services, sorting plants, traders and recyclers. In accordance with the new calculation method, ferrous metals recovered from incinerator scrap are limited to the estimated quantities of metal packaging waste in the streams destined for incineration, and to which the average extraction rate of the ferrous metal processing plants (0.85) is then applied. Where necessary, all figures are capped at 100%.

	Quantity in tonnes	Recycling in tonnes	Recycling as %	Other recovery in tonnes	Total recovery in tonnes	Total recovery as %
Paper/ cardboard	451,065	451,065 <i>[483,209]</i>	100.0 <i>[107.1]</i>	30,905	451,065 <i>[514,114]</i>	100.0 <i>[114.0]</i>
Plastic	101,987	63,451	62.2	41,633	101,987 <i>[105,084]</i>	100.0 <i>[103.0]</i>
Ferrous metals	37,572	34,001 <small>(IRPC estimate)</small>	90.5	0	34,001 <small>(IRPC estimate)</small>	90.5
Wood	187,723	173,170	92.2	60,180	187,723 <i>[233,350]</i>	100.0 <i>[124.3]</i>
Other	6,302	271	4.3	117	388	6.2
TOTAL	784,649	721,958 <i>[754,102]</i>	92.0 <i>[96.1]</i>	132,835	775,164 <i>[886,937]</i>	98.8 <i>[113.0]</i>

New calculation method

The new calculation method relates to the results obtained by the accredited compliance organisation under the take-back obligation set out in the Cooperation Agreement and does not include corrections for free-riders. These corrections will be made when calculating the Belgian figures to be reported to Eurostat. The new calculation method does include full corrections for product residues, increase in moisture content (compared with materials placed on the market) and sorting losses at recyclers. The quantities recycled by recyclers are calculated at the start of the recycling process, based on the various reports by and checks on waste collection services, sorting plants, traders and recyclers. In accordance with the new calculation method, ferrous metals recovered from incinerator scrap are limited to the estimated quantities of metal packaging waste in the streams destined for incineration, and to which the average extraction rate of the ferrous metal processing plants (0.85) is then applied. Where necessary, all figures are capped at 100%.

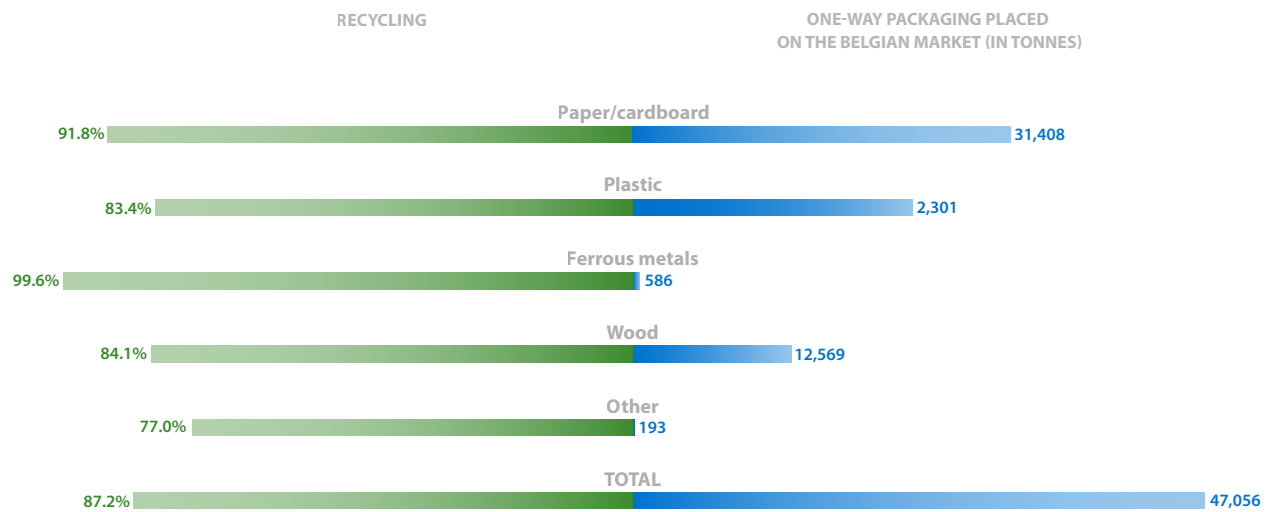
	Quantity in tonnes	Recycling in tonnes	Recycling as %	Other recovery in tonnes	Total recovery in tonnes	Total recovery as %
Paper/ cardboard	451,065	451,065 <i>[468,954]</i>	100.0 <i>[104.0]</i>	30,905	451,065 <i>[499,859]</i>	100.0 <i>[110.8]</i>
Plastic	101,987	62,948	61.7	41,633	101,987 <i>[104,581]</i>	100.0 <i>[102.5]</i>
Ferrous metals	37,572	34,001 <small>(IRPC estimate)</small>	90.5	0	34,001 <small>(IRPC estimate)</small>	90.5
Wood	187,723	169,910	90.5	60,180	187,723 <i>[230,090]</i>	100.0 <i>[122.6]</i>
Other	6,302	271	4.3	117	388	6.2
TOTAL	784,649	718,195 <i>[736,084]</i>	91.5 <i>[93.8]</i>	132,835	775,164 <i>[868,919]</i>	98.8 <i>[110.7]</i>

Uncapped figures are in italics and square brackets.

The targets are 80% for recycling, and 85% for total recovery.

5.3 The results of the individual responsible companies in 2021

A total of 81 companies stated that they had fulfilled the take-back obligation themselves in the 2021 reporting year.



The figures in this table have been adjusted in line with the principles of the new European calculation method.

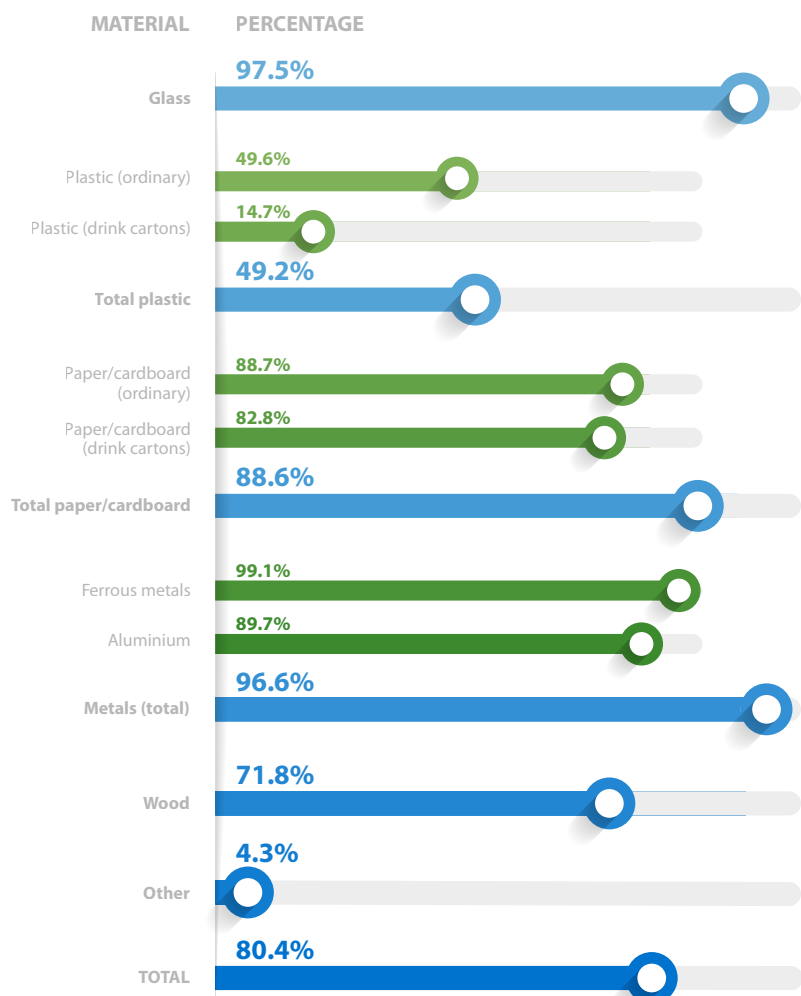
5.4 The overall results for 2021 - Belgian recycling figures

Due to the specific calculation method used for the European figures, the overall Belgian results cannot be compared with those of the accredited compliance organisations and the individual responsible companies.

The figures that Belgium has to report to Eurostat (the European Commission) are not merely the sum of the one-way packaging placed on the market and recycled by the accredited compliance organisations and the individual responsible companies; they also take into account free-riders, parallel imports (imports by private individuals), etc.

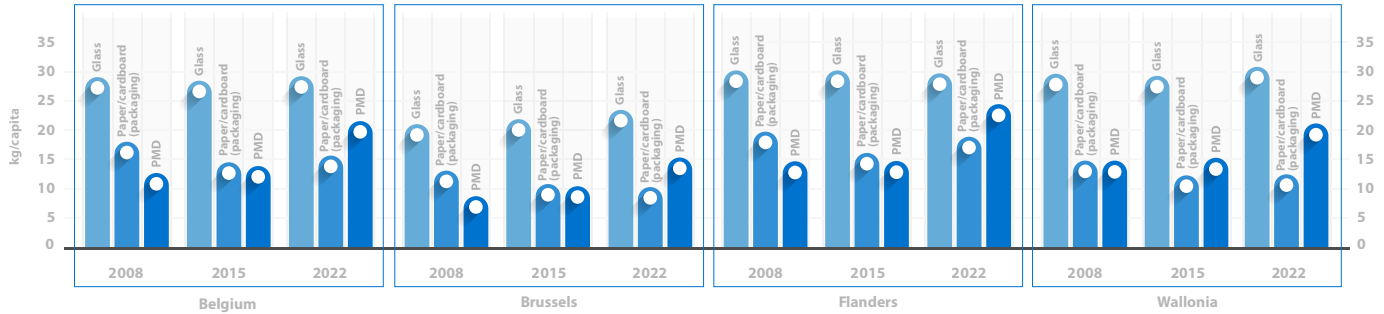
In addition, reusable packaging placed on the market for the first time or taken out of circulation is also included.

We applied the new European calculation method in its entirety.

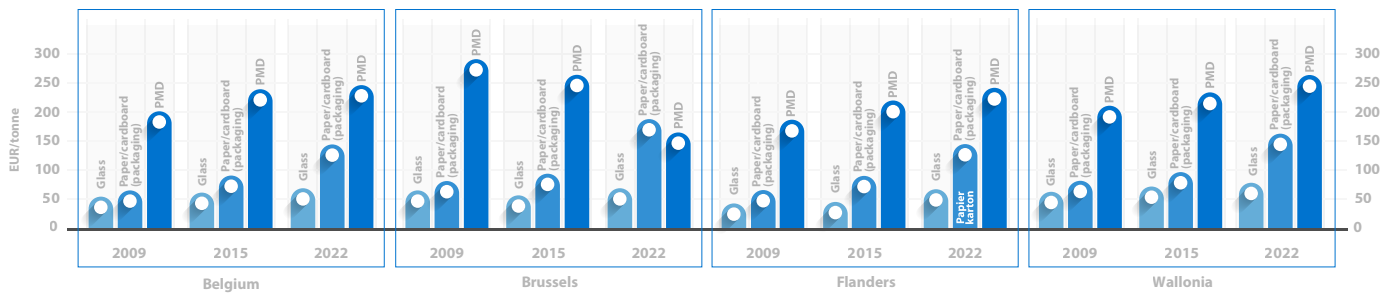


5.5 Collection of household packaging waste

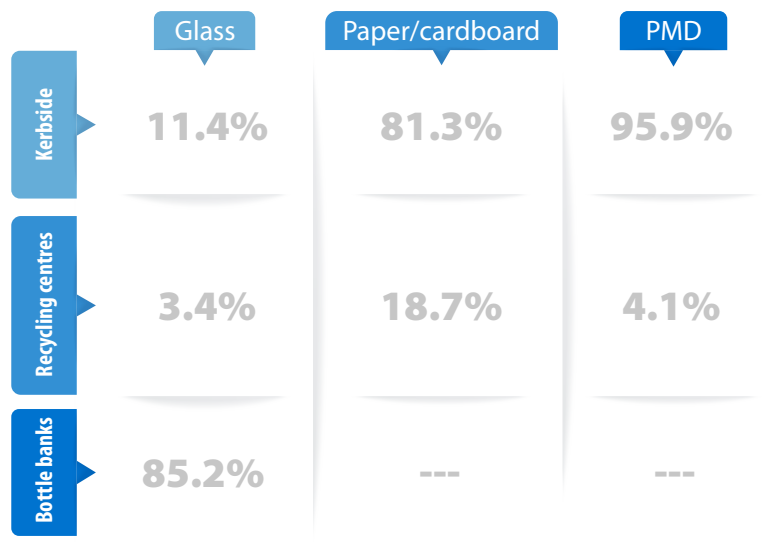
5.5.1 TREND IN THE COLLECTION RESULTS PER MATERIAL, PER REGION AND FOR BELGIUM AS A WHOLE (IN KG/CAPITA)



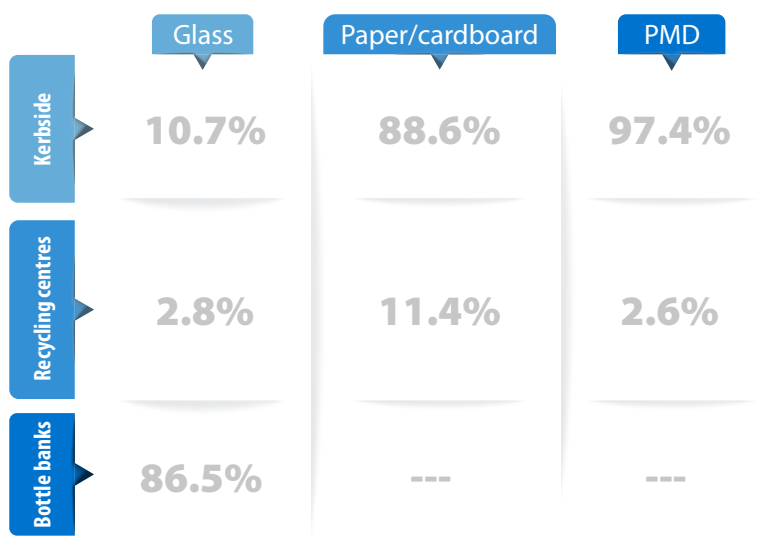
5.5.2 TREND IN THE COLLECTION COST PER MATERIAL, PER REGION AND FOR BELGIUM AS A WHOLE (IN EUR/TONNE)



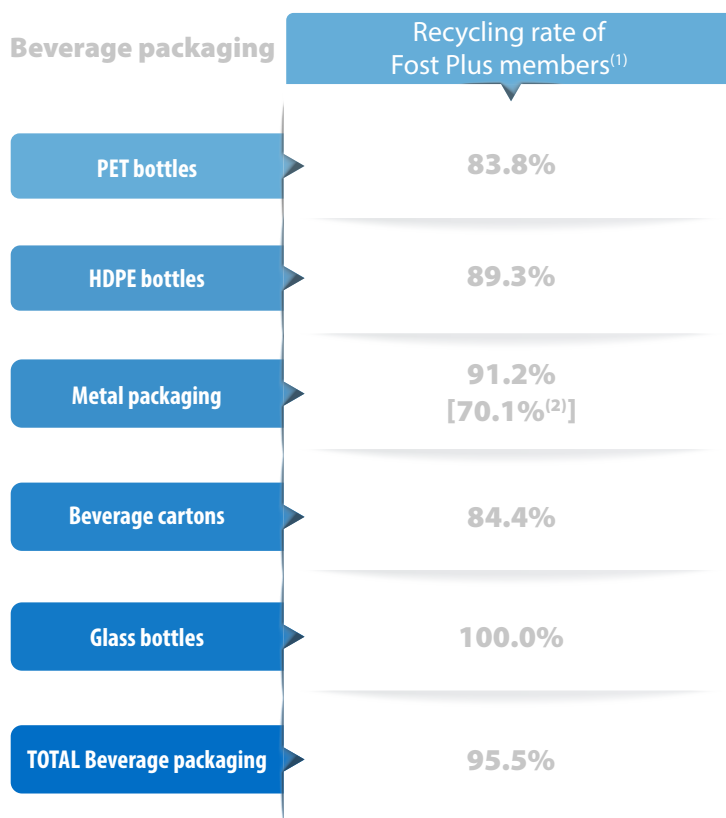
5.5.3 PER FRACTION, PROPORTION OF THE RESULT ACHIEVED BY EACH COLLECTION METHOD IN 2022



5.5.4 PER FRACTION, PROPORTION OF THE COST INCURRED BY EACH COLLECTION METHOD IN 2022



5.5.5 PER MATERIAL, COLLECTION OF BEVERAGE PACKAGING IN 2021



(1) Capped at the total quantity placed on the market by members.

(2) Rate does not take into account metal packaging originating from scrap from waste treatment facilities.

5.6 The reference costs for 2022 and 2023

The IRPC determined the reference costs for 2022 as follows:

	Glass	Paper/cardboard	PMD collection (old)	PMD collection (new)	PMD sorting (old)	PMD sorting (new)
Bottle banks/Kerbside	58.86	96.18	266.83	216.26	---	---
Recycling centres	43.00	52.71	246.19	146.64	---	---
Total	57.49	86.40	266.51	213.20	181.93	269.52

EUR/tonne

The IRPC determined the reference costs for 2023 as follows:

	Glass	Paper/cardboard	PMD collection	PMD sorting
Bottle banks/Kerbside	62.54	106.97	239.25	---
Recycling centres	44.54	59.12	157.40	---
Total	61.36	96.70	235.60	280.66

EUR/tonne

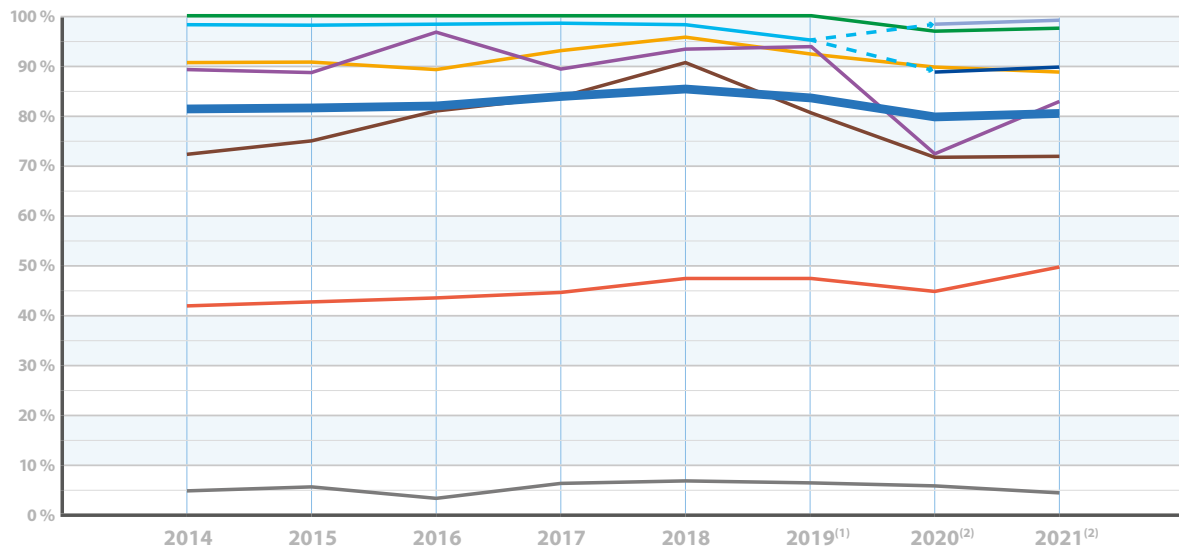
For a detailed overview of these reference costs and further information about how they are calculated, please refer to the data sheet at www.ivcie.be.

5.7 2022 reference values

(provisional figures, as reported by Fost Plus)

Material (selectively collected and sorted)	Average price (EUR/tonne)
Paper/cardboard	170.95
Glass	22.06
Ferrous metals	232.14
Aluminium	1,277.76
Drink cartons	-36.89
HDPE	362.70
PET blue	734.71
PET colourless	846.06
PET other colours	386.54
PET trays	-193.98
Opaque PET	103.74
PP	377.88
PS	-144.18
PE films	-186.57
Other films	-425.14
Mixed PO	-432.41
TOTAL 158.15	

5.8 Recycling trends in Belgium



Total quantity recycled in tonnes

1,416,803 1,427,814 1,458,417 1,491,975 1,534,745 1,541,551 1,528,789 1,582,328

Glass
Metals⁽³⁾

Ferrous metals⁽³⁾
Aluminium⁽³⁾

Paper/cardboard
Drink cartons⁽⁴⁾

Wood
Plastic

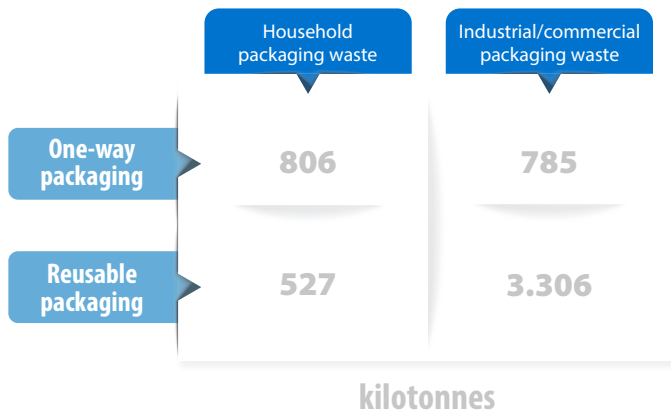
Other
Total

- (1) *In Section 5.4 of our 2020 Activity Report, the “total recycling” figure for 2019 was miscalculated. The correct rate is shown in this graph*
- (2) *Recycling figures for the 2020 reporting year have fallen as a result of the new European calculation method for recycling and an improved estimation of the Belgian market as a whole. Consequently, the rates from 2020 onwards are only marginally comparable with those for previous years. The drop in plastic recycling rates is partly offset by the introduction of the new blue bag (all plastic packaging instead of just bottles) for household plastic packaging and by improved monitoring of recycling outside the EU in the case of industrial and commercial plastic packaging.*
- (3) *Since the 2020 reporting year, the metal stream has been separated into a ferrous metal fraction and an aluminium fraction.*
- (4) *Since the 2020 reporting year, in the figures reported to the EU, drink cartons have been split into two fractions, for which recycling must be demonstrated separately: paper/cardboard (added to total paper/cardboard) and PolyAl (added to total plastic). In this graph, however, paper/cardboard and plastic streams are shown excluding drink cartons to enable comparison with historical figures, and – as in previous years – drink cartons are reported as a separate material. For 2020, there is a sharp decrease because the PolyAl fraction was not recycled in 2020. The rate picks up again in 2021 because part of the PolyAl fraction was recycled that year.*

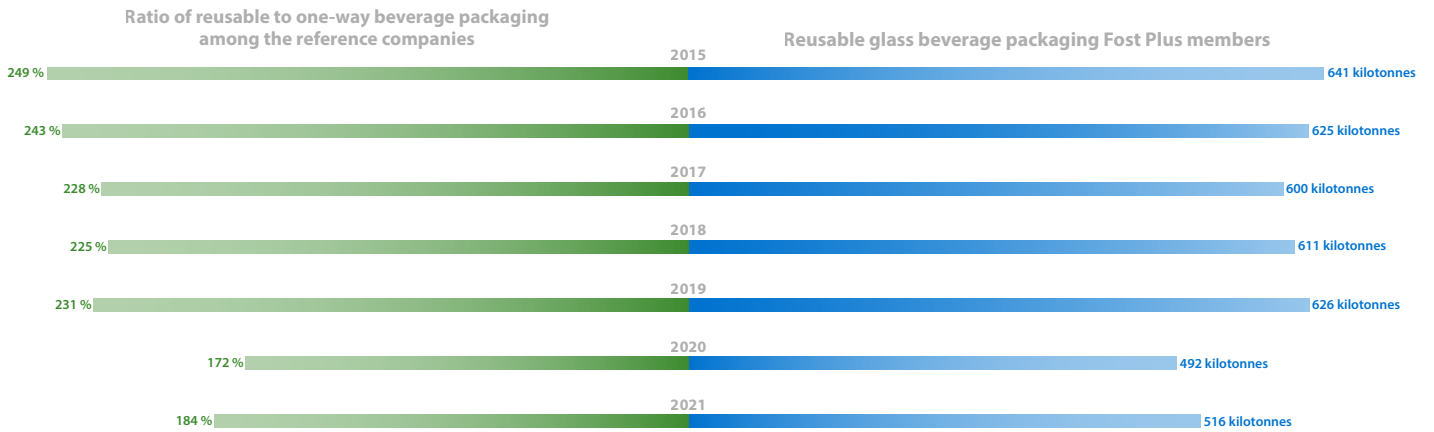


6. Monitoring of reusable packaging

There is a great deal of reusable packaging on the market. This is mainly reusable industrial and commercial packaging that has great growth potential for the future.



6.1 Overall trend in reusable household packaging



6.2

Overall trend in **reusable industrial and commercial packaging**

	Wood (in kilotonnes)	Plastic (in kilotonnes)	Ferrous metals (in kilotonnes)	Ratio of reusable to one-way packaging among Valipac members (as %)
2015	1,417	715	620	389%
2016	1,484	852	776	431%
2017	1,471	856	770	417%
2018	1,460	871	715	410%
2019	1,436	931	718	414%
2020	1,491	963	768	436%
2021	1,501	991	795	421%

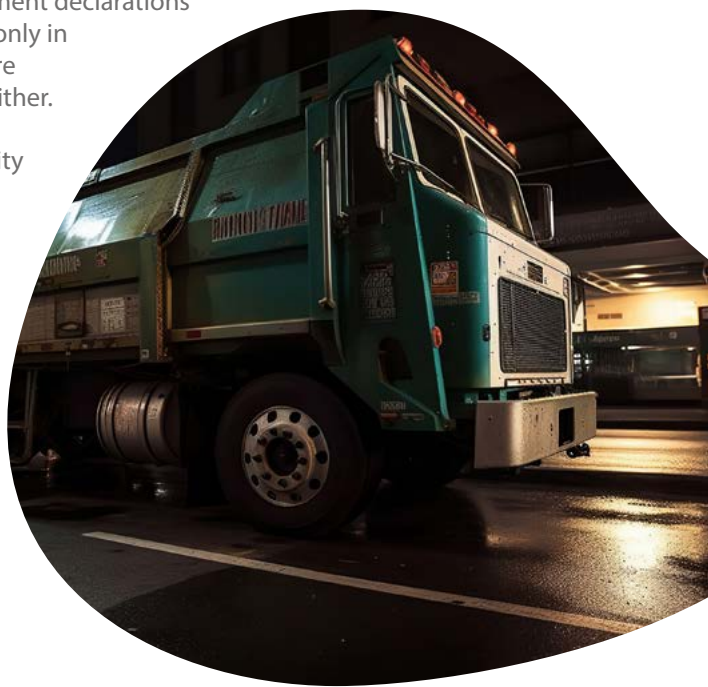
7. Waste transit

The IRPC assesses and processes notifications and registers shipment declarations of waste that is subject to the notification procedure and that is only in transit through Belgium. The waste in question does not therefore originate from Belgium, and Belgium is not its final destination either.

A notifier submits a notification when he wishes to have a quantity of identified waste shipped during a given period of time in the future:

- spread over one or more separate shipments;
- via the same shipment routes each time;
- from the same point of departure, to the same destination and with the same type of content.

As the Belgian competent transit authority, the IRPC must first receive the notification, process it and approve it before the shipments may proceed.



7.1 Trend in the number of notifications

	Abridged notifications	Normal notifications
2017	10	757
2018	17	719
2019	18	758
2020	19	755
2021	14	715
2022	22	775

The notifier must also declare in advance each individual shipment relating to the notification. These are known as pre-notifications.

When the completed movement document is sent, the authorities concerned, including the IRPC as the competent authority for waste transit, receive certain information, such as:

- which notification the shipment comes under;
- when the shipment will take place.

The notifier provides a copy to the IRPC, indicating the planned date of departure. The carrier is given the actual movement document pertaining to the shipment and is required to have this document, duly completed, to hand throughout the shipment.

7.2 Trend in the number of shipments registered

	No. of pre-notifications	No. of post-notifications	No. of cancellations	TOTAL
2017	57,447	50,177	4,394	112,018
2018	46,261	44,004	4,170	94,435
2019	46,246	39,009	3,603	88,858
2020	36,897	35,705	4,008	76,610
2021	38,002	32,630	3,440	74,072
2022	40,624	40,180	2,444	83,248

About this report

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