Activity Report 2021

IVCIE

Commission interrégionale de l'Emballage
Interregionale Verpakkingscommissie

Contents

Message from the Chair and the Director

Ambitious plan for Valipac

The new accreditation of Valipac, the accredited compliance organisation for industrial and commercial packaging waste, understandably captured much of our attention in 2021. We received the application around the middle of the year, but had already spent time identifying expectations and focal points for the new accreditation, including circularity, transparency and recycling in Europe. This proactive approach enabled us to process the application quickly and efficiently. It will certainly be worth using the same procedure when the time comes to prepare for the new Fost Plus accreditation.

The new Valipac accreditation came into force on 1 January 2022 for a period of five years. Our hard work has resulted in an ambitious text that is more committed than ever to the circular economy, focusing on selective collection, recycling within Europe, prevention, eco-modulation, circularity, transparency, and reuse of industrial and commercial packaging waste, while fully respecting the free market. The accreditation pays particular attention to the situation of SMEs, including the unpackers' payment system.

The accreditation builds on the previous strategy of maximising high-quality recycling within Europe and, wherever possible, within Belgium itself. This should reach 100% by 2030.

Transparency is crucial. All recycling channels must be clearly documented. Valipac and the IRPC are jointly working on a detailed inspection programme, with a view to also introducing systematic auditing of final recyclers. This will enable us to ensure that all industrial and commercial packaging waste collected is actually recycled under the right conditions. Belgium leads the way in Europe in this area.

By applying adjusted rates, we are encouraging the use of post-consumer recycled material and discouraging non-recyclable packaging.

The new accreditation focuses on more than just the waste phase. An ambitious programme with clear objectives puts the spotlight more firmly on prevention, combined with reuse. On the operations front, additional new measures should boost Valipac's impact: for example, through pilot projects we are striving for circularity.

High-quality recycling of household packaging waste in Belgium

2021 was also the year in which Fost Plus continued its efforts to achieve high-quality recycling of household waste within our national borders. The new, expanded blue bag has been in use throughout Belgium since the end of 2021 and now seems to have become part of people's everyday lives.

The Val'Up, Valtris, Prezero and Indaver sorting plants are now up and running, while the new Sitel facility is under construction. The new line at the Ecoo Houthalen recycling plant, which is already operational, and the award of recycling contracts for PET to Filao, which is currently being built, and, in 2022, to Mopet Belgique, are also significant steps towards achieving a circular economy.

Additional streams and litter

Through the Extended Producer Responsibility Interregional Platform (EPRIP), we have been working hard to prepare a new cooperation agreement with two focal points.

On the one hand, the 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 managing litter and cleaning up public areas to those that cause these waste streams, in line with the obligations under the new EU directive on single-use plastic.

Sustainable way of working post-Covid

The IRPC has accomplished all this work in a "hybrid" way, to use the current buzzword. We prefer the term "sustainable", because it reflects the needs of our team.

Even after lockdown, we felt the effects of the Covid measures on our operations and our employees, although things did improve. We're now able to have meetings in the same room again, and that's a welcome development.

Even so… Constantly switching between home and office, between offline and online, and sometimes combining the two during a meeting: everyone has to find a way that works for them, not least in terms of their own well-being. We expect that we will have to keep adapting our working practices to the government's pandemic policy for several months yet, if not longer: sometimes at home, sometimes hybrid, and then back to business as usual. However, the experience of the past few years will have made us stronger in this respect, because we will have become more flexible.

Martine Gillet, Chair

Marc Adams, Director

1

The operation of the Interregional Packaging Commission (IRPC)

1.1 The tasks of the IRPC

The tasks of the IRPC include the following:

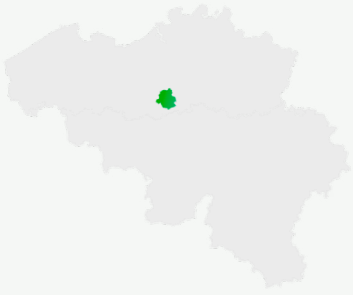
1. Monitoring whether companies (parties responsible for packaging, aka "responsible companies") and accredited compliance organisations are fulfilling their reporting and take-back (i.e. recycling and recovery) obligations.
2. Checking the way in which the responsible companies and accredited compliance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

1.2 The composition of the IRPC

The composition of the decision-making body in 2021:

- Flemish Region -

Full members	Alternate members
Ann De Boeck	Luc Goeteyn
Nick Vliegen	Roeland Bracke
Anneleen De Wachter	John Wante



- Brussels-Capital Region -

Full members	Alternate members
Marion Courtois	Luc Goeteyn
Céline Schaar (Chair until 4 March 2021)	Stéphanie Thomaes
Stéphany Uny	Milan Jousten

- Walloon Region -

Full members	Alternate members
Sylviane Bilgischer Lara Hotyat (1)	Guillaume Lepère
Vincent Brahy	Marie-Hélène Lahaye
Martine Gillet (Chair since 5 March 2021)	Jean-Yves Mercier

(1) Ms Bilgischer was replaced as full member by Ms Hotyat on 30 September 2021

The organisational structure of the Permanent Secretariat in 2021:

Departments under the Director

Marc Adams

Prevention, Research, Downstream External Audit and Transit department

Caroline Auriel
Head of department

General Affairs and Upstream External Audit department

Linda Vanden Broecke
Head of department

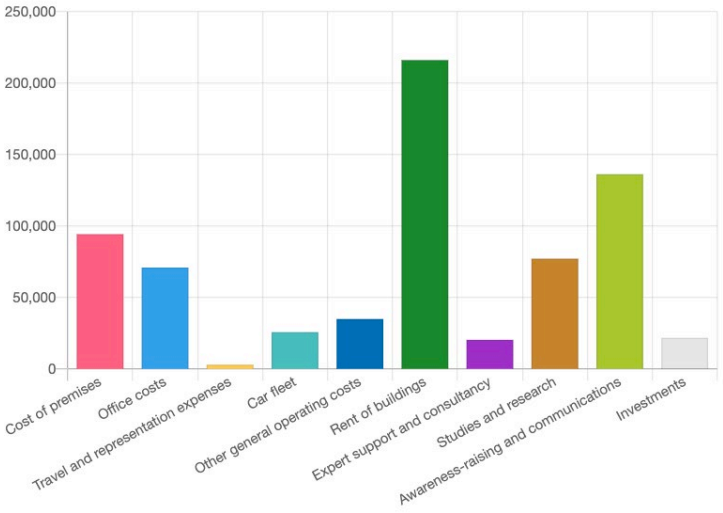
Accreditations, Declarations and Internal Audit department

Quentin Mathot
Head of department

At the end of 2021, the Permanent Secretariat had a total of 18 members of staff.

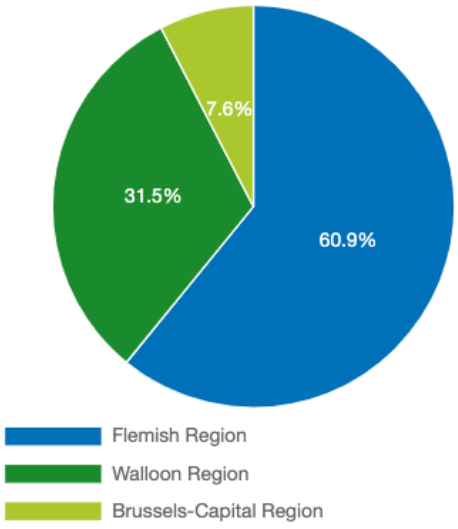
1.3 The 2021 budget of the IRPC

The actual expenditure of the IRPC in 2021:



Total: € 700 435,69

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.

Objective
To develop a common understanding on extended producer responsibility (EPR).

STRUCTURE
The three Regions -> the three Regional authorities:

HOW?
Structural exchange of relevant data.

EPR and litter

Through the Extended Producer Responsibility Interregional Platform (EPRIP), we have been working hard on a new cooperation agreement with two focal points.

On the one hand, the 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 that cause these waste streams.

2 Valipac: the key aspects of the new accreditation

On 2 December 2021 the Interregional Packaging Commission (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 processing channels. The accreditation also pays particular attention to the accessibility of the Valipac system for SMEs.

2.1 Targets in the new accreditation

Valipac's new accreditation includes general targets that reflect the Belgian Regions' strategic choices regarding industrial and commercial packaging waste.

In consultation with the Interregional Packaging Commission and the industry, Valipac must focus on working towards:

1. **Recycling in the EU and Belgium**
   Efficient and high-quality recycling in the European Union, and preferably in Belgium, of 80% of all industrial and commercial packaging waste by 2026, and 100% by 2030;
2. **Transparency**
   Complete traceability of all packaging waste to its final destination and therefore full knowledge of the treatment channels for all industrial and commercial packaging waste;
3. **Information exchange via platform**
   Maximum collaboration with public and private European organisations to set up an information exchange platform so that information on audits conducted at recyclers can be shared;
4. **Selective collection**
   The highest possible level of selective collection of industrial and commercial waste/packaging waste through awareness-raising and communication campaigns, and by means of thorough monitoring, making companies aware of the applicable selective collection obligations;
5. **Even more selective collection**
   An increase in the number of companies that selectively sort one or more packaging streams by 25% by 2025, as compared with 2019, and then by at least a further 25% by 2030, as compared with 2025;
6. **Maximum sorting of residual waste**
   Reduction to zero of the amount of recyclable industrial and commercial packaging waste in industrial and commercial residual waste.

2.2 Incentives and SME scheme

Valipac encourages unpackers to collect industrial and commercial packaging waste as selectively as possible, by providing container, recycling and starter incentives. In line with previous accreditations, Valipac will continue to offer an unpackers' payment system, focusing particularly on small unpackers and retailers, via the SME scheme.

In order to verify whether its incentive system still reflects the full cost of managing industrial and commercial packaging waste, Valipac will carry out a full evaluation of the incentives by mid-2024.

As part of this, Valipac will examine the technical feasibility of doubling the plastic recycling incentive for unpackers who explicitly opt to have their packaging waste recycled in a circular application within the European Union.

2.3 Circular economy

Achieving high-quality recycling, preventing downcycling and encouraging circular applications: this is how we are striving to achieve a circular economy.

2.3.1 New cumulative bonuses for operators

For this reason, in addition to the normal administrative payment of €2/tonne made to operators (collectors and recyclers of industrial and commercial packaging waste), they will receive new cumulative bonuses:

1. €10/tonne for recycling within the EU;
2. €10/tonne for recycling within a maximum distance, determined by the cost of checking the data;
3. €5/tonne for recycling by certified plastic recyclers;
4. and as from 1 January 2025 at the latest, €5/tonne for recycling plastic in a circular application, such as film-to-film recycling.

The amount of these payments can therefore be up to €32/tonne (2)

2.3.2. Pilot projects

In close consultation with the Interregional Packaging Commission, Valipac will develop an ambitious programme by 30 June 2023 to set up circularity pilot projects.

One of the aims of this programme will be to recycle half of the film collected into new film by 2026.

2.4 Checking data

Contracts with operators and traders must offer sufficient guarantees that industrial and commercial packaging waste is actually recycled, and must be approved in advance by the IRPC.

Valipac takes the following measures to ensure a level of inspection that sufficiently guarantees the accuracy of recycling and recovery data, checked up to final recycling or final treatment.

1. systematic documentation of the recycling channel (mapping);
2. introduction of a programme of systematic audits of all industrial and commercial packaging waste;
   in particular, with regard to quantities exported through traders, auditing is deemed to be systematic if at least 90% of the tonnage is audited annually and no later than six months after the end of the audit period;
3. preparation of the actual audit programme together with the IRPC on an annual basis.

Quantities that cannot be verified are, in principle, excluded from the recycling figures.

2.5 Eco-modulation of rates

Eco-modulation of Valipac rates aims to manage raw materials in a more circular way and reduce the environmental impact of packaging.

As from 2022, therefore, Valipac will introduce a new bonus system for responsible companies: €50 per tonne of post-consumer recycled material used in plastic packaging composed of at least 50% post-consumer recycled material (2).

Valipac will investigate in 2023 whether this system can be extended, as from 2024, to packaging composed of less than 50% post-consumer recycled material and whether a different bonus can be granted for packaging that meets minimum “Design for Recycling” criteria.

Furthermore, the rate for non-recyclable packaging will have to be at least double that for recyclable plastic from 2023 onwards.

(2) In certain circumstances, Valipac may decide to go even further than what is stipulated in the accreditation.

2.6 Encouraging **prevention and reuse**

By December 2022, Valipac will also have to propose an ambitious action programme to the Interregional Packaging Commission for the prevention of packaging waste among its members.

This action programme should aim to achieve an absolute reduction, without jeopardising the achievement of the recycling targets, in the quantity of one-way packaging placed on the market by at least 5% (as compared with the 2021 tonnage) by the end of the accreditation period. This will apply to all members.

By the same date, Valipac will propose a similar programme to encourage its members to use reusable packaging.

Pilot projects are also planned under both action programmes.

2.7 Reporting on **industrial and commercial waste**

To report industrial and commercial waste streams processed or resold by operators that have a contract with Valipac, Valipac will continue to use the "MyClients-Materials" application. This was developed during the previous accreditation period and has proved to be a very efficient reporting tool.

The streams in question are industrial and commercial residual waste, paper/cardboard, A, B and C-grade wood, ferrous and non-ferrous metals and mixed metals, flat, hollow and hazardous glass, plastic film, EPS and rigid plastic.

The report contains a large amount of data, such as the quantities per Belgian Region for each waste stream, the number of individual collection addresses per Region for each waste stream and the selective collection rate per Region and per cluster.

2.8 Results of **mapping in 2020**

Reporting to the IRPC on the final destinations of plastic streams in 2020 (mapping)

Mapping systematically documents the recycling channel, from the collector and trader to the final recycler. The channel was fully mapped for a total of 56 kilotonnes (kt) of industrial and commercial plastic packaging waste; this waste was recycled in Europe, Asia or Turkey.

Continent	Asia	Europe	Turkey	Total
Market share	36.5 %	39.8 %	23.7 %	**100 %**
Tonnage	21 kt	22 kt	13 kt	**56 kt**

These tonnages represent 97.5% 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.

2.9 Overview of the **final destinations for recycling**

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	91 %	36 %	16 %	57 %
EU	9 %	47 %	22 %	20 %
Non-EU	0 %	17 %	62 %	23 %
Total	**100 %**	**100 %**	**100 %**	**100 %**

3

Fost Plus: status of the new sorting and recycling plants

3.1 Sorting and recycling

The new, expanded blue bag has been in use throughout Belgium since the end of 2021. This bag is sorted into a minimum of 14 fractions, in brand-new sorting plants, with the aim of ensuring recycling of the highest possible quality. The new sorting facilities either came into operation in 2021 or will be brought on line in 2022.

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 possible thanks to the construction of new recycling plants, which will come into operation in 2022 and 2023.

3.1.1 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, with a fifth due to start up at the end of 2022: Sitel (Engis).

Indaver
- Willebroek
- operational since December 2020
- annual tonnage: 60,000 tonnes

Valtris
- Couillet (Charleroi)
- operational since March 2020
- 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 fourth quarter of 2022
- annual tonnage: nearly 40,000 tonnes

The existing sorting plant Vanheede (Rumbeke) will also be used to sort the new PMD fraction and will specialise in sorting PMD collected from companies and post-sorting PMD residues.

3.1.2 Recycling plants

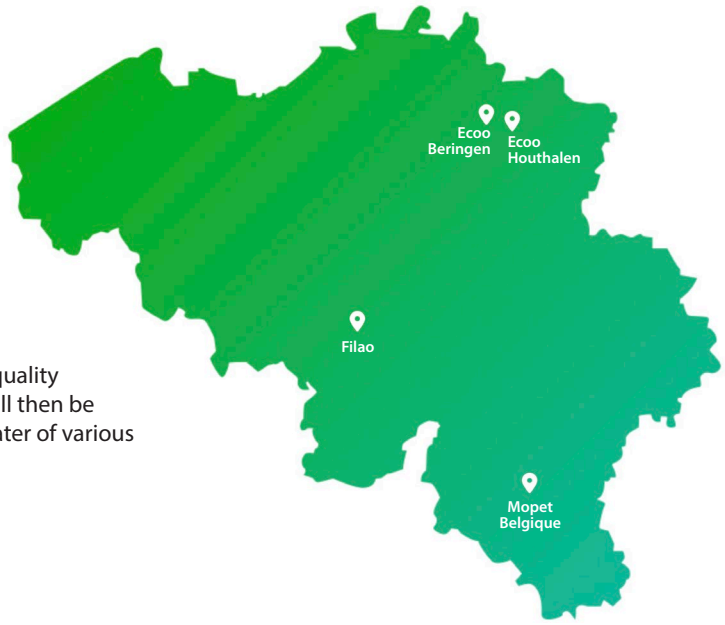
The various plastic streams are processed to a high standard thanks to the existence of new (or rebuilt) recycling centres in Belgium and the fact that long-term contracts have been signed. Belgium is thus focusing on recycling within its national borders to ensure optimal quality and control.

Ecoo Houthalen (mixed plastics recycling plant)
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
- Compounder operational since August 2021
- Annual tonnage: 35,000 tonnes

Ecoo Beringen (PE film-to-film recycling)
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 June 2022
- Annual tonnage: 42,000 tonnes



Filao (ex-Suez-Alma) (PET recycling)
Recycling of PET bottles. The bottles will be transformed into high-quality recycled PET for food-safe applications. The recycled PET, or rPET, will then be placed back on the Belgian market by being used for the bottled water of various Sources Alma brands and the brands of their retail partners.

- Couillet (Charleroi)
- Operational in December 2022
- Annual tonnage: 40,000 tonnes

Mopet Belgique (PET recycling)
Recycling of PET trays and blue, coloured, clear 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 for PP and HDPE.

3.1.3 Recycling situation in 2020

Currently, Fost Plus packaging waste is already recycled only in the European Union and 78.9% is even recycled in Belgium.

Material	Belgium	France	Germany	The Netherlands	Spain	Italy	Switzerland	UK	lithuania	Latvia	Total %
Glass	88.9 %	0.0 %	4.1 %	7.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	100.0 %
Paper/Cardboard	98.9 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	1.1 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	100.0 %
Drink cartons	0.0 %	14.1 %	46.6 %	0.0 %	39.3 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	100.0 %
Metals	95.7 %	0.0 %	4.1 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.2 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	100.0 %
Plastic	2.9 %	17.6 %	19.5 %	51.4 %	7.8 %	0.17 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.3 %	0.3 %	100.0 %
Total	**78.9 %**	**2.6 %**	**6.0 %**	**10.4 %**	**2.0 %**	**0.0 %**	**0.0 %**	**0.0 %**	**0.0 %**	**0.0 %**	100.0 %

In the case of plastic packaging waste, 2.9% of recycling took place in Belgium in 2020 (at one recycling centre).

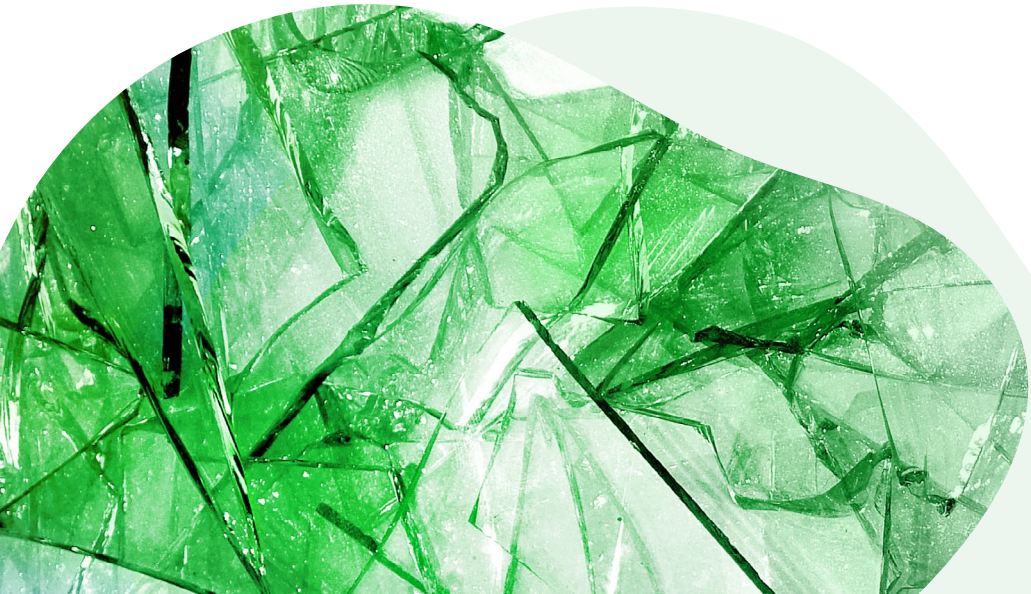
Details of domestic plastic recyclers

Belgian recycling centres and waste streams:

Recycling centre	Type of plastic
Ecoo Recycling	Mixed plastics (including small amounts of plastic films and polypropylene)

European recycling centres and waste streams:

Country	Type of plastic	Recycling rate
The Netherlands	Clear PET, blue PET, green PET, HDPE, polypropylene, PET trays, plastic films	51.4 %
Germany	Clear PET, blue PET, green PET, other colours of PET, HDPE, PET trays	19.5 %
France	Clear PET, blue PET, green PET, other colours of PET, HDPE, polypropylene, PET trays, plastic films	17.6 %
Spain	Plastic films	7.8 %
Belgium	Mixed plastics, plastic films, polypropylene	2.9 %
Lithuania	Clear PET, blue PET	0.32 %
Latvia	Clear PET	0.31 %
Italy	Plastic films	0.17 %
Switzerland	Other colours of PET	0.04 %
Total		**100 %**



4 Key figures

4.1 Fost Plus results for 2020

	Quantities reported (in tonnes)	Recycling (in tonnes) - old calculation method (*)	Recycling (as %) - old calculation method (*)	Recycling (in tonnes) - new calculation method (**)	Recycling (as %) - new calculation method (**)	Other recovery (in tonnes)	Total recovery (in tonnes) - old calculation method (*)	Total recovery (as %) - old calculation method (*)	Total recovery (in tonnes) - new calculation method (**)	Total recovery (as %) - new calculation method (**)
Paper/cardboard (excl. drink cartons portion)	189,238	189,238 (193,850)	100.0 % (102.4 %)	189,238 (190,699)	100.0 % (100.8 %)	0	189,238 (193,850)	100.0 % (102.4 %)	189,238 (190,699)	100.0 % (100.8 %)
Paper/cardboard (incl. drink cartons portion) (3)	201,893	201,893 (206,624)	100.0 % (102.3 %)	200,536	99.3 %	480	201,893 (207,104)	100.0 % (102.6 %)	201,016	99.6 %
Glass	306,442	306,442 (353,165)	100.0 % (115.2 %)	306,442 (345,889)	100.0 % (112.9 %)	0	306,442 (353,165)	100.0 % (115.2 %)	306,442 (345,889)	100.0 % (112.9 %)
Plastic (excl. drink cartons portion)	212,120	109,637	51.7 %	97,706	46.1 %	26,323	135,960	64.1 %	124,029	58.5 %
Plastic (incl. drink cartons portion) (3)	216,338	109,637	50.7 %	97,706	45.2 %	29,762	136,120	62.9 %	127,468	58.9 %
Metals: ferrous metals	46,916	46,916 (48,688)	100.0 % (103.8 %)	46,916 (48,654)	100.0 % (103.7 %)	356	46,916 (49,044)	100.0 % (104.5 %)	46,916 (49,010)	100.0 % (104.5 %)
Metals: aluminium	27,295	25,457	93.3 %	25,311	92.7 %	676	26,133	95.7 %	25,987	95.2 %
Drink cartons	16,873	16,873 (17,032)	100.0 % (100.9 %)	9,837	58.3 %	640	16,873 (17,672)	100.0 % (104.7 %)	10,477	62.1 %
Other	3,565	90	2.5 %	72	2.0 %	0	90	2.5 %	72	2.0 %
Total	**802,449**	**747,920**	**93.2 %**	**718,168**	**89.5 %**	**27,995**	**775,915**	**96.7 %**	**749,443**	**93.4 %**

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

(3) Fields shaded in grey are for information only.

(*) 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%.

(**) 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, 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%.

4.2 **Valipac** results for 2020

	Quantities reported (in tonnes)	Recycling (in tonnes) - old calculation method (*)	Recycling (as %) - old calculation method (*)	Recycling (in tonnes) - new calculation method (**)	Recycling (as %) - new calculation method (**)	Other recovery (in tonnes)	Total recovery (in tonnes) - old calculation method (*)	Total recovery (as %) - old calculation method (*)	Total recovery (in tonnes) - new calculation method (**)	Total recovery (as %) - new calculation method (**)
Plastic	96,332	56,886	59.1 %	56,455	58.6 %	36,275	93,161	96.7 %	92,730	96.3 %
Paper/cardboard	431,906	431,906 (455,585)	100.0 % (105.5 %)	431,906 (442,380)	100.0 %	24,093	431,906 (479,678)	100 % (111.1 %)	431,906	100 %
Metals	34,363	28,252	82.2 %	28,252	82.2 %	-	28,252	82.4 %	28,252	82.2 %
Wood	172,554	160,713	93.1 %	157,492	91.3 %	65,815	172,554 (212,195)	100 % (123 %)	172,554	100 %
Other	7,505	698	9.3 %	698	9.3 %	257	954	12.7 %	954	12.7 %
Total	**742,661**	**678,455 (702,134)**	**91.4 % (94.5 %)**	**674,803 (685,277)**	**90.9 %**	**126,440**	**726,827 (814,240)**	**97.9 % (109.9 %)**	**726,396**	**97.8 %**

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

(*) 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, 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%.

(**) 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, 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%.

4.3 The results of **the individual responsible companies** in 2020

A total of 88 companies stated that they had fulfilled the take-back obligation themselves in the 2020 reporting year.

	Recycling %	Quantity of one-way packaging placed on the Belgian market (in tonnes)
Paper/cardboard	94.0 %	27,587
Plastic	89.6 %	2,453
Metal	99.7 %	519
Wood	98.7 %	10,145
Other	32.6 %	148
Total	**82.9 %**	**40,855**

4.4 The **overall results** for 2020 – Belgian recycling figures

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/665 of 17 April 2019 drastically amended Decision 2005/270/EC, which establishes the common methodology for calculating the recycling targets of Directive 94/62/EC, as from the 2020 reporting year.

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.

	Percentage
Glass	96.85 %
Plastic (ordinary)	45.23 %
Plastic (drink cartons)	0.00 %
Total plastic	44.68 %
Paper/cardboard (ordinary)	89.67 %
Paper/cardboard (drink cartons)	72.29 %
Total papier/cardboard	89.35 %
Ferrous metals	98.39 %
Aluminium	88.65 %
Metals (total)	96.17 %
Wood	71.56 %
Other	5.74 %
Total	**79.67 %**

We applied the new European calculation method in its entirety. As a result, the overall Belgian results for 2020 cannot really be compared with those in previous years. The new methodology obliges EU Member States to make corrections to their recycling results, which was not the case under the old calculation method. These corrections relate, for example, to product residues still present in sorted waste or to an increase in the moisture content of paper/cardboard.

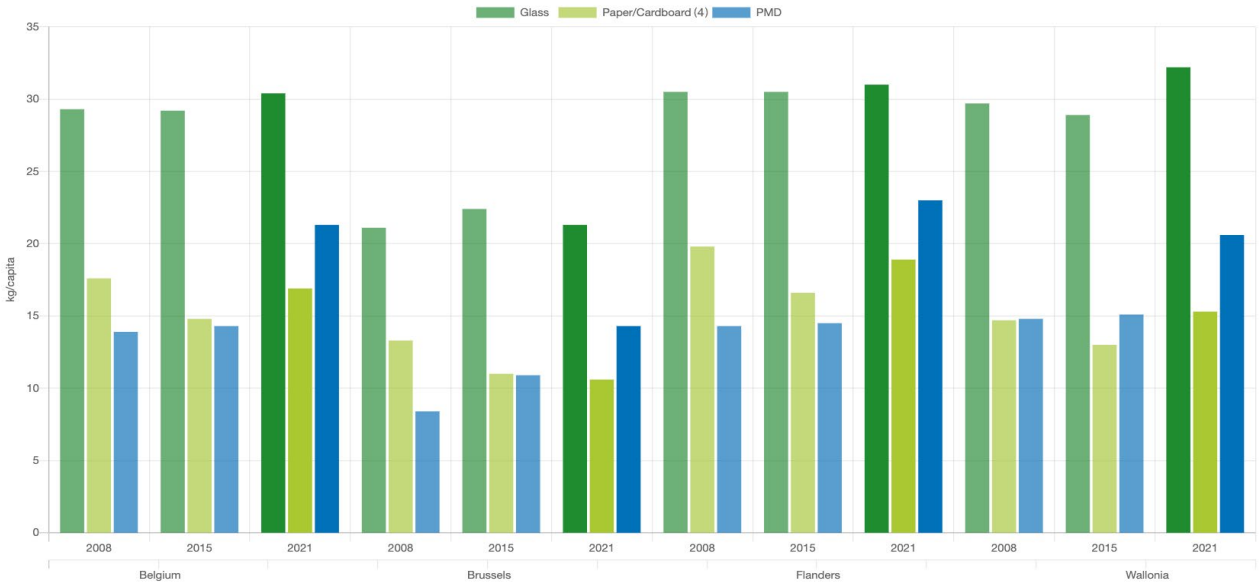
In order to be able to perform all these new calculations, the IRPC, starting in 2019 and working with the accredited compliance organisations, carried out a comprehensive study and set up an extensive analysis programme.

Belgium's recycling results will decrease as a result of the corrections to be applied, but certainly not more than those of other EU Member States. In the specific case of Belgium, however, this decrease is almost entirely offset by the increase in selective collection and recycling. In 2019-2020, for example, the nationwide rollout of the new PMD bag resulted in 50% more household plastic packaging waste being collected.

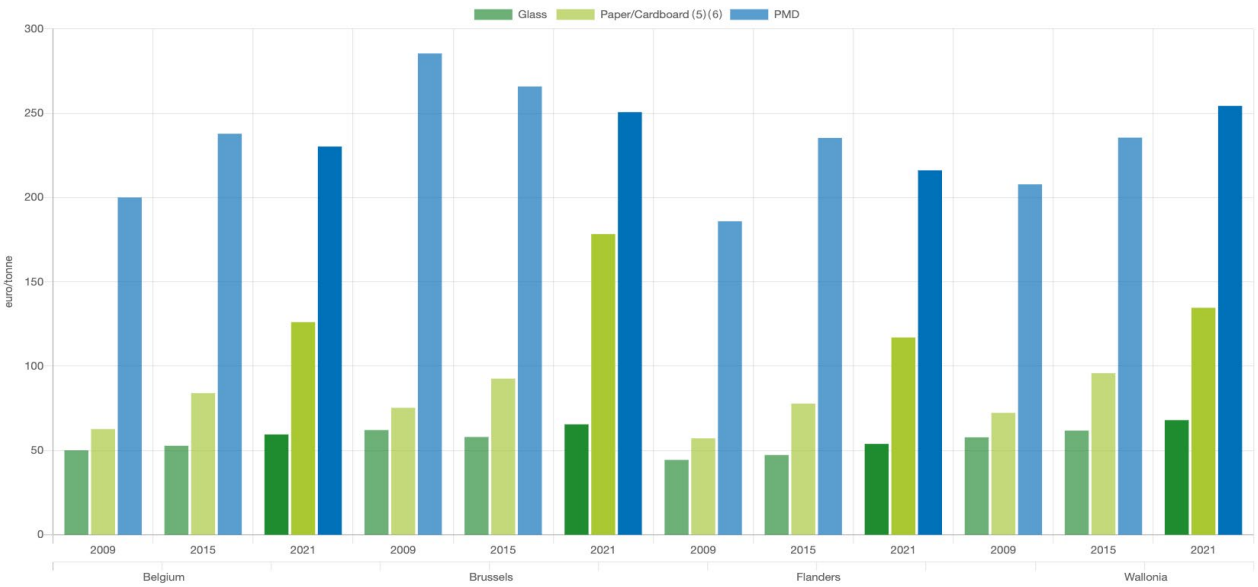
As a result, the total tonnage of recycled packaging waste actually rose by 1.9% in 2020 compared with 2019.
However, the recycling rates were lower than in 2019, as the estimated quantities of packaging waste placed on the market by free-riders and via parallel imports by private individuals had to be increased significantly, for both one-way and reusable packaging.

4.5 Collection of **household packaging waste** in 2021

4.5.1 Trend in the collection results per material, per Region and for Belgium as a whole



4.5.2 Trend in the collection cost per material, per Region and for Belgium as a whole



(4) This concerns only the packaging portion of the paper/cardboard stream, which was fixed at a flat rate of 25% until the end of June 2017 and at 32% thereafter. (5) For paper/cardboard, this concerns only the packaging portion. (6) The substantial increase in the cost of collecting paper/cardboard is due to several factors, primarily the growing problem of transport, in addition to the specific competitive landscape and rising labour costs.

4.5.3 Per fraction, proportion of the result achieved by each collection method (2021)

Proportion of the result	Glass	Papier/ Cardboard	PMD
Kerbside	11.9 %	80.8 %	94.2 %
Recycling centres	3.5 %	19.2 %	5.8 %
Bottle banks	84.7 %		

4.5.4 Per fraction, proportion of the cost incurred by each collection method (2021)

Proportion of the cost	Glass	Papier/ Cardboard	PMD
Kerbside	11.5 %	88.3 %	95.0 %
Recycling centres	2.7 %	11.7 %	5.0 %
Bottle banks	85.8 %		

4.6 Reference costs for 2021

The IRPC determined the reference costs for 2021 as follows:

100% variable in €/tonne	Bottle banks & kerbside	Recycling centres	Bottle banks & kerbside + Recycling centres
Glass	58.69	44.33	
Papier/ Cardboard	93.46	50.65	
PMD collection	264.87	207.30	
P+MDcollection	205.43	142.36	
PMD sorting			172.35
P+MD sorting			268.67

4.7 Reference costs for 2022

The IRPC determined the reference costs for 2022 as follows:

100% variable in €/tonne	Bottle banks & kerbside	Recycling centres	Bottle banks & kerbside + Recycling centres
Glass	58.86	43.00	57.49
Paper / Cardboard	96.18	52.71	86.40
PMD collection	266.83	246.19	266.51
P+MD collection	216.26	146.64	213.20
PMD sorting			181.93
P+MD sorting			269.52

You can find a detailed overview of these reference costs and further information about the calculation method in the technical data sheet.

4.8 2021 reference values

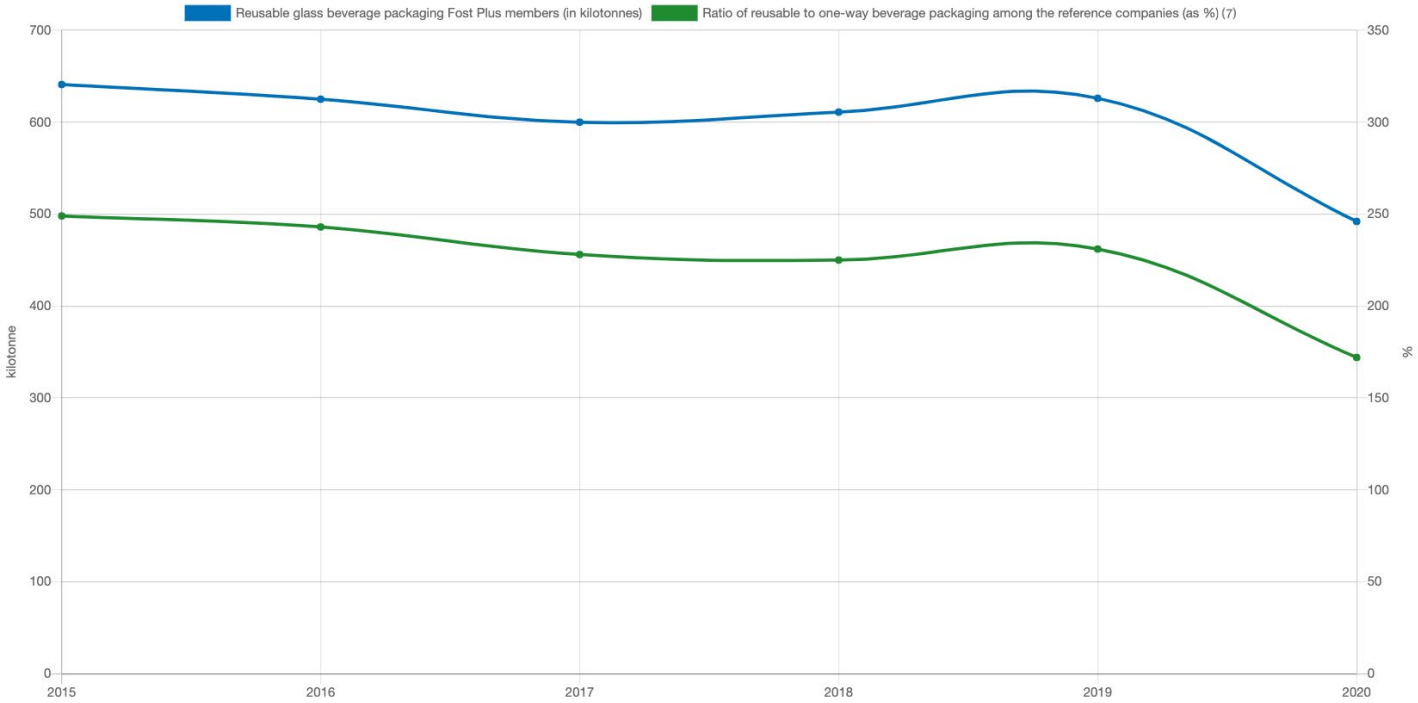
Material (selectively collected and sorted)	Average price (€/tonne)
Paper/Cardboard	127.74
Glass	23.04
Steel	220.80
Aluminium	1,000.25
Drink cartons	-52.48
HDPE	263.33
PET blue	436.89
PET clear	573.92
PET green	300.35

5 Monitoring of reusable packaging in 2020

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

	Household packaging waste (in kilotonnes)	Industrial/commercial packaging waste (in kilotonnes)
One-way packaging	802	743
Reusable packaging	503	3,236

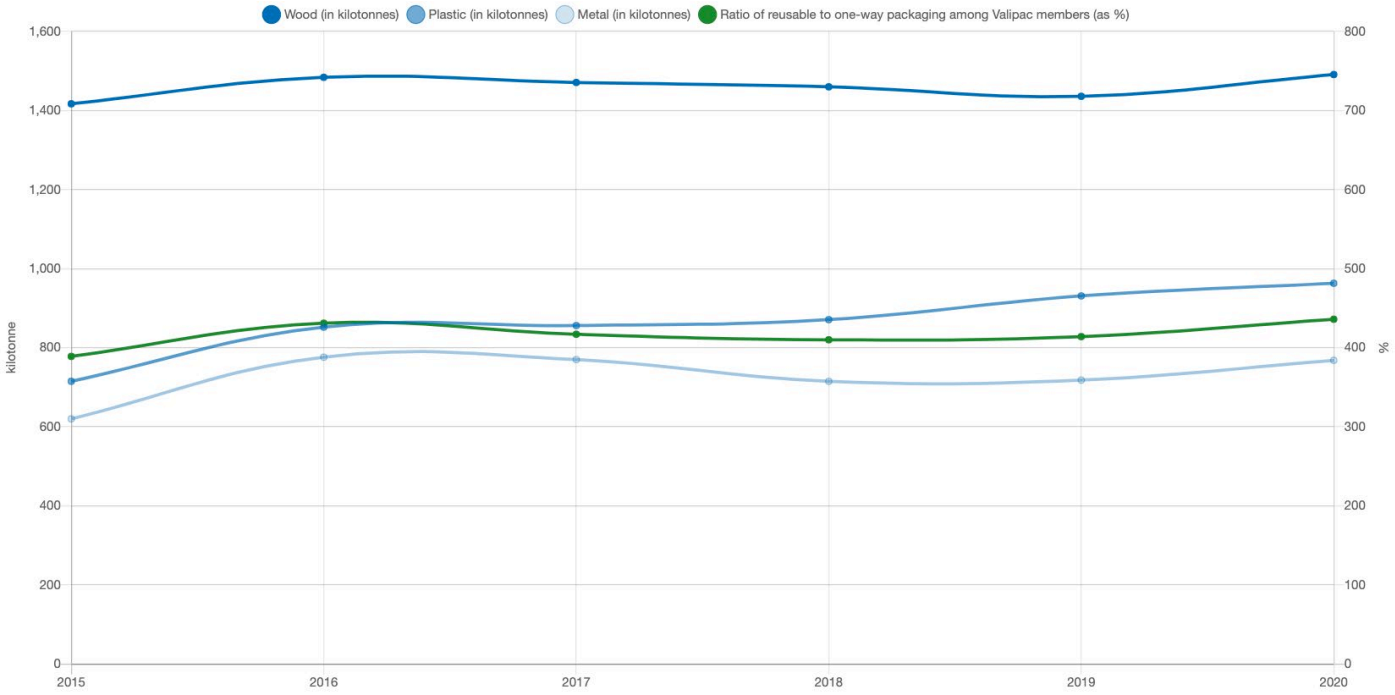
5.1 Overall trend in reusable household packaging



The sharp drop in the tonnage of reusable packaging is due to Covid. The pandemic closed down the catering industry, which uses the largest tonnages of household reusable packaging.

(7) Limited recalculation of historical data in order to ensure data comparability

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



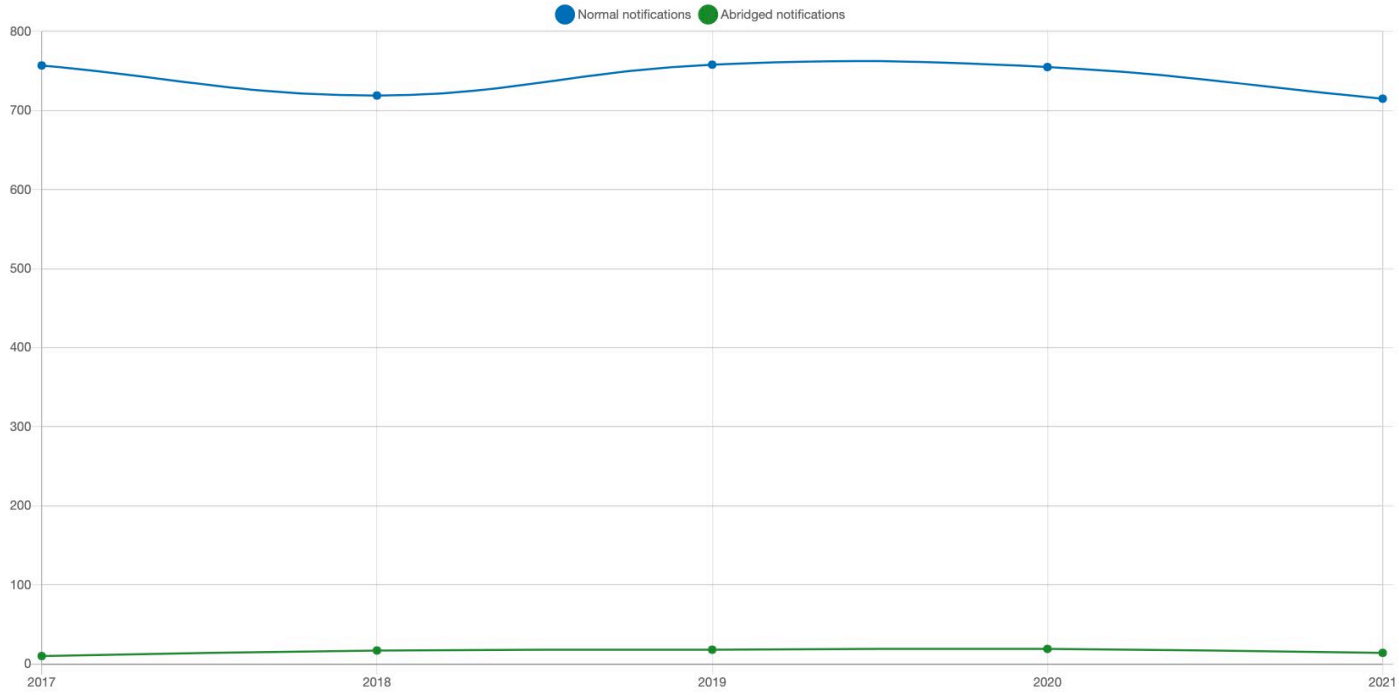
6 Waste transit

The IRPC processes notifications and 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 authority of transit, the IRPC must first receive the notification, process it and approve it before the series of shipments may proceed.

6.1 Trend in the **number of notifications**

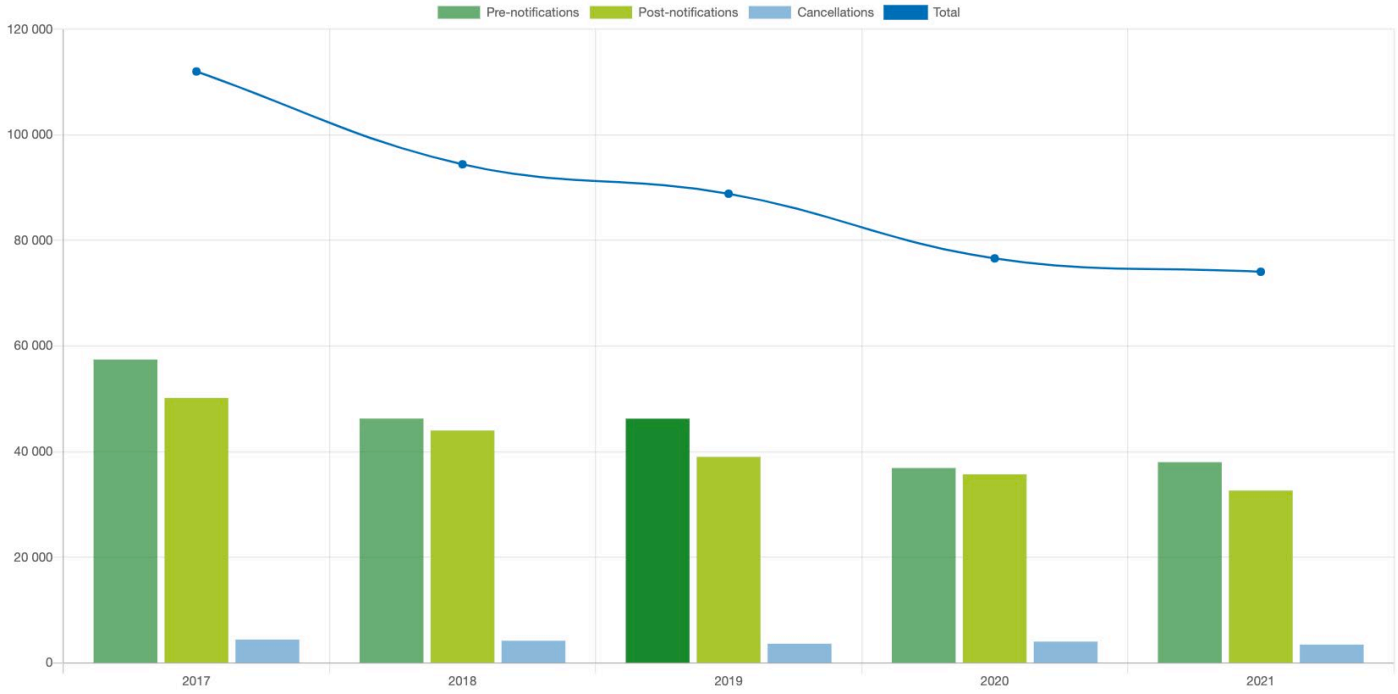


The notifier must also declare in advance each individual shipment relating to the notification. These are known as pre-notifications.

They include the following information:
- which notification the shipment comes under;
- when the shipment will take place.

The carrier is given the actual transport document pertaining to the shipment. The notifier sends a copy of it to the IRPC, indicating the planned date of departure.

6.2 Trend in the **number of shipments registered**



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