

For immediate release

Brussels, 01 July 2010 > FEFCO publishes Annual Statistics 2009

Today, FEFCO released the Annual Statistics of the European Manufacturers of Corrugated Packaging.

The year 2009 was a difficult year for the industry, showing an overall decrease in volume of shipments of minus 4,9% (m²) or minus 5,2% (tons); in total 39 billion square meters of Corrugated Packaging were sold last year.

Compared to some other industries, the corrugated industry is coming through this difficult economic crisis in outstandingly good shape. Indicators for 2010 show that the industry is recovering. First months results again show fast growing volumes already exceeding the results of 2007 which serves as the last normal reference year.

One major reason for the relatively good result – compared to other industries – lays in the customer segmentation. 46,3% of all shipments go to the fast moving consumer goods sectors such as – foodstuffs, agricultural, beverages and tobacco. This sector is less dependent than others on industrial and overall economic development.

Most of the European Countries showed negative results, positive exceptions being Poland and Turkey who have managed to increase their volume (m²) respectively by 3.2% and 1,8%.

The number of plants in Europe remained stable: decreasing by only 0,7% to 692 plants. Personnel decreased by minus 3,2% to 88.000 people employed in 2009 by the industry.

“The Corrugated Industry mastered the crisis in a remarkable way” says Bob McLellan, President of the Association. “This shows that our industry has a solid structure both in production capacities and with customers. The benefits of Corrugated Packaging pay off by being light-weight, flexible and supportive to customers through high quality print for promotions and to help increase their sales. Corrugated Packaging is an excellent example of a sustainable product thanks to its exemplary achievement in recycling. Industry customers and retailers highly appreciate our contribution to closing the recycling loop!”

The detailed statistics are available for download at the following link:

<http://www.fefco.org/publications/statistics.html>

For further questions, please contact

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Note to the editors

FEFCO (European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers) was established in 1952 and is the umbrella organisation of the European Corrugated Board Industry. Headquartered in Brussels, FEFCO has 24 active Members, all European national corrugated packaging associations.