

Jo Brouns, Flemish minister of the Environment and Agriculture

Koning Albert II laan 7,
1210 Sint-Joost-ten-Node,
Belgium

Subject: Support for a leading Belgium in packaging waste prevention

Date: Thursday March 26th 2026

Madam, Sir, Ministers of the Flemish Region, the Walloon Region, the Brussels-Capital Region, and of the Federal Government,

It has come to our attention that the three Belgian regions are currently working on the **revision of their Packaging Cooperation Agreement** ("Interregional Packaging Cooperation Agreement" - CA Packaging) in order to anticipate the entry into force of the European Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) on 12 August 2026.

We wish to congratulate Belgium for its ambitions in the field of prevention. In particular, by **formally making producers responsible for achieving the prevention targets** set out in Article 43 of the Regulation (Art. 3 §1/2 of the IPC) and in introducing a "**prevention contribution**" in the event that those prevention targets are not met (Art. 22/13). The contribution will amount to €50 per tonne not achieved and will be **calculated by material stream in order to prevent substitution effects**. It will be paid by the PROs or directly by individual producers, where applicable.

Through this measure, Belgium is taking up the obligations of the new Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) seriously. The Regulation indeed requires Member States to **take the necessary measures to achieve the prevention targets**, in particular through economic instruments and incentives (Recital 121). The measure proposed by the regions is also aligned with Belgium's ambition to be a pioneer in the circular economy.

We welcome the fact that, through this "**prevention contribution**", the regions are equipping themselves with the financial means to accelerate the transition towards packaging systems that respect the Lansink ladder, should the European targets not be met in 2030, 2035, and 2040. The funds generated by this contribution may be used to finance reuse systems, bulk sales, refill solutions, or other measures contributing to the achievement of prevention targets.

This measure **will only affect producers would the prevention targets** not be met. It will effectively incentivise them to turn to alternative packaging systems that prioritise prevention, in order to avoid having to pay this contribution. Furthermore, the fact that the contribution would apply per material stream wisely prevents substitution between packaging types. This creates a safeguard against potential inequities between producers - for example, between producers of plastic packaging and cardboard packaging.

Naturally, all stakeholders involved in packaging management (e.g. intermunicipal waste authorities, cities and municipalities, consumers, distributors) will continue to have an essential role. Nevertheless, making all producers placing packaging on the Belgian market **formally responsible** will ensure a fairer sharing of efforts and foster prevention at source.

The signatories of this letter stand united in support of a strong position and emphasise the importance of fully realising your ambitions, thereby enabling Belgium to maintain its pioneering role in the circular economy and in waste prevention.

We also encourage you to share your ambitions with other Member States and to coordinate with

the European Commission. This way, you can pave the way towards a true circular economy of packaging and other Member States can follow your lead.

Yours faithfully,

Co-signed by:

Belgique

Bond Beter Leefmilieu, Kira Van den Ende (Belgium)
 BRAL, Geoffrey Usé (Belgium)
 Canopea, Pauline Modrie (Belgium)
 ConsomAction, Sylvie Droulans (Belgium)
 Copidec, Laurent Dupont (Belgium)
 City to Ocean, Pieter Eلسen (Belgium)
 De Transformisten, Stephanie De Bock (Belgium)
 Dryade, Dries Verhaeghe (Belgium)
 Fair Resource Foundation, Chloé Schwizgebel (Belgium)
 HERWIN, Eva Verraes (Belgium)
 Inter-Environnement Bruxelles, Cataline Sénéchal (Belgium)
 Proper Strandlopers, Tim Corbusier (Belgium)
 RESSOURCES, Jean-Marc Caudron (Belgium)
 Testaankoop, Julie Frère (Belgium)
 Zero Waste Belgium, Pauline Talbot (Belgium)

Europe

ACR+, Françoise Bonnet (Europe)
 Environmental Coalition on Standards (ECOS), Fanny Rateau (Europe)
 New European Reuse Alliance (New ERA), Fernando Rodríguez-Mata (Europe)
 Environmental Paper Network International, Mateus Carvalho (Europe)
 Zero Waste Europe, Aline Maignet (Europe)

Autres États Membres

GLOBAL 2000, Anna Leitner (Austria)
 Zero Waste Austria, Daniela Hinteregger (Austria)
 Zero Waste Estonia, Marianne Sepp (Estonia)
 No Plastic In My Sea, Muriel Papin (France)
 Réseau Vrac et Réemploi, Célia Rennesson (France)
 Surfrider Foundation Europe, Lisa Pastor (France)
 Zero Waste France, Bastien Faure (France)
 Forum Ökologie & Papier, Evelyn Schönheit (Germany)
 Ocean. Now!, Meike Schützek (Germany)
 Humusz Szövetség, György Szabó, (Hungary)
 Voice Of Irish Concern for the Environment (VOICE), Tad Kirakowski (Ireland)
 Zero Waste Montenegro, Vanja Cicmil (Montenegro)
 Dutch Cups, Dennis Valent (Netherlands)
 Plastic Soup Foundation, Maria Westerbos (Netherlands)
 Searious Business, Emma Samson (Netherlands)
 Zero Waste Nederland, Elisah Pals (Netherlands)
 Polish Zero Waste Association (Poland)
 Sciaena, Valentina Muñoz Farias (Portugal)
 ZERO, Susana Fonseca (Portugal)
 Ekologi brez meja, Jaka Kranjc (Slovenia)
 Focus Association for Sustainable Development, Nina Tome (Slovenia)
 Gallifrey Foundation, Antoinette Vermilye (Switzerland)
 UK Without Incineration Network (UKWIN), Shlomo Downen (UK)

