

Brussels, 16 February 2012 > How to avoid food wastage: Strategies for a more efficient food chain in the EU

FEFCO, the European Corrugated Packaging Association welcomes the European Parliament (EP) initiative report approved on 19 January 2012 on “how to avoid food wastage: Strategies for a more efficient food chain in the EU”.

“The recognition of the important role that packaging can play to avoid food waste is crucial not only to the corrugated industry, but for the packaging industry as a whole” said Angelika Christ, FEFCO Secretary General.

The European Parliament calls for urgent measures to prevent food waste in the EU by 2025. The EP considers that... ***“the optimisation and efficient use of food packaging can play an important role in preventing food waste by reducing a product’s overall environmental impact, not least by means of industrial eco-design, which includes measures such as varying pack sizes to help consumers buy the right amount and discourage excessive consumption of resources, providing advice on how to store and use products, and designing packaging in such a way as to increase the longevity of goods and maintain their freshness, always ensuring that appropriate materials which are not prejudicial to health or to the durability of products are used for food packaging and preservation”...***

For FEFCO, the opinion of the European Parliament is in line with the conclusions reached at the Retail Forum for sustainability* on the packaging optimization issue paper. The Forum clearly recognises the positive role of packaging in protecting food: “it avoids contamination of food which all together improves competitiveness and enhances the benefits for consumers”. Moreover, the report encourages retailers to demand for more recyclable packaging in order to prevent food waste.

Food waste figures (Source: European Commission):

Waste:

Current wastage in EU27: 89 million tonnes per annum (i.e. 179 kg per capita)

Projection for 2020 (if no action is taken): 126 million tonnes (i.e. a 40% increase)

Responsibility for food waste:

- households: 42% (60% of which is avoidable)
- manufacturers: 39%
- retailers: 5%
- catering sector: 14%

*The Retail Forum is a multi-stakeholder platform founded in 2009 to exchange best practices on sustainability in the European retail sector and to identify opportunities and barriers that may further or hinder the achievement of sustainable consumption and production. It is co-chaired by the European Commission and European Retailers.

Learn more here: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/industry/retail/index_en.htm

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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 organizations. 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.