

**For immediate release**

## **The European Corrugated Industry Believes Flexibility in the Waste Framework Directive is Essential**

**Brussels, June 28, 2007:** FEFCO (the European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers) welcomes the Environment Council's decision to allow more flexibility to deviate from the waste hierarchy.

Angelika Christ, Secretary General of FEFCO said: "The deviation clause that was supported by the European Parliament in its first reading would require companies to undertake a life cycle assessment and cost-benefit analysis each time they want to deviate from the hierarchy. This approach would be too costly, time-consuming and bureaucratic. The approach taken by the Council is much more flexible since it is based on life cycle thinking and takes into account technical feasibility, economical viability as well as overall environmental, human health, economic and social impacts."

FEFCO is more doubtful when it comes to the steps of the waste hierarchy itself, having repeatedly denounced the five-step hierarchy in favour of a balanced approach between reuse and recycling, and this since the start of the legislative process in December 2005.

Based on sound scientific evidence (such as the study ordered by the Commission on the implementation of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive<sup>1</sup>), there is no justification to favour reusable packaging systems over one-way recyclable alternatives. Furthermore, by ranking the reuse of products under prevention, the Council is ignoring the environmental impact caused by reconditioning.

If the reuse of products were to be ranked under prevention, Member States would be inclined to promote reuse as a part of prevention. This would have a significant impact on the internal market as non-reusable but recyclable packaging would be discriminated against for unjustifiable reasons, leading to market distortions and, eventually, to more court cases and not to a better environment.

Finally, with respect to prevention FEFCO is of the opinion that the EU should avoid developing 27 different programmes but welcomes the proposal to develop guidelines to assist Member States in the preparation of the programmes, guidelines which should be based on the Essential Requirements contained in the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (94/62/EC).

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<sup>1</sup> Pira International Ecolas, Study on the Implementation of Directive 94/62/EC on Packaging and Packaging Waste options to Strengthen Prevention and Re-use of Packaging. Final Report, 21st February 2005 (03/07884/AL).  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/studies/packaging/050224\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/studies/packaging/050224_final_report.pdf)



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Note to the editors

FEFCO (European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers) was established in 1952 and represents the interests of the European Corrugated Board Manufacturers. Headquartered in Brussels, FEFCO has 24 active members, all European national corrugated packaging organisations. The role of the Federation is to investigate economic, financial, technical and marketing issues of interest to the corrugated packaging Industry, to analyse all factors which may influence the industry, and to promote and develop its image.

