IVCIE

Commission interrégionale de l'Emballage
Interregionale Verpakkingscommissie

ACTIVITY REPORT 2014

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Message from the Chairman and Director

Francis Radermaker, Chairman

Marc Adams, Acting Director

Packaging and packaging waste are high on the European agenda. At the end of 2014 an agreement was reached between the European Commission and the Member States represented in the Council on a new amendment to the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive 94/62/EC. The aim of this amendment is to reduce the use of lightweight plastic carrier bags as much as possible. Specifically, the Member States must either take steps to ensure that the number of such bags used per person is cut to 90 a year by 2020, and to just 40 by 2026, or ban the practice of providing them free of charge at the point of sale.

Higher recycling targets in the Waste and Packaging directives were also on the European programme, but discussions on this issue have been suspended. It seems that Europe wants more ambitious recycling targets for plastics in particular.

This is completely in line with our own wishes. In the latest Fost Plus accreditation, which came into force on 1 January 2014, it is clearly stated that the collection of household plastics must be significantly expanded by the end of 2018. Only collecting plastic bottles will eventually no longer be sufficient. The only question that remains is how we are going to achieve this expansion. We have not yet identified the best method of collecting more types of plastic. We are currently working with Fost Plus and the Belgian regions to set up pilot projects. If we do not change the sorting message for the blue bag, we could perhaps supplement the collection of the PMD fraction (i.e. plastic bottles, metal packaging and drink cartons) with an additional collection of residual plastics (plastics other than plastic bottles), either in separate bags or at container parks. One thing is clear to us: plastics collection throughout the country must cover a broader range of types of plastic by the end of 2018.

Both the Flemish and Walloon regions are currently engaged in a fundamental debate on the problem of litter, and are considering the introduction of a deposit on some drink packaging to combat it. The Flemish Region is conducting a study to investigate this approach, and both the IRPC and the other two regions are keeping a close eye on its progress. If a deposit scheme is introduced, this will of course have major consequences for the blue bag.

Monitoring the implementation of the Fost Plus accreditation meant a great deal of work for the IRPC in 2014. In particular, considerable time was devoted to the approval of the new standard contract with the intermunicipalities and the various consultations needed as part of this process.

Another feature of the Permanent Secretariat's heavy workload was the IRPC's computerisation project, which has already been running for several years. The new electronic form for parties responsible for packaging (referred to in this report as "responsible companies") that fulfil their take-back obligation themselves was launched in 2014. This form should enable the IRPC to assess the way in which these companies meet their take-back obligation much more quickly and efficiently. The system did experience some teething problems in its first year, but these are now fully resolved.

An electronic form was also used for submitting both individual and sectoral packaging prevention plans for 2013 to 2016. The deadline for submission was the end of September 2013. The IRPC did not complete its assessment of the prevention plans until late 2014. One positive point to emerge was the high average quality of both the individual and the sectoral prevention plans. A negative point was the large number of companies that did not submit a prevention plan despite receiving several reminders. They will incur a fine for this omission. The IRPC would like to thank those companies and federations that submitted their prevention plans for their support.

On 19 March 2014 the Interministerial Conference on the Environment decided to transfer to the IRPC some of the powers relating to the transit of waste, which had previously been exercised by the Federal Government and which had been passed to the regions as a result of the most recent constitutional reform. This decision came as a surprise to the IRPC, but is quite understandable. Europe needs a single national "transit authority" to deal with, and the IRPC is the only well-established body in the waste sector that has legal personality and operates in all three Belgian regions.

Consequently, the Interregional Packaging Commission formally became the Belgian "transit authority" on 1 January 2015. This is a completely new challenge for the IRPC, which until now has only had to deal with packaging and packaging waste. The IRPC will take over and update the Federal transit database as soon as possible. Fortunately, the regions have provided two new members of staff for the IRPC, one of whom used to work for the former Federal transit authority. We hope that this will ensure a smooth transition.

In these times of austerity it is perhaps inappropriate to talk about additional staff, but the long-standing understaffing of the IRPC has meant a heavy workload for the Permanent Secretariat. The fact that the IRPC is staffed by people seconded from each of the Belgian regions also prevents it from giving priority to the vacant positions that most urgently need to be filled. This in turn makes it hard to spread the workload within the Permanent Secretariat.

It is clear that further interregional cooperation will eventually enable savings to be made on government staffing, for instance within the regional administrations. The example of packaging shows that interregional cooperation can work very smoothly and bring considerable benefits. When additional tasks are assigned to the IRPC, such as in this example of the transit of packaging waste, it will be able to provide an effective and efficient service.

Francis Radermaker, Chairman

Marc Adams, Acting Director

1 THE OPERATION OF THE INTERREGIONAL PACKAGING COMMISSION (IRPC)

1.1 The composition of the IRPC

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

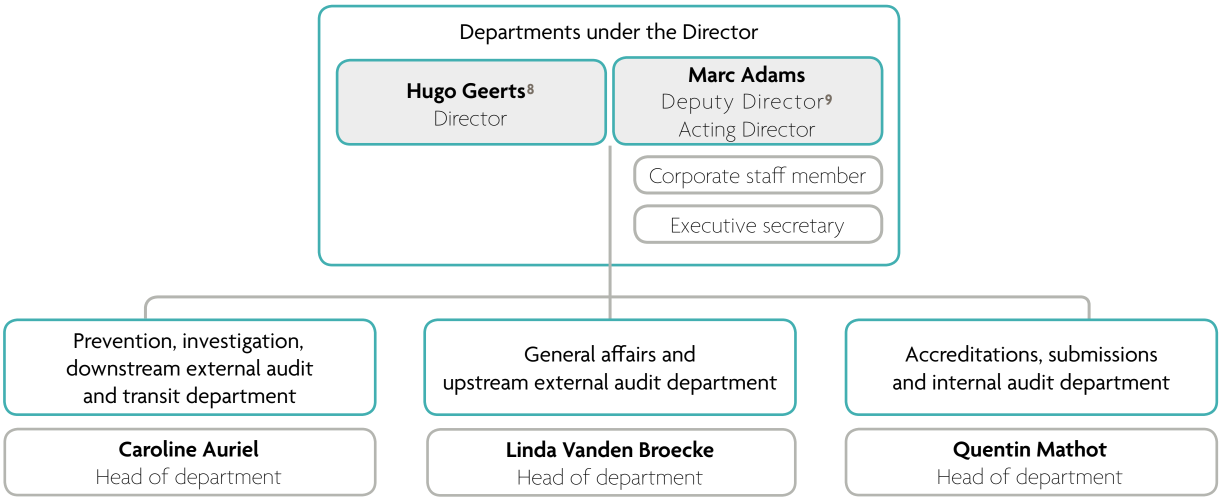
The decision-making body meets once a month and takes the policy decisions. The chairmanship of the IRPC changes every year on 5 March and rotates among the Belgian regions. Mr Danny Wille of the Flemish Region served as chairman in the first part of 2014, giving way to the Brussels-Capital Region in the second part of the year, from 5 March. Ms Griet Van Kelecom held the chair from 5 March 2014 until 31 July 2014 and was replaced by Mr Francis Radermaker on 1 August 2014.

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 2014 was as follows:

FLEMISH REGION	BRUSSELS-CAPITAL REGION	WALLOON REGION
Full members	**Full members**	**Full members**
Els DE PICKER	Griet VAN KELECOM / Julien DUMONT[1]	Violaine FICHEFET / Sylvie MEEKERS[5]
Hugo GEERTS	Francis RADERMAKER	Ingrid GABRIEL
Danny WILLE	Julien D'AOUST / Olivier BOSTEELS[3]	Martine GILLET
Alternate members	**Alternate members**	**Alternate members**
Anne VANDEPUTTE	Valérie VERBRUGGE	Jehan DECROP / Brieuc QUEVY[6]
Anneleen DE WACHTER	Françoise BONNET / Céline SCHAAR[2]	Christel EVRARD / Ludivine GAUTHIER[7]
Roeland BRACKE	Adrien ARNAUD / Noémie ROGER[4]	Jean-Yves MERCIER

The organisational structure of the Permanent Secretariat was modified on 6 November 2014.



The Permanent Secretariat had 20 staff in 2014, which is one more than in the previous year.

This additional member of staff was transferred from the Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety & Environment and will be responsible for dealing with waste transit issues. Powers in this area were devolved to the regions as part of the most recent constitutional reform, and were transferred to the IRPC with effect from 1 January 2015.

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

1 Ms Van Kelecom was replaced as full member by Mr Dumont on 13 November 2014.
2 Ms Bonnet was replaced as alternate member by Ms Schaar on 13 November 2014.
3 Mr D'Aoust was replaced as full member by Mr Bosteels on 13 November 2014.
4 Mr Arnaud was replaced as alternate member by Ms Roger on 13 November 2014.
5 Ms Fichefet was replaced as full member by Ms Meekers on 13 November 2014.
6 Mr Decrop was replaced as alternate member by Mr Quevy on 13 November 2014.
7 Ms Evrard was replaced as alternate member by Ms Gauthier on 13 November 2014.
8 Mr Geerts'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.
9 Mr Adams is designated as Deputy Director. The post of Deputy Director will cease to exist when the Deputy Director takes up office as Director.

1.2. THE IRPC BUDGET FOR 2014

The composition of the IRPC's budget for the 2014 operating year can be summarised as follows:

	Budgeted amounts (in EUR)
MISCELLANEOUS INTERNAL TRANSACTIONS This budget item covers the establishment of a financial reserve with a view to the purchase of new offices for the IRPC and the planned relocation in 2016,	100,000.00
COST OF PREMISES This includes the cost of office maintenance and cleaning. electricity bills and shared costs for building maintenance,	142,300.00
OFFICE COSTS These include office supplies. photocopying costs. landline and mobile phone costs. switchboard operation. postal expenses and the costs of IT support,	145,200.00
TRAVEL AND REPRESENTATION EXPENSES These include reimbursement of train tickets and flat-rate payments for travel and accommodation,	20,000.00
CAR FLEET RUNNING COSTS These include lease payments. fuel costs. vehicle maintenance (other than as provided for in the lease contract),	47,000.00
OTHER GENERAL OPERATING COSTS These include the costs of vocational training and study leave. magazine inserts and publications, This item also covers the costs of the IRPC computerisation project. which currently accounts for about two-thirds of the total costs of this item,	53,000.00
A net sum of EUR 41.981,51 was transferred from the 2013 budget to the 2014 budget, This relates to sums that were set aside for the computerisation project in 2013 but that could not be invoiced until 2014 because of delays,	41,981.51
RENT OF BUILDINGS This is the annual cost of renting IRPC's offices,	295,000.00
EXPERT SUPPORT AND CONSULTANCY This item includes the fees of lawyers and experts. as well as the costs of translations into German and English,	70,000.00
STUDIES AND RESEARCH These are studies commissioned by the IRPC,	75,000,00
AWARENESS-RAISING AND COMMUNICATIONS This includes the cost of having information published in various trade magazines and the insertion of banners on specialist websites,	60,000.00
TAXES	0.00
INVESTMENTS These include the purchase of furniture. office machinery and hardware,	14,000.00
GENERAL TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**1,063,481.51**

The amount budgeted for 2014 (EUR 1.021.500,00) is similar to that budgeted for 2013 (EUR 1.030.112,27),

A loan of EUR 100.000,00 was taken out as provision for the planned relocation in 2016, This is the first time that the IRPC has taken out a loan,

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,

After deduction of part of the budget surplus for 2013. the regions were required to pay the amounts shown in the table below for the 2014 operational year:

	Collective amount (in EUR)
Transfer from OVAM [Public Waste Agency of Flanders]	583,648.37
Transfer from DGARNE – Office wallon des déchets [Walloon Waste Authority]	301,887.09
Transfer from Bruxelles Environnement – IBGE [Brussels Institute for Environmental Management]	72,836.25
GENERAL TOTAL INCOME	**958,371.71**

1.3. THE REVISION OF THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT

This Directive amends the European list of examples of what is and is not regarded as packaging, The deadline for transposing this Directive into national law was 30 September 2013,

The Cooperation Agreement on packaging of 4 November 2008 has to be amended in the light of the transposition of this Directive, Regional elections on 25 May 2014 meant that this amendment of the Cooperation Agreement took longer than had originally been anticipated, It is now scheduled for the first half of 2015,

2 ASSESSMENT OF THE 2013-2016 PACKAGING PREVENTION PLAN

In the area of prevention, much of the work carried out in 2014 was focused on analysing the various individual and sectoral prevention plans submitted in 2013. A total of 282 individual and 21 sectoral prevention plans were submitted to the IRPC, all electronically.

An initial analysis showed that many of the individual prevention plans had serious shortcomings, preventing the IRPC from assessing them. The responsible companies concerned were asked to rectify these shortcomings to enable the IRPC to assess their prevention plans properly.

Only a fifth of the individual prevention plans submitted passed the preliminary formal analysis stage and could then be subjected to thorough assessment by the IRPC. All these plans were approved.
The remaining prevention plans will be reassessed as soon as they have been completed or rectified.

The IRPC was able to analyse and approve all 21 sectoral prevention plans, some of which were of very high quality. Letters were sent out to all sectoral federations pointing out the good and less good aspects of their prevention plans.

3 FOST PLUS

3.1. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2014-2018 ACCREDITATION

Fost Plus was required to undertake various activities in 2014 as part of its new accreditation, and the IRPC had to monitor these.

A. Expansion of plastics collection

Article 2(2) of the accreditation states that Fost Plus must actively promote the collection of residual plastics (plastics other than bottles) so as to ensure that a more harmonised system for the collection of residual plastics is in place by the end of the accreditation period. Payment for the collection of this fraction will be based on the rules set out in article 8 of the accreditation, i.e. there will be a fixed payment equivalent to the reference cost per tonne for the material in question. To this end, Fost Plus must, among other things, make its expertise on marketing materials available to municipalities or intermunicipalities. If necessary, the accredited compliance organisation must, if so requested by the municipality or intermunicipality, also assist it in organising the project and marketing the materials collected. In consultation with the Interregional Packaging Commission, the Belgian regions and the municipalities or intermunicipalities, Fost Plus must develop the proposals needed to ensure that a more harmonised system for the collection of residual plastics is in place by the end of the accreditation period.

In addition, article 2(3) states that Fost Plus is required to test the expansion of the P fraction of PMD via trial projects with the intermunicipalities, to be approved by the competent Belgian region and covering at least 0.5% of the Belgian population.

In preparation for the implementation of these provisions, Fost Plus has worked with the IRPC and stakeholders to produce an action plan for the pilot projects relating to the expansion of the P fraction and to draw up an inventory of plastic packaging collection best practices using article 8.

This action plan comprises the following four steps:

1. an analysis phase;
2. the identification of the pilot projects;
3. the launch, monitoring and continuous evaluation of the pilot projects;
4. the conclusions.

Activities in 2014 focused primarily on gathering and analysing all available and necessary data to identify new relevant pilot projects and on producing an inventory of plastic packaging collection best practices using article 8.

An advisory committee comprising representatives of the IRPC, the three Belgian regions, Copidec, Interafval, Net Brussel (Bruxelles-Propreté), Febem/Coberec, Plarabel and Fost Plus is monitoring this project closely.

B. The standard contract with the intermunicipalities

As a result of the new provisions in the Fost Plus accreditation dated 19 December 2013 and new legislation, the standard contract with the municipalities or intermunicipalities and the standard tender specifications for collection, sorting and recycling by Fost Plus had to be revised and reapproved by the Interregional Packaging Commission.

The deadline for submission of the new draft to the IRPC was 31 March 2014. Article 21(1) of the Fost Plus accreditation specifies a separate procedure for final approval of the revised standard contract, giving the IRPC three months from the date on which the entire final draft is received. The IRPC has accepted only part of the draft standard contract submitted by Fost Plus. Discussions on Fost Plus's revised draft are still continuing.

The main substantive changes to the standard contract, in addition to adjustment of the reference scenarios, relate to the need to distinguish between above-ground and underground bottle banks, changes to payment rules in the absence of an agreement when a contract is extended (article 7), changes to payment for the collection of additional household packaging waste streams (article 8) and the new provisions contained in articles 42-45 on the collection of household packaging waste arising from non-household use.

The adjustment of the reference scenarios partly relates to the acceptance of the use of new types of collection receptacles and to the acceptance of new collection schemes:

- Regarding paper/cardboard, house-to-house collection by means of containers has been included in the reference scenarios, though the financial liability of Fost Plus is limited to 10% of the population. The cost of purchasing the containers is not borne by Fost Plus.
- Regarding PMD, in places where PMD bags are collectively deposited, leading to a real problem of public cleanliness and/or a significant increase in PMD residues, house-to-house collection may be temporarily or permanently replaced by the installation of sealed containers, fitted with specific openings for depositing items.
- Dual collection of paper/cardboard and PMD can now also take place once every three weeks, provided that the IRPC has given prior approval.
- If, for reasons of mobility or because of access problems during the daytime, collections are hindered, they may take place in the evening or at the weekend if it can be shown that this is justified. Fost Plus shall bear any additional costs, insofar as these do not exceed 10% of the reference cost for house-to-house collection.

The changes to the draft standard tender specifications set out in appendices 12 and 14 to the standard contract are the result of prior discussions in the Joint Committee. The Joint Committee consists of one representative from the intermunicipalities per Belgian region, three Fost Plus representatives and two IRPC observers. The decision-making body of the Interregional Packaging Commission has approved the standard tender specifications, subject to a number of conditions and with the exception of the contract award criteria. Approval of these criteria will follow an additional procedure with a longer deadline for approval, as provided for in the new Fost Plus accreditation.

Fost Plus has already taken on board many of the IRPC's comments, but further discussion is still needed.

C. The action plan for underground bottle banks

Under article 13 of the accreditation, Fost Plus is required to draw up an action plan to increase the number of sites for underground bottle banks by at least 600 before the end of the accreditation period, evenly distributed throughout Belgium. The installation costs are to be shared equally between Fost Plus and the intermunicipalities. To enable the growth in underground bottle bank sites to be evaluated at the end of the accreditation period, an overview is needed of the current location of bottle banks situated above and below ground. The same also applies to the use of containers for house-to-house collection of paper.

D. The standard sheet with the basic data from the intermunicipalities

The IRPC has been working with Fost Plus to produce a new sheet for use by municipalities or intermunicipalities to enable them to fulfil their annual reporting obligation. The sheet contains information about the entity's contractual situation and collection activities as standard. Important changes include an additional level of detail in the summary of the collection receptacles and the expansion of the sheet to include payments for maintenance, repair and cleaning of bottle bank sites, the additional payment for glass (article 13), the payment for paving bottle bank sites, project monitoring costs and contaminated bottle bank sites. These sheets, which are verified annually, are not only an important source of data for the IRPC, which it can use to carry out its monitoring activities, but also provide valuable input for the further development of its policy. For these reasons, further improvements will be made to the sheet in future.

E. The basic programme for out-of-home collection of PMD

Article 44 of the accreditation requires Fost Plus to devise a basic programme each year for approval by the IRPC in order to support the collection of PMD and other packaging materials in the out-of-home projects. The funding provided for this basic programme must have increased by 20% by the end of the accreditation period, as well as being indexed annually.

The basic programme proposed by Fost Plus was revised several times by the accredited compliance organisation to take account of the IRPC's comments. Partial approval was not given until early in 2014.

F. The action plan for collection of EPS

Under article 45 of the accreditation, Fost Plus is required to annually submit an action plan to the IRPC for approval, covering aspects such as the collection of expanded polystyrene (EPS) packaging waste and communication with SMEs on the prevention of packaging waste.

The deadline for submission of a draft action plan to the IRPC was 15 September 2014. Discussions on Fost Plus's draft action plan on the collection of household EPS packaging waste from companies are still taking place.

The IRPC has urged Fost Plus to develop the action plan in greater depth and expedite its implementation. The study phase should take no more than two months. The accredited compliance organisation shall, in the light of the findings of this study, submit to the IRPC a detailed proposal for specific collection actions, along with a precise timetable for implementation. Once the two-month study phase has passed, Fost Plus shall also submit a provisional planning schedule to the IRPC covering the rest of the accreditation period.

3.2. 2014 REFERENCE COSTS AND 2013 REFERENCE VALUES

The 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.

This fixed payment is calculated for the conventional Fost Plus streams (glass, paper/cardboard[10], 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. It does this on the basis of the figures that Fost Plus submits to it each year and that it is required to check.

The IRPC determined the reference costs for 2014 as follows:

		Total for collection and sorting				House-to-house and bottle bank collection				Container park collection			
Reference costs 2014[1]		**100% fixed (€/inh.)**	**100% variable (€/tonne)**	**60% fixed (€/inh.)**	**40% variable (€/tonne)**	**100% fixed (€/inh.)**	**100% variable (€/tonne)**	**60% fixed (€/inh.)**	**40% variable (€/tonne)**	**100% fixed (€/inh.)**	**100% variable (€/tonne)**	**60% fixed (€/inh.)**	**40% variable (€/tonne)**
GLASS	Total	1.6698	53.47	1.0019	21.39	1.4796	55.92	0.8878	22.37	0.1901	40.41	0.1141	16.16
	>200	1.5696	51.15	0.9418	20.46	1.4134	53.29	0.8481	21.31	0.1562	38.23	0.0937	15.29
	<200 inhabitants per km²	2.2697	65.70	1.3618	26.28	1.8737	71.07	1.1242	28.43	0.3961	48.53	0.2376	19.41
PAPER/ CARDBOARD	Total	4.2322	62.55	2.5393	25.02	3.5702	70.25	2.1421	28.10	0.6620	39.78	0.3972	15.91
	>200	4.1430	60.45	2.4858	24.18	3.6426	67.65	2.1856	27.06	0.5004	34.64	0.3002	13.86
	<200 inhabitants per km²	4.8946	77.34	2.9368	30.94	3.1423	97.81	1.8854	39.12	1.7522	56.16	1.0513	22.46
PMD - COLLECTION	Total	3.5856	228.51	2.1513	91.40	3.2484	233.77	1.9490	93.51	0.3372	186.10	0.2023	74.44
	>200	3.3641	221.90	2.0185	88.76	3.1879	229.81	1.9128	91.92	0.1762	132.84	0.1057	53.14
	<200 inhabitants per km²	5.2866	274.84	3.1720	109.94	3.8575	269.40	2.3145	107.76	1.4292	288.22	0.8575	115.29
PMD - SORTING		2.4203	160.88	1.4522	64.35								

1 weighted average of 2009 (10%), 2010 (15%), 2011 (20%), 2012 (25%) and 2013 (30%), updated to 2014 prices

10 The reference costs for paper/cardboard are the weighted averages of the total paper/cardboard stream (both packaging and non-packaging).

The 2013 reference values are the average sale values of the material collected and sorted in 2013.

The IRPC approved the 2013 reference values in mid-2014. These were used as the basis for payments in 2014 [11]. An adjustment will be applied in 2015, however, once the IRPC has approved the 2014 reference values.

The 2013 reference values approved by the IRPC are:

Material (selectively collected and sorted)	Paper/ cardboard	Glass	Steel	Alumi-nium	Drink cartons	HDPE	PET blue	PET clear	PET green	PET (average)	Plastics (PET + DPE)
Average price (EUR/tonne)	95.53	13.75	181.53	575.20	9.31	371.03	522.55	598.72	360.77	563.56	521.53

3.3. CHECKING AND MONITORING FOST PLUS

One of the main tasks of the Interregional Packaging Commission is to check the results achieved by the accredited compliance organisation Fost Plus. This exercise once again took place in a spirit of consultation and cooperation.

Data in the system was selected at random to ascertain the existence of checked recycling certificates for the waste streams included in the Profost system.

Only the “article 8” streams, named after article 8 of the Fost Plus accreditation, are not currently included in the Profost system.

In the case of these “article 8” streams, checks are carried out in the course of the year, and Fost Plus and the IRPC hold meetings to discuss them. The quality of the data supplied by the intermunicipalities concerned remains good. As regards the streams reported under article 8, 97% were already correct when the data was submitted. No additional audit was needed for these streams for 2013, as had also been the case in previous years. The data collected in previous years, supplemented with a number of simple checks with the competent administrations, demonstrated the recycling of these streams to a sufficient degree of certainty.

A brief summary of the various “article 8” streams is given below:

2013	Plastics*	Metals	Other**	Total
Total quantity accepted (in tonnes)	13,155	2,175	26	15,356

* The plastics comprise primarily film, plant pots, EPS and mixed plastics.
** Only cork.

[11] 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.”

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 three times in 2014, with a very full agenda each time.

Some of the topics discussed several times in 2014 were:

- The implementation of the 2014-2018 accreditation, paying particular attention to:
  - Collection and sorting of PMD from companies and via other non-household channels (out-of-home); the annual basic programme of Fost Plus for out-of-home collection of PMD;
  - The standard contracts with the intermunicipalities, the standard tender specifications for the collection, sorting and recycling of household packaging waste;
  - The action plan for the collection of EPS;
  - Possible expansion of the sorting message regarding plastics;
  - The problem of parallel collections of paper/cardboard and PMD;

- The contribution of EUR 0.50 per capita per year to the Belgian regions' policy (article 13(1)(12) of the Cooperation Agreement);

- Renewal of contracts with the intermunicipalities;

- The results of recycling and recovery (for 2013) and checks of these results;

- The Fost Plus budget for 2014 and the Green Dot tariffs for 2014;

- The various amendments (definite and planned) to Directive 94/62/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on packaging and packaging waste, and the revision of the Cooperation Agreement; in this context, the changes to and update of the Belgian packaging/not packaging list and the grey list (distinction between household and industrial/commercial packaging);

- The analysis by Fost Plus of the total household packaging market; the estimate of the packaging generated by internet sales.

4 CHECKING AND MONITORING VAL-I-PAC

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

The process of checking the results submitted by Val-I-Pac in 2014 for the 2013 operating year was completed in November 2014, and the figures for 2013 were then approved in December 2014.

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

The Val-I-Pac monitoring committee met four times in 2014 to discuss a number of topics, including:

- Checking the recycling and recovery results for the 2013 operating year;
- The direct payment of container and recycling incentives and the introduction of the new platform "My Certificate";
- The SME plan and its implementation;
- Further refinement of the Belgian packaging/not packaging list and the grey list (distinction between household and industrial/commercial packaging);
- The estimate by Val-I-Pac of the total industrial and commercial packaging market;
- Trends in the value of materials;
- The estimate of the quantity of reusable industrial and commercial packaging in circulation.

5 RECYCLING AND RECOVERY FIGURES FOR 2013

5.1. FOST PLUS RESULTS

The recycling and recovery targets for 2013 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 in 2013, but for the first time in years not for paper/cardboard. The explanation for this figure of over 100% is the same as in previous years. In the case of glass, parallel imports from abroad go some way towards explaining the results. For metals, the reason is that Fost Plus does not cover the whole of the Belgian market for this material[12].

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

In its official figures, shown in the table below, the IRPC never accepts more than the quantities reported to the accredited compliance organisation by its members for recycling, The recycling percentage for glass and metals is therefore reduced to 100%, The quantities thus rejected are added to the results for total recovery,

	Quantities from members (in tonnes)	Recycling (in tonnes)	Quantities recovered with energy recovery (in tonnes)	Recycling (as %)
Paper/cardboard	171,247	170,507		99.6
Glass	302,364	302,364		100.0
Plastics	205,692	76,887		37.4
Metals	79,143	79,143		100.0
Drink cartons	18,331	16,421		89.6
Other	4,092	26		0.6
Total	**780,869**	**645,348**		**82.6**
Glass from non-members		31,893		
Metals from non-members		1,757		
Incineration of PMD residues			21,219	
Overall total recovery		**678,998**	**21,219**	

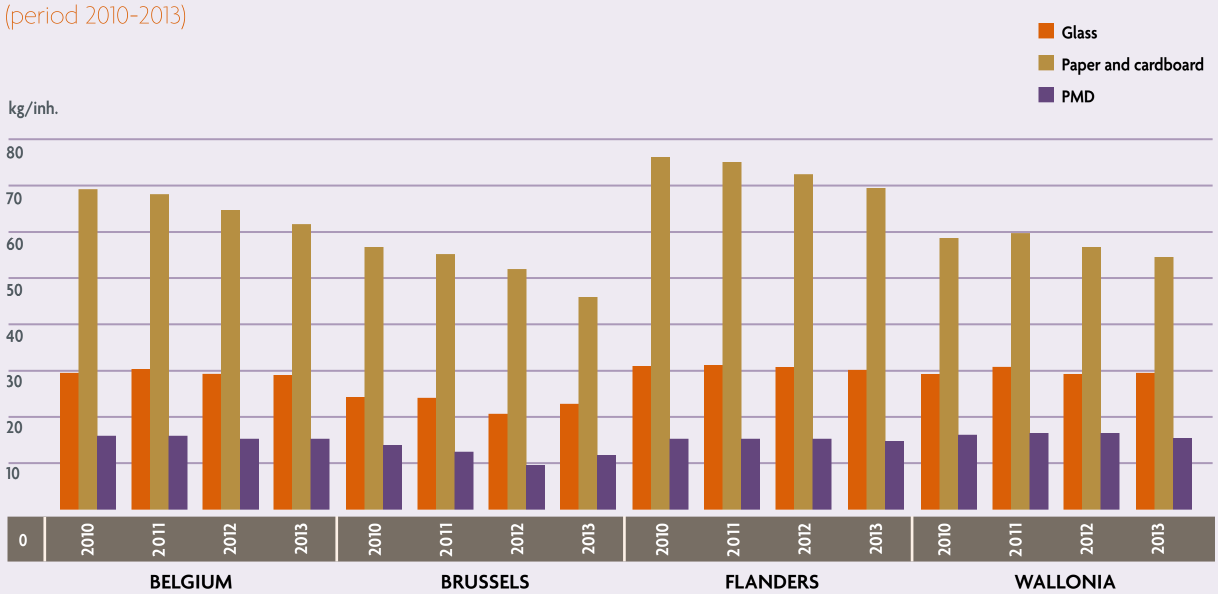
82.6%

Recycling rate achieved by Fost Plus for the 2013 reporting year.

Intermunicipalities' reporting obligation

Every year the Interregional Packaging Commission examines the information submitted by the intermunicipalities in accordance with article 18(5) of the Cooperation Agreement and compiles statistics on the basis of this information [13].

Trend in the collection results per material, per region and for Belgium as a whole, expressed in kg/inhabitant (period 2010-2013)



Average collection cost per material, per region and for Belgium as a whole, expressed in EUR/tonne (2013)

13 The paper/cardboard stream is considered in its entirety (both packaging and non-packaging).

Per fraction, proportion of the cost incurred by each collection method (2013)

Per fraction, proportion of the result achieved by each collection method (2013)

5.2. VAL-I-PAC RESULTS

The recycling and recovery targets for 2013 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 contains the figures established as the final Val-I-Pac results for the 2013 operating year.

	Placed on the market (in tonnes)	Recycling (in tonnes)	Recycling (as %)
Plastic	90,909.00	43,675.00	48.04
Paper/cardboard	391,381.00	390,433.00	99.76
Metal	35,844.00	27,268.00	76.07
Wood	161,601.00	92,909.96	57.49
Other	8,016.00	519.00	6.47
Total	**687,751.00**	**554,804.96**	**80.67**

80.67%

Recycling rate achieved in 2013 by Val-I-Pac

5.3. THE RESULTS OF INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE COMPANIES

A total of 194 companies stated that they fulfilled the take-back obligation themselves in the 2013 reporting year.

The responsible companies were required to use the new electronic reporting form for the first time in the 2013 reporting year, which means that the figures for the quantities of packaging waste placed on the market and recycled cannot be compared with the previous years' figures. The following estimates have been made:

Type of material	Placed on the market (in tonnes)	Recycling (in tonnes)
Plastic	2,230	1,780
Paper/cardboard	20,572	19,521
Metal	1,392	1,276
Wood	9,846	9,196
Other materials*	474	196
Total	**34,514**	**31,969**

* including glass

5.4. THE OVERALL RESULTS

This section contains the results reported by Belgium to the European Commission (Eurostat) for 2013. The calculation method specified by Europe must take into account the following:

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

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

The overall recycling figures for 2013 are given below:

Type of material	Glass	Plastic	Paper/ cardboard (ordinary)	Drink cartons	Total paper/ cardboard	Metals	Wood	Other	Total
Recycling (as %)	100.0	39.0	89.2	87.8	89.1	97.0	59.0	6.7	**78.7**

6 MONITORING REUSABLE PACKAGING

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

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

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

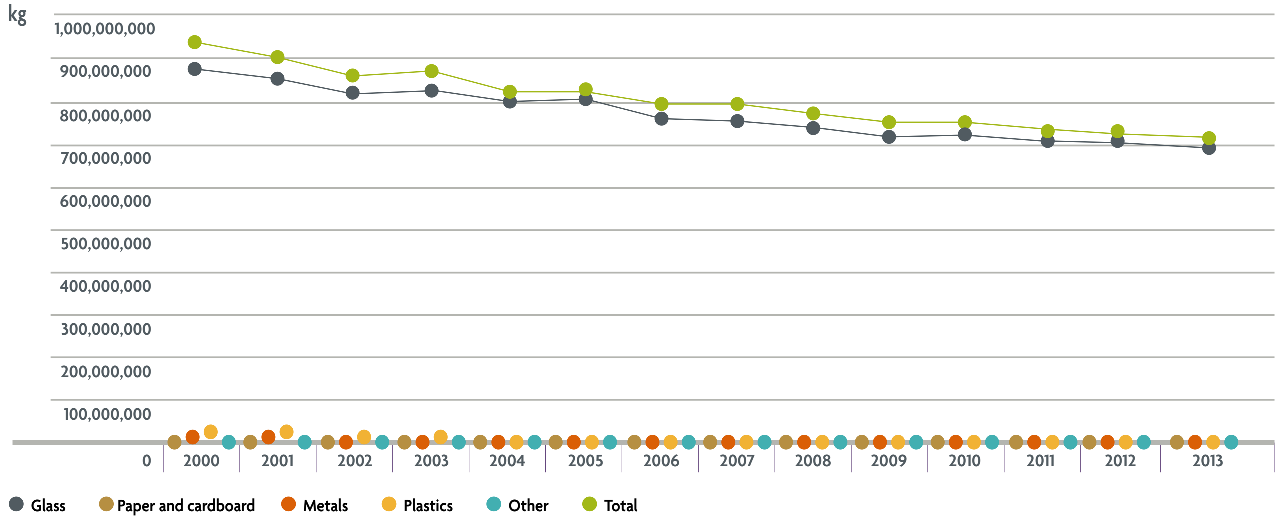
The monitoring process does not include data from responsible companies that place only reusable packaging (i.e. no one-way packaging) on the market. We should therefore point out that this probably leads to re-use figures being slightly underestimated.

Monitoring of reusable packaging in Belgium continued for the 2013 reporting year. Unlike previous years, the IRPC outsourced this task to the Comase consultancy firm.

6.1. OVERALL TREND IN REUSABLE HOUSEHOLD PACKAGING

The graph below shows the trend in the quantities by weight of reusable household drink packaging, broken down by type of material, and as reported by all Fost Plus members during the period 2000-2013.

Trend in reusable drink packaging, all Fost Plus members

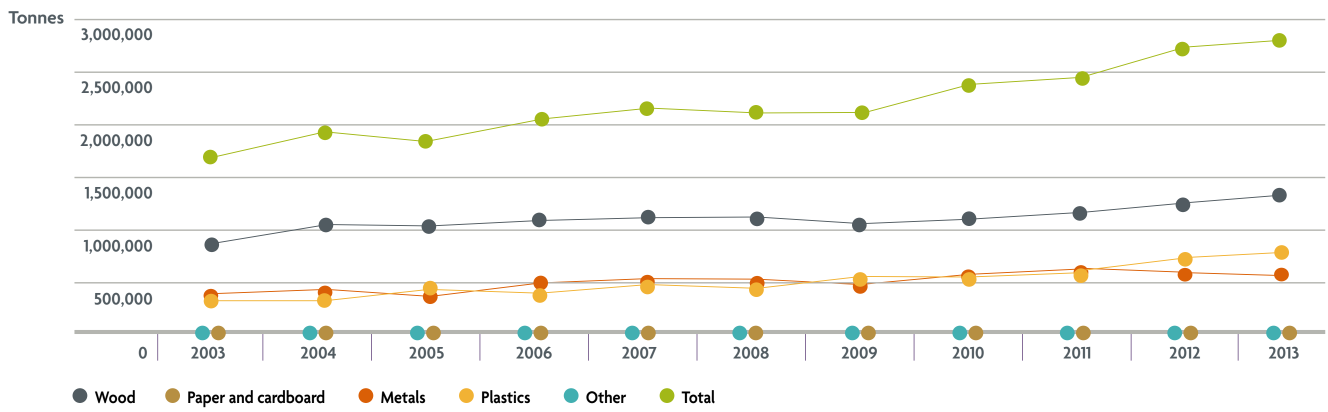


Once again this shows how much reusable drink packaging was made of glass in 2013 (98.3%).
When interpreting these quantities by weight, it should, however, be borne in mind that glass is a relatively heavy material. To determine the exact percentages for each type of material, the number of sales units should, in principle, be used as the basis.

6.2. OVERALL TREND IN REUSABLE INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL PACKAGING

The graph below shows the trend in the quantities by weight of reusable industrial and commercial packaging, broken down by type of material, and as reported by all Val-I-Pac members during the period 2003-2013.

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



In 2013, 49.9% of the reported quantity of reusable industrial and commercial packaging was made of wood. The only other materials of significance as reusable packaging are plastics (27.2%) and metals (22.4%).
Paper/cardboard and other materials are hardly ever used as reusable industrial and commercial packaging.

6.3. CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMASE STUDY

The monitoring study carried out by the Comase consultancy firm in 2014 reached the conclusions discussed below.

A. Household packaging

The quantity of household packaging reported by Fost Plus members has remained fairly stable since the start of monitoring in 2000: +0.9%.

Almost all reusable household packaging is drink packaging. The weight of this type of packaging fell continuously between 2000 and 2013, and was 22.7% lower overall in 2013 than in 2000. This fall was observed in all materials apart from metal, and was most pronounced in the case of glass, which accounts for 98% of the total quantity by weight.

As far as drinks are concerned, the quantity by weight of reusable glass packaging reported fell by 20% between 2000 and 2013. The most significant reductions were observed for milk (-59%), wine (-27%) and beer (-27%). The decrease for water was less pronounced (-5%).

In contrast, the quantity by weight of one-way household packaging rose by 12.3% overall between 2000 and 2013. Only 42.5% of this is drink packaging. The quantity by weight of one-way drink packaging rose by 4.4% (1.16% between 2010 and 2013). Most of this packaging is glass (59%), PET (17%) and, to a lesser extent, steel and aluminium (8% and 3%, respectively).

B. Industrial and commercial packaging

In contrast to the fall in household packaging, the quantity of industrial and commercial packaging reported by Val-I-Pac members rose significantly[14] between 2004 and 2013. Moreover, the quantity of reusable industrial and commercial packaging continued to rise (up by 7%).

Wood remained the principal material in reusable industrial and commercial packaging between 2007 and 2013, accounting for around 50% (44% for the reference companies, which is an increase). This is followed by plastics (26%, and 35% for the reference companies, which is a significant increase) and metals (24%, and 21% for the reference companies, which is a decrease).
Sectoral analysis shows that the distribution sector is mainly responsible for the increase in reusable industrial and commercial packaging (+65% between 2009 and 2013). However, a fall is observed for the water and soft drinks sector.

There was a sharp rise between 2004 and 2013 in the proportion of reusable packaging among Val-I-Pac reference companies. It is still highest in the brewery sector, but is falling significantly. In contrast, the proportion is increasing for the water and soft drinks sector, the distribution sector and the dairy sector.

C. Comparative analysis

The table below contains a summary for the reporting years 2010 to 2013 of quantities by weight (expressed in tonnes) of packaging, both one-way (OWP) and reusable (RP), reported to Fost Plus (household packaging) and Val-I-Pac (industrial and commercial packaging) by:

- all members
- all members reporting drink packaging figures (only to Fost Plus)
- reference companies

14 This rise (+38%) is due to the greater market coverage by Val-I-Pac (number of companies reporting).

		2010	2011	2012[15]	2013	Trend	
All Fost Plus members All packaging	OWHP	745,491	749,219	769,811	780,010	↗	5%
	RHP	755,027	744,099	725,607	715,323	↘	-5%
	HPTOT	1,500,518	1,493,318	1,495,418	1,495,333	→	0%
	RHP/OWHP	1.01	0.99	0.94	0.92	↘	-9%
All Fost Plus members Drink packaging	OWHP	327,587	331,374	328,909	331,387	↗	1%
	RHP	752,293	737,969	722,104	712,395	↘	-5%
	HPTOT	1,079,880	1,069,343	1,051,013	1,043,782	↘	-3%
	RHP/OWHP	2.3	2.23	2.2	2.15	↘	-7%
Fost Plus reference companies Drink packaging	OWHP	122,942	124,266	125,684	125,910	↗	2%
	RHP	683,806	657,896	640,592	620,166	↘	-9%
	HPTOT	806,748	782,162	766,276	746,076	↘	-8%
	RHP/OWHP	5.56	5.29	5.1	4.93	↘	-11%
All Val-I-Pac members	OWICP (tonnes)	664,645	682,681	686,357	687,751	↗	3%
	RICP (tonnes)	2,364,848	2,470,225	2,598,080	2,660,471	↗	13%
	ICPTOT	3,029,493	3,152,906	3,284,437	3,348,222	↗	11%
	RICP/OWICP	3.56	3.62	3.79	3.87	↗	9%
Val-I-Pac reference companies	OWICP (tonnes)	104,014	106,606	111,926	115,693	↗	11%
	RICP (tonnes)	978,328	1,043,955	1,181,309	1,185,188	↗	21%
	ICPTOT	1,082,342	1,150,561	1,293,235	1,300,881	↗	20%
	RICP/OWICP	9.41	9.79	10.55	10.24	↗	9%
All members Fost Plus + Val-I-Pac	OWP (tonnes)	1,410,136	1,431,900	1,456,168	1,467,761	↗	4%
	RP (tonnes)	3,119,875	3,214,324	3,323,687	3,375,794	↗	8%
	PTOT	4,530,011	4,646,224	4,779,855	4,843,555	↗	7%
	RP/OWP	2.21	2.24	2.28	2.30	↗	4%

15 Based on the corrected figures from the accredited compliance organisations.

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Horizontal analysis

The following observations can be made for this period:

- the overall trend for the total quantities of household packaging (HPTOT) reported is flat or even slightly downwards;
- but there is an upwards trend in the total quantity by weight of industrial and commercial packaging (ICPTOT) placed on the market;
- **looking at the whole picture, the total amount of packaging (PTOT; household + industrial and commercial) has increased.**

We also observe an overall rise in quantities of one-way packaging. The reported quantity by weight of one-way household packaging (OWHP) is higher than the reported quantity by weight of one-way industrial and commercial packaging (OWICP), both for all members and for the reference companies.

There are two contrasting trends for the period under consideration when it comes to reusable packaging, one for household packaging (RHP) and the other for industrial and commercial packaging (RICP). **Quantities of reusable household packaging are falling,** while **quantities of reusable industrial and commercial packaging are increasing sharply**.

Vertical analysis

The vertical analysis focuses on trends in the use of packaging by comparing quantities of reusable and one-way packaging used.

In the three categories of household packaging, there was a fall in the ratio of RHP to OWHP over the period. Reusable packaging accounted for 48% of total quantities of packaging for all members in 2013.

As far as industrial and commercial packaging is concerned, there was a rise in the ratio of RICP to OWICP. Reusable packaging accounted for 79% of total quantities of packaging for all members in 2013.

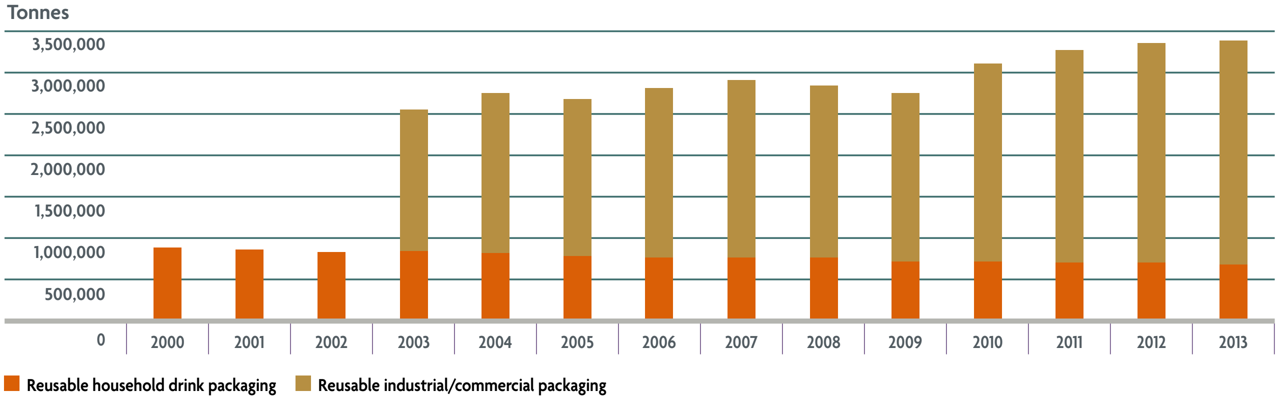
As in previous periods analysed, the ratio of reusable to one-way packaging (RHP/OWHP and RICP/OWICP) was higher for industrial and commercial packaging than for household packaging.

It should also be noted that the total quantities by weight placed on the market are stable for household packaging and increasing for industrial and commercial packaging. It is therefore encouraging to see that on the industrial and commercial market the use of reusable packaging is rising faster than that of one-way packaging, even though the total amount of packaging is increasing.

Taking household and industrial & commercial packaging together, there was a **slight rise in the ratio of RP to OWP,** and **reusable packaging accounted for 70%** of all packaging for all members in 2013.

The graph below gives a total picture of the trend in reusable packaging.

Trend in total quantities of reusable packaging



Responsible editor
Marc Adams, Acting Director

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Kristof Mathys
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CDN Communication
www.cdncommunication.be

IVCIE
Commission interrégionale de l'Emballage
Interregionale Verpakkingscommissie

IRPC
Avenue des Arts 10-11
1210 Bruxelles
T: +32 (0)2 209 03 60
F: +32 (0)2 209 03 98
info@ivcie.be
www.ivcie.be

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Ce rapport d'activités est également disponible en français.